TRINITY MERRILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

107 N. State St. Merrill, WI 54452
715-536-5482 | trinitymerrill.com

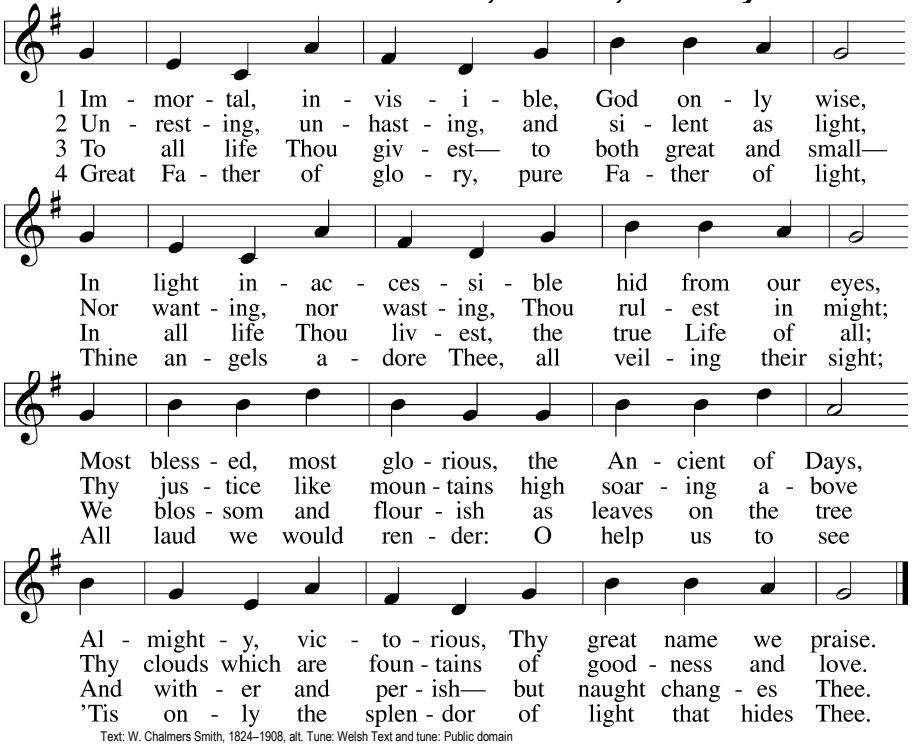
Reverend Scott Gustafson
Reverend Jonathan Chapa

November 8, 2026 - 8:00 AM & 6:00 PM (DS 3)
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sharing the message with us today is Pastor Jon Chapa with Pastor Scott Gustafson as our Liturgist and with Mark Knorr as the Lector. Polly Schneider is our organist.

AS WE GATHER: The Lord is grieved by the empty worship of His people. Their songs and their offerings mean nothing when their hearts are far from Him, and He will not accept them any longer (Amos 5:21–23). And the day of the Lord will actually catch them off guard and unprepared. Jesus offers the same warning in the parable of the ten virgins, calling His disciples to watch for a bridegroom who will come at an unknown day and hour (Matthew 25:13). Jesus' warning calls us to attention as we reflect on our own position of waiting for His return. His warning is followed by Paul's further description of what our waiting looks like. Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, our waiting is also filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14).

OPENING HYMN ***"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*** LSB 802



Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Tune: Welsh Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

OPENING SENTENCES

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

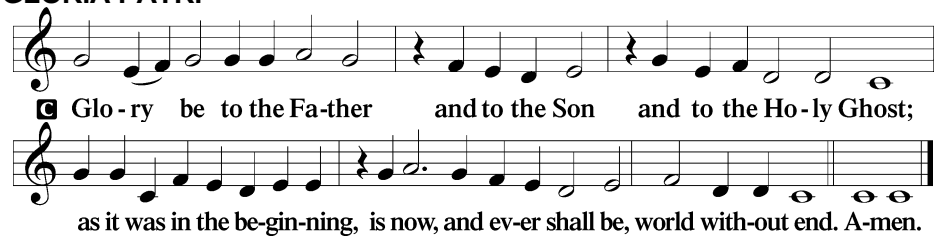
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

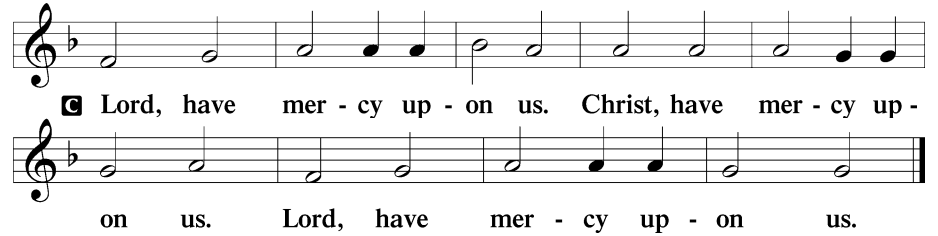
P O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI



KYRIE LSB 186



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.
C **And with thy spirit.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; 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 **Amos 5:18-24**

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord?
It is darkness, and not light, 19 as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the
house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. 20 Is not the day of the Lord
darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 "I hate, I despise your feasts, and
I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings
and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I
will not look upon them. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your
harps I will not listen. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-
flowing stream.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may
not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this
we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming
of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend
from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the
trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will
be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always
be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA LSB 190



HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 25:1-13**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[1][Jesus said:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2] Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3] For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5] As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6] But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7] Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8] And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9] But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10] And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11] Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12] But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' [13] Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

SERMON HYMN ***"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying"*** LSB 516



Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Text and tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

P The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

C **Amen.**

OFFERTORY LSB 192



ATTENDANCE / CONNECT TIME & OFFERING

During this time, please sign the attendance book found in the pew or use your mobile device to fill out the Connect Card or submit prayer requests on our app or online at www.trinitymerrill.com/live. You can also visit our app or www.trinitymerrill.com/give to learn more about other ways to support the ministries at Trinity. ***(When filling out the attendance book – please list the names of all in attendance in your family.) If you are a visitor interested in membership, please include your email and phone number to the attendance pad.***

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

✞ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✞

PREFACE & PROPER PREFACE

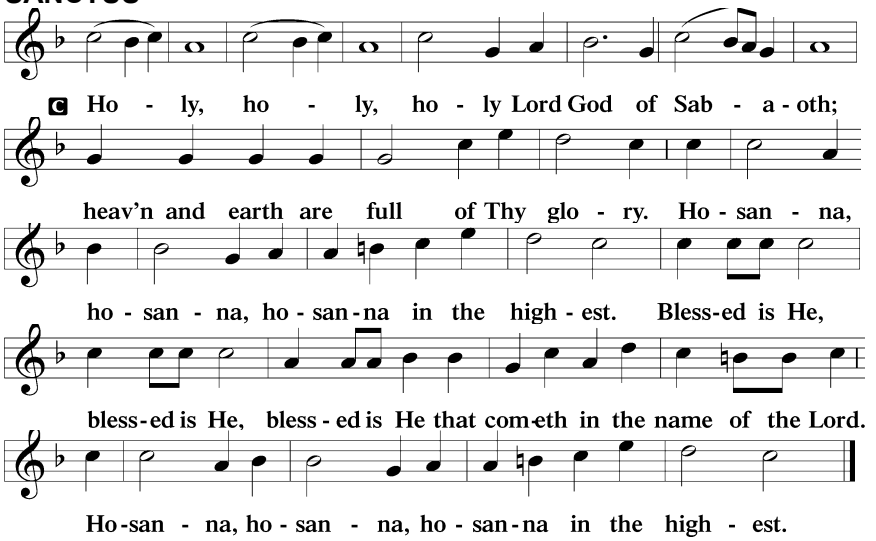
P The Lord be with you
C **And with thy spirit.**

P Lift up your hearts
C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
C **It is meet and right so to do.**

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS



THE LORD'S PRAYER

C **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

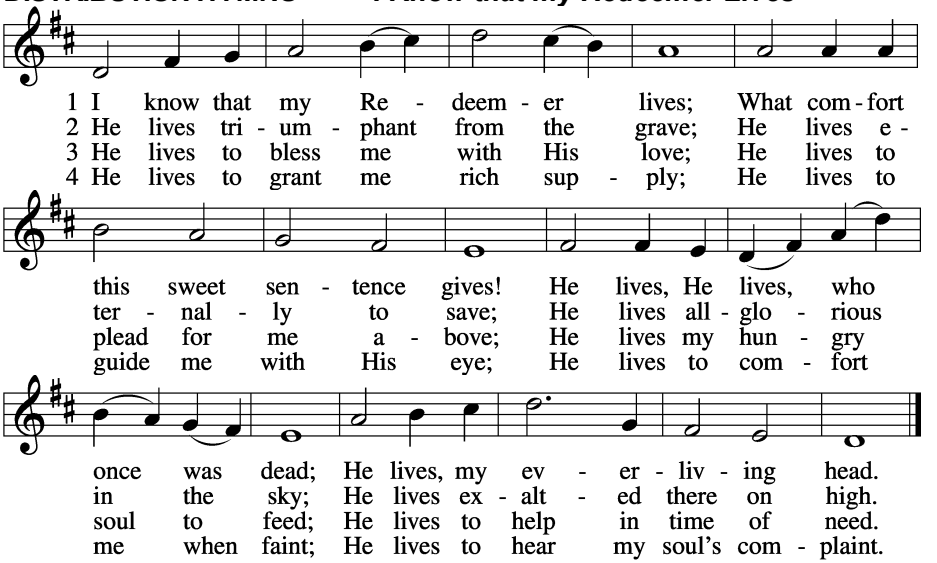
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS ***"I Know that my Redeemer Lives"*** LSB 461



5. He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

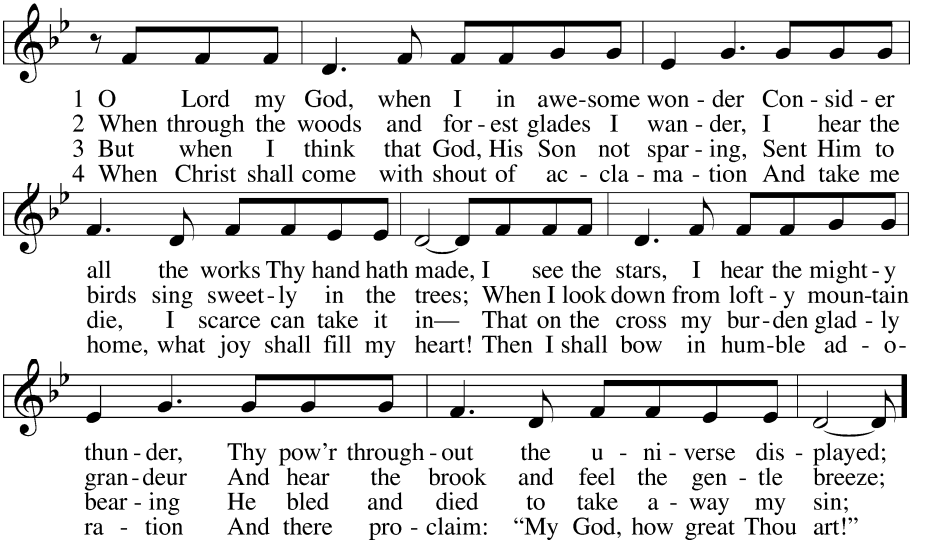
6. He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

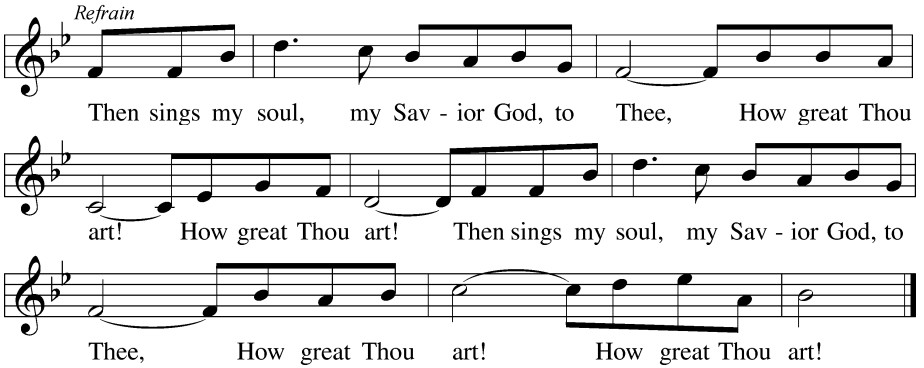
7. He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8. He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr. Tune: attr. John C. Hatton, d. 1793Text and tune: Public domain

"How Great Thou Art" LSB 801





Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989 Tune: Swedish; arr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989Text and tune: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005698

NUNC DIMITTIS

LSB 199



POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

BENEDICAMUS LSB 202

P Bless we the Lord.

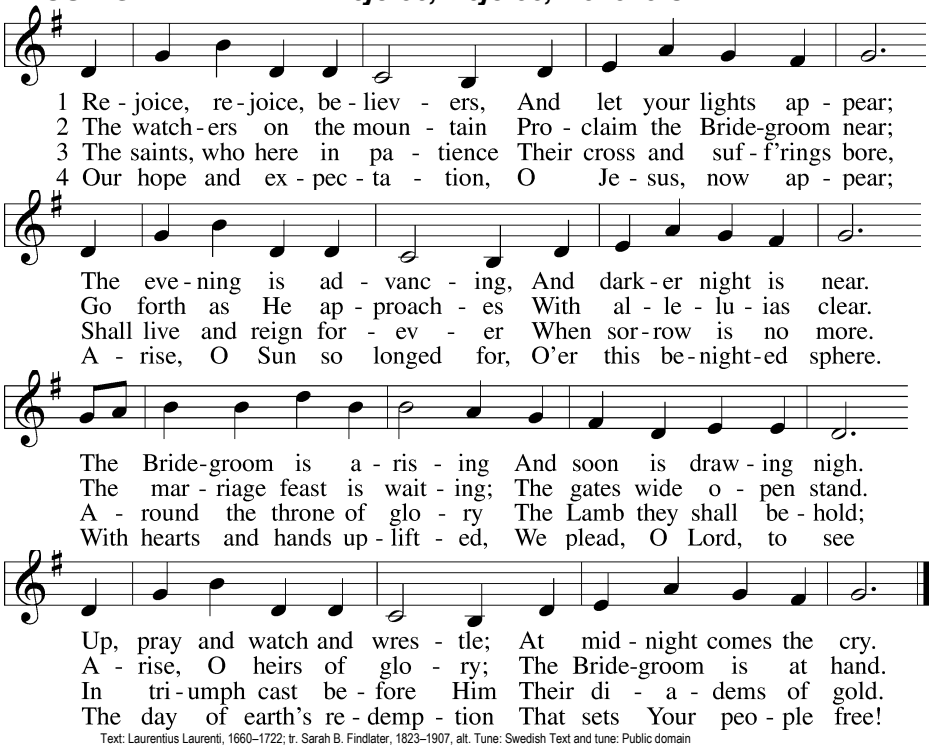
C **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and T give you peace.

C **Amen, amen, amen.**

CLOSING HYMN ***"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers "*** LSB 515



Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt. Tune: Swedish Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments- Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book **Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2026 Concordia Publishing House.**

Today's radio broadcast.is sponsored in loving memory of the birthday of Lyle Whiting (Dec. 26) and in celebration of his heavenly birthday on November 7 by his wife Fern, and his family.

Today's altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of brothers Robert & Duane Bonke by their sister Barbara Bonke.

OPEN HEARTS FOOD SHELF — VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our Open Hearts Food Shelf is open every Wednesday and Friday from 2:00–4:00 PM, providing food to individuals and families in our community. We are looking for a few volunteers who can help pick up food on Thursday or Friday mornings and bring it to Trinity. The food will already be packaged and ready to go—no shopping required! Some muscle is helpful, as there will be boxes and food packages to load and unload. If you can help on a regular or occasional basis, please contact the church office or speak with Pastor G. Your helping hands can be an Open Heart to someone in need!

CHURCH OFFICE HELP NEEDED!

Trinity Church is looking for someone who would be willing to **fill in at the church office when staff is on vacation or takes time off.** If you enjoy helping others and would like to serve Trinity in this way, we would love to hear from you! **Please contact Robin if you are interested or would like more information. 715-536-5482.**

"Holiday Parade" Help us share the gift of Christmas with Merrill. **Help us put together our Christmas float for the Merrill Holiday Parade on December 5**. Reach out to one of the Pastors or to Steph for more information.

Trinity is getting ready for the Advent Season. Our kick-off is on Nov. 29th. The Café' will be set up with coffee, hot cocoa and cookies for the children to decorate. **Cookie decorating will be from 9:15-10:00 and 11:15-12:00.**

ANGEL Giving Tree -
The ANGEL Giving Tree will be available in the Narthex beginning November 29th. Please take a tag from the tree to purchase a Christmas gift for someone staying at the HAVEN and/or MAC Home. Gift tags will be numbered by family and will include details such as adult and child ages, clothing sizes, and wish list items. Please wrap your gift, attach the tag to the top of the present, and place it under the tree no later than December 22nd.



Women are invited to gather for a Women's Day at Trinity. Please mark your calendar for Sat. Nov. 14 from 9-1:00. RESERVE YOUR SPOT NOW! The day will include worship with uplifting sessions, music, a craft service project, fellowship, lunch and more. A $5 registration fee includes morning refreshments, a soup and salad lunch and conference materials. Childcare is available. However, you must sign up in advance so we can arrange staffing. Bring your bible and a friend. Register online or call church 715-536-5482 to sign up to attend this fun Women's Retreat. VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO MAKE THIS DAY POSSIBLE. Call the church office if you feel moved to assist in making this day a special day.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?
Simply call **715-921-4110** by **Wednesday** before the weekend service you plan to attend. When leaving your message, please include: which worship service you will attend, your pick-up address, and how many people need transportation to Trinity.