

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Buffalo, New York

Second Sunday in Advent
December 6, 2009

Holy Communion – 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

VOLUNTARY

Chromatic Fugue in C

Johann Pachelbel

Fugue on *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

Chorale Prelude on *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

SILENT PROCESSION OF CHOIR AND CLERGY (10:30)

THE ANTIPHON (10:30)

Lo, In the Time Appointed

Healey Willan

Text from a Sarum Antiphon

Lo, in the time appointed the Lord will come; the mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands: for the Lord God shall come into his everlasting kingdom: and upon the throne of David shall he reign for ever. Alleluya.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

THE HYMN

Prepare the Royal Highway “Bereden Väg För Herran”

ELW 264

GREETING

From the one who was, who is,

and who is to come:

Grace and peace be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

A WORD FOR THE CHILDREN (10:30)

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the LORD whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight — indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

THE ANTHEM (10:30)

And He Shall Purify the Sons of Levi from Messiah George F. Handel

And He shall purify, and He shall purify the sons of Levi, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all

of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke

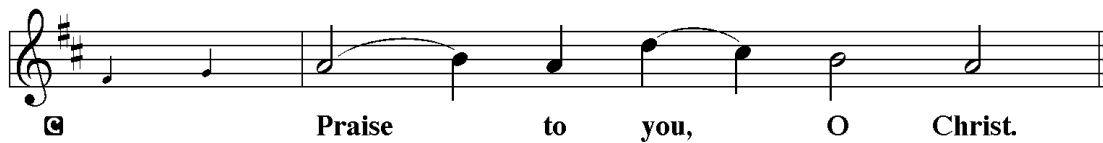
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

John the Baptist is a herald of the saving Lord, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it

is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,
 "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.
⁵Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
 and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;
⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

The gospel of the Lord.



SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang

HYMN OF THE DAY

Comfort, Comfort Now My People "Freu Dich Sehr"

ELW 256

CREED

**We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Waiting and watching for our sure and certain hope, let us pray for the world redeemed, the church reformed, and for all people restored in the coming one.

A brief silence.

Purifying God, you are always the giver of new beginnings; you are ever the author of salvation. Let the salvation you have prepared for all flesh be proclaimed with joy by faithful messengers of your word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Cleansing God, you promise to flood the world in the saving waters of your love. Strengthen the church in its calling to baptize and teach, that all who are washed in Christ will grow in grace and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Fulfilling God, you begin a good work in every person and assure that you will bring it to completion. Be with those who are suffering any loss (*especially*), and those for whom grief and sorrow accentuates a sense of incompleteness or abandonment. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Refining God, your creative hand continues to sustain the world you have made. Where pollution disrupts air and water, grant us wisdom and a will to foster care for the resources you have given. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Forgiving God, your presence is known among us in the breaking of the bread and in prayer. Energize those called to the ministry of prayer in this congregation, that their intercessions will further empower this community for witness and service. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Uniting God, in you we are held together in communion with all the living of every time and place. We remember before you this day all who have died, and look to the day when in your love we shall walk together again in the light of your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Alert and on guard for the coming of the Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting all things to your never-failing love in Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERING

SOLO AT THE OFFERING (8:30)*My Heart Ever Faithful* from *Cantata 68*

J.S. Bach

My heart ever faithful, Sing praises, be joyful, Thy Jesus is near. Away with
complaining, Faith ever maintaining, My Jesus is here.

Mary Kay Barrington, soprano

MOTET AT THE OFFERING (10:30)*Virga Jesse*

Anton Bruckner

The rod of Jesse has flowered; a virgin has brought forth one who is both God and
man: peace of God restored, in himself reconciling highest to the lowest. Alleluia.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together...

God of mercy and grace,

the eyes of all wait upon you,

and you open your hand in blessing.

**From all that you have given us, receive these gifts,
signs of our thanksgiving and praise.**

Fill us with good things at your table

that we may come to the help of all in need;

through Jesus Christ, our redeemer.

Amen.

OFFERTORY*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

ELW 885

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

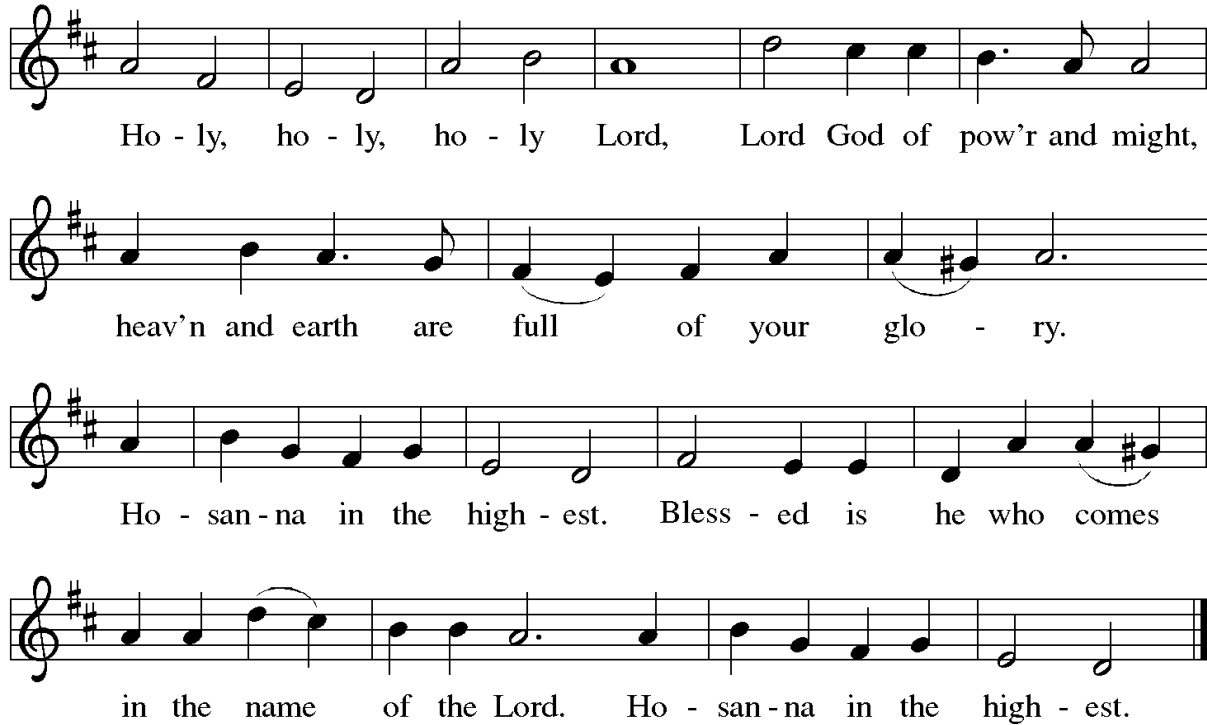
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; you comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
 the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

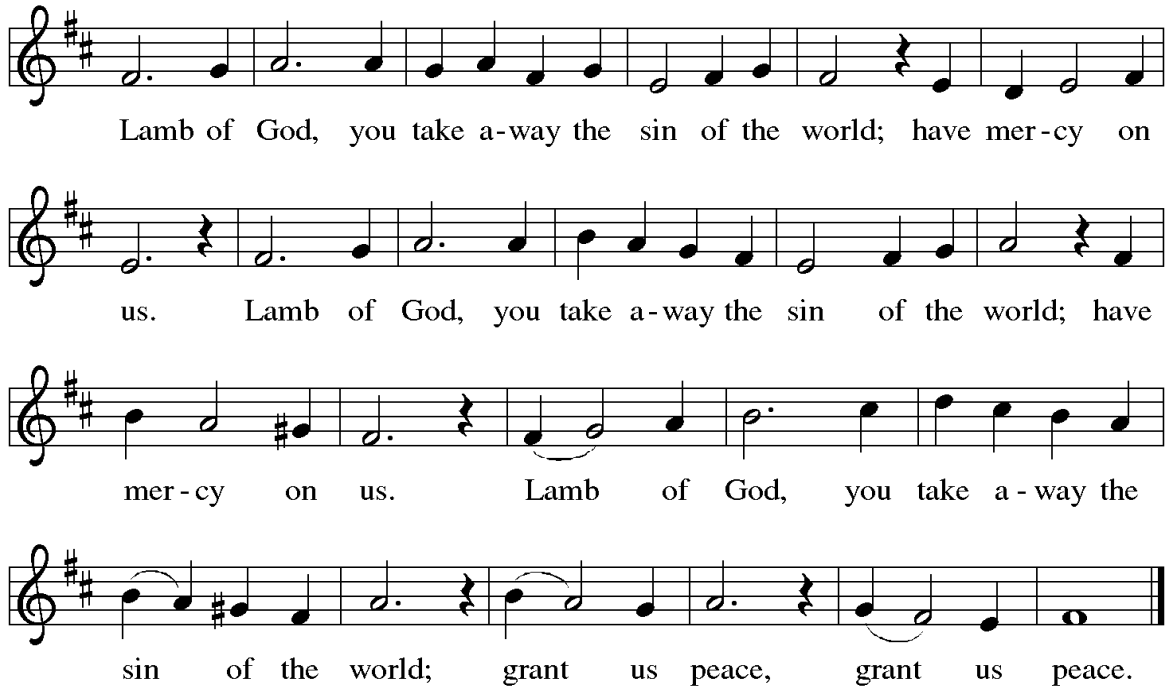
LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

SOLO AT COMMUNION (8:30)

Come Unto Him from Messiah

George F. Handel

Come unto Him all ye that labor and are heavy laden and He will give you rest. Take his yoke upon you and learn of Him for he is meek and lowly of heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Mary Kay Barrington, soprano

COMMUNION MOTETS (10:30)

Be Still, My Soul

Percy Whitlock

Be still, my soul, for God is near; the Great High Priest is with thee now; the Lord of Life Himself is here, before whose face the angels bow. To make thy heart His lowly throne, thy Saviour God in love draws nigh. He gives Himself unto His own, for whom He once came down to die. I come, O Lord. I come, O Lord, for Thou dost call to blend my pleading prayer with Thine. To Thee I give myself, my all, and feed on Thee, and make Thee mine. Amen.

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

Percy Whitlock

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; here faith can touch and handle things unseen; here I would grasp with firmer hands Thy grace, and all my weariness upon Thee lean. Here I would feed upon the bread of God, here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n. Here would I lay aside each earthly load, and taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**BLESSING**

The God of hope strengthen your hearts
as you await the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ
with all the saints.

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN*On Jordan's Bank "Puer Nobis"*

ELW 249

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Communion Statement

All are welcome to share in the sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. Non-communing adults and children are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. The Pastors will bring the sacrament to persons in the pews that are unable to come forward. Please advise an usher if you wish the pastor to do so. For those who are allergic to wheat, you may receive gluten-free wafers from the Pastor.

<i>HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP</i>

Congregational Council

Paul Bauchle, President Barbara Wozniak, Vice President
 Shirley Lawrence, Secretary Gretchen Hansen, Treasurer

Janice Bauchle, David Brace, Susan Bundt,
 Gail Camilleri, Daniel Culross, Guy Huber,
 Thomas Johnson, Ken Kellner, Karen Koehler,
 John Knipler, Ellie Monday, Paul Nikischer,
 Tom Prohaska, Sue Spindler, Karen Stoelzle, Gary Thomas

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

James Bigham, Organist-Choirmaster
 Charles Rojek, Pastoral Assistant
 Pat Mohr, Parish Nurse (Home phone - 684-9165)
 Jeremiah Smith, Youth Ministry
 Linda Lipczynski, Parish Secretary
 Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant
 John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds
 Patrick Ryan, Steward of Buildings and Grounds
 Phillip Schlueter, Curator of the Organs
 Justin Pomietlarz, Youth Choir Director

The Rev. Dr. Charles D. Bang
 The Rev. John A. Buerk
 The Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

<i>THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY</i>

SUNDAY, December 6, 2009 – Second Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
 9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion w/First Communion (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)/ Crib Room/Nursery (CI)
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
 12:00 Noon Confirmation Luncheon (FR)

MONDAY, December 7, 2009

- 9:30 a.m. Bible Study (FR)

TUESDAY, December 8, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Memorial Services for Ethel Vowinkel (CH)
 4:30 p.m. Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus (MC)
 5:00 p.m. Lectio Divina (CH)
 5:30 p.m. Dortmund Christmas Party (RH)
 7:00 p.m. Advent Program (FR)
 7:30 p.m. Yoga (SS)

WEDNESDAY, December 9, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (CR)
 12:00 Noon Trinity Lunch Bunch
 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee/Executive Committee Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Buffalo Niagara Youth Chorus (MC)
 6:00 p.m. Council

THURSDAY, December 10, 2009

- 10:00 a.m. Christian Action (FR)
 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir (SS)
 6:30 p.m. Dortmund Meeting (FR)
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MR)
 7:00 p.m. AA (RH)

FRIDAY, December 11, 2009

- 5:30 p.m. Congregation Christmas Party (RH)

SATURDAY, December 12, 2009

- 9:00 p.m. Habitat Work Group

SUNDAY, December 13, 2009 – Third Sunday in Advent

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (CH)
 9:30 a.m. Adult Education (FR)
 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)
 10:30 a.m. Sunday School (SS)/ Crib Room/Nursery (CI)
 11:45 a.m. Coffee Hour (FI)
 11:45 a.m. Chancel Choir (MR)

CH = Mansperger Chapel
 FR = Fellowship Room
 MR = Music Room
 SC = Sacristy

CI = Crib Room
 FI = Fireside Room/Library
 PS = Pastor's Study
 SS = Sunday School

CR = Conference Room
 MC = Main Church
 RH = Redeemer Hall
 YR = Youth Room

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Bang's Monday morning Bible Study will continue tomorrow, December 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Adult Education: Today we welcome Diane Picard from Massachusetts Avenue Project, a group engaged in some very unique projects on the West Side. Next Sunday (December 13), representatives from Loaves and Fishes Dining Room will be presenting. On December 20 Roy Clare will present a Christmas music program. The Adult Education program will take a two-week break for the holidays, but will resume for the new year on January 10 with developer Rocco Termini, who has completed several successful downtown projects and has recently announced plans for the former AMA's flagship store on Main Street as well as the Lafayette Hotel.

The next yoga class for beginners will be held this Tuesday, December 8 at the church from 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. An offering of \$5 is suggested. Please see Uli MacDonald for more information.

Once again the congregation is being asked to contribute toward the purchase of poinsettias and wreaths which will be hung in the church and placed in the chancel for Christmas. Order forms are available in the narthexes or in the December issue of *Our Church Paper*.

The holidays are just around the corner and once again the Men's Group will begin collecting food and monetary donations for food baskets for the needy. The drive will continue through December 16.

From the Social Ministries Committee... Please select an ornament from the Angel Tree so that a student from School 17 will receive a special gift for Christmas. The gift should be returned along with the ornament and placed under the tree by Sunday, December 20th. Please share a Holy Trinity Christmas with these children.

Searching for the perfect gift idea for your loved one? Look no further than ELCA Good Gifts. Not only will you provide a unique gift, you provide support for the mission and ministry of the church. Catalogs (blue) are in the narthex area or go online to www.elca.org/goodgifts.

The next meeting of the Christian Action group will be held on Thursday, December 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Anyone interested is welcome to join the ladies to sew projects for nursing homes and other agencies.

The Holy Trinity Habitat for Humanity work group is scheduled to work on the second Saturday of each month. The next session is December 12. We will meet at the church at 8:45 a.m. and work until about 3:00 p.m.

New News for the Newsletter!! In 2010, our “Church Paper” will be available online. You have a choice to make. Every recipient with an e-mail address on file will be sent a reminder that the latest edition of the newsletter is available, along with our embedded link to the site. If you wish to receive a print edition, you must communicate that to the church office 886-2400 as soon as possible. If you have an e-mail address, please send us a note to htlcofelca@aol.com. Thank you.

“Worship to go” are looking for volunteers to join them once a month to local health care facilities on Sunday afternoons. They are in need of musicians and those who would like to help with the service. The first Sunday of the month they go to Tonawanda Manor at 2:00 p.m. The second Sunday of the month they are at Wedgewood at 2:30 p.m. and the fourth Sunday of the month they are at Winwood on Delaware at 2:00 p.m. Please call Sister Donna if you would be available to help out in this very rewarding ministry.

Greetings and blessings as the church begins its new year. Only few weeks left in the semester here at Trinity. I just finished my first exegetical paper and there are only a few left on the agenda. This past week I began my Ministry in Context work at Grace Lutheran Church in South Buffalo. I am scheduled to give the children's sermon during worship ... I miss telling a weekly story in Sunday School. I hear things are going very well up on the second floor. Thanks be to God for Sue and Lydia and all the other folks who make our excellent children's ministry possible. Why not stop upstairs during this advent season and see if they need any help. I remember how crazy it gets over the next few weeks and an extra pair of hands and eyes go a long way. I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Peace and Grace,

Roger



ADVENT SCHEDULE

Tuesdays in Advent, December 8, 15 and 22 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and concluding at 8:30 p.m., we will gather for dessert, coffee and conversation on the book of faith "Advent Reflections". Please join us each week or any week. If you would like to pick up a copy of the Advent Reflections book in advance of the study, please see either Pastor Bang or Pastor Olsen.

CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. Church Family service at Holy Trinity

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Communion service at Parkside

9:45 p.m. Preservice music at Holy Trinity with full choir and instruments

10:30 p.m. Festival candlelight service of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:30 a.m. Christmas service at Parkside

~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

At 8:30 a.m. the acolyte is Dana Nostro. Lay reader is Helen Santi. Communion assistant is Sue Fayle. Ushers are Dave and Patricia Ulrich.

At 10:30 a.m. the lay reader is Millie Nikischer. Greeters are Noreen Casson, Ellie Monday and Helen Wright. Ushers are Paul Biesinger (captain), Paul Bauchle, Richard Bundt, Tony Glieco, Melissa Haller, Timothy Hess, Cliff Lochhaas, Paul Nikischer, Sue Saur and Gerard Schneggenburger. Communion Assistants are Sue Saur, Sue Spindler, Anthony Carden and Amanda Monday. Worship assistants are Anthony Carden and Amanda Monday, crucifers; Kelsi Hopkins, Sarah Battaglia, Yves Dushime, Jonathan Hopkins and Emily Battaglia.

The flowers at the altar are given in loving memory of Sarah and James Bigham and Cornelia Ball by James Bigham; and in honor of all those taking First Communion today, especially Ann Marie by Kevin and Helen Jones.

**PLEASE, TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS
DURING WORSHIP. THANK YOU.**

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1080 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 886-2400 phone (716) 884-7505 fax
e-mail: HTLCOFELCA@aol.com
www.holytrinitybuffalo.org