



*Nurturing a Living Faith
with Open Hearts
and Serving Hands*

502 N 4th St. Bismarck, ND 58501 ~ 701-223-3560 ~ www.trinitybismarck.com ~ trinity@trinitybismarck.com



**3rd Sunday of Advent
Dec. 14, 2025
8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**



PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Trinity Handbells

CENTERING SONG

*“O Come, Take Heart”
Verse 3*

See Handout

WELCOME & SHARING OF PEACE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, often in life, when we make mistakes, we want to keep those mistakes to ourselves. We don't want to advertise our blunders. We don't want to highlight our failings. We can be tempted to brush those things under the rug and move on. But when it comes to God, there is nothing we need to brush under the rug. God welcomes and loves our full, honest, messy selves—blunders and all. So let us go before God in prayer, trusting that there is nothing we need to hide from our Creator.

(Silence for Confession)

Courageous God,

**you invite us to live into our call.
You invite us to act, to serve, and to trust.
Instead of responding with a resounding “yes,”
we often hide our face.
We dig our heels in.
We look for someone else to volunteer.
Spark courage in us.
Remind us that every person is capable of making a difference.
Remind us that even when we're scared, we are not alone.
You invite us forward.
With baby steps we hope,
we pray,
Amen.**

Family of faith,

no matter where your path has led you in the past, today is a new day. So join me in declaring this good news:

**We are known. We are forgiven! We are sent to serve.
May we step forward in faith, always moving closer to God's call. Amen.**

OPENING SONG

*“People Look East”
“Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”*

ELW #248 (8:30)
ELW #242 (10:30)

***Welcome to
Worship at Trinity
Lutheran***

Whether this is your first time worshipping with us, or if you regularly attend, we are very glad that you are with us! Today, we gather to worship God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not a building – it is you, the people. So “church,” thanks for showing up today. If you look around what you will see are imperfect people. Some with smiles, some with broken hearts, some with secrets they are ashamed to share... and yet all of us together are the “church.”

We are thankful you are here. Through God's Holy Spirit we pray you hear a word of grace and hope today.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeremiah said, "I am only a boy." Moses said, "Who am I to do this work?"

Mary said, "How can this be?" We often say, "But God, I am afraid."

Even when we are afraid, God invites us closer. So may we trust the Inviter.

May we heed God's invitation. **May we summon our courage and sing God's praise.**

Let us worship our courageous, inviting, calling God. **Amen.**



***Poinsettia Forms are
available in the Narthex***

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of joy?

We see glimmers of joy in birthday candles and homemade cards. We see joy in the laughter of children and the delight of grandparents. We see joy in meals around the table and in the singing of Christmas songs.

You are right. Even in a fearful world, joy is all around us. Today we light the candle of joy as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, joy is here. Joy is real. We only have to look for it.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING SONG

"We're Not Alone"

Verse 3

See Handout

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy One,

the story of this season is not a new one. We've heard this tale before. We've seen the nativities, watched the plays, sung the songs, witnessed the children act it out. The story of this season is not a new one, and yet we long to hear it as if it is. So spark our spirits awake. Call forth awareness, attention, and reverence in us. Allow us to hear this ancient tale with brand new ears. With hope we pray, Amen.

READING: JEREMIAH 4:1-10

Patricia Ann Murray, reader (8:30)

⁴ If you return, O Israel, says the LORD, if you return to me, if you remove your abominations from my presence and do not waver, ² and if you swear, "As the LORD lives!" in truth, in justice, and in uprightness, then nations shall be blessed by you, and by you they shall boast.

³ For thus says the LORD to the people of Judah and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns.

⁴ Circumcise yourselves to the LORD; remove the foreskin of your hearts, O people of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem, or else my wrath will go forth like fire and burn with no one to quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

⁵ Declare in Judah, and proclaim in Jerusalem, and say: Blow the trumpet through the land; shout aloud and say, "Gather together, and let us go into the fortified cities!"

⁶ Raise a standard toward Zion; flee for safety; do not delay, for I am bringing evil from the north and a great destruction.

⁷ A lion has gone up from its thicket; a destroyer of nations has set out; he has gone out from his place to make your land a waste; your cities will be ruins without inhabitant.

⁸ Because of this put on sackcloth, lament and wail: "The fierce anger of the LORD has not turned away from us."

⁹ On that day, says the LORD, courage shall fail the king and the officials; the priests shall be appalled and the prophets astounded. ¹⁰ Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD, how utterly you have deceived this people and Jerusalem, saying, 'It shall be well with you,' even while the sword is at the throat!"

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146:5-10

⁵ Happy 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 promises forever;**

⁷ who 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.**

⁹ The 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!**

*My thoughts on the scripture
and message*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Shout!"

Verse 3

See Handout

GOSPEL: LUKE 1:26-39

The holy gospel according to Luke, chapter 1, beginning with verse 26. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country,

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Mark Narum

SONG OF THE DAY

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"
"There is a Longing in Our Hearts"

ELW #246 (8:30)
ACS #1078 (10:30)

CREED

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe. We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people. So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please pray for Dick, Amy, Rod, Melissa, Hal, Lester,
Jim, Sandy, Carsen, Cortney, Lynn, Ken, Barb, Anna, Gary, Dirk, Bev & Nyla.*

OFFERING/OFFERING MUSIC

"While We are Waiting, Come"
CCLI #27525

Trinity Handbells (8:30)
(10:30)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of abundance,
we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with—go in peace and be not afraid. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"
"Messiah"
CCLI #1454269

ELW #250 (8:30)
(10:30)

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*CCLI License #1794656 for songs
One License # a-716673, for songs and liturgy: copyright © 2019 augsburg fortress. All rights reserved.
Graphic design by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | Photography by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

WE EXTEND OUR CONGREGATION'S SYMPATHY to the family of Verna Merkel. Her funeral was at Trinity on Thursday, December 11th. Please keep her family in your prayers.

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM is in memory of Les Christian, Verna & Albert Dronen, & Harold Hanson. Given by Reg & Julie Christian.

ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of his father, Philip. Given by Jim & LaRayne Martel.

THURSDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - This group invites it's members and Trinity staff to join them for a luncheon at the Broadway Grille on Thursday, December 18th @ 11:30 a.m.

RADIO BROADCAST/LIVE STREAM SIGN-UP - The sign-up sheet for 2026 is located in the Narthex. Please turn in the additional form with your payment - *it is helpful to receive payment up front if possible*. The cost is \$250 each.



MEN'S GROUP - This group will meet this Saturday, December 20th @ 8 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - We will gather this Saturday, December 20th @ 12 p.m. in the Community Center to coordinate for Christmas Caroling. Then, we will carpool to 3 different nursing facilities to sing some carols. More info posted on our website.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING - It has been a tradition at Trinity that a special offering is taken during the Christmas Season. This year council has designated Youthworks as this year's recipient. Their mission is: helping ensure all youth have a safe place to belong and be heard. If you would like to make a donation, you can write a check to Trinity and in the memo line write: Youthworks. Thanks for your generosity!

ONLINE GIVING - Giving has never been easier! Open your camera on your phone and scan the QR code. It will take you right to Trinity's online giving site. You can choose to give via credit card or bank account. Try it out today!



Blue Christmas Worship -

Join us for this worship today @ 6 p.m. in the Community Center.

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday 12-14

8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
9:35 AM - Church School
10:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
3 PM - Civic Chorus Christmas Concert in Sanctuary
6 PM - Blue Christmas Worship in Community Center

Tuesday 12-16

9 AM - Quilters in Quilters' Room

Wednesday 12-17

2:30 PM - Upstairs Bible Study in Room 212
5:15 PM - Meal served in Fellowship Hall
6 PM - Worship & Christmas Program in Sanctuary
6:40 PM - Youth Group, Confirmation, Church School

Thursday 12-18

5 PM - Mental Health Task Force in Conf. Room
6:30 PM - Council in Conference Room

Friday 12-19

9:30 AM - Theology & Coffee in Conference Room
4 PM - Bauer/Kordovsky Wedding in Sanctuary

Saturday 12-20

8 AM - Men's Group in Fellowship Hall
12 PM - Christmas Caroling in Community Center

Sunday 12-21

8:30 AM - Worship in Sanctuary
9:35 AM - Bible 101 in Fellowship Hall
9:35 AM - Church School
10:30 AM - Worship & Christmas Program in Sanctuary
2 PM - "Elf" Interactive Event in Fellowship Hall

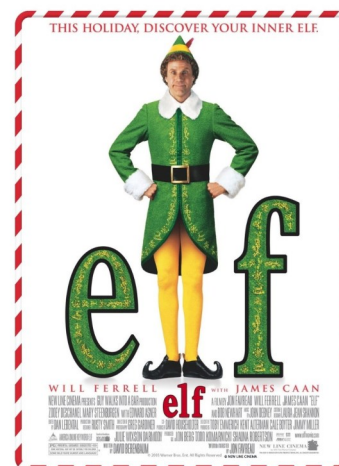
Christmas Worship Services

December 24
Christmas Eve worship:
3 pm, 5 pm, 10 pm
**Holy Communion + Candlelight*

December 25
Cozy Christmas worship:
10:30 am
**Holy Communion*

502 N 4th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501

**Sunday, December 21 @ 2 p.m.
Fellowship Hall ~ All Ages Welcome!**



We'll be stopping the movie every once and awhile to have our own fun with indoor snowballs, treats, and more!

