



Partners in Ministry

Serving God and others through
the Evangelical Lutheran Churches of
America

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1409 South Eighth Avenue, East
Newton, Iowa 50208
Church Phone: (641) 792-1683
www.HTLchurch.com

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 242, 8290 Hwy. F-62, East
Sully, IA 50251
Church Phone: (641)-798-4651
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Words from Pastor Kari's Pen.

Office Hours for

Holy Trinity :

Tuesday-Thursday

1:00 - 4:00 PM.

By appointment

only.

"Patience is not simply the ability to wait - it's how we behave while we're waiting." - Unknown

"Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"- Psalm 27:14 NRSV.

Waiting is hard. It doesn't matter if you are excited about what you are anticipating or dreading what you cannot avoid. Waiting is hard to do.

There are many Hebrew words used throughout scripture to express the process of waiting:

qavah, meaning 'to wait';

yachal, which refers to hopeful expectant waiting;

chakah, a drawn-out desperate wait; and chuwl, meaning to wait anxiously.

We have been waiting for this holiday season to arrive. Some with hopeful anticipation. Others with dread or fear. Some with a mixture of both happy and uncomfortable anxiety. And now we find ourselves at the bringing of the liturgical year.

We have "hurried up so we can wait". That's what my husband says every time we are going to fly. It's the process of hurrying up to wait. You hurry to arrive at the airport only to wait for ticketing, security, the gate to open, then your baggage to arrive. It's exhausting. And if you are surrounded by grouchy people it's downright painful.

But the time of waiting that we have arrived at is not passive waiting my friends. It's not that everything is being done around us and our only reality is to be inconvenienced. Advent is the season of allowing the act of waiting to transform your perspective. A patient but active waiting. Where we pay attention to our attitudes, our actions, our wandering thoughts. It's the time when we do the work of facing all the thoughts, fears, and insecurities that we could no longer outrun. We are at the gate waiting for the door to open and be greeted by a voice that says the main event has arrived.

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Pastor Kari Lee
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And even when Christ arrives, and we get on board to the new reality of Emmanuel “God with us” being in our midst – it’s really just the beginning of the adventure.

I pray that you may find joy amid this waiting. That you would know the hope-filled promise of God that is arriving in Jesus Christ. Waiting is not a punishment. Preparing effectively to welcome the arrival of Christ. It's important to name the things of this season we find heavy or abrasive so that we can cling to the hope and the joy of God's arrival that comforts all the things we need Christ to come attend to. It's important to welcome the moments of joy that find us while we wait. And from this pastor to you all, whether you are waiting for the holidays or waiting while traveling during these holidays, please be kind while you endeavor to patiently wait.

Pastor Kari



In Luke 18, Jesus invited the children. In Mark 10, Jesus embraced the children. Churches that welcome and embrace children are like Jesus.

One of the best things to do is ring the bell with our youth at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. It was a great start to the holiday season. Love my church family!



Thank you to everyone that came and helped! We love our St. Andrew's youth! What a great group of kids (and parents)...



- Todd Sharp (Dec. 6)**
- David Nilles (Dec. 9th)**
- Tim Vermillion (Dec. 14th)**
- Brock Simbro (Dec. 16)**
- Carol Wolfram (Dec.20th)**
- Hudson Winegars (Dec. 20)**
- Hunter Neleman (Dec. 22)**
- Joy Anderson (Dec. 25)**
- Jill Philby (Dec.25)**
- Payton Sharp (Dec. 27)**
- Deb Line (Dec.28th)**
- Jim Vermillion (Dec. 30th)**

**HAPPY
Birthday
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY**

**HAPPY
Anniversary
FROM YOUR
CHURCH FAMILY**

**Ben & Rosie Caldwell
(December 14)**

**Nicole and Julio Vitales
(Dec. 18th)**

SUNDAY MORNING ASSISTANTS

LITURGIST

- 12/03/23 Staci Arnold
- 12/10/23 Ange Sevenbergen
- 12/17/23 Shawnae Nilles
- 12/24/23 Christmas Program
- 12/31/23 Bill Bennett, Jr.

READER

- Staci Arnold
- Ange Sevenbergen
- Shawnae Nilles
- Christmas Program
- Bill Bennett, Jr.

USHERS/GREETERS

- 12/03/23 Rhonda & Devon Wolf
- 12/10/23 Keith & Kathy Sevenbergen
- 12/17/23 Wes & Sue Ranard
- 12/24/23 Bill & Vicky Bennett
- 12/31/23 Bill & Linda Bennett

ACOLYTES

- Runa or Eloise
- Runa or Eloise
- Runa or Eloise
- Runa or Eloise
- Runa or Eloise

Any questions contact Linda Bennett
Phone 641-218-1547

Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon



The Answer is on pg. 4

2023 St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - Service Helper List

updated 1/21/23

Date	Greeter	Lector	Comm. Asst.	Altar Guild	Candle Lighting
12/3/2023	Stacey Simbro	Doug Bell	Mike Paulson	Marlene Sharp	Peyton Sharp
12/10/2023	Katie & Hunter Neleman	Nancy Wright			
12/17/2023	Wayne & Marlene Sharp	Teri Bowlin			
12/24/2023	Mike & Norene Paulson	Pat Johnson			
12/31/2023	John & Barb Freeborn	Jessica Winegar			
1/7/2024	Carol Naeseth	Carol Naeseth	Amy Collum	Carol Naeseth	Easton Collum
1/14/2024	Doug & Jaci Bell	Doug Bell			
1/21/2024	Nancy Wright	Nancy Wright			
1/28/2024	Brad & Teri Bowlin	Teri Bowlin			



Our November mission support to the Southeastern Iowa Synod was \$793. There were also a donations of \$350 to ELCA World Hunger, \$300 to Lutheran Disaster Response, and \$100 to Jasper Co. Take Away Hunger.

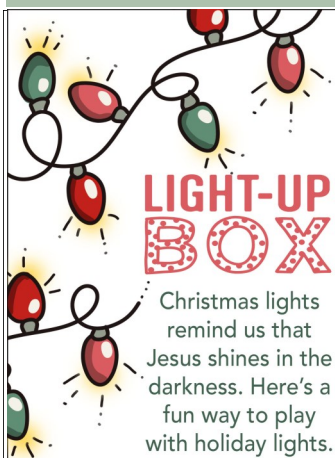
Our monthly mission for November was for Discover Hope 5:17, and congregation members have given \$420 for a total donation of \$920 with our budgeted funds.

Our mission emphasis for December is for the ELCA Good Gifts program. ELCA Good Gifts are a creative, meaningful way to support the ministries of the ELCA. These gifts are real examples from projects currently supported through ELCA churchwide ministries: the ELCA Fund for Leaders, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA New Congregations, ELCA Vision for Mission, ELCA World Hunger, Disability Ministries and Lutheran Disaster Response. Each of these programs is a long-term, partnership-based ministry that focus on the needs identified by local congregations and global companion churches and their communities. If you'd like to contribute to this mission, please write "Good Gifts" on your check or offering envelope.

Answer: B (See Luke 1:5, 39-41.)

Preparing for Christ's birth at Holy Trinity

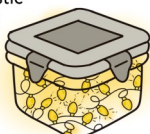




Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



Our God of hope

Near the end of a long bout with cancer, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson realized that hope for recovery wasn't credible. The year before he died, he wrote a Christmas message from "the antiseptic wonderland of the holiday hospital ward," asking, "What sustains hope when there is scant reason for it?"

The answer, Gerson said, is found in our "God of hope," who became vulnerable, "cloaked in blood and bone and destined for human suffering." Rather than fulfill our deepest earthly wishes, God offers eternal security: "He promises a transformation of the heart in which we release the burden of our desires, and live in expectation of God's unfolding purposes, until all his mercies stand revealed."

That hope-filled message echoes Gerson's 2012 Christmas column, written in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shooting. "The point of Christmas is not a sentimental optimism about the human condition or even a teaching about the will of God," he wrote. "It is an assertion that God came to our rescue, and holds our hand, and becomes, at the worst moments, our brokenhearted brother. It is preposterous, unless it is true. And then it would be everything."

Moments of incarnation

The wonder of the infinite-personal God is displayed, more than anywhere else, in the Incarnation. Nothing can prepare us for the birth of God: a six-pound, four-ounce Jewish boy with dark brown curly hair born in the fall or winter of 5 B.C. in a shepherd's cave on the side of a hill in the city of Bethlehem in the Roman province of Judea in western Asia.



It is so particular it staggers the imagination. God found a parking spot, a specific place and time where his love would touch our world. [Similarly,] prayer is a moment of incarnation — God with us. God involved in the details of my life.

—Paul E. Miller, *A Praying Life*

Christian symbol

ROSE — This flower, often shown as stylized artwork, is a symbol for Advent, the promise of the Messiah and Jesus' nativity. A white rose represents the Virgin Mary, and a

red rose stands for martyrs. A wreath of roses symbolizes heavenly joy.





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Worship Times are as follows.

9:00 am St. Andrew's Worship
10:00 am Fellowship & Sunday School

Holy Trinity Worship 10:30 am
Fellowship @ Holy Trinity 11:30 am.

*How can we
pray for you today?*