Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

ELCA

December 14 • 8:30 & 10:00 am

Third Sunday in Advent

Even though we don't know you yet, we already love you.

Your race, gender identity, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation, marital status, financial situation, social standing, education, cultural background, immigration status, or any other category or label cannot separate you from the love of God, nor keep you from being what God calls you to be.

Reconciling in Christ

Tim Olson, Lead Pastor

Travis Segar, Pastor for Care & Community

517 SW Des Moines St., Ankeny, IA, 50023 • 515-964-4348 • www.holytrinityankeny.org

@htlcankeny

HTLC Lutheran

/HTLCAnkeny

Welcome to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Our Mission: Share God's Love

Holy Communion

Communion is open to all who are baptized and trust that Christ is present in the meal, regardless of your tradition or affiliation.

- We share communion by intinction: a communion server will give you gluten-free bread to dip in the alcohol-free wine found in the chalice. Return to your seat via the side aisle.
- Children who do not yet receive communion or those who are not baptized are encouraged to come forward for a blessing. Cross your arms in front of you to signal your desire for a blessing.
- If you are not yet baptized, we welcome you to visit with one of the pastors or learn more at our website: bit.ly/htlc-baptisms so you may join in the Lord's Supper.

Welcome!

Names are important to us. Please let us know you're here by checking in at the kiosk in the Narthex or by filling out a paper Welcome Card located on the bulletin stand.

Children & Nursery

Children are invited and encouraged to worship with you.

- A supervised nursery is available for children 4 years and younger if you choose this option for all or part of the worship service.
- Busy Bags are hanging in the Narthex near the welcome desk.

Restrooms

Restrooms can be found on the north & south sides of the Narthex (lobby).

Newborn Ministry

If you have recently added a baby to your family, please let the church office know so we may welcome your little one.

Learn About Holy Trinity

For information about the church, what we believe, and how to become a member, visit https://bit.ly/htlc-join.

Prayer Requests

Please write your prayer requests on the back of a Welcome Card located in the pews. You may also submit your prayers at https://bit.ly/htlc-Prayer-Requests

Urgent Pastoral Care

If you are hospitalized or have an urgent need for pastoral care, call our main phone line (515-964-4348) and press 1 to be connected to the on-call pastor.

Office Hours

The office is open 9:00 am-3:00 pm, Monday-Thursday. Friday hours are by appointment.

Prayer Concerns

We are a praying congregation. Please take your bulletin home and pray for those listed.

Thanksgiving to God:

- For the Governance Committee
- For the church school children participating in the Christmas program
- For the musicians involved with music last Sunday
- For the volunteers and donors helping with the God's work. Our hands. projects

Thanksgiving for the Saints:

- Laurel Hibbard
- Dennis Peterson
- Gwen Wiegrefe
- Dale DeBolt
- Bobbie Strother

Comfort for Those Who Mourn:

- Margery Hibbard and Gina & Mickey Brown & family at the death of Margery's daughter-in-law and Gina's sister-in-law, Laurel
- Bob & Carol Schmacker at the death of Bob's cousin, Dennis
- Karen & Jeff Blackmer & family at the death of Karen's mother, Gwen
- Barbara DeBolt and Larry & Grace Anderson at the death of Barbara's husband and Larry & Grace's brother-in-law, Dale
- Todd & Dana Strother & family at the death of Todd's mother, Bobbie

Remember in Prayer:

- Larry Anderson
- Ober Anderson, friend of Lee Crawford
- Sherri Andrew, daughter of Bob & Carol Schmacker
- Beth Biedermann Barnett
- Eric Biedermann
- Judy Bohrofen, friend of Greg & Lisa Cole
- Diane & Ray Boll, sister of Annette Doman
- David Dietz, cousin of Dennis Dietz
- Steve Duffy
- Sheryl Hartman, aunt of Melanie Hartman
- David & Melinda Jackson
- Berne Kiwimagi, friend of Bonnie Ficek
- Jim & Sandy Little
- Jeff & Joy Luke, friends of Vicki Larimer
- Sharon Mathias, sister of Jan Fredericksen
- Diane McDermott, sister of John Bein
- Priscilla McFarland
- Jean Miller, friend of Lisa Strnad
- Carin Murphy, friend of Lynn Nelson
- Bob Nielsen & family, uncle of Krista Gerth
- Jerry Northwick, father of Christina Brady
- Tim & Cyndi Olson
- Ardie Pearson
- Penelope, granddaughter of Vic Anderson
- Shirley Rod
- Jodi Rozendaal, friend of LeeAnn Montz
- Samantha & Benjamin Ruhser, daughter and grandson of Debby Witten and granddaughter of Arlene Smith
- Lois Slobe, friend of Jan Meyer
- Chris Thill, nephew of Donna Cottingham
- Denny Wildeman, friend of Bruce & Kathy Friest
- Linda & Paul Wold

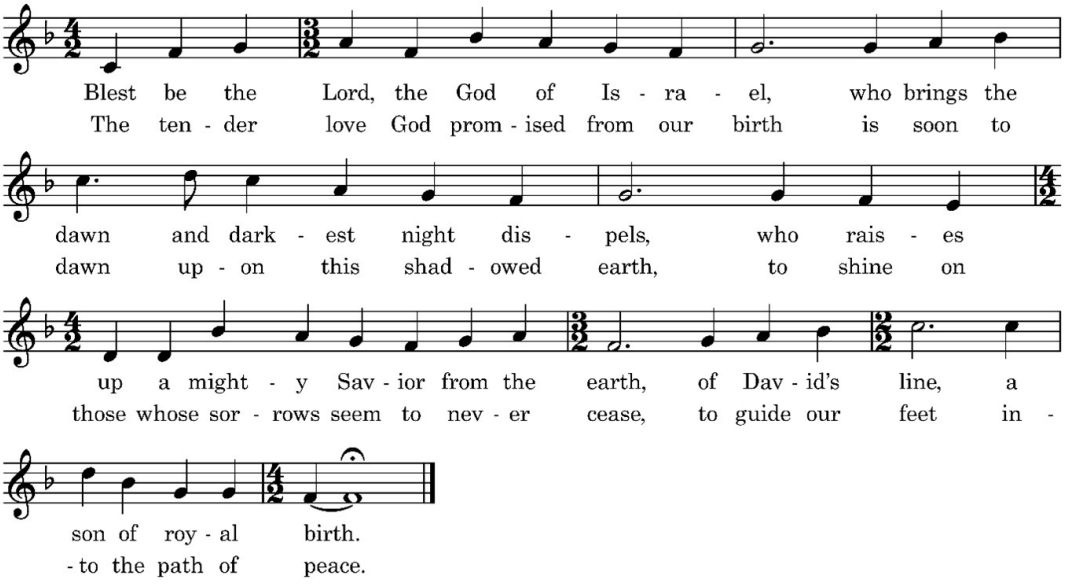
Sunday, December 14, 2025
8:30 & 10:00 am

✢ Gathering ✢

Welcome
Prelude
Confession & Forgiveness
Gathering Song • People, Look East • ELW 248
Advent Wreath Lighting
Prayer of the Day

✢ Word ✢

Readings
Isaiah 35:1-10
James 5:7-10
Gospel Acclamation • Blest Be the Lord, the God of Israel



Gospel Reading • Matthew 11:2-11
Sermon
Hymn of the Day • Comfort, Comfort Now My People • ELW 256
Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering • *The offering is received*

People, Look East • arr. Hart Morris • *Handbell Ensemble & Pat Zimmer, flute*

✢ Meal ✢

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Communion Music • O Come, O Come Emmanuel • arr. John A. Behnke • *Handbell Ensemble*

✢ Sending ✢

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Song • Prepare the Royal Highway • ELW 264

Dismissal

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Love's Pure Light

Children's Christmas Program

Sunday, Dec. 14 at 5:00 pm

Wednesday Worship & Dinner

Wednesday, Dec. 17
Dinner 5:00-6:15 pm
Worship at 6:15 pm

Christmas Eve Worship

Wednesday, Dec. 24
3:00, 5:00 & 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Worship

Thursday, Dec. 25 at 10:00 am

Dec. 28 Worship & Brunch

Sunday, Dec. 28 at 10:00 am
(no 8:30 am worship)

Announcements

Mission & Ministry Opportunities & Events

Children's Christmas Program Today! Come and celebrate the joy of the season as our Church School children share the story of Christmas! Join us this afternoon at 5:00 pm for their special program, followed by cookies and coffee in fellowship.

Wednesday Advent Worship & Dinner Join us on Wednesday, December 17, for a free dinner and worship. Whether you're arriving solo, wrangling little ones, or looking to share dinner with others, you are welcome! Dinner will be served from 5:00–6:15 pm, followed by a 30-minute vesper service. This week's "Longest Night" service will center our thoughts on hope in the light that comes to us in Christ.

Help with Christmas Eve! We're looking for people to usher and serve communion at the 3, 5, and 7 pm services on December 24. If you are interested, contact the office or sign up at bit.ly/htlc-worship-signup (scroll down to see service times).

Bake Christmas Cookies We need cookies—and lots of them! Help us sweeten the season by providing cookies for fellowship on Christmas Eve. If you can share a batch (or two!), sign up at bit.ly/htlc-cookies25.

Christmas Worship On this holy night, we will gather to celebrate the birth of Christ and the radiant glow of Love's Pure Light shining in the world. Join us for Christmas Eve worship on Wednesday, December 24, at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 pm.

Christmas Day Worship You are also invited to worship on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10:00 am.

Worship & Brunch on December 28 Join us on Sunday, December 28, for a single worship service at 10:00 am, followed by a festive brunch together. Please bring a side dish to share as we enjoy food and fellowship after worship. (There will be no 8:30 am service.)

LSI Refugee Support Donate new full or queen-size quilts for beds, shampoo/conditioner, and toilet paper to be given to refugees who are resettling in our area. Please return items to the bin at the Outreach Wall at church by Dec. 15.

Daily Devotions by Holy Trinity Looking for a simple daily devotion to anchor your day? Pastor Tim will guide us through Ephesians starting Monday. Sign up for Love Notes at bit.ly/htlc-lovenotes.

Enriched in Every Way We are asking you to consider the ways that God has blessed you, to think about the ways that you have been blessed through our congregation, and to respond by making a renewed financial commitment to the congregation's general fund for the coming year. You can make your commitment online through Realm by visiting bit.ly/htlc-Pledge26. If you choose to fill out a paper commitment card, visit the Giving Station in the Narthex.

Calendar of HTLC Events

1 & 2 = Basement Rooms 1 & 2 • B = Balcony • CK = Café Koinonia • FH = Fellowship Hall
MPR = Multi-Purpose Room • N = Narthex • S = Sanctuary • V = Virtual

Sunday, December 14
8:30 am Worship (S)
10:00 am Worship (S)
5:00 pm Christmas Program (S)

Monday, December 15
1:30 pm Pause Group (MPR)
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

Tuesday, December 16
9:00 am Paint, Pound & Praise & Willing Workers (CK)
10:15 am Staff Meeting (MPR)
12:00 pm HTLC Food Pantry
1:00 pm Afternoon Men's Group (CK)
6:30 pm Men's Group (MPR)
6:30 pm 49+ Book Club (CK)

Wednesday, December 17
1:00 pm Care & Compassion Group (Virtual)
5:00-6:15 pm Advent Dinner (FH)
5:15 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal (202 - Music Room)
6:00 pm Church School (2)
6:00 pm Confirmation (MPR)
6:15 pm Advent Midweek Worship (S)
7:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal (B)

Thursday, December 18
6:30 am Son Seekers Men's Ministries (CK)
1:30 pm Knitting/ Crocheting Group (MPR)
6:30 pm Council Meeting (201)

Friday, December 19
No events scheduled

Saturday, December 20
7:30 am Men's Bible Study (V)

Sunday, December 21
8:30 am Worship (S)
10:00 am Worship (S)

Monday, December 22
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)
6:30 pm Women's Book Club (CK)

Tuesday, December 23
9:00 am Paint, Pound & Praise & Willing Workers (CK)
10:15 am Staff Meeting (MPR)
12:00 pm HTLC Food Pantry
1:00 pm Afternoon Men's Group (CK)

Wednesday, December 24
3:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship
7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship

Holy Trinity
Food Pantry

Our food pantry needs cereal, canned fruit, applesauce, canned soup, and toilet paper. We also need holiday baking and cooking items. We need canned meats, paper towels, saltine & oyster crackers, and peanut butter, as well as feminine hygiene products, diapers, and personal care items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo). Place non-perishable donations in the grocery carts by the entrances.

Monetary donations can be made at the kiosk in the Narthex, online at *bit.ly/htlc-FoodPantry20,* or placed in the offering basket.