

WELCOME TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1505 College Avenue, Alamogordo, New Mexico 88310-4861

SUNDAY, December 14, 2025

Pastor Warren Graff, Vacancy Pastor

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Divine Service 10:15 AM

**THE ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR
THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PREACHING**

OPENING HYMN.....PAGE 398

"HAIL TO THE LORD'S ANOINTED"

OPENING VERSICLES.....PAGE 260

L This is the day which the Lord has made;

C **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

L Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

L Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

C **Teach me Your paths.**

L Sanctify us in Your truth.

C **Your Word is truth.**

L From the rising of the sun to its setting,

C **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT HYMN.....PAGE 729

"I AM TRUSTING THEE LORD JESUS" (VERSES 1-4)

OLD TESTAMENT READING -- ISAIAH 35:1-10

L The Old Testament reading for the third Sunday in Advent is from the thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ²it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE -- JAMES 5:7-11

Reader: The Epistle reading is from the fifth chapter of James.

⁷Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL – MATTHEW 11:2-15

L The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the eleventh chapter.

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 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 dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? 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, 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, let him hear.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

✠RESPONSORY PAGE 263

L Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

L Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

C **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

✠THE TEN COMMANDMENTS PAGE 264

C **You shall have no other gods.**

You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

Honor your father and your mother.

You shall not murder.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

✠THE APOSTLE'S CREED PAGE 264

✠THE LORD'S PRAYER PAGE 264

HYMN OF THE DAY PAGE 345

"HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING" (STAND ON LAST VERSE)

THE SERMON

OFFERING

✠PRAYER PAGE 265

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, Trinity as we pray for God's guidance of continuing our call process, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L For . . . [additional bids for prayer may be inserted here] . . . let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy.**

L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

✠**COLLECT OF THE DAY**.....PAGE 265

L **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

C **Amen.**

✠**COLLECT FOR THE WORD**PAGE 265

L Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

✠**MORNING PRAYER**PAGE 266

C **I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into**

Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

✠THE NEW TESTAMENT HYMN.....PAGE 940
“HOLY GOD, WE PRAISE THY NAME” (STAND ON LAST VERSE)

✠BLESSING.....PAGE 267

L Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

L The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMNPAGE 338
“COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS”

Acknowledgments

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NEXT WEEK'S TEXTS: Psalm 136:1-4; Judges 6:36-40; Ephesians 4:7, 11-16,
John 20:24-29

LCMS STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

December 14 – Advent 3 - Isaiah 35:4 – “Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’” The return of our Lord at the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

LIFE QUOTES FROM LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

December 14 “And every life matters to God. It is impossible to live—even for a few moments on this earth—and not influence somebody in one way or another. We are all always influencing somebody—either for good or for bad. Life matters. Your life matters. Lives of kings and lives of shepherds all matter. We all matter and are important to God.” *Dennis D. Nelson, Lutheran CORE – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH YEAR

December 14 – Advent 3 – God sends us, like John, to be His messengers and share His Gospel with the world before He comes (Matthew 11:10). Instead of grumbling against one another (James 5:9), we have the privilege of sharing Christ’s forgiveness, comfort, and encouragement with those having feeble knees and anxious hearts (Isaiah 35:3-4), especially with those frightened women facing surprise pregnancies, women enduring the cross of barrenness, and those carrying the guilt of abortion.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 THROUGH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
SUNDAY	9:00 A.M.	Adult Education Hour
	10:15 A.M.	Divine Worship
TUESDAY	9:30 A.M.	Ruth Bible Study
WEDNESDAY	9:00 A.M.	Men's Bible Study
	5:00 P.M.	Bell Choir Practice
	6:00 P.M.	Soup & Sandwich Supper
	7:00 P.M.	Advent Service
THURSDAY	9:30 A.M.	Quilters
	6:00 P.M.	Love INC
7:00 P.M.	Board of Directors' Meeting	
FRIDAY	7:00 P.M.	Movie Night-The Christmas Star
SUNDAY	9:00 A.M.	Adult Education Hour
	10:15 A.M.	Divine Worship/Communion
	Mission Sunday	Lutheran Heritage Foundation
	4:30 P.M.	Christmas Caroling

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers adorning the chancel area this morning have been placed to the glory of God by Bob & Sandy Klose in celebration of Sandy's birthday and by Bob & Jan Thede in honor of their grandson Garrett and wife Jane's 3rd wedding anniversary.

THE LWML GIFT TREE

The LWML Christmas Gift Tree is in the narthex. Please feel free to choose 1 or more paper ornaments to bring a gift for a child in our town. Ages, sizes for clothing items, and toy suggestions are on the ornaments. Please have gifts wrapped and put in the tubs across from the pastor's office by Sunday, December 21st. If you have any questions please see Merry Zumwalt at 719-424-0834

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPERS: Our last soup & sandwich supper is this coming Wednesday followed by the Advent service at 7:00 p.m. Pastor John Flamme is our guest pastor for the Advent services this year. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board for providing soup or sandwiches. Just sign up your name and what you plan to bring for whichever advent service you wish to provide soup.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: Apparently there is confusion on the subject of our holiday services, as presented in the Trinitarian. While we have scheduled Wednesday Advent services with Pastor Flamme, the only other service that was proposed by Sue Kelly will be a children's service on Christmas Eve, primarily readings and hymns. We have not scheduled a Christmas Day or New Years Eve service. Any questions on this subject from the congregation should be answered addressed to an elder.

ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS: The Adult Sunday School class that meets at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays has graciously agreed to study the Catechism so that those wishing to become members of Trinity can be instructed in the Christian Faith. This instruction is also for members desiring a refresher in the faith and the class will begin in January. The class will make use of the latest 2017 catechism from CPH. If you don't have this edition please contact Jan in the church office and she can order a copy for you for \$22.99 each. Those wishing to become members will receive a free copy. Thanks, Pastor John Flamme.

SPECIAL DOLLAR PROJECT: Our dollar project monies for the month of December will go to replace the toys in the nursery (some of the current ones now are about 30 years old) and for painting and refreshing up the room. The Dollar project in January will be for the Baby Bottle campaign for the Pregnancy Help Center.

NO MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: There will be no Men's Bible study on Dec. 24th or Dec. 31st as Pastor Flamme will be in Texas. Class resumes January 7th.

NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY: There will be no adult Bible Study on Dec. 28th as Pastor Flamme will be in Texas. Class resumes January 4th with the start of the study of the Catechism.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING: The Education Committee is inviting everyone to join us for Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 21st. We will be visiting our shut-ins, homebound, and residents at Betty Dare. We will meet at the church at 4:30 pm and carpool to all of our stops. Come and join us for a fun time of singing and fellowship with those who are unable to come and be with us in church. Come help us share the joy of Jesus' birth. We hope to see you all! Questions please ask Sue Kelly, Jill Clark, or Cindi Anderson. Thanks, Sue Kelly

BOTTLE CAP PROJECT: LWML is still collecting bottle caps of all sizes. We have a bin in the Education Office for the Caps you collect. The bottle caps are used to make prosthetics for disabled patients, of low-income, in Mexico. Rosy, a deaconess from one of the Juarez Lutheran Mission churches, picks up the bottle caps from Isleta Lutheran Missions and delivers them to the Collection Center in Juarez where the prosthetics are made. What a blessing for the disabled. Thank you for your support.

MOVIE NIGHT: Friday December 19th 7:00 pm: The Christmas Star: The Search for the Star of Bethlehem. (A documentary) followed by a chance to view the stars up close - brought to you by Paul and Cathy Anderson. Cider and Coco will be served. Registration requested.

FOUND: A pair of brown glasses has been found in the church parking lot. If you are missing them please see Jan in the church office.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS: The Advent devotions are here so if you ordered an Advent devotion it will be in your mail box. I do have a few extra, so if you wish to have one, please see me, Jan Thede.

THE FLOWER CHART FOR 2026 has been posted. The following dates are still available on the 2026 flower chart: Jan. 18th and 25th; Feb. 1st; March 8th; May 10th & 17th; June 14th; Aug. 2nd, 23rd & 31st; Oct. 25th, Nov. 1st & 22nd; and Dec. 27th. Cheryl Richey

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on AM 850 & KFUE.org: We're continuing our series, "Yearning for the Day of Christ's Returning" on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8 a.m. CT)! This week, we'll be studying 1 Thessalonians 5-2 Thessalonians 2. Tune in to Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11 a.m. CT) as we continue our series, "Prophecy and Fulfillment, looking at Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Christ in the New. On the Coffee Hour this week (weekdays at 9 a.m. CT), we have some fun things to share, including a new learning opportunity through Concordia Nebraska, and an update from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation. Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org or in the KFUE Radio app!

MISSION FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER: The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) Help Share the Gospel. With your assistance, LHF gives books of the Lutheran faith to people around the world in their own languages. Our Mission Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of the month.

TRACT OF THE MONTH: "A Simple Explanation of Confession" - Confession changes between Christian denominations, making it a difficult concept to understand. What do Lutherans believe about confession? What sins should be confessed? What qualifies a pastor to forgive sins? And where does God's forgiveness come from? Answer all of these questions and more in this short, informative booklet. (CPH.org)

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

SUNDAY, DEC. 7, 2025: WORSHIPPED: 67 COMMUNED: 52 ONLINE: 10

NO FINANCIALS AVAILABLE THIS WEEK DUE TO NETWORK PROBLEMS

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY

MUSIC: Michael Cortez

HOSTS:	Irvin Torres	ELDER:	Robert Rentschler
LITURGIST:	Dick Dommers	SERMON:	Bob Klose
ALTAR GUILD:	Cheryl Richey	TELLERS:	Lola Ableidinger
	Diane Kline		Sandy Klose
ATTENDANCE:	Diane Kline	SOUND TECH:	John Davis
USHERS:	Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez		
	Glen & Christine Schlehuser		

ASSISTING IN OUR ADVENT SERVICE, DECEMBER 17TH

MUSIC: Michael Cortez

ELDER:	Robert Rentschler	ATTENDANCE:	Diane Kline
ALTAR GUILD:	Cheryl Richey	SOUND TECH:	Bob Klose
	Diane Kline		

ASSISTING IN OUR WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

MUSIC: Michael Cortez

HOSTS:	Merry Zumwalt, Susan Kelly	ELDER:	Bob Klose
ALTAR GUILD:	Cheryl Richey	TELLERS:	Susan Kelly
	Diane Kline		Sandy Klose
ATTENDANCE:	Diane Kline	SOUND TECH:	Matt Anderson
USHERS:	Bob Thede, Tammy Thede		
	Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson		

**HEAVENLY FATHER, WE COME TO YOU IN
PRAISE AND PRAYER**

FOR COURAGE, GRACE, FAITH, AND HEALING WITHIN YOUR WILL

Darrell & Sheila Anderson, Allen & Belinda, Burmeister, Ruth Buttke, Ellen Clark, Douglas Clark, Jim Coburn, Sammie Feldman, Verna Fladhammer, Jennifer Fogleman, Jill Guterrez, May Lynn Hays & family, Kristi Humphrey, Jim Johnson, Caroline Kelly, Janet Kushlan, Carly Lowen, Carey Mitchell, Jim Money, Rob & Karen Ostash, Robert Patrick, Tim Polling, Rachel Preus, Logan Radford, Robert Rentschler, Connie Rogers, Jessica Schroeder, David Steeby, Roger Storm, Irvin Torres, Matt Vick, Ann Waghorn, Hannah Weathers, Karen Zinn, Don Zumwalt, Martyrs for the faith, Our Nation's Leaders, Public Safety Personnel,

We also pray for those who are on the long-term prayers in the Trinitarian.

FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN THE MILITARY

Tom Bass, Heather Beck, Zac Collins, Brendon Garritano, Ryan Hobson, Caleb Jaecks, Cody Phelps, Daniel Smelser, Bryant Roeske, Kyle Steeby, Arcadia Thomason, Ethan Trowbridge, Tanner Wedd, and all troops serving in harms way

LEST WE FORGET

PRAISES AND THANKSGIVING

FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Kay Burger, Lothar Butzkies, Bill English, Tom & Darlene Gilmore, Rodney Greer, Shirley Hill, Jim & Ruth Wilkes, Lee Wood,

AMEN

PRAYER REQUEST CARDS

If you wish to place a name on the prayer list, you must complete a **blue prayer request card**. The cards are **located on the credenza to the right as you leave the sanctuary**. If the individual needs to remain on the prayer list, the requester will have to update the request card every two weeks by calling the church office or completing a new card. If not updated after two weeks on the weekly prayer list, each name will be transferred to the extended prayer list which will be published in the Trinitarian.