Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

ELCA

December 21 • 8:30 & 10:00 am

Fourth 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 Musicians and Choirs
- For the church school children who participated in the Christmas program last weekend
- For the volunteers and donors helping with the God's work. Our hands. projects

Thanksgiving for the Saints:

- Laurel Hibbard

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

Remember in Prayer:

- Larry Anderson
- Ober Anderson, friend of Lee Crawford
- Sherri Andrew, daughter of Bob & Carol Schmacker
- Beth Biedermann Barnett
- Eric Biedermann
- 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
- 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
- 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 21, 2025

8:30 & 10:00 am

✢ Gathering ✢

Welcome

Prelude • *Scott Smith, guitar*

Confession & Forgiveness

Gathering Song • Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah • ELW 240

Advent Wreath Lighting

Prayer of the Day

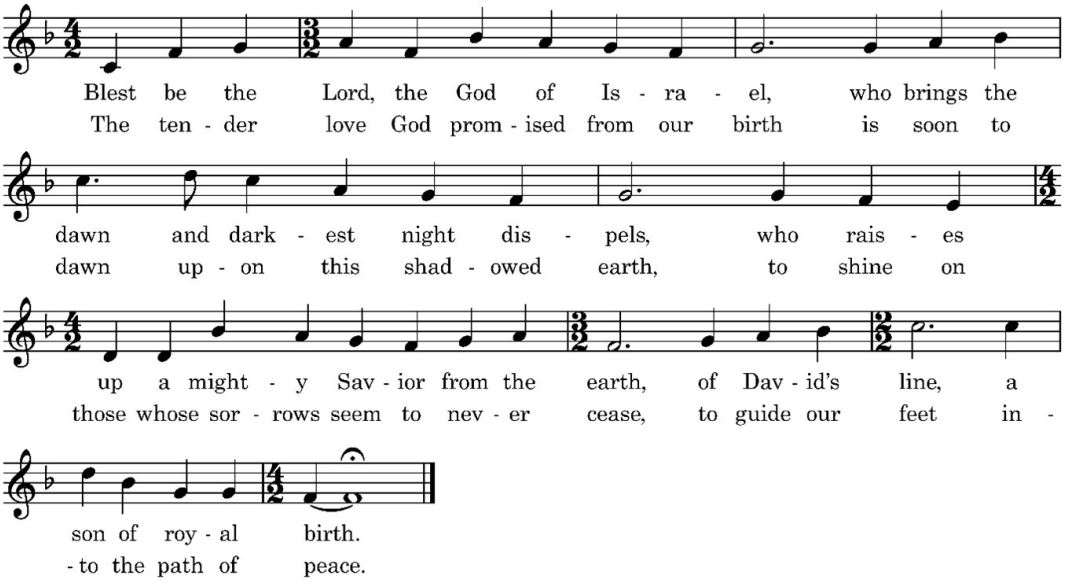
✢ Word ✢

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation • Blest Be the Lord, the God of Israel



Gospel Reading • Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Hymn of the Day • All Earth is Hopeful • ELW 266

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering • *The offering is received*

What Child is This? (Traditional) • Pat Zimmer, flute & Scott Smith, guitar

☩ Meal ☩

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Communion Music

Prepare the Way, O Zion • arr. Robert Powell • *Pat Zimmer, flute*

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers • arr. Robert Powell • *Pat Zimmer, flute*

☩ Sending ☩

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

Sending Song • O Come, O Come, Emmanuel • ELW 257 • *verses 1, 6 & 7*

Dismissal

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Love's Pure Light

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.

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

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.)

First Wednesday Worship The congregation is invited to gather for "First Wednesday Worship" on Wednesday, January 7, at 6:15 pm in the Sanctuary. This 30-minute service is different from Sunday mornings and offers a midweek chance to pause and reset.

Christ In Our Home The January to March issue of Christ In Our Home devotional booklets are available in the Narthex in the literature rack.

Church Office Closed The church office will be closed on December 25 & 26 and January 1.

Calling Knitters and Crocheters This small group gathers on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month in the multi-purpose room for conversation, laughter, and handiwork. Together we've created many prayer shawls and recently helped by knitting baby blankets for an elderly lady who can no longer knit. We have plenty of yarn and patterns to share—come join us!

Plan for Your Giving in 2026: 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 21
8:30 am Worship (S)
10:00 am Worship (S)

Monday, December 22
6:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

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

Thursday, December 25
Office Closed
10:00 am Christmas Day Worship

Friday, December 26
Office Closed
No events scheduled

Saturday, December 27
7:30 am Men's Bible Study (V)

Sunday, December 28
10:00 am Worship (S)
11:00 am Congregational Brunch (FH)

Monday, December 29
No events scheduled

Tuesday, December 30
9:00 am Paint, Pound & Praise & Willing Workers (CK)
12:00 pm HTLC Food Pantry
1:00 pm Afternoon Men's Group (CK)
4:45 pm Brass Ensemble Rehearsal (S)

Wednesday, December 31
No events scheduled

Thursday, January 1
Office Closed New Year's Day

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.