



NEWSLETTER



December 2022

In This Issue

December Events	1
From the Pastor	2
Keep in Touch	2
Main Street Living	3
Children's Service	3
LWML On the Go	3
Advent Quotes	4
Advent FAQs	5
Christmas Puzzle Page	6
Calendar	

Contact

Rev. Jens Jenson, Vacancy Pastor
605-682-0455 (mobile)
redemarmour@unitelsd.com

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.stpaulplankinton.com

605-942-7364

Elders Justin Everson
Curt Guindon
Mike Tuschen

President Marv Jira

LWML President ... Marlene Johnson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

www.trinitywhitelake.com

facebook.com/trinitywhitelake

605-249-2333

Elders Dan Guericke
David Bogenhagen

President Dean Suelflow

LWML Presidents Diana Kieffer
Hope Circle
Brianna Bogenhagen
Ruth Circle



Send newsletter/bulletin items to Nancy Bogenhagen at trinitywlsd@gmail.com.

Weekly bulletin deadline is Thursday noon. Please email me if you prefer your newsletter emailed to you. Thanks!

Joint Divine Worship Service Schedule for December

Sunday, December 4, 2022 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 11, 2022 — 5 p.m. at Trinity

Sunday, December 18, 2022 — 5 p.m. at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 24, 2022 — 3:30 p.m. at Trinity

Sunday, December 25, 2022 — 11:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

Christian Education

Joint Bible Study – Book of Daniel 6 p.m. at the same location as the Joint Divine Service.

Joint Confirmation Class — same location as the Joint Divine Service, 3:45 p.m.

Joint Children's Christmas Eve Practices — same location as the Joint Divine Service, 3:45 p.m. December 4, 11, and 18.

Trinity Release-Time — Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m. No class December 21 nor 28.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Trinity Hope Circle – December 5, 2022, 2 p.m.

Trinity Ruth Circle – December 7, 2022, 6 p.m.

St. Paul's Dorcas Circle – No meeting in December.

Serving the Lord's Church in DECEMBER

TRINITY

Elder David Bogenhagen

Ushers Ben Bogenhagen
Scott Meier

Acolytes Jacob Doering
Taelyn Clark

Altar Barb Gilbertz

ST. PAUL'S

Elder Mike Tuschen

Ushers Kurt Fink
Stan Johnson
Lennis Titze

Acolyte

Altar Deb Haak

Scripture Readings

Dec. 4 Isaiah 11:1–10; Romans 15:4–13; Matthew 3:1–12

Dec. 11 Isaiah 35:1–10; James 5:7–11; Matthew 11:2–15

Dec. 18 Isaiah 7:10–17; Romans 1:1–7; Matthew 1:18–25

Dec. 25 Isaiah 52:7–10; Hebrews 1:1–6; John 1:1–14

The **January 2023 newsletter** will be available on/after January 1, 2023. Articles are due Tuesday, December 27, 2022.





Go to Church on Christmas Day!

Would you be surprised to hear that there are churches that do not gather on Christmas Day? When I heard this, I was certainly surprised. How can Christians not gather around Word and Sacrament on Christmas Day? Christmas is all about Jesus, so how can we not gather on Christmas Day to hear the voice of our Savior who was born for us? How can we not receive the very body and blood of our Savior for the forgiveness of sins?

The reason that some churches no longer gather on Christmas Day is because they believe Christmas is about time with family. Now, certainly we spend time with our families on Christmas Day, but this is not what Christmas is about. Our pagan culture says Christmas is about time with family because they have no regard for Christ, His incarnation, His life, and His innocent suffering and death.

Christmas is about the wonderful and mysterious truth of God taking up flesh for our salvation. St John writes, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Dear Saints of St. Paul's and Trinity, go to church on Christmas Day where you will hear the gracious voice of your Savior and receive His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. The Gospel with all its benefits are the lasting treasures whereas all our earthly possessions fade away, rust, fall apart, and perish. There are twelve days of Christmas for you to visit family and relatives, but do not neglect the Divine Service where God comes in our midst in the Gospel to bless us, comfort us, and give us great cheer and hope. On Christmas Day let us gather around our great God and Brother, Jesus, and receive the lasting gifts He gives. How can we Christians not gather on Christmas Day around our beloved Savior who is Light, Life, and Cheer Himself?

In Christ,
Pastor Jens Jenson



STAY IN TOUCH

Websites

www.stpaulplankinton.com

www.trinitywhitelake.com

Links for the bulletin, printed service, and for the YouTube recording are updated weekly under the Services tab!

Email

trinitywlsd@gmail.com

- Submit newsletter and bulletin articles.
- Update a prayer request.
- Request a digital copy of the newsletter.

Social Media

facebook.com/trinitywhitelake

Recordings of Divine Services
Available on the **YouTube** channel,
Trinity White Lake.



Main Street Living December 2022

All programs are interpreted and closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. For more information visit:
www.mainstreetliving.com

December 4, 2022

10 a.m. — **“Stable Boy”** A manger scene comes to life and tells the story of the first Christmas

10:30 a.m. — Rev. Ken Johnson, pastor at Zion and Our Savior's Lutheran Churches in Avon and Springfield, presents a message titled “A Really Rare Bird.” This sermon is based on Matthew 3:1–12.

December 11, 2022

10 a.m. — **“Red Boots for Christmas”** A shoemaker learns the true meaning of Christmas.

10:30 a.m. — Rev. Corey Aker, pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, presents a message titled “In the Garden.” This sermon is based on Isaiah 35:1–10.

December 18, 2022

10 a.m. — **“Christmas Is”** The shepherd in a Christmas play learns the importance of Christmas

10:30 a.m. — Rev. Jesse Baker, pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Hardwick, MN presents a message titled “Names.” This sermon is based on Matthew 1:18–25.

December 25, 2022

10 a.m. — **“Christmas on Main Street”** The Christmas message at a mission brings a grandson and his grandfather together.

10:30 a.m. — Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, presents a Christmas message.



Children’s Christmas Eve Service

You won’t want to miss the “Joy to the World” Children’s Christmas Eve Service at Trinity Lutheran Church, White Lake on Saturday, **December 24, 2022, at 3:30 p.m.**

Children from Trinity and St. Paul’s will tell about Jesus’ birth with joyful hearts, songs, and readings.

See you there!

God’s Perfect Gift

by Celeste Cummins, Storm Lake, Iowa
Published by the
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, 2017

At this time of the year, our minds can focus on the brightly colored packages with shiny bows tucked neatly underneath the Christmas tree. We wonder, “What is in those packages that we see?” Regardless of our age, we all enjoy receiving Christmas gifts. What is the best Christmas gift you have ever received? ...

You may read the rest of this devotion at lwml.org/posts/devotion/gods-perfect-gift. Or you may listen via LWML’s podcast, LWML On the Go. New episodes with devotional content are posted every Wednesday.



Quotes from **A Son Is Given**
Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries | *lhm.org*

1 <i>Luke 1:8a; 11–13a</i> No matter what happens to us, God isn't taken by surprise.	2 <i>Luke 1:13–17</i> Are you experiencing a blessing that has its scary side?	3 <i>Luke 1:18–20</i> By God's mercy and patient humor, the unbelieving world gets the Word of God, Jesus.	4 <i>Luke 1:23–25</i> What was Zechariah's homecoming like, I wonder?	5 <i>Luke 1:26–29</i> God knew what He was doing when He called you to be His dear child.
6 <i>Luke 1:30–33</i> God was with Mary, as He is with us when He asks us to take on life-changing challenges.	7 <i>Luke 1:34–35</i> Nobody who knows about His beginning will ever be in doubt that God did something to pay attention to.	8 <i>Luke 1:36–38</i> Sometimes just the fact that someone is "there" for you is the best gift of all.	9 <i>Luke 1:39a, 40–44</i> Who are we, that our Creator should come into our flesh to be a human being and save us?	10 <i>Luke 1:46–49</i> In Him, you are always who you ought to be— forgiven, beloved, and a delight to God.
11 <i>Luke 1:51–55</i> God's promises are always strong and true.	12 <i>Luke 1:56</i> God will not desert you, no matter what you are facing.	13 <i>Luke 1:57–63</i> If you are living with family conflict, God understands your feelings.	14 <i>Luke 1:67–68</i> God wants you to be with Him forever.	15 <i>Luke 1:68–75</i> Ugh! Who wants to think about enemies at Christmas time? Jesus came to fight our spiritual foes.
16 <i>Luke 1:76–79</i> The True Light of heaven has come down to earth and never again will we shiver in the darkness.	17 <i>Luke 1:80</i> The same love that sent Jesus will watch over those we love as well.	18 <i>Matthew 1:18</i> God has not abandoned you. He will not give you up.	19 <i>Matthew 1:19</i> In his own small way, Joseph reflects God the Father — wise, slow to anger, quick to show mercy and kindness.	20 <i>Matthew 1:20–21</i> The angel called Joseph, son of David, to a strange life, protecting and caring for God's own Son Jesus and His mother.
21 <i>Matthew 1:22–23</i> Why did God choose a virgin to conceive Jesus? Read Isaiah 7, especially verses 10–14!	22 <i>Matthew 1:24–25</i> God knows we need other people. Above all, Jesus Himself has promised He will always be with you, and never leave you.	23 <i>Matthew 1:25</i> The name Jesus shows us God's heart for us — and it is a heart full of love.	24 <i>Luke 2:1–5</i> God chose to enter the world — subject to human laws; subject to, well, everything.	25 <i>Luke 2:6–7</i> This is the gift God gave the world that first Christmas — a baby, a Son, God Himself come in the flesh to be one of us, so that mankind could become children of God through faith in Him.
26 <i>Luke 2:8–12</i> We, like the shepherds, are humble witnesses for a humble Savior.	27 <i>Luke 2:13–17</i> Some things are worth celebrating; worth telling everybody you know. And Jesus is one of those things!	28 <i>Luke 2:21–24</i> Without Jesus, our failures would crush us. But with Jesus we have relief. He takes our failures and substitutes His own perfection.	29 <i>Luke 2:25–30</i> Whether we are young or old, strong or weak, happy or troubled, let us look at Jesus and take delight in Him.	30 <i>Luke 2:36–38</i> You are loved — not for what you do, but for who you are. You are Jesus' own. He thinks you're worth His very life.

ADVENT FAQs from *lcms.org*



The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh.

Why does the church year begin at Advent? Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began — in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's "the church year in a nutshell," and it should help reveal how Advent fits into "the big picture."

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways — past, present, and future.

The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the future, focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings that highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

What is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath? The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle. Today we use blue for Advent. Blue, the color of the sky, helps convey the powerful message waiting, watching, and hope. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history assuming our flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky he ascended long ago.



The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Phil. 4:4. ("Rejoice! ... the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (Dec. 25 to Jan. 5).

The concept of giving each candle a name, i.e., Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd and Angel, etc., is a relatively novel phenomenon and probably originates with certain entrepreneurial publishers seeking to sell Advent candles and devotional booklets.

There are many beautiful customs and traditions surrounding Advent as well as a load of history concerning its development. These matters would be better found in books than here.

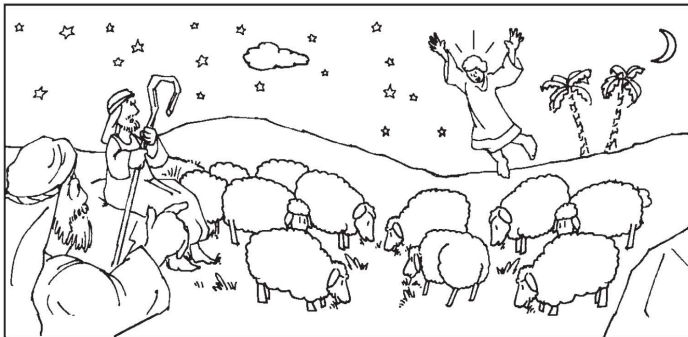
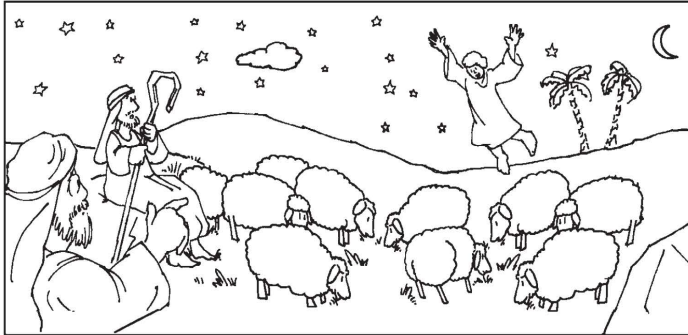
Here are a few:

- Lee A. Maxwell, *The Altar Guild Manual, Lutheran Worship Edition* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1996).
- Lee A. Maxwell, *The Altar Guild Manual, Lutheran Service Book Edition* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2008).
- Fred L. Precht, *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1992).



Christmas Puzzle Page

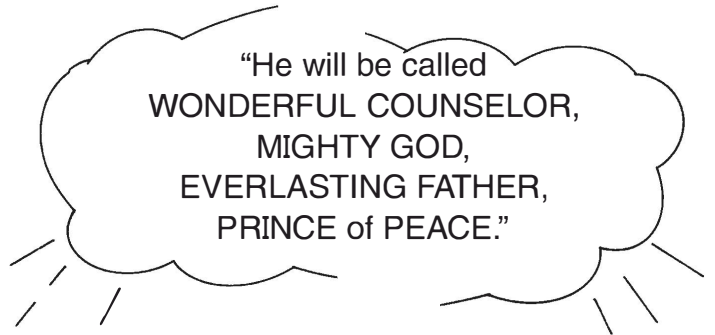
Can you find 12 differences between the two pictures?



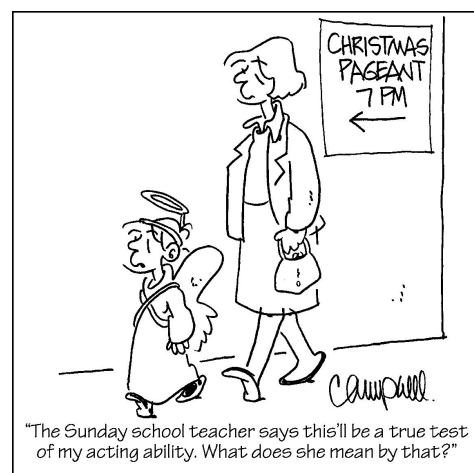
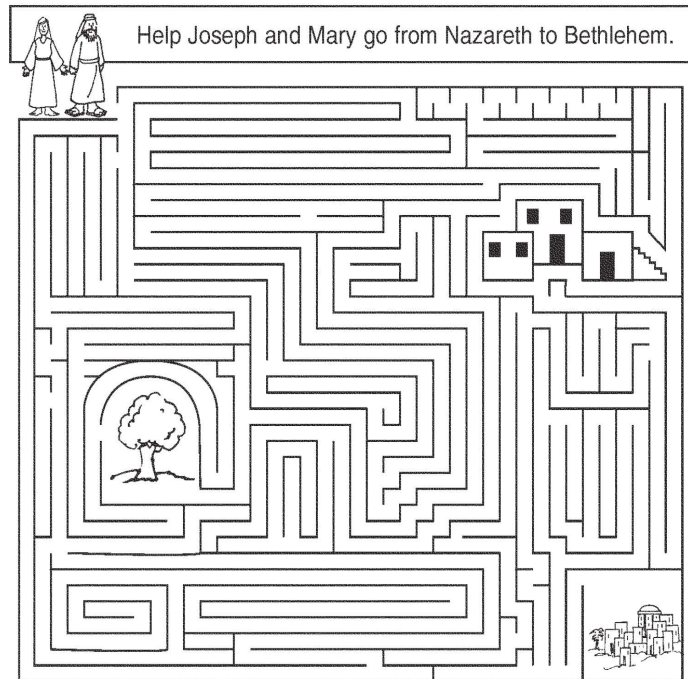
What does Isaiah say about the One who is coming? Find each of the all-capitalized words from the verse in the word search below.

Each letter in a word will be either next to, above or below the following letter. But **the word will not be in a straight line**. There are no diagonals, and each letter is used only once.

The first word has been done for you as an example.



W	D	L	E	U	R	A	Z	Y	E
O	N	U	P	C	E	P	H	T	E
E	D	F	E	A	G	I	G	N	C
F	E	R	R	E	H	M	N	I	A
L	F	E	T	A	T	S	U	R	P
R	E	V	A	F	T	R	O	U	E
L	A	I	N	D	O	O	C	N	S
T	S	T	G	L	G	L	E	S	L





December 2022



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).</i></p>				1	2	3
4  Second Sunday in Advent Events at St. Paul's 3:45 p.m. Confirmation/SS 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service 6 p.m. Bible Class	5	6 2 a.m.  TR Hope Circle	7 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time 6 p.m.  TR Ruth Circle	8	9	10
11  Third Sunday in Advent Events at Trinity 3:45 p.m. Confirmation/SS 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service 6 p.m. Bible Class	12	13	14 2:15 p.m. TR Release-Time	15	16	17
18  Fourth Sunday in Advent Events at St. Paul's 3:45 p.m. Confirmation/SS 5 p.m. Joint Divine Service 6 p.m. Bible Class	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve 3:30 p.m. Joint Children's Christmas Eve Service at Trinity
25  Christmas Day 11:30 a.m. Joint Divine Christmas Day Service at St. Paul's	26	27	28	29	30	31