



The Newsletter of the Northern Lights Ministry Collaborative

December 2024



It's Advent Time! The four weeks leading up to Christmas, and by its nature, it is a season of endings and beginnings. As one year ends, a new church year begins though the world spins madly on. And in all that spinning, as we navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, what our hearts and souls need most are reminders. Words that feel like steady ground, like a familiar path to our feet, that can guide us forward into the unknown.

Our theme this Advent season is “Words For The Beginning” and through it we hope to make space for God to give you the words you need to hear again and again at the end and beginning of EVERY new season throughout the year.

Two stories helped form our vision for Advent this year. The first is from the artist, Hannah Garrity. “For years I have whispered into my child’s ear. Words, affirmations, anchoring concepts of a life well lived along side God. And my children have been molded, as I was by my mother, by the goodness and love of God reflected in them. Though sometimes it feels like speaking a pipe dream into existence. Like, when my boy ran behind and have a Tom and Jerry style whacked to the head of my little girl. I wrapped him up and whispered my dreams of goodness into his ear again. I also took away TV for a few years, but it was those words that he held onto and is living into now. The same ones my mother said to me and that God sends to all of us. The second is from Rev. Sarah Speed. My dad had his “4 truths” that he wanted us to memorize. They were 4 reminders about love, responsibility, choices and God’s care for us. Any time we left the house as teens, he would just hold up 4 fingers and we knew what he meant. It was love and a guide until we came home again.

Reading Jesus’ story, we imagine the words Mary spoke to her young son to form and guide him? Like handlebars of wisdom, it is these simple words that help us hold onto God as God holds onto us through the bull ride of life. And so, our weekly themes may feel like the kind we teach to children, but in reality, they are the lessons we continue to learn as adults. Digging deeper that endless well of God’s love and wisdom for us.

What does this mean for worship? Throughout Advent, cards with different words on them will be hanging throughout the church. Each Sunday, as part of worship, you will be invited to listen to the scriptures, hear stories of how God is using it to give “a word” to others in the congregation, and then reflect on what word God might be inviting you to “hold onto” also by looking through and choosing a “word cards” for yourself.

By the end of Advent, we hope everyone will have 4 words to return to and reflect on throughout the year. And we want to return to them with you in other seasons.



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULES

December 1

9:00am - Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
10:10am - No J.A.M. Today
10:45am - Worship @ First Presbyterian

December 8

9:00am - Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
10:10am - J.A.M.
10:45am - Worship @ First Presbyterian

December 15

9:00am - Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
(ADVENT CELEBRATION)
10:10am - J.A.M. & **Christmas Store**
10:45am - Worship @ First Presbyterian

December 22

9:00am - Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
10:10am - J.A.M.
10:45am - Worship @ First Presbyterian

December 24

3:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
5:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
7:00pm - Christmas Eve Worship @ First Presbyterian

December 29

9:00am - Joint Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
10:10am - No J.A.M. Today
10:45am - No Worship @ First Presbyterian

January 5

9:00am - Worship @ Trinity Lutheran
10:10am - J.A.M.
10:45am - Worship @ First Presbyterian



Weekly Email Reminder

Please let us know if you are not receiving our weekly email. This is not only the best way to stay up-to-date on what's happening, but also receive special videos, resources, and "Pastor Letters" to help us grow in faith.

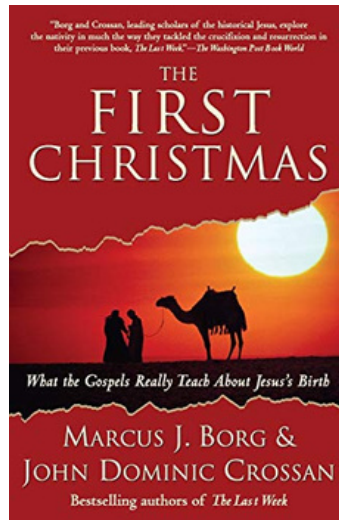


Special "Table Worship" on the 5th Sunday of the Month (will not be held in December)

Started on September 29th, we will be doing worship a little different on every month that has a 5th Sunday. Modeled on the "Love Feast" of the early church, we will sit around a table with light refreshments and drinks where we will praise, share, and worship together as God's family has always done. Please plan to join us for this special time together.

Advent Book Study Thursdays at 1:00pm First Presbyterian Church

December 5th, 12th & 19th we will be using "The First Christmas" by Borge & Crossan to help us see the real Christmas story buried in the familiar Bible accounts. Much different than the sweet nostalgia that the season has come to represent, the Gospels tell a powerful and harrowing story about how God shows up with hope among the darkest times and what seems like the overwhelming power of evil. Books will be available in the office of Trinity & First Presbyterian. We ask for a donation of \$11 to cover book costs.



A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR AN OVER BUSY SEASON

Pause for Peace

THROUGH SIMPLE QUESTIONS, WE REST, SHARE, AND LISTEN FOR GOD IN EACH OTHER'S STORIES

Advent Wednesdays, 12:00pm
 @ First Presbyterian

Pause for Peace Wednesdays - 12:00pm-12:30pm First Presbyterian Church

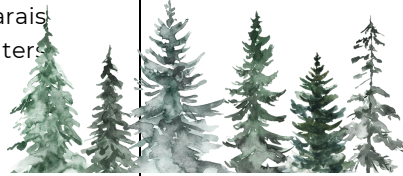
In a busy season, when rest is hard to come by and God's peace seems hard to find, perhaps we don't need is not more programs or lessons but instead a sacred space to rest and listen for God's voice in a new way.

Pause for Peace is a time of simple ritual that offers new way for each of us to share and reflect on how God is speaking in our lives and through each other stories. Guided by Pastor Mike and designed to fit into a 30min lunch break, we encourage you to try something new this Advent season and take a pause for peace.



December 1 - Dan & Vicki Svedarsky
 December 8 - Wayne & Lori Folkers
 December 15 - Bill & Gloria Watro
 December 22 - Wally Hoselton & Dale Charais
 December 29 - Gary & Lori Hoerner
 January 5 - Marlys Mjoen & Lynn Mullins
 January 12 - Jon & Merrie Nelson
 January 19 - Craig & Connor Morgan
 January 26 - Gordy & Monica Terpstra
 February 2 - Wally Hoselton & Dale Charais
 February 9 - Sandy Perkins & Paula Water
 February 16 - Dan & Vicki Svedarsky
 February 23 - Connor & Katie Morgan

December 1—Jill Schisano
 Communion Preparer: Deacon: Gloria W.
 January 5— Merrie Nelson
 Communion Preparer: Deacon: Gordie T.
 February 2—Gary Hoerner
 Communion Preparer: Deacon: Marlys M.




Lay Readers

December 1 - Sandy Perkins
 December 8 - Lynne Mullins
 December 15 - Marsha Odom
 December 22 - Sandy Perkins
 December 29 - Lynne Mullins
 January 5 - Sandy Perkins
 January 12 - Marsha Odom
 January 19 - Lynne Mullins
 January 26 - Sandy Perkins
 February 2 - Lynne Mullins
 February 9 - Marsha Odom
 February 16 - Lynne Mullins
 February 23 - Sandy Perkins



Repeating Calendar Items:

Every Sunday

10:45am—Worship
 12:00pm—Coffee Fellowship

First Sunday of Each Month

Communion

Every Tuesday—Starting October 15

6:00pm—Area Women's Chorus

Every 3rd Tuesday of the Month

3:45pm—Presbyterian Women's

Every Wednesday—Starting Sept. 4

6:00pm—Bell Choir Rehearsal

Every Thursday—All Months

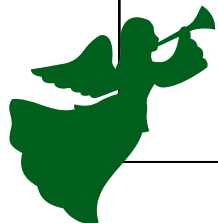
1:00pm—Book Study

Every 3rd Thursday—Starting Sept. 19

5:15pm—Congregational Book Study

Every 5th Sunday of the Month—Starting Sept. 29 (will not be held in December)

10:45am - Special "Table Worship"





J.A.M.
(PreK-5th)

Sunday, December 15 - Christmas Store
(during J.A.M. @ 10:10am after Advent Celebration
Worship Service)

We continue to take new or like new donations, as well as, Christmas bags & tissue paper for the Christmas Store.
Special Needs: Mens items (books, small tools, new hats, etc.).
Teenage items (boys and girls).

On the day of the Christmas Store, children will shop with a personal shopper for their parents/grandparents/siblings, etc. They need to bring a shopping list (*name & age of person buying for*) and cash for the gifts (*all items are 50 cents-\$1*). All gifts will be gift-wrapped before kids take them home. Please note that we will need helpers/volunteers of all ages as personal shoppers and wrappers to make this ministry successful. Any further questions, please contact Kristy Morris Leas @ 218-280-6824.

Sunday, December 22
(CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL J.A.M. SCHEDULE)
"Heart of Christmas" - Full Group J.A.M.

We invite any/all Pre-K-5th grade J.A.M. kids who are still in town to please join us after worship for time together to get our hearts prepared for Christmas through songs, listening to the Christmas Story and doing a Christmas service project together. We hope your child/ren can join us!

Sunday, December 29 - No J.A.M. for Christmas Break.

Sunday, January 5 - J.A.M. Resumes



J.A.M. Plus
(7th-10th)

Wednesday, December 4 @ 6:30pm
Christmas Youth Worship - For Youth, by Youth
(6th-12th graders invited)

During J.A.M. Plus, our Trinity Youth Board has planned a special Christmas Youth Worship to start our evening together. There will be time for 11th-12th graders to share in fellowship and food following the service while 6th-10th graders go to small groups until 8pm usual time.

Wednesday, December 11
12:30pm-3:00pm - Middle School Early Release
6:30pm-8:00pm - J.A.M. Plus - 9th & 10th graders only

Wednesday, December 18
J.A.M. Plus - Christmas Special

Wednesday, December 25 & January 1
No J.A.M. Plus for Christmas Break

Wednesday, January 8 @ 6:30pm-7:30pm
J.A.M. Plus Resumes

Family Worship/Dinner Night
New Year's Appetizer Potluck - All families, please bring a favorite appetizer to share. We will have a special New Year's Dinner Worship around the tables.

Wednesday, January 15
12:30pm-3:00pm - Middle School Early Release
6:30pm-8:00pm - J.A.M. Plus - 9th & 10th graders only

Moving Crew: Christy & Tom Wiesmann, Bill/Holly/Tom/Jack Anderson, Kristi Nelson, Justin Cameron, Chris Winjum

Rally Sunday Pancake Volunteers: Christy Wiesmann, Kristy Morris-Leas, Joelle & Harrison Boucher, Judie Kanten, Hollie & Garrett Axtman, Kristie Ricard, Brady Samuelson, Mason Lessard, Blair Johnson, Jacob Doda

Rally Sunday Family Station Volunteers: Brandi & Joey Nesseth Nesseth, Francine Olson, Pastor Mike Ozaki, Bridget Peterson

Hospitality Committee Members: Janet Denison, Te Durbin, Pat Thomas, Ann Aubol, Anne Kopecky, Kristy Morris Leas, Angelica Huglen, Kristi Nelson

Worship Volunteers: All who volunteered this fall as Worship Leaders, Scripture Readers, Greeters, Ushers, Communion Servers, Tech Room, Acolytes. We can't do worship without each one of you!

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Leah Herberg/Bridget Peterson and families for taking the lead, all the Middle School Families for working, Dan Erdman for supplying is delicious spaghetti sauce, all the people for supporting our middle school youth in their Bible Camp Fundraising efforts.

"Nourished Sunday": Thank you to ALL who donated toppings for our dinner rolls for a special treat in the Fellowship Hall.

Fall Flannel Sunday: Rodd/Francine Olson for donating fire wood, Laura Neuman for donating apples for apple roasting, Bengtson Family for overseeing fire in parking lot, Youth for donating Fall baked goods for the Fellowship Hall, Laine & Alana Wagner & Hayden Ricard & Anne Aubol for serving treats and hot cocoa.

JAM plus Family Worship Dinner: Linda Rokke for preparing the meal, 8th grade families for serving/cleaning up the dinner.

Updating/Cleaning the Activity Worship Bags: Anna Brekken and Alana Wagner and family

WELCA: Cleaning the kitchen, decorating Fellowship Hall for Fall, hosting the Fall Social & Bake Sale

Common Ground: Angie/Penny Smith, Cole Ricard, Bridget Peterson, Leah Quam for helping serve/clean up dinner for our Progressive Event.

Care & Share Monthly Meal: Meagan Michaelson and Brandi Nesseth for coordinating

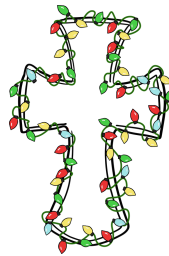
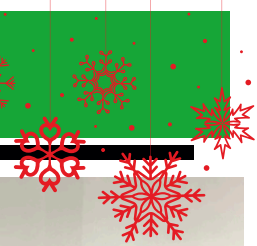
Thanksgiving Worship: Adam Schiller & Anne Kopecky for sharing Thankful Reflections

JAM/JAM plus Teachers/Leaders

Tie Blankets for Polk County Coordinated Victim Services: 6th-8th Graders helped tie during 2W Early Release Day



J.A.M. & J.A.M. PLUS





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sunday, December 15 Advent Celebration 9:00am Worship



Please join us for this celebratory advent worship service with your church family. There will be a variety of musical performances by all ages and groups. We would like to have a special DIAPER drive to go to help those in need at the Care and Share. Please bring your diapers to worship or send with your child to J.A.M.

Sunday, January 12 "Stayin' Warm" Youth Sunday



We encourage everyone to wear their favorite SCARF to worship and we will be collecting mittens/hats/gloves/scarves to go to those in need. Please join us for a coffee/cocoa bar in Fellowship Hall where we will have tie blankets to be tied in the Fellowship Hall to go towards Polk County Coordinated Victim Services.



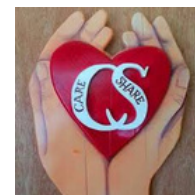
Annual "Joy to Rwanda" Christmas Outreach Ministry Project



We continue to stay connected with our friends of City of Joy-Rwanda. Our hope is to provide Christmas joy to unsponsored children/families of City of Joy through letters/pictures and through monetary donations that will provide gift packages of essential items such as food/clothing. For the past 3 years, the response of love and generosity from Trinity and First Presbyterian Church for the City of Joy has been overwhelming - we look forward to sharing in this outreach ministry again this Advent Season.

Letters and \$50 donation will be due **Wednesday, December 11**. *Packets will be available at the side narthex and outside of the church office. Please reach out to Leah with any questions you may have. We encourage individuals/families to go together as a fun way to spread Christmas joy TOGETHER!*

January "New Year" Offering Care & Share Monthly Meals



Our special monthly offering to start 2025 will be to help cover the costs of the monthly meals provided to our friends of the Care and Share. The Children, Youth, and Family Team coordinates this 1x/month meal and appreciates your help in making it possible. So, empty out your change jars, make a special offering as a family, any dollar amount is appreciated.

Our goal is \$1,750 to cover the 2025 meals. Please make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and write "Care and Share Monthly Meals" in the memo line.



*Advent Celebration
Worship Service*
FOLLOWED BY...

THE CHRISTMAS STORE
DURING J.A.M.

December 15

WORSHIP @ 9 | J.A.M @ 10 :10

Christmas Store is for PreK-5th Graders. They will need a list of who they are giving to and .50-\$1 per gift. If you are willing to volunteer in any way, please contact Kristy Morris Leas @ 218-280-6824

Care and Share
of Crookston
Presents

*Open Hearts,
Open Doors*

Dinner & Silent Auction
Saturday, February 1st, 2025
CROOKSTON INN

5:00 p.m. - Social Hour	BUFFET: Barbecue Ribs Creamy Chicken with Garlic & Spinach With Sides
6:00 p.m. - Dinner	
7:00 p.m. - Silent Auction & Games	

All proceeds will go towards a Walk In Freezer for the New Hope Food Shelf **\$50 per ticket**

TICKETS:
Available to purchase at American Federal Bank, Care and Share or any Care and Share Board Member. For Questions call 218-281-2644

YOUTH WORSHIP
FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH

DATE: Wednesday, December 4
TIME: 6:30 p.m. (start of JAM plus)
ALL 6th-12th WELCOME

Hot Cocoa Bar & Christmas Cookies and time for connection for 11th/12th grader in Fellowship Hall after worship. 6th-10th will go to small groups and have snacks after small group.



Trinity Lutheran Church
Phone Numbers:
Church Office: 218-281-4276
Fax: 218-281-5481
Email: office.tlc@midconetwork.com

Pastoral Emergencies:
Please call church office @
218-281-4276 for on-call phone number

First Presbyterian Church
Church Office: 218-281-4853
Email: office@crookstonfirstpres.org