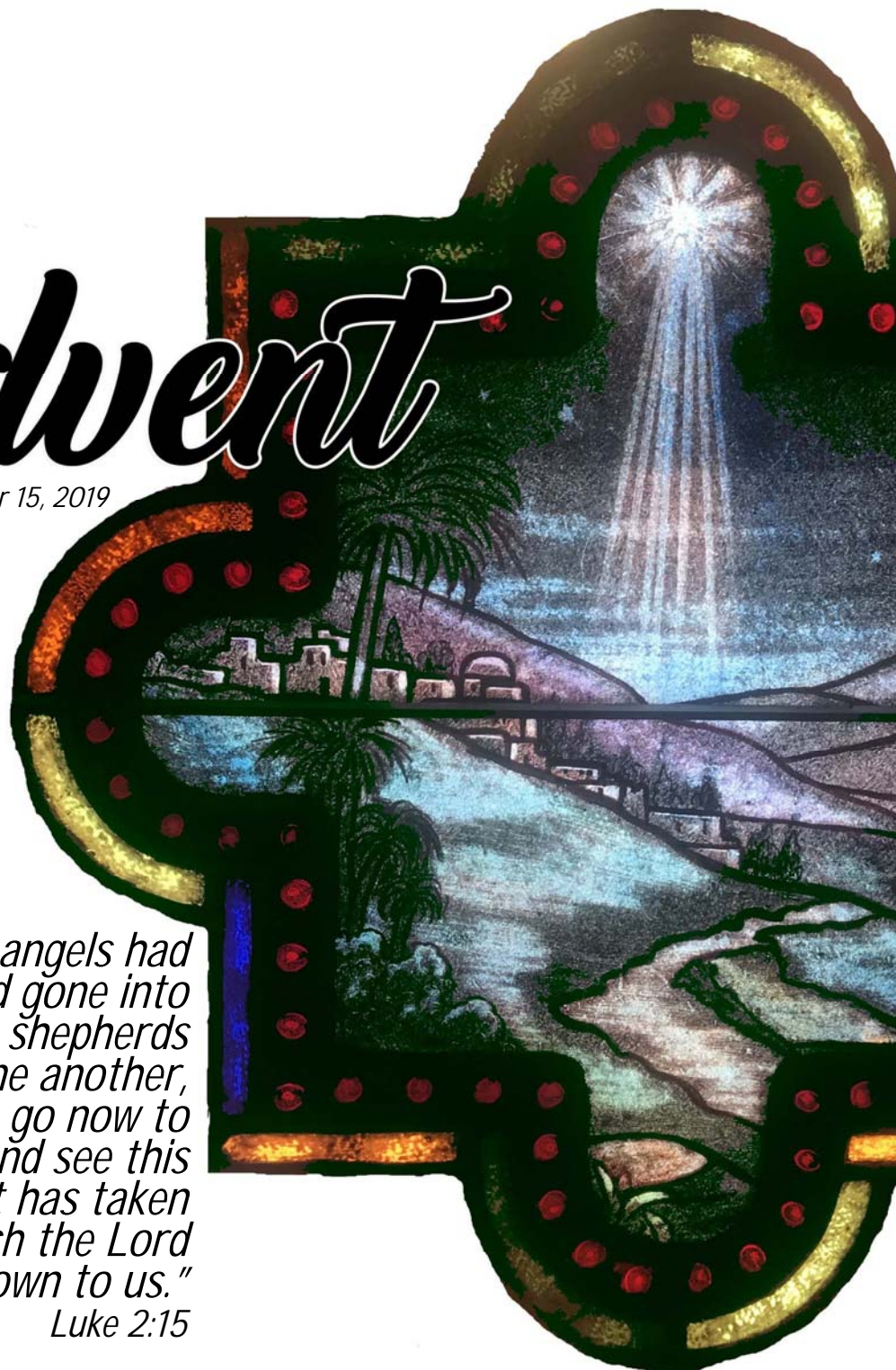


Advent

December 15, 2019

*When the angels had
left them and gone into
heaven, the shepherds
said to one another,
"Let us go now to
Bethlehem and see this
thing that has taken
place, which the Lord
has made known to us."
Luke 2:15*



Advent Setting

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign. We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love. We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

PRELUDE

GATHERING

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

C God of power and mercy, you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son. Remove those things which hinder our love of you, that when Christ comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder for him who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever more. Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Shout for joy, all of the heavens and earth rejoice for this news! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it. For as it was promised by our forefathers.

C Rejoice! Shout for joy! See our king is coming. He is righteous and brings salvation to the whole of the earth.

P The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a path on which he may come into our lives. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked paths may lead us straight to your humble resting place with Christ.

P Gracious Lord Jesus,

C you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence in our lives and the ways you lead us in moments of need. We have failed to act justly, to love with mercy, and to walk humbly just as you did. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

P In the example of John the Baptist, we hear the promise of the Lord that is to come and his warning: "Change your hearts and lives today! Here comes the kingdom of heaven!" (*Matthew 3:2*) I therefore declare yours sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn***ELW 242****LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

Advent Three:

P We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent stands for the coming of our Lord. The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. (*Isaiah 35:1*)

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE

ST. THEODULPH (151 G)

Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!

Hail in the time ap - point - ed his reign on earth be - gun!

He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free,

to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.

HYMN OF PRAISE

TRURO

Lift up your heads, you might - y gates; be - hold, the
Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
So, come, my Sov - 'reign, en - ter in; let new and

King of Glo - ry waits; the King of Kings is
tem - ple set a - part from earth - ly use for
no - bler life be - gin; the Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
guide us on, un - til our glo - rious goal is won.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.

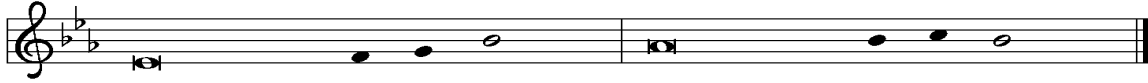
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

Psalm 146:5-10

Sung responsively



⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁶**who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps promis- | es forever;**

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to | those who hunger.
The LORD sets the | captive free.

⁸**The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who | are
bowed down;**

the LORD | loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares | for the stranger;
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way | of the wicked.

¹⁰**The LORD shall | reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. | Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING: JAMES 5:7-10

In anticipation of the Lord's coming, Christians are called upon to cultivate patience rather than discontent.

⁷Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. ⁹Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION





P The Holy Gospel, according to Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 11:2-11

John the Baptist expects the Messiah to bring God's judgment upon the earth (Matt. 3:11-12). From a prison cell, he wonders whether Jesus is the one who will do this. Jesus' response indicates that God's reign is indeed being fulfilled already through healing and restoration.

²When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus ³with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" ⁴Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me." ⁷As they were going off, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John, "What did you go out to the desert to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸Then what did you go out to see? Someone dressed in fine clothing? Those who wear fine clothing are in royal palaces. ⁹Then why did you go out? To see a prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written: 'Behold, I am sending my messenger ahead of you; he will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON PASTOR ANDREW PATTY

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Earth Is Hopeful

ELW HYMN 266

Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.

MAGNIFICAT

P In the words of Mary, let us proclaim our joy in the coming of Christ.

C My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name. He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation. He has shown the strength of his arm, he has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy. The promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

A Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, we rejoice that your promises take on flesh in Jesus. Grant patience to your church awaiting the fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace. Restore in us the hope that we are called to proclaim to the world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Life-giving God, we rejoice that you coax flowers from the desert and water from the wilderness. Send rain to parched fields and sun to flooded plains. Nurture all that lies sleeping under frozen ground. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Almighty God, we rejoice in your authority as Prince of peace. Deliver us from those who wield power through unjust and oppressive ways. Raise up prophets to speak your truth in this and every nation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Gracious God, we rejoice that you dwell in human bodies. Renew signs of your joyful presence in people of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities. Empower all to embrace their callings and the gifts of your Spirit. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Generous God, we rejoice that you create us to praise you. Strengthen the voices and hands of all who prepare to celebrate Christ's birth with music, dancing, and proclamation, in worship and in the community. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Joyful God, we pray for your blessings on Chelsea Carpenter, Don O'Brien, and Edwin Brown as they celebrate their birthdays, and on Ivan Carlson and Tresa Johnson as they remember their baptisms. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Loving God, we pray for Holy Cross Lutheran in Overland Park, St. Paul Lutheran in Peabody, Redeemer Lutheran in Salina, Friends Home Lutheran in Savonburg, Kansas, and Lutheran Family & Children's Services, St. Louis, Missouri. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Eternal God, we rejoice that all who die in Christ are raised to new life. We thank you for the lives of those who have prepared the way for us and have now joined the great cloud of witnesses. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P You hear the cries of our hearts, O Lord. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbors, in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let us greet one another with God's peace.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

OFFERING

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,

God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Giver of every good thing, we set before you the gifts that you have already given to sustain our lives and to share with others. Help us to be good stewards of the earth and all that is in it, and let our lives be a testimony to the abundant feast you prepare for all who hunger.

C **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

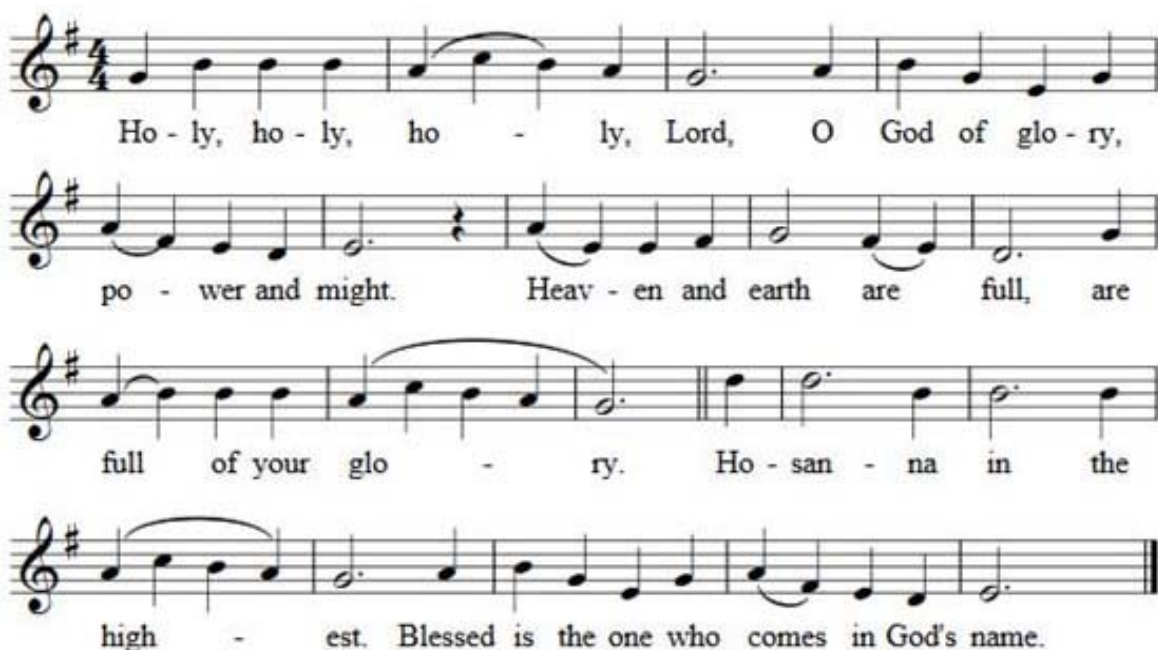
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

C Come among us.

P Bless this meal.

C May your Word take flesh in us.

P Awaken your people.

C Fill us with your light.

P Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C Come, Holy Spirit.

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come now with joy to Emmanuel's table. Feast at the banquet of hope and love.
Please be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



We invite all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior to share with us in Holy Communion. All are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available as an alternative to wine. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing. Hands cupped open indicate a desire to receive communion; hands closed reflect a desire to receive a blessing. We now have gluten-free communion wafers available. If gluten-free is your preference, please let the pastor know when you are at the communion rail.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Eat This Bread
Lost in the Night

ELW HYMN 472
ELW HYMN 243

Please stand as you are able.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A God of abundance, we give you thanks that in this holy meal you have invited us to feast with you and one another. May the taste of your love remain with us, and may our words and our work in your name invite others into your bountiful grace. Send us from your table to proclaim your presence, even as we await the glorious coming of Christ our Savior.

C **Amen**

SENDING

BLESSING

P May God, who gathers us in love, lead you in pathways of righteousness and justice. May God, who knows us more deeply than we know ourselves, lead you in pathways of forgiveness and freedom. May God, who fills us with good things, lead you in pathways of equity and abundance. The blessing of the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, be upon you and remain with you forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

People, Look East

ELW 248

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Welcome to worship at Trinity!

Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope that you, members and visitors, found the Spirit of God in our midst.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, or have other questions, please contact the church office at 785.233.0767

UPCOMING EVENTS AT TRINITY

Today, Dec. 15..... Adult Sunday School..... 9:15 AM
 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM

Mon., Dec. 16**January 2020 *Trinity Tidings* Deadline**
 Women's AA.....5:00 PM

Wed., Dec. 18 Women's AA.....5:30 PM
 Mary & Martin Advent Worship & Study6:30 PM
 Historic Old Town NIA meeting 6:30 PM

Thurs., Dec. 19.....Men's AA7:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 22 Adult Sunday School..... 9:15 AM
 Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 AM



PLEASE NOTE: the date of our annual meeting has changed to January 26, 2020, immediately after worship. Work on the annual report booklet will begin in early January. **The deadline to submit reports to be included in the booklet is now January 6th.** You may review the index of previous reports to see what reports are needed, or you may call the office, 233-0767.

Worship Assistants									
Date	Greeter(s)	Usher(s)	Musicians	Lector	Acolyte	Altar Guild	Coffee Hosts	Assisting Minister	Presiding Minister
December 15, 2019	Walt & Helen Laughlin	Duane Pomeroy	Laurie Jackson	Shelley Andrews	Ted Murphy	Team 2	Howard & Loni Reece	Mary Heald	Pr. Andrew Patty
December 22, 2019	Vickie Jacobs	Ted Murphy	Laurie Jackson	Diane Bottorff	Duane Pomeroy	Team 2	Bob & Pam Kobbeman	Bob Horton	Pr. Andrew Patty
December 29, 2019	Chuck Sodergren	Diane Bottorff	Mitchell Bean	Marcy Carlson	Cindy McGinnis	Team 2	Don & Charlotte O'Brien	Walt Laughlin	Pr. Andrew Patty

OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS						
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense	Attendance/Communion
Nov. 17	\$938.00	\$582.75	\$1,520.75	-\$2,648.00	-\$1,127.25	38/36
Nov. 24	\$1,855.00	\$142.00	\$1,997.00	-\$2,648.00	-\$651.00	44/43
Dec. 1	\$743.00	\$100.00	\$843.00	-\$2,648.00	-\$1,805.00	25/23
Dec. 8	\$5,869.00	\$112.00	\$5,981.00	-\$2,648.00	\$3,333.00	50/48
The money shown in the "Other" column is restricted and not available for our general fund.						
			Income	Expense	Behind/Ahead	
		Oct 2019	\$10,081.95	-\$20,727.61	-\$10,645.66	
		Jan. - Oct	\$100,689.86	-\$116,755.04	-\$16,065.18	

Mary and Martin



Exploring Lutheran Views on the Mother of God

6:30 pm, December 18

During Advent, we will be reviving our midweek sessions as we await the coming of Christ. Our theme for this Advent study season will focus on the theological foundations of what Lutherans thought of Mary's place within our faith tradition and what it means for us today. We will balance the past and the present by looking at some historical documents and statements of our church in comparison with reflections from various present ELCA clergy persons.

We will gather in the sanctuary at 6:30 for a time of worship, then go downstairs to Fellowship Hall for Bible study and refreshments. Those that are attending are asked to bring one snack item (bag of chips, cookies, etc.) to share with the group.



The mission of
**Trinity Evangelical
 Lutheran Church**
 is to

- worship God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
- serve those in need, and
- reach out to share the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ!

Together in Community • **L**iving with Christ • **C**aring for Neighbors

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606

Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org

Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS

10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday

Noon to 5:00 PM Wednesday

Telephone: (785) 233-0767

Congregation Council

Pr. Andrew C. Patty _____ 423-748-9922			
President Diane Bottorff _____	271-7131	Bob Horton _____	640-5345
Vice President Mary Heald _____	221-2790	Curt Lewis _____	286-2728
Secretary Laurie Jackson _____	224-9683	Dean McGinnis _____	272-0255
Treasurer Bob Kobbeman _____	478-0381	Ted Murphy _____	817-0372