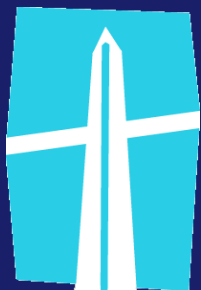


## Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering as Christ's body on earth, we have a sort of dual-citizenship in the now and the not-yet as we both proclaim that Christ is among us and also fervently pray "even so, come Lord Jesus." As believers, our hope does not rest in the efforts of our piety or in the comfort of the hereafter. Rather, our hope is in the promises of a gracious, faithful God; promises fulfilled before our eyes and those not yet seen. We long for the day in which, like Isaiah's vision of what will be, the blind see and the lame leap like deer. Yet we tell what we see and hear around us: that the dead are raised and the poor receive good news. The day is here and yet still we wait. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.



We are a community of faith, sent by God to pursue God's hopes and dreams for DC and the world.

## First Trinity & St. Matthew's Lutheran Church Weekly Mission and Ministry Opportunities December 11, 2016

### To Our Visitors and Guests

**Welcome!** Please fill out one of the visitor cards found in the pews and add a prayer request if you wish so that we can pray with you this week. If you are looking for a church home, we hope you will consider First Trinity and St. Matthew's. Any of the pastors would be happy to discuss this with you further. Please join us after the service in the parlor, adjoining the sanctuary, for snacks and refreshments.

### Gifts of Hope

\$10 provides nutritious food; \$30 provides activities for foster children; \$35 helps the homeless; \$75 helps repair a church in Slovakia; \$150 helps with rent assistance; \$250 sends a kid to camp. Gifts of Hope helps others one gift at a time, locally and globally. Our congregation supports the work of Gifts of Hope during the Advent Season. The 2016 Catalog of Gifts has 40 unique gifts which support the work of 10 social service agencies, 2 church camps, 1 college, 1 seminary, and 3 companion synods. Honor your loved ones and help others by choosing gifts. You will get Christmas cards to share. Our GOH volunteers are ready to help you help others. More info at [giftsofhopedc.org](http://giftsofhopedc.org). Working together we make a difference.

### Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate and Lip Balm

Fair Trade Coffee, Lip Balm and Chocolate from countries around the world through Lutheran World Relief will be on sale during Advent. These will make great gifts and stocking stuffers and help small business people and communities from around the world, too!

### Advent and Christmas Schedule: New Christmas Eve Start Time

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18: 4th Sunday of Advent @ 10:30 am**

The Lifeline Partnership Gospel Drama, Lighting of the fourth Advent candle

#### **Hanging of the Greens @ 12 pm**

Stay after church to help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas!

#### **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24: Christmas Eve @ 7:00 pm**

Holy Eucharist with candlelight and favorite carols.

#### **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25: 1st Sunday after Christmas @ 10:30 am**

Our traditional service of Lessons and Carols

### Poinsettia Sign up

Help us decorate the sanctuary for Christmas! Sign up for a Poinsettia in the back of the church now through Sunday, December 18. After the Christmas season, you can take your poinsettia home. The cost is \$20 per plant.

### Annual Christmas Tree Run

Join us **Thursday, December 15** at 6:30 PM. We'll start at First Trinity, run to the Capitol Christmas Tree, by the botanical gardens and over to the White House Christmas tree and back by way of the Willard Hotel. All are welcome to join us and see the decorations and sights of DC. RSVP to Pastor Wendy at [women@firsttrinitydc.org](mailto:women@firsttrinitydc.org).

### Next Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25