



Trinity News

December 2024

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Greetings From Pastor Paula

This message is part of the sermon that Pastor Robert Wakefield gave to the congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Frederiksted, Saint Croix Virgin Islands on December 1, 2024. I feel the message is worth sharing with you as we begin this Advent Season.

The Holy gospel according to Luke the 21st chapter.
(Luke 21:25-36)

It happens the same way every year.

Just as the Christmas lights & trees are about to be prepared, & friends & families plan happy gatherings... the gospel readings disturb our peace: "There will be great earthquakes, famines & pestilences... Signs in the sun, moon & stars. On the earth nations will be in anguish & perplexity at the roaring of the sea. People will faint from what they see even the heavens will be shaken."

I can hear people thinking: **PLEASE!** "Not at my Christmas party." But today **IS** the **FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**, December 1, 2024. If we don't hear the doom from Luke, then we hear it from Matthew or Mark.

The color of the season isn't the red of Santa's suit or the green of freshly-cut evergreen trees, or the white of snowy tinsel.

It's the blue of the sky to which Jesus calls us to lift our eyes in anticipation.

Today's Gospel reading is **NOT** about angels, shepherds



or a baby in a manger. Rather it describes times of great destruction... the end times... the End of The Age before the Son of Man returns to rule. 2 weeks ago – in the Gospel of Mark – we heard Jesus predict the destruction of **THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE**.

Today, the 1st Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a New Church Year. This church year, most of our Gospel Readings will come from Luke.

Interestingly, just before – just preceding – Today's gospel reading from Luke, Luke (ALSO) Tells us of Jesus predicting **THE DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE**.

Both gospel writers were right. A generation after Jesus' Crucifixion – in 70 A.D. – the Romans Sacked & Burned the Temple. And Just as Jesus said, Not one stone was left standing on another, If you were a 1st Century Jew that would be about The Worst Thing You Could Imagine.

But in today's Gospel Jesus predicts **THINGS WOULD GET EVEN Worse... NOT ONLY** will the temple be Sacked & Burned **BUT** there will be **COSMIC CALAMITY...** All creation will come unhinged! The heavens will shake. The sea will roar & foam, & fear will be in every heart.

But before that cosmic calamity happens Jesus says things will get Really **REALLY** Bad for Israel.. And there won't be anything they can do to stop the tide of destruction...

And again, Jesus was right... after the destruction of the temple things went from bad to worse. To add insult to injury, the Roman general, **TITUS**, had a statue of Caesar – who claimed to be God – erected in the courtyard of the burned-out temple. (in A.D. 70) ...many Jews fled Jerusalem to a mountain fortress Herod had built – called **MASADA** – where they barricaded themselves against the Romans.

The Romans followed them & laid siege to Masada. For 3 years the Jews held out behind those strong walls until the Romans built an earthen ramp up to the top of the fortress walls. When they finally breached the walls & stormed the fortress, instead of the fierce fight they were expecting, there was no resistance. Every Jew was already dead.

? Why were they dead? When they saw they couldn't resist the Romans any further, they made a radical decision. Unwilling to be taken captive, they chose to die as a free people by taking their own lives. The few remaining Jews who hadn't been holed-up in Masada were Deported & Scattered to the 4 Winds.

Talk about Darkness!! If this is the beginning of "The Season To Be Jolly", the Church sure has a funny way of gettin' into it. But the truth is:

ADVENT ISN'T A "SEASON TO BE JOLLY, with Mistletoe & Holly."

ADVENT IS A CALL TO HOPE... especially for those facing dark, hard, danger-

ous times... including us. And if you think that doesn't include you, I wonder where you've been getting your news!

So... If things are going just fine for you... If you've never faced tragedy in your life... & are sure you'll never experience that kind of deep darkness... I suppose you can tune out at this point & go over your Christmas shopping list, & let visions of sugar-plums dance in your head.

But... if you carry the scars of grief, trouble, or have the sneaking suspicion that you may yet walk thru the valley of the shadow of death you might want to listen.

Someone tried to put some humor into their commentary about very dark times

when they said: "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs..... you just don't understand the situation!" We can laugh because there is plenty going on in our world & in our nation which warrants concern... & even fear.

But Jesus **ISN'T** telling us to be afraid. In fact he is saying something quite different.

He says: **NO!**... It's the others who don't understand the situation.

He says: The truth is... when all you can see is gloom & doom, when the whole universe seems to be coming to pieces, stand up... raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near! I'm not saying that God wills Disaster **BUT** rather when darkness closes in & there's nothing you can do, **YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**

When things are really bad & you don't have a shred of hope in anything **YOU** can do – you can still lift up your head & trust the One who will ultimately redeem you.....

You watch your home & your hopes blow away in a hurricane or as so many Californians did not long ago, burn-up in a firestorm... & there's nothing you can do but watch it all go.

Or maybe... **IT REALLY IS THE END!!!** The earth shakes... & you're powerless to stop it. The stars fall from heaven... the sea roars... & everything comes unhinged.

? **WHAT DO YOU DO THEN?** Jesus says: "Raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Jesus says: "Raise your head..." ...not because you're strong... or can work yourself out of a tight spot... **BUT** because you trust Jesus... who says: "Your redemption is drawing near." **GOD IS FAITHFUL!**

The Christian hope **ISN'T** in What **WE CAN DO**, but in **WHAT GOD** has done and will **DO** for us. It's God who loved the world so much He gave His only Son for us when we were hopelessly mired in sin & shame. It's God who thru Jesus Christ gives us victory... ..even over death!

This is the Sunday for the Candle of **HOPE!** **?WHAT IS THE HOPE? JESUS IS OUR HOPE!**

ADVENT CALLS US TO LOOK UP, CONFIDENT & HOPEFUL.

Not fearfully wondering & calculating but working & praying.

GOD Calls **US TO BE FAITHFUL AT OUR POSTS** thru all the ups & downs... the good & the bad the fears & foreboding & the times of Joy & celebration working & worshipping, loving & serving, giving & building..... & inviting people to the shining hope we have in Christ.

In the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Upcoming Worship & Events

- 12-1-24 9:30 AM Worship w/ Holy Communion
- 12-2-24 6:00 PM Choir
- 12-2-24 7:00 PM Bethlehem in Brule County Choir Rehearsal at Trinity
- 12-4-24 5:30 PM Wowsome & Confirmation
- 12-8-24 9:30 AM Worship
- 12-8-24 Scholarship brunch after service
- 12-8-24 Community Choir
- 1:00 PM Set-up People
- 3:00 PM Community Choir
- 3:30 PM Community Choir and Cast together at Pukwana Ag Building
- 12-9-24 6:00 PM Choir
- 7:00 PM Community Choir
- 12-11-24 5:30 PM WOWSOME KIDS and Confirmation
- 12-15-24 9:30 AM Worship w/ Communion
- 12-15-24 3:00 PM Community Choir Practice
- 3:30 PM Community Choir and Cast together
- 5:00 PM Bethlehem in Brule County Presentation all at AG Center in Pukwana. Soup Supper to follow.
- 12-18-24 5:30 PM WOWSOME KIDS and Confirmation Christmas Program.
Dinner to follow Presentation
- 12-24-24 5:30 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Service w/ Holy Communion
- 12-29-24 9:30 AM Worship Lessons and Carols

29th Annual Lutefisk Supper

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this year's 29th annual Lutefisk, Lefse, Meatball supper a success!! Meatball makers, potato peelers, set up crew, salad, dessert, serving line, table & kitchen staff, dishwashers, and all the other roles! It was wonderful seeing everyone working and smiling. Guests told us how great everything was.

Here are some of the quotes as people left. "YOURS is the BEST." "I am so full!" "Very good!" "We will come back next year." "Awesome!!!"

What a great job of being God's hands with our service and raising over \$4,000 for church projects and missions! (Full details will be in the January annual report.)

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Bethlehem in Brule County



Bethlehem is once again coming to Brule County! Come to the Ag Building in Pukwana Sunday, December 15, at 5 PM for the 3rd annual live nativity pageant entitled "Bethlehem in Brule County". This community indoor event is a cooperative venture of numerous churches with the help of the Brule County 4-H. Following the pageant there will be a homemade soup supper. A free will offering will be taken with all proceeds split between Chamberlain School's Helping Ends Meet program and Kimball School's Weekend Backpack Snack program. Those interested in being in the community choir should call Nancy DeBoer at 605-730-3210. Come and join in the true meaning of Christmas. For more information contact Jeff Tveit 605-730-0553.

Decorating



2nd Annual Pancakes & Bingo Night

Trinity Lutheran Wowsome students, families and teachers hosted their 2nd Annual Pancakes & Bingo night on Wednesday, November 13th with great success! Over 15 adult volunteers and as many students pitched in and donated their time to cook up enough pancakes for an estimated 100 people. It was a real treat to have a topping table loaded with all sorts of goodies, usual and unusual, to add to their stacks! Many stayed for a great round of bingo, and by the time the night was over, just over \$715 was raised and will be put towards God's Global Barnyard, the Wowsome student's charity of choice for the 2024-2025 Lutheran Education year. Thank you to all of you who gave your time, talents and treasures to make this event successful! We hope to see you again next year!



Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 3, 2024

Call to Order: Sharmel

Devotions: Dick

Attendance:

- **Present:** Dick, Sharmel, Rosemary, Bryan, Kristen and Pastor Paula.
- **Absent:** Evelyn

Reading of October minutes: Motion by Kristen to accept minutes, seconded by Dick. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was reviewed, motion by Kristen to accept report, seconded by Kathi. Motion passed. There was discussion about the budget for next year. Went through each line item and adjusted as needed.

Committee Reports:

- **DEACONS:** are hosting a Laundry mission in the near future. Will provide soap, and funds to do laundry. Also, will have snacks available.
- **PROPERTY:** A new vacuum was purchased.
- **WORSHIP:** Advent prayer booklets were ordered.
- **STEWARDSHIP:** A plan to go to the Banquet will be made for this winter.
- **EDUCATION:** Christmas program will be December 18th at 6 pm with meal to follow.
- **TECHNOLOGY:** Midstate has been helpful.

Pastor's report: Pastor Paula noted that communications is going well.

New Business:

- TLC Usage agreement for event by other than members. Tabled until next month to allow time to review the document.
- Financial Secretary with change from Rosemary to Linda Eggers. Motion made by Kristen and seconded by Bryan. Motion carried. Motion to add Erica Sundall to the checking account was made by Dick and seconded by Kathi. Motion carried.
- December and January noisy offering will go to the Deacons for the laundry mission. Bryan made motion and Dick seconded. Motion carried.
- Christmas Eve collection will go to good gifts. Order for giving will be local, national and international.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: December 1, 2024.

Trinity Lutheran Deacons Meeting

Nov. 7, 2024, at 5:30 pm

Present: Julie W., Karen N., Janet C., Julie M., Andrea O., Cynthia W., Jen B. and Pastor Paula

The meeting was called to order by Julie Woodruff.

A devotional was shared by:

Treasurer report: \$4244.87 Scholarship Fund, General fund budget: \$787.00

Secretary Report: Approved – Jen 1st, Julie 2nd

Pastors Report:

- Discuss prayer requests and prayer list.
- Include all requests in the bulletin and the newsletter.
- Prayers in church

Old Business:

- Scholarship Brunch – Dec. 8th, Burritos, assemble Dec. 7th at 2-4
 - Cynthia will apply for Thrivent choice for supplies
- Laundry Mission
 - Set date, Thrivent Choice dollars, shopping list
 - Noisy offering Dec and Jan for coins
 - Sign up for date
- Thanksgiving/Christmas mailing completed
- Shut in - mailing list will be identified for 3-D card and ornament

New Business:

- Membership list review for accurate data for churchwide reports - January

Close with Prayer:

Next meeting: December 12th 5:30 pm

December and January Deacon: Julie Woodruff

Cynthia Wall

Due Dates/Time:



Bulletin Announcements: if you have info to be included in the bulletin, please email it to the secretary at trinitysec@midstatesd.net by Tuesday at 4 pm.

Newsletter Information: if you have info to be included in the newsletter, please email it to Pastor at trinity@midstatesd.net by the 20th of each month.

We appreciate your cooperation in advance. ~Trinity Staff



Women's Bible Study

2nd Thursday of each Month

at 10 a.m.

NEXT GATHERING: Dec 12

Holy Communion

If there is anyone who is homebound and would like to receive communion, please notify Pastor Paula or Jeff Tveit.



Council Members

President - Sharmel Olson

Vice President - Bryan Bunker

Secretary - Kathi Anderson

Members at large - Kristen Brown,
Rosemary Mohr, Dick Feltman

Youth - Evelyn Bunker

Deacons

Chairman - Julie Woodruff

Vice - Karen Niles

Secretary - Cynthia Wall

Treasurer - Julie Menzie

Members at large - Shelly Goodman, Jen
Reimer, Janet Coy, Maryalice Larson
Andrea Olson

PRAYER LISTS

TLC Members:

Marlys Buum
Esther Hanson
Larry Larsen
Alice Odens
Mike Selland
Cindy Wilkens
The Family of Al Schofield
Deb Selland

Family and Friends:

Josh Adams
Lance Buum
Kayleen Haiar
Sandy Hook
Bob & Betty Juhl
Larry Kercher
Marcia Kindt
Ranissa Koellner
Ben Larson
Barb McGinnis

Miley Jo Mines
Kate Mohr
Sara Narron
Glen Osborne
Chris Reinboth
Diane Hieb
Mike Roberson
Steve Ahlbrecht
Lezlie Amelia
Gale Holler

Those in service to our country:

Missions of the Church:

We pray for Prison Congregations of America, St. Dysmas Congregation at Springfield, SD as they continue to do your work behind prison walls.

We also pray for Church on the Street, which serves those who are without homes in the Sioux Falls area.

People and the churches in Ukraine.

Prayer Requests:

If there is anyone who might have an upcoming surgery or other procedures done – let us know so we can put you on our prayer list.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Email Pastor Paula:
trinity@midstatesd.net

Secretary's email:
trinitysec@midstatesd.net

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Trinity Service and Religious Education Schedule

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:30 a.m. with communion on first and third Sundays, choir sings on second and fourth Sundays.

WOWSOME WEDNESDAY & CONFIRMATION CLASS: Wednesday, 5:30 meal; 6:00 class, mid-September thru late April.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets the first Sunday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Church.

DEACONS meet the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Church.

CHOIR meets every Monday at 5:30 pm, Sept thru May

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY meets 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 a.m.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 7: Gary Harris
Dec 9: Addison Meyerink
Dec 15: Melody Busack
Dec. 17: Joe Wall
Dec. 18: Julie Menzie
Dec. 18: Hope Turgeon
Dec. 19: Cynthia Wall
Dec. 24: Jake Reimer
Dec. 24: Will Haugen
Dec. 29: Gary Goodman

ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 9: Rich & Sandy Rasmussen
Dec 27: Donn & Nancy DeBoer
Dec 27: Larry & Arlys Abernathy



DECEMBER SERVICE MINISTERS

Date	Host	Lector	Communion Assistant
Dec 1	Normille Family	Normile Family	
Dec 8	Bruce & Linda Eggers	Stacey Tveit	
Dec 15	Goodman Family	Nancy DeBoer	
Dec 22	Rosemary Mohr	Janet Coy	Jeff Tveit
Dec 29	Kathi Anderson	Dianne Graves	

December 2024

November '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

January '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 am: Worship w/Communion 5:30 pm: choir	2 7:00 pm: Bethlehem Rehearsal	3	4 5:30 pm: Wowsome Wed & Confirmation	5	6	7
8 9:30 am: Worship Scholarship Brunch after Service	9 5:30 pm: Choir	10	11 5:30 pm: Wowsome Wed & Confirmation	12 10:00 am: Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm: Deacon's Meeting	13	14
15 9:30 am: Worship w/Communion 3:30 pm: Bethlehem in Brule County	16 5:30 pm: Choir	17	18 Wowsome Christmas Program and Meal	19	20	21
22 9:30 am: Worship	23	24 5:30 pm: Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 5:30 pm: No Wowsome Wed & Confirmation	26	27	28
29 9:30 am: Worship	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	Notes				