



We Grow Our Gifts Together

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AS WE GATHER

The apostle Paul taught about how Christians grow in becoming more like Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit walking by faith in the Father's love in sending Jesus, Paul's words give hope to live by. 'Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law' (Gal. 5:16–18)."

OPENING HYMN**PREPARE THE ROYAL HIGHWAY****LSB 343*****INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCESPsalm 27:13–14; 130:5*

- P I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!
C **Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!**

- P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
C **and in His word I hope.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTIONBased on Psalm 130*

- P With hope in the Lord's promises of renewal by His Word and Spirit, let us together confess our sins to Him.

C **Out of the depths I cry to You, Lord!**

- P Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive to my pleas for mercy!

C **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, I would have no hope.**

- P But with You there is forgiveness, therefore we place our trust in You.

C **Restore us, Lord God, and set us free from our sins.**

- P Renew us in Your hope, that we may wait for Your salvation.

C **Because of Your steadfast love for us in Christ, redeem us from all our iniquities. Amen.**

- P As we wait for Jesus' final coming, we place our hope and our confidence in the promises of His Word and find our home in the presence of His Spirit. Confessing our sins and turning away from them through lives of repentance, we are assured again this day of the Lord's steadfast love and plentiful redemption for us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE*WHEN ALL THE WORLD WAS CURSED**

LSB 346, vs. 3

3 Be - hold the Lamb of God That bears the world's trans-gres - sion,
 Whose sac - ri - fice re - moves The dev - il's dread op - pres - sion.
 Be - hold the Lamb of God, Who takes a - way our sin,
 Who for our peace and joy Will full a - tone - ment win.

Text: Johann Gottfried Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Paul E. Kretzmann, 1883–1965, alt. Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

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***KYRIE**

LSB 152

- P In peace let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 P For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.
 C **Lord, have mercy.**
 P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 C **Amen.**

***SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
 C **And also with you.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

- P Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son,
 C **that by His coming we may be found in Him, fully redeemed and at peace;**
 P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
 C **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT 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.

⁹Get you 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.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 85; antiphon: v. 9

A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

A LORD, You were favorable to Your land; You restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C **You forgave the iniquity of Your people; You covered all their sin.**

A You withdrew all Your wrath; You turned from Your hot anger.

C **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away Your indignation toward us!**

A Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations?

C **Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?**

A Show us Your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.

C **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for He will speak peace to His people, to His saints;
but let them not turn back to folly.**

A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,

C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

- A Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.
C **Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.**

- A Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.
C **Righteousness will go before Him and make His footsteps a way.**

**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.**

- A Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him,
C **that glory may dwell in our land.**

EPISTLE

Acts 9:1–31

¹But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" ⁵And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. ⁸Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

¹⁰Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." ¹¹And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." ¹³But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. ¹⁶For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." ¹⁷So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹and taking food, he was strengthened.

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" ²²But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

²³When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.

²⁶And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

³¹So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:1–8

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*APOSTLES’ CREED

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died and was buried.
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN **ON JORDAN'S BANK THE BAPTIST'S CRY** **LSB 344**
SERMON **WE GROW OUR GIFTS TOGETHER** **Acts 9:1-31**
OFFERING

***PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

After each petition:

- P Come, Lord Jesus, our gracious King!
- C **To You alone our prayers we bring!**

***LORD’S PRAYER**

***BENEDICTION**

Psalm 130:5; Numbers 6:24–26

- P I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
- C **and in His word I hope.**

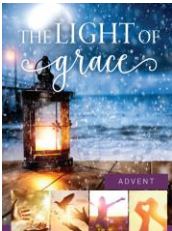
- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
- C **Amen.**

HYMN TO DEPART **COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS** **LSB 338**
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Serving Our Lord

		December 10, 2023	December 17, 2023
Musician		Merlin Simon	Diane Streich
Cantor		Dave Workman	Andy Koch
Altar Guild		Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews	Nancy Strand & Sharon Drews
Elder	8am	Sam Erdman	Bill Breitinger
	10:30am	Kurt Vallin	Sam Erdman
Reader	8am	Chris Martin	Matthew Boll
	10:30am	Kurt Vallin	Tim Morris
Usher Team	8am	Sam Erdman	Brian Nack
	10:30am	Ben Swenson	Terry Stoerzinger
Greeter(s)	8am	Open	Open
	10:30am	Open	Open
Acolyte	8am	Lily Olander, Audrey Martin	Isaac Koch
	10:30am	Ethan Swenson, Dana Vallin	Sean Hakanson
Projection	8am	Chris Martin	Open
	10:30am	Ben Swenson and Eric Hakanson	Caleb Morris
Live Stream	8am	Jim Nicklas	Jim Nicklas
Coffee Hour	9:15am	Megan Naas	TLO's LWML



Advent Worship and devotions

Come adore The Light of Grace through song, service and worship. Pick up a copy of The Light of Grace devotions from the TLO narthex. Then join us for worship Wed, Dec. 13 and Wed, Dec. 20 at 5:15pm for a meal and 6:30pm for worship.



Pizza and Caroling

Sunday, December 17 | 11:30am | All ages



Next Sunday, enjoy pizza lunch after the late service at TLO Church. Then bring Christmas joy to TLO members in homes and in Care Centers by forming caroling groups that make up to 4 stops. No singing talent needed! Let Lana or Jean know you're coming so we know how many pizzas to get.

COMING UP AT TLO — December 10, 2023 — December 17, 2023

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun	8:00*am	Worship
	9:15am	Education Hour for all ages
	10:30am	Worship
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	6:00pm	Hoops
Mon	10:00am	Adult Bible study
	12:30pm	12 Baskets / KFC donation for Dept of Indian Work
Tue	6:30pm	Board of Christian Education
Wed	6:30am	Men's Bible study
	8:15am	Chapel with preschool program; you're invited!
	1:30pm	K-8 Christmas matinee; you're invited!
	4:00pm	Midweek confirmation
	5:15pm	Soup supper served by Quilters
	6:30pm	Worship
Thur	Please turn in your poinsettia order forms!	
	9:00am	Circuit Pastors' conference at TLO
	6:00-9:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	6:30pm	K-8 Christmas performance; you're invited!
Fri	9:00am	Women of the Word (WoW) Bible study
Sat	2:00-8:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sun	Please return your wrapped gift to the Giving Tree!	
	8:00*am	Worship with Holy Communion
	9:15am	Education Hour for all ages
	10:30am	Worship with Holy Communion and Sunday school students sing
	11:30am	Pizza and caroling; you're invited!
	12:30pm-5:00pm	Peniel Evangelical Church activities
	6:00pm	Hoops

*worship online at www.trinityloneoak.org



Joining Jesus As A Family

January 20 | 9am-12noon | TLO

SCAN ME



Greg and Susan Finke identify what Jesus shows us in the gospels to help parents *become more intentional and practical in raising Jesus-followers.*

Experience Camp Omega counselors are providing children's programming so bring the whole family to this encouraging event! *Jesus-followers.* Experience Camp Omega counselors are providing children's programming so bring the whole family to this encouraging event!

WEEKLY DEPOSITS: December 3, 2023

General Fund Income:			
	Current and Mission Weekly Offering	\$	7,697.62
	(Our offering budget is \$8,525 per week)		
	Building Reserve Fund	\$	458.15
	(Our offering budget is \$665 for per week)		
	1883 School Annual Fund	\$	454.02
	Chapel	\$	76.00
	Tuition	\$	8,847.11
	Verizon Tower Rental	\$	1,900.16
	Church and school fees	\$	540.20
	Subtotal General Fund Income	\$	19,973.26
Special Purpose Income (not available for general fund spending)			
	YTF2	\$	510.45
	Acorn Scholarship Fund	\$	25.00
	Young Investors stamps through Lutheran Church Extension Fund	\$	263.00
	Subtotal Special Fund Income	\$	798.45



Advent devotions, calendars, offering envelopes ...these are all waiting for you in the narthex—pick up yours today!



Poinsettia Orders Due Soon

Help us beautify the Sanctuary for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia. This win-win also supports our TLO Youth. Order forms are in the church narthex and church office.



TLO's Giving Tree

Brighten Christmas for yourself and others by buying a gift for someone you don't know! Gift suggestions and full instructions are on the tree in the narthex, and gifts are due back next Sunday, December 17.



Scrip is a win-win

Need gift cards for Christmas gift giving? Get your shopping done and help TLO's budget at the same time by purchasing gift cards through TLO's scrip program. See Leann Becker for more info.



Remember in Prayer

Avianna (age 2), niece of Chelsea Cardenas, battling cancer

Rich and Dixie Cliff

Alice Dornseif, recovering from surgery

Ed Jones, father of David Jones and Julie Casby, for peace and comfort as he struggles with dementia

Joseph Labhart (Flannery's grandson) ongoing health concerns

Marilou Larson, close cousin of Alice Dornseif, continue prayers for resolution of autoimmune liver issues

Joyce (Kirchner) Moynihan, diagnosed with cancer

Ryan Kroonblawd - 1st year seminarian - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO

LeAnn Peterson, sister of Andrea Hinrichs, recovering from foot surgery and complications

Sharon Phelps, mom of Cindy Rahn, transitioning after a fall

Verna Ratzlaff recovering at home

Stuart Weierke at the Minneapolis VA Home

Shelly Zeitlin and her family need our prayers as she is going through lymphoma cancer treatments.

Shelly is a longtime friend of Rob and Jane Shull.

Laverne and Beverly Ziebell. Our prayers are needed as they navigate day-to-day living



The Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Lutheran Hour Speaker, is the Executive Director for The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington D.C.

Pastor Seltz clarifies the important work set before us. "Our work, whether in politics, business, or other forms of public service, is important, but it can't deal with the ultimate heart and soul issues that still plague us at the end of the day." Please pray for open hearts and open minds as the Gospel is shared in the U.S. and around the world.



Weekly Memory Verse

He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! — *Rev. 22:20*



Birthdays this week

Dec 12 Garrett Lowry, Steve Niehaus

Dec 13 Ashley Hedtke

Dec 14 Rachel Clark

Dec 15 Bill Maloney, Luna Wong

Dec 16 Aaron Peterson



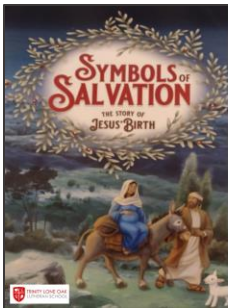
Welcome Guests

We are glad you are here today! Here are a few things we thought you would like to know to help you feel at home with us today. If you are visiting please introduce yourself to our pastor, a greeter or an usher. We love to make new friends!

For those with small children, a nursery is available, located in the narthex, if you need a place to care for your child. Children's bulletins are in the narthex, or ask an usher.

Restrooms are located to the east end of the narthex near the main entrance.

Large print copies of the worship folder are available. Please ask an usher.



**Trinity Lone Oak
Preschool Christmas Program**

Tuesday, December 12
2:00 pm in the Sanctuary

★

Wednesday, December 13
8:15 am at All-School Chapel

Come and join us!



Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School K-8 Christmas Concert

A Christmas Alleluia

Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30 pm | Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 pm

TLO Preschool Concerts

Tuesday, Dec 12	 	2:00pm
Wednesday, Dec 13	 	8:05am

You have a wonderful opportunity to see TLO Preschool students share the Symbols of Salvation. Nothing will put you in the Christmas spirit more than seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child.

TLO School Concerts

Wednesday, Dec 13	 	1:30pm
Thursday, Dec 14	 	6:30pm

Join the Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School beginning and advanced band, 7/8 handbell choir, and K-8 choirs at TLO's 2023 Christmas Program, "A Christmas Alleluia." Freewill offering taken at the door in support of TLO's music program.