

# Journeys

There is a hush that falls over the city Christmas Eve night. There is hardly a car on the road. Only the really hard-core stores and gas stations are open. People are on the way, making preparations, or already together.

It is one of the few true religious times of the year. It is time to stop, give thanks, and look for life's simple blessings. It is a time to pull back the muck of daily trials and tribulations and see the brighter side of life. It is a time of hope. It is a time to give.

By Christmas Eve, all our work and efforts have either happened or not. We have bought all the right stuff for each other. We have wrapped it in the right kind of paper. By then, we have made all the right kinds of food. We have put on the right clothes. We sang the right kinds of songs. We have done all this hard work as if we were the ones making Christmas happen.

When this Christmas Eve hush hits, we realize that it is God (not us) who makes it happen. There is no special formula for the right things that make Christmas, Christmas. Christmas - God coming to us - happens no matter what we do. Christmas is not something you do or don't deserve. Christmas happens whether we are ready or not. Christmas is all about the gift of himself that God places in the world's hands. God says, "Here this is for you." And we say, "Oh, you shouldn't have." But we open it anyway.

God's gift to us is the gift of new life, the gift of acceptance, the gift of love. In the hush of the moment this year, may each of us take God's gift for what it is and say, "Thanks God, it's just what I needed."

Grace & Peace,

*Rev. Kelly Karges*

Sr. Pastor



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# Order Of Worship

WELCOME

† THE PASSING OF THE PEACE  
† HYMN #240 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"  
(vs. 1 & 2)

† HYMN #234 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"  
(vs. 1 & 2)

ADVENT CANDLES: CHRIST Ron & Carol George Family

† HYMN #246 "Joy to the World" (vs. 1 & 2)

† HYMN #238 "Angels We Have Heard on High"  
(vs. 1 & 2)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

CHOIR ANTHEM "Heaven Came Down Tonight"

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN (On Screen)

† HYMN #219 "What Child is This" (vs. 1 & 2)

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

SERMON Rev. Kelly Karges

CALL TO PRAYER #2128 (Vs. 1)  
"Come and Find the Quiet Center"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Joys One: "For this we pray..."  
& All: "Lord hear our prayers"  
Concerns

† DOXOLOGY ADVENT

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

CANDLELIGHT HYMN #239 "Silent Night"  
(Raise Candles on 4th Verse)

BENEDICTION

† POSTLUDE

† - Please stand as you are able to



## CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY 5PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH, 2023

SENIOR PASTOR: Rev. Kelly Karges (402) 239-9507  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR: Pastor Anny Kapundu (308) 370-9465  
NEW VISITORS  
FOLLOW UP PASTOR: Carla Gunn  
DIRECTOR OF  
FAMILY MINISTRY: Christina Landenberger  
PASTORS EMERITUS: Del Roper, George Wheat  
MINISTERS: All Members

ADDRESS: 511 North Elm Street,  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
OFFICE: (308) 382-1952  
EMAIL: trinityumcgi.org  
WEBSITE: trinityumcgi.org  
FACEBOOK/YOUTUBE: @trinityumcgi

SATURDAY WORSHIP IN GOLLAHER CHAPEL  
Traditional: 6 p.m.  
SUNDAY WORSHIP IN SANCTUARY  
TOGETHER WORSHIP: 9:30 a.m.

WELCOME \* CONNECT \* DISCOVER

## Announcements

### End-of-Year Giving

Take note! If you have not donated for this month yet, all donations are to be turned in or postmarked by December 31st. We also like to encourage you all to donate twice this month. Call it a "13th Month" as this is the giving time of year. We thank you all for your heart-felt donations.

### Office Closures

The office is closed on December 25th, 26th, and January 1st. Have a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

More Announcements inside

### Volunteers For Service

Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Organist	Pianists	Communion
Wayne & Angie Christensen	Ron & Carol George	Marilyn Williams	Kim Wilsey	Sharon Jensen & Joyce Victor	Penny Allen & Marilyn Williams

# Announcements

## United Women In Faith

Due to availability circumstances, the Christmas Tea event has been rescheduled for January 17th at 1:30 pm. Thank you all for what you do.

## Bulletin Folding

Folding of the bulletins is at 11 pm, December 29th. This is an hour before we close this Friday.

## Cake & Salad Tupperware

The United Women in Faith is appreciative of everyone who donates cakes and salads for funerals. They would like to remind everyone who donates to pick up their pans and dishes. Thank you all.

## Kitchen Remodel Project

The kitchen remodeling is set to start in the first few weeks of the new year. While we haven’t started yet, the cabinets are in good condition and will be sold to anyone needing them. Contact Tom Graves to negotiate.



## PECANS

For Sale

\$9.50/pound  
4 flavors available

Contact Margie Balderston to place an order.  
308-382-3272

# Announcements



## Miss Today’s Sermon? Here are some options:

- Call (308) 210-2183 *Most Popular!*
- Visit our YouTube channel
- Visit our Facebook page
- Visit our website
- Pick up a printed copy from the office

## Food Distribution:

January 13th, 2023, at College Park 3180 W Highway 34. Enter Tech Boulevard. Distribution is at 9:30 am until Food is gone. It is best to arrive between 9 am and 11 am. Do not arrive before 7:30 am.

## Hospital Visits & Prayer Chain

If you or a loved one is in the hospital and would like to be visited or put on the prayer chain for prayer, please get in touch with the office. **Update:** Due to HIPAA security rules, Regional Medical Center will no longer release the names of patients to the church.



## Sympathies to the Family and Friends of:

† Junette I. Hiatt, 93, December 16th



Write Your Sermon Notes Here:

# Calendar

## December 25th – 31st 2023

	<b>OFFICE CLOSED– CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	25 MON	December
	<b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 TUE	
		27 WED	
11 – 12pm	Lectio Divina, Zoom	28 THU	
1 – 4pm	Prayer Shawl Group, The Gathering Place or Parlor	29 FRI	
	<b>OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON</b>	30 SAT	
7 – 8am	Men's Study, Shady Bend Cafe	31 SUN	
11 – 11:30pm	Bulletin Folding, Parlor		
2 – 3pm	Coloring with Rev. Kelly, The Chocolate Bar		
5 – 6pm	Scripture Discussion, Parlor		
6 – 7pm	Worship, Gollaher Chapel		
7 – 7:30pm	Fellowship Time, The Gathering Place		
9:30 – 10:30am	TOGETHER Worship, Sanctuary, Nursery		
10:30 – 11:30am	Fellowship Time, The Gathering Place		
	Growing In Faith Together (GIFT)		
	Sharing Our Life Stories, Youth Room		
	Way Seekers Study, Room C		