



Trinity Lutheran Church  
605-498-2343  
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www.teatrinity.org

## TRINITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 8, 2023

Dear friends in Christ,

In Matthew's gospel, an angel speaks to Joseph three different times, each time in a dream. The first encounter happens after Mary has informed him that she is pregnant, and Joseph knows that he isn't the father. The angel tells him not to be afraid to take her as his wife, and that Joseph would be the one to name the baby Jesus.

The second dream comes with a warning. After the wise men have visited with their gifts, an angel tells Joseph that King Herod is jealously searching for this rival infant king Jesus with plans to kill the child. The angel tells Joseph to take his family and flee to the safety of Egypt. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus become political refugees. Yet, they are saved from Herod's murderous plot.



The third visitation comes when the family has been in Egypt for quite some time. The angel informs Joseph that King Herod has died, so it is safe to return home. Yet, home won't be quite the same. When they begin the return to Bethlehem, they discover that Herod's equally corrupt son is ruling in that area, so they settle about 100 miles farther north in the town of Nazareth. This is the setting where Jesus will grow to adulthood. Angelic messages become a tool in helping this carpenter build a future he never could have imagined on his own.

The Biblical Greek word for angel literally means, "messenger." Angels in the New Testament sometimes appear in tremendously glorious fashion. When the host of angels appear to the shepherds with their message to travel to Bethlehem to see the new-born messiah, their glorious appearance spectacularly lights the night sky. In contrast, Joseph's messengers appear in the subtle quiet of his sleep.

God continues to give us ears to hear the message that the Messiah has arrived. Whether you hear the good news through a dramatic conversion experience that brings an immediate about-face to your life, or you hear a quiet whisper of love from a gracious God given for you, the message is the same. God loves us through his son, Jesus, the Messiah.

Peace and best wishes,  
Pastor Tom Opoien







**Over  
55  
Group**

## Over 55 Group

**Tuesday, Dec. 12**

**9:30 am Blood Pressure Screening**

**10:00 am Meeting, Christmas Party and Lunch  
in the Fellowship Hall**

Please bring a side dish or salad and Christmas treats to share. Sandwiches will be provided. Also, don't forget your white elephant present! All are welcome.

## National Youth Gathering Parent Meeting

**Wednesday, Dec 13**

**8:15 am**

**Gathering Space**



This is an informational meeting for all parents and youth that have youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Please plan to attend as we continue to plan the details of the trip!

## Fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering: Shop Night Daycare

**Friday, Dec. 15**

**6:00 - 10:00 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Free Will Donation**

**Registration deadline: Wednesday, Dec. 13**

Get your Christmas shopping done, wrap presents or simply enjoy a night out and support Trinity's Youth! All proceeds will go toward the youth attending 2024 National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. We welcome kids ages 1-12 year olds. Food will be provided from 6:30-7:00 pm. Contact the church office for more information or to signup.



## WELCA Bible Study

**Thursday, December 21**

**1:30 pm**

**in the Fellowship Hall**

Please join us for a faith filled bible study, a short meeting and refreshments! Don't forget to bring your Christmas goodies to share. All are welcome!

## Tea Community Food Distribution

**Thursday, December 21**

**5:00 - 6:00 pm**

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

If you need help with food, or know someone who does, call the church office at 605-498-2343. Registration is required. Please register by Wednesday, December 20th.

## Christmas Eve Services

**4th Sunday of Advent  
Sunday Morning Worship**  
Sunday, Dec 24  
9:00 am

**Candle Light  
Christmas Eve Services**  
Sunday, Dec 24  
3:00 pm | 5:00 pm\* | 6:30 pm  
\*Live-streamed



## Trinity's Giving Tree Tags Available

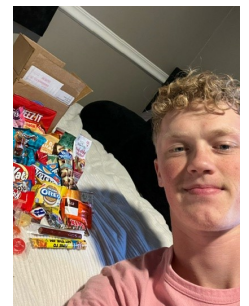
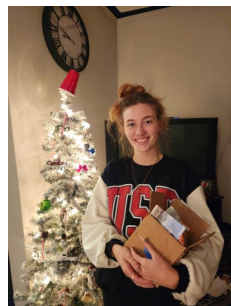
Trinity's Giving Tree is up, and tags are available to pick up in the Gathering Space! Trinity Lutheran Church partners with the Tea Area Food Pantry to help those clients with Christmas presents. These families often do not have enough money to purchase gifts but with your help, we are able to provide their children with presents! Grab a tag from the Giving Tree this holiday season and help those in need! **Please have your unwrapped presents returned to the church by December 13th.** Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## Help us decorate with poinsettias!

We invite you to bring a poinsettia to the church to share. These beautiful holiday plants will be used to decorate the sanctuary and gathering space. After Dec 25, you are welcome to take them home with you. We can't wait to see our sanctuary decorated!

## Thank you for your generous donations of snacks!

A huge thank you from the Board of Outreach, we can't thank you enough for all the snacks that were donated for the college care package project! Trinity's youth was very grateful to receive these packages.





## Winter gear now available and accepting donations!

Items most in need:

- Adult coats (sizes XL, XXL, XXXL)
- Kids boots (all sizes)
- Kids coats and snow pants (all sizes)



Board of Outreach is collecting new and gently used cold weather gear in the east entrance of the church and is available to the public. We are currently collecting coats, jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots that will be made available to our neighbors in the community. Used items are accepted, but please launder before you drop them off. We accept new items as well. Simply drop off the items in the bin in the Gathering Space. If you have questions, contact the church office at 605-498-2343

## December Food Pantry Donation: Canned Fruit

With the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when shopping to help those in need! In the month of December we will be collecting canned fruit. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space.

If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

## Thank you to everyone that attended the Christmas Tea and Trinity's Christmas Concert!

