

✚ 1st Sunday of Advent ✚
December 3, 2017 10:00 A.M.

GATHERING IN WORSHIP

Please use the time during the prelude for quiet meditation to prepare yourself for worship.

◆Prelude

Lighting of the 1st Advent Candle

◆Call to Worship (Responsively)

Pastor: We come, trusting in God's mercy and love, longing to know and to learn more about God's ways.

People: Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Pastor: Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old.

People: Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you, LORD, are good.

Pastor: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in his ways.

People: He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.

Pastor: All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful toward those who keep the demands of his covenant.

◆Hymn of Praise (BH #121) *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

◆Invocation

The Lord's Prayer (forgive us our sins...)

WORD

Advent Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-28

◆Gloria Patri (BH #109)

Pastoral Prayer

◆Hymn of Preparation (BH #750) *Soon and Very Soon*

Message "Lift up Your Heads, Your Redeemer is Drawing Nigh"
Rev. Mark Westlind

RESPONSE

◆Hymn of Response *There is a Redeemer*

Prayer of Confession (In Unison):

Almighty God, you warn us to read the signs for the coming of your glory— in the sun, the moon, the stars, the roaring of the seas and the waves, the distress among the nations. We have seen it all before. Nothing seems to change. Help us live with courage in this age of ambiguity where wars are fought for peace and freedoms are stripped in the name of liberty. Forgive our lapse of focus, our sense that nothing ever really changes. Teach us to wait with patience, that we may be ready as our redeemer draws near. Amen.

(Silent Prayer)

Words of Assurance (Pastor):

The apostle Paul prayed that *"the Lord may make our love overflow for each other and for everyone.... that the Lord may strengthen our hearts in holiness so that we will be blameless before God."* The good news therefore, is this: in and through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Life Together

Offering

Offertory *Behold the Lamb of God*

Holiday Ensemble

◆ *Doxology*

◆ Prayer of Dedication

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

◆ Affirmation of Faith (BH #878)

- ◆ Words of Institution
- ◆ Prayer of Consecration
- Sharing the Bread and the Cup
- Prayer of Thanksgiving

SENDING

◆ **Hymn of Dismissal** (BH #162) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

◆ **Benediction**

Postlude

◆ **Indicates those who are able should stand.**

NOTES OF INTEREST

Childcare is offered for infants and younger children in the church nursery. If you need directions or more information feel free to ask an usher for assistance.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Greg Goetz, Carol Latimer, Lorraine Sorensen, Linda Stearns (Pryme Tymers "Happygrams"), Linnea Wimpenny.

The altar flowers this morning are given by Diana Eigenbauer in memory of Ray Lewis.

*Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24, 10 A.M.
Service of Carols and Candles*

Rev. Mark Westlind.....Interim Pastor
 Stuart Seale.....Director of Music and Worship
 Betty Aardema and Nate Van Der Male.....Organists
 Amanda Fulton.....Director, Noah's Ark Preschool
 Karen Christakos.....Church Secretary
 Joe Michalowicz.....Custodian

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Advent

CHIC 2018 NEWS

Calling all High School Students...CHIC is coming! July 15-20 in Knoxville,TN. CHIC is a triennial conference for high school students sponsored by Make and Deepen Disciples, the Evangelical Covenant Church. CHIC is a worship, transformational and fun week of Christ! If you have completed grade 9, 10, 11 or 12 in the 2017-2018 school year and are 15 years old by Dec. 31, 2017 then you are eligible to go. If you are a senior and already went to CHIC you are welcome, too!

Registration forms are available in the church office or see Kellie Lee. **Deposits and registration sheets are due by Dec. 15, 2017.** Please pay \$100 early bird registration deposit by Dec. 15, 2017. Final payments of \$499 are due May 15, 2018.

Extra fees include: optional excursions from \$10 to \$75 and transportation fees. We are looking into air fare and bus costs.

Questions? See Kellie Lee or email: pglkl99@comcast.net

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WELCOME TO TRINITY

So that we can get to know you better and you can better know us, please complete the tear-off below and place in the offering plate. Thank you!

Date: _____

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Calendar for the Week:

Today: Together We Cope retiring offering

- 10 A.M. Worship
- 10–11 A.M. Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 6th Grade
- 11:15 A.M Confirmation Class and High School Youth Group
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room

This Week:

- Mon.-Fri. 9 A.M Noah’s Ark Preschool
- Tues. 9:30 A.M. Women’s Bible Study, Fireside Room
- Tues. 4:30 P.M. Ronald McDonald House supper
- Wed. 6 P.M Light supper prior to “The Kingdom” class
- Wed. 6:30 P.M. Pastor Mark’s class “The Kingdom”

Next Sunday:

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- 10–11 A.M. Nursery for Infants/Sunday School Pre-K – 6th Grade
- 11:15 A.M Confirmation Class and High School Youth Group
- 11:30 A.M. Adult Sunday School, Fireside Room

Dec. 10 – Nursery Helpers: Grace Persson, Carol Strickland
Greeters: Clarence & Dolores Rosengren

Announcements:

Just a Bit of a “Fun” Update

You may have noticed that our usual and most excellent scripture reader, Denise Krueger, has been “optioned out” with some very cool young people lately. An explanation is in order in case you were wondering. Denise has served faithfully in this important role, which helps lead us through our worship every Sunday, for the last seven years! When she needed to travel last month, both Denise and I had an epiphany of sorts. Why not have some of our confirmands take up the banner in the reading of scripture?! Denise was enthusiastic about the idea and even drafted up a training document for this purpose. This document is very comprehensive and has been approved by the board. She serves as a mentor to those who wish to read God’s Word to us on Sunday mornings. I would like to expand this offer of reading scripture to others as well. Please see me if you are interested!

Pastor Mark

Adult Sunday School

On December 3, 10 and 17 Mel Mueller is leading the class as he explores the book of First John. Why John wrote this letter and what was the purpose of his writing. All are welcome to attend.

Church Family Christmas Greeting

The Trinity Youth Group will lead this annual church fundraiser with proceeds directed to Every Kid a Camper fund. For a donation, they will help you with your Christmas card chores: they will purchase, address, stamp and mail Christmas cards to all church members. Each card will include a list of the donors' names. To donate, fill out the Church Family Christmas Greeting envelope and return to the church office by Sunday, December 10.

Homeless Shelter Donations Most Appreciated

Covenant Women want to thank all of those who donated clothing and toiletries to the "Affordable Recovery Shelter" in Blue Island. In all, about 75 bags were donated. We were able to organize clothing rooms for the men (140) and another for the women (25). Presently Trinity is the only church making donations. As soon as we bring in the clothing it is taken and used.

We will continue to collect donations of the following items, which can be placed in the boxes beneath the Christmas tree in the Narthex: Soap bars, shower gel, shampoo/conditioner, hand lotion/moisturizer, BIC razors/shaving cream, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, bath towels, socks and underwear, knit caps and gloves. Sharing these needs with family and friends during the holidays will also help you to declutter your closets. Again, Thank You for your time in collecting these most needed items. Just seeing their faces as they leave with fresh, clean clothing shows that someone out there cares – we are making a difference in their lives.

Women's Bible Study

On Tuesday, December 19, 10:30 A.M. the Women's Bible Study group is invited to a brunch at Barbara Johnson's house at 10:30 A.M. Note: No study on December 26.

Worth Township Holiday Events

Christmas Care Program – Families in need of assistance may come to Worth Township, 11601 S. Pulaski Rd., Alsip, and fill out an application form for toys for their children (ages infant to 14 years of age) now through December 11, from 8:30 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Applicants will need to pick up items the week of December 11-21, by appointment. Families in need of outerwear this winter may also select items from the used Coat & Outer wear drive now through January 29 or until the coats find a new home. For details contact the Youth Commission, 708-371-2900.

Santa's Room - Come see Santa at Worth Township. Children accompanied by an adult may visit Santa December 4 through 15, Monday-Friday, from 3:30-5:30 P.M. and 6:30-8:30 P.M. There is no charge but a donation of a new toy/canned goods for the Christmas Care Program/Food Pantry would be appreciated. Enter the building at the west entrance.

Musichorale 71st Gala

Musichorale is a Chicago community choir featuring the directorial debut of Mrs. Sarah Silhan-Koehler. The choir will perform their 71st Noel Concert – *Step Into Christmas* on Sunday, December 10, at 3:20 P.M., at Trinity Christian College, Ozinga Auditorium, 6601 College Dr., Palos Heights. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 at the door. See Gloria Vitro.

Save the Date Mark your calendar for the next Family Event on Wednesday, January 3. We are going to Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in Aurora from 12-2 P.M. Founded in 1987, FMSC is a Christian non-profit that provides nutritionally complete meals specifically formulated for malnourished children. Donations given fund the meal ingredients, volunteers hand-pack the meals, and the meals are donated to FMSC food partners around the world, where kids are fed and lives are saved!

All are welcome! See Linda Kozak to sign up.

Today's Scripture:

Jeremiah 33:14-16

¹⁴ "'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will fulfill the good promise I made to the people of Israel and Judah. ¹⁵ "'In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line; he will do what is just and right in the land. ¹⁶ In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior.'

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

⁹ How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy we have in the presence of our God because of you? ¹⁰ Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you again and supply what is lacking in your faith. ¹¹ Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. ¹² May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. ¹³ May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

Luke 21:25-28

²⁵ "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea.²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

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The Pacesetters invite everyone to join them on Saturday, December 16 for Gregory Athnos' presentation on 'A New View of Handel's Messiah'. Greg,

Professor of Music for 32 years at North Park University, has done research and has an entirely new view of Handel's spiritual commitment to the text used in the masterpiece.

Greg will present two lectures - Handel and His Inspired 'Messiah': We think we know this monumental work, having heard it or sung it so many times. But is there another way to look at the masterpiece? Can we discover another level of 'spiritual depth or commitment'? Who assembled the texts? Why? How did Handel incorporate his own 'spiritual understanding' of the texts? We will view the composition from the same 'Baroque' perspective the composer used.

- 10 A.M. Class begins
- 12 P.M. Lunch - Chicken
- 1 P.M. Class resumes

The cost is approximately \$10. To RSVP, fill out the tear off below and drop off at the church office.

RSVP is due Sunday, December 3.

RSVP – Handel's Messiah lectures, Saturday, Dec. 16

Name _____

Phone _____

Yes, I need a babysitter _____



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**Christmas Concert
And
Carols Sing-A-Long**

*Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church
Sunday, December 17
Program 4 P.M.
Dinner 5 P.M.*

Trinity invites you and your family and friends to join us for a Christmas music celebration on Sunday, December 17, at 4 P.M. The program will feature the Trinity Children's Choir, Trinity's Holiday Ensemble and special guest Heather Van Der Male, with plenty of sing-a-long carols and Christmas favorites. There will also be our traditional dinner provided by Chi-Tung catering immediately following the program in Peterson Hall.

Help us spread holiday cheer by inviting your family and friends!

There will be a free will offering during the program and a suggested donation for dinner.

RSVP below or call the church office 708-422-5111 by December 10.



RSVP - Christmas Concert Dec. 17

Name: _____

Number of Adults _____

Number of Children _____