

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Little Mountain, South Carolina

2nd Sunday of Advent

We Prepare for Worship

Silence and meditation

Prelude *Advent Fanfare* *Will Cuneo, Trumpet*

Welcome and Announcements

Congregational Meeting

(* Please stand as able)

*Gathering Hymn *Prepare the Royal Highway* Hymn 26

*Brief Order for Confession and Forgiveness page 56

*Apostolic Greeting page 57

*Kyrie page 57

*Hymn of Praise *Glory to God in the Highest* page 58

*Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray together.

C. Gracious God, kindle in us a heart so willing to follow your Son that your reign of righteousness and peace is made visible through our lives. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

(We Sit)

God's Word Proclaimed

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *Peace Candle*

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel verses 1-2 Hymn 34

The First Lesson *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Psalm 85 page 254

The Second Lesson *2 Peter 3:8-14*

*The Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia, Lord to whom...* page 62

*The Holy Gospel *Matthew 11:2-15*

*The Gospel Response page 63

(We Sit)

The Children's Sermon: *All of God's little Children are asked to come forward for a special message just for them!*

The Congregation is invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

The Sermon "Are You the One?" Pastor Randy Drafts

*The Hymn of the Day *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Hymn 29

*The Creed page 65

*The Prayers

*The Lord's Prayer

*The Peace

(We Sit)

We Offer Our Thanks and Praise to God

The Offering

The Anthem: *A Mighty King is Coming* Choir

*The Offertory Hymn *Create in Me* page 75

*The Offertory Prayer

Merciful Father,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Sends Us Into The World

*Blessing page 76

*Sending Song *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* Hymn 36

*Sending and Charge

*Doxology Hymn 564

Before Worship: Speak to the Lord
During Worship: Let the Lord speak to you
After Worship: Speak to each other

Welcome to worship today. We especially extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today. We are strengthened by your presence and hope that you will worship with us again soon. If you do not have a church home, we invite you to become a part of our church family here at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of David Boland & our loved ones
by Carmen, Jacob, & Jessi Boland*

Stewardship Minute

"When the church becomes an institution, people are nothing more than volunteers to be recruited. When the church is a movement, our stewardship becomes the unleashing of our God-given gifts, talents, and passions." - Erwin McManus

THANKS FOR HELPING FURNISH DRESSING FOR THE HUB... We

took 20 pans of dressing to the HUB on Thanksgiving Day. This helped to serve the 455 people that had signed up for the meal. I'm sure these people enjoyed the dressing along with other goodies that were furnished by other groups. Again, thanks for helping make the 455 people have a better Thanksgiving Day.

Church Facebook Page – We are in the process of revamping Holy Trinity's Facebook page. If you have photos that you wish to share on the page that you have taken at prior events (Trunk or Treat, Youth Outings, Golden Age Sunday, etc.) AND the people in the photos are okay with being on Facebook, please contact Bobbie King or the church office. And – in the future – if you snag photos (discretely) at upcoming events, we would love for you to share those, too. Thank you for your help!

2024 FLOWER LIST If you'd like to provide flowers for a special 2024 Sunday, please sign up by the end of December. The Committee will complete the list in early January in readiness for the 2024 Directory and Yearbook. If you'd like to be dropped from the list, please call Marie in the church office.

The Committee to Serve Bereaved Families will meet in early January in readiness for the 2024 Yearbook. If you'd like to be dropped from the list, please call Marie in the church office.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Dec. 21, for Happy Mountaineers' Christmas meeting where we'll have a special presentation of Christmas Music and a catered meal.

2024 Offering Envelopes are in the breezeway. Please pick up for you and your family.

Prayers: Rev. James Franklin Shealy, Dan & Becky McGlohorn (Friends of Brittany Frick), Diane Hardy, Denise Salyer (Friend of Lucy Peters), Kyle Page, Randy Stockman (Father of Amber Koon), Jean Alewine, Bobbie & Andy Bickley, C.B. Mathis (brother in law of Patsy Frick), Junior Alewine, Patsy Frick, Broko Boland (nephew of Carmen Boland), Gerald Shealy, Marilyn Plampin, Nancy Webb (Mother of Terecia Wilson), Bob Whitlatch. *If you would like to include someone on our weekly prayer list, please call Pastor Randy at (803) 537-2303. Unless otherwise notified of a need, members will remain on the list for one month and non-members for two weeks.*

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. ³A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" ¹⁰Behold, the LORD God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Psalm 85**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14**

⁸Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. ¹¹Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15

²Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" ⁴And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers^[a] are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. ⁶And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? A man^[b] dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet?^[c] Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is he of whom it is written, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

¹¹Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹²From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence,^[d] and the violent take it by force. ¹³For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, ¹⁴and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. ¹⁵He who has ears to hear,^[e] let him hear.

Repentance is key to receiving the coming Messiah. When we cling to our stubborn, idolatrous ways we resist noticing the sin in our hearts and lives. We are masters at justifying our sin, readily finding a reason to explain our actions that are against God's perfect will. Christ came to free us from our broken human condition. John's call to return to the Lord, is a call to live boldly in the faith of Christ our Savior.

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

531 Church Street
Little Mountain, SC 29075
Office: (803) 345-2841 / (803) 945-7336
Pastor Randy Drafts
Email: office@holyltc.org



*“Preaching, Teaching, and Serving
in Christ’s Name”*

SERVING TODAY, December 10, 2023

Acolyte: Taylor Lake
Crucifer: Tanner Shell
Bulletin Folder: Blake Ballentine
Lector: Chris Crouch
Greeters: Spyros Lezimis
Nursery: Karen & Natalie Winn, Ava Boland
Altar Guild: Sheri Wicker, Kim Stiver
Flowers: Carmen, Jacob, & Jessi Boland
Usher Chair: Brian Stiver
Elevator: Marty Frick
Ushers: Kelvin Chapman, Frank Lake

SERVING NEXT SUNDAY, December 17, 2023

Acolyte: Taylor Lake
Crucifer: Tanner Shell
Bulletin Folder: Blair Cromer
Lector: Connie Frick
Greeters: Robbie & Sheri Wicker
Nursery: Sheri Wicker, Caitlin Attaway
Altar Guild: Sheri Wicker, Kim Stiver
Flowers: Daniel & Ashley Boland
Usher Chair: Brian Stiver
Elevator: Marty Frick
Ushers: Kelvin Chapman, Frank Lake

If you are unable to serve, please arrange to switch with someone or contact an alternate.

Our Weekly Commitments and Needs – General Fund:

Amount Needed Weekly in 2023	\$	5,739.71
Amount Received Last Sunday	\$	11,505.00
Difference	+	\$ 5,765.29

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

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 Little Mountain, SC 29075
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 Pastor Randy Drafts
 Email: office@holyltlc.org
 Website: www.holyltlc.org
 Facebook @ Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

December 10, 2023

*We are glad you have chosen to worship with us today!
 We pray that Christ will touch you with His love so you may be empowered
 to be His witnesses in the world. Please join us throughout the week for
 worship, Bible study, community outreach and fellowship in Christ Jesus.*

What's Happening This Week at Holy Trinity

Sunday, December 10th

Council Meeting	7:30 a.m.
Sunday School / Christmas Program Practice	9:15 a.m.
Worship	10:30 a.m.
Teens for Christ	3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 11th

Prayer Shawl	9:00 a.m.
Blood Drive	2:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Mom's Life Group	6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13th

Pack 111 Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice	7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 14th

Revelation Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
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Sunday, December 17th

Confirmation	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School	9:15 a.m.
Worship / Children's Christmas Program	10:30 a.m.



**Blood Drive
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**

Trinity Life Center
531 Church Street
Little Mountain, SC 29075

**Monday, December 11, 2023
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Please visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter (LittleMtn) for the sponsor code

Please visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: LittleMtn to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Our gift to you: Come give Dec. 1 to 17 for a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email: rcblood.org/Amazon



redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | Download the Blood Donor App

PHOTO: JACOB HANDEL/ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

**DIRECTORY &
YEARBOOK TIME**
Committee Chairs and Council Liaisons

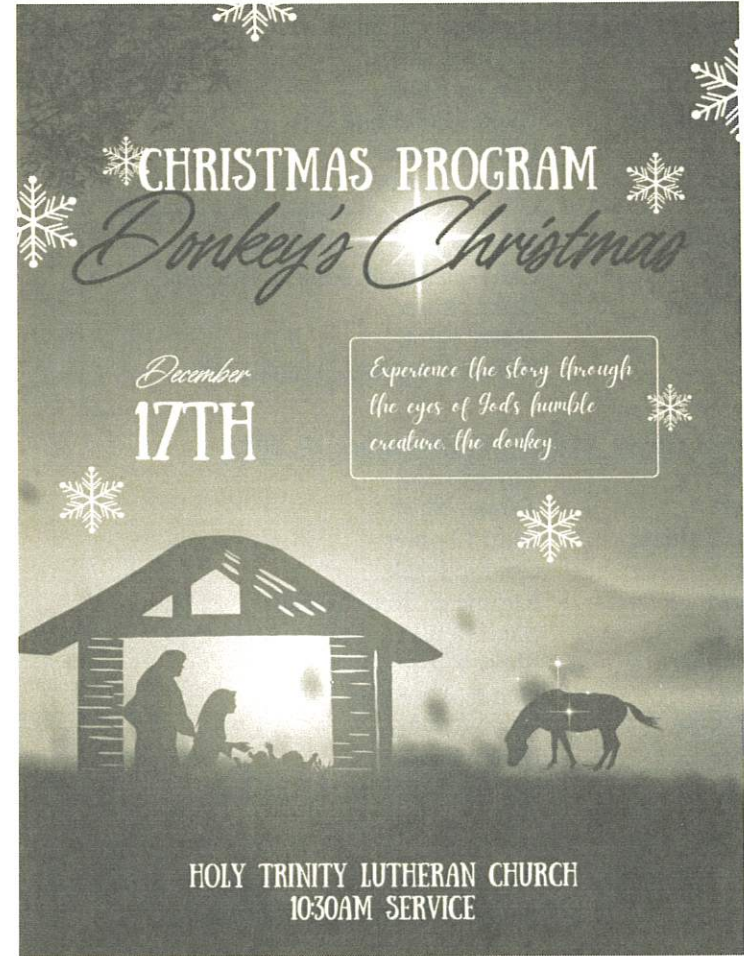
Please be courteous and have all end of the year reports by Ministry Committees completed and turned into the office by December 17, 2023.

Morning Bible Study: LEVITICUS

Wednesday mornings at 10:00a.m. in classroom next to the church office will resume January 3, 2024.

All are welcome!!

The 2024 Budget voted on last week passed.



Evening Bible Study: REVELATION

Come join us every 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month for a Bible study on Revelation. A study guide will be given and it will be a fun night of learning & fellowship.

Rev. 1:3 *"Blessed is the one who reads about the words of this prophecy & blessed are those who hear it & take to heart what is written in it because the time is near."*

We look forward to seeing you there!

2023 end of the year giving is due no later than December 31st.

Directory Update

One Per Family

Please complete only if there is a change to be made.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Husband Cell Phone: _____

Wife Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Anniversary Date: _____

Husband Birthday: _____

Wife Birthday: _____

We would like birth year for everyone for church records.

Please!! No one will see these.

Children Living At Home:

1. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

2. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

3. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

4. Name: _____

Birthday: _____

Are you a Thrivent member? _____

**Please "PRINT" clearly and turn in to church office or
place in the offering plate.**

If your child is not living in the home but at college or has their own apartment etc.; please let us know and have them fill out a separate form for themselves.

