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TRINITY LUTHERAN

CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
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The Good News



December 2017
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It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas!

Take a look at the title again. What is the first thing that comes to mind? Is it all the Christmas displays at the stores? Has it looked like Christmas since October? Looking for that first snow?!? Or did you think of the Christmas carol that was first made famous by Perry Como and Bing Crosby back in the early 1950's.

Either way, as we come to December, have you put up your decorations and Christmas tree yet? Did you do it the weekend after Thanksgiving? (Trinity does have Christmas trees for sale by the way!) Have you hung your Christmas lights on your house? Many have and these are all signs that point to Christmas.

So one can certainly say, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"

But during the time of looking forward to Christmas, we first pass through the season of Advent. It too is a time of anticipating things. It too is about seeing signs. Signs of when Jesus is soon to come back. Those signs are quite the opposite of the cheery signs of Christmas. Wars and rumors of wars. Famines. Natural Disasters, etc. These are the signs of the end times. Nobody has made a popular song to fit that.

In either case, believers and non-believers live through the same times.

How it ends up depends on whether you are a believer or not.

Advent is that time of year that we as Christians can take advantage of the season because those folks who do not believe are more receptive to hearing about the meaning of Christmas. Why? Because they see Christians celebrating. They want to do it too. But those who do not believe may find that just opening presents is not always satisfying, particularly in these times. They may find themselves saying, "There must be more to this life." This is when we, as Christians, can share that there is indeed more at Christmas. For Christmas is about Jesus. Jesus being born. The manger scene. The shepherds. The angels. These are things we all know about. These are things we can explain to others. It is one of the easiest times of the year to witness. And we have something to share.

Jesus. God's gift to mankind. God's gift of love. And it started with His birth.

What can you do? Pray about who needs to hear it. Ask God to send them to you. (You are less likely to be rejected if they come to you asking. So if you need it that way, God can accommodate you.) Then share the love. Share Jesus. Do it today. Why? "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" That is why!

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins

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**O Come
Let us
Adore
Him**



OH COME LET US ADORE HIM!

We have just completed yet another church year. Wow where does the time go? On Saturday evening and Sunday morning, November 25 and 26 we celebrated Christ the King Sunday. If you noticed among other things, our lessons had us look at Christ's coming again, and how to prepare for that day.

Our music was filled with joy and anticipation. *Lift High the Cross* is one of my favorite hymns. My heart rang with such joy as we sang it. I hope you love it also, and if you do, practice, practice, practice, as it will be sung at my funeral on a date to be determined by God.

We pray that you have accepted our challenge to take a stand and reform your personal life with the two year read the Bible challenge.

The first four weeks were enlightening, and really not such a hard read at all. Weeks 5-8, all written by Pastor Rob Hartwell, finish up Job 40-43 (11/27) and move us on to Genesis chapters 12-13 (11/28) and we read two chapters a day, every day, excluding Sundays. On 12/20 we move to Exodus 1-2 (12/20) Exodus 3-4 (12/21) Exodus 5-6 (12/22) and Exodus 7-8 (12/23).

If you would like to look ahead, remember to go to the web site:

<http://lutherantools.org/rb500/list?series=RB500-2017>

With an emphasis on Bible study this year for Trinity, we pray that you will take this challenge along with us and together we will be united in The Word.

In all things, to God be the glory, and may we take this challenge to increase our knowledge of preparedness for the Savior to come again.

If ever you have any questions or concerns, reach out to Pastor or one of our Deacons.

Advent blessings to all!

Your Deacons:

Doug Brosky

Anthony Cavaliere

Kathy Funfgeld

Betsy Lazarek

Peg Ruhs

Debbie Vergara

Lynn Waldeck



Christmas Blessings to our Trinity Family,

Merry Christmas to all and have a Blessed New Year!

Pastor John & Donna Hopkins



“What shall I give Him as small as I am,
If I was a shepherd, I’d give Him my lamb.
If I were a wise man I’d do my part.
What shall I give Him?
I’ll give Him my heart.”

This is by far one of my favorite little songs that our children sing to us each year. We make it into a prayer, and a daily guide to help us through the Holy season of Advent. How simple and pure, but what strong and encouraging strength!

What shall YOU give the Savior on His birthday?

Advent allows us time to prepare our hearts for this simple but life changing birth. An everyday couple, who right from the beginning, were challenged into a life that neither of them planned for. A visit from angels. A long journey on a beast of burden for one young woman who was great with child. An innkeeper who had no rooms, but only a simple cattle shed. The animals who stepped aside to give the baby a place to sleep.

How would that situation fit into your life?

I am not sure about you, but for me, none of that would fit into my schedule at all. Too much to do, too much to do. Too many people to visit, too many cards to write! The social calendar, the decorations, the tree, the gifts.

I talked with my “grand-girls” last week while getting ready for Thanksgiving and we talked about getting ready for Christmas. I asked them what they were singing in choir and instead of telling me, they sang the songs for me. I stood there and tears of joy streamed down my face. They sang with joy, enthusiasm and humble pride.

“That is it!” I said to them. You three have it. That is the gift that you will give to Baby Jesus, your voices and hearts.

Think about how and what YOU will give the baby this Christmas, why not start with your HEART. That is something that can and does fit into every schedule.

Christmas blessings to you and yours, with simple love.

Deacon Kathy Funfgeld



If you wish to sponsor one or more poinsettias to beautify our Sanctuary in celebration of the birth of our Lord, please fill out a memorial envelope, enclose payment and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Price per potted plant is \$20.00 and the deadline for ordering is Monday, December 18. Thank you!



Some Notes and Explanation of our Liturgy – Part 4

PREFACE – With the preface, we leave the service of the Word and turn our minds to heavenly things and the Lord’s Supper. These sentences have been spoken with the Lord’s Supper since around 220 AD, before the fall of the Roman Empire!



PROPER PREFACE – Preceding the Sanctus, the words of the Proper Preface change seasonally, reminding us of a specific act of Christ’s redemption. Whatever the words are seasonally, we are reminded that we sing the Sanctus that follows with all of God’s people in all times and place – “with angels and archangels we laud and magnify Thy Holy Name, evermore praising Thee and singing:” Wow, what a choir to be a part of!

SANCTUS – the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) is actually two hymns. The Sanctus is taken from Isaiah’s vision of God on His throne in Isaiah 6, where the angels sang these words to each other as they flew. It is a song that even now the saints and angels sing before the throne of God. The other hymn is the BENEDICTUS (blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord – Hosanna!). It is taken from the words of Psalm 118:26. We remember Jesus coming to Jerusalem as Messiah. Now Jesus comes to us in His sacred meal of salvation.

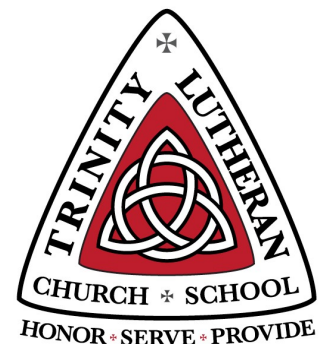
The Good News

Honor, Serve, Provide

Thank you, members of the Trinity community! We have received almost 300 survey responses and are excited to learn of your hopes and concerns for Trinity Lutheran’s Church and school. At first glimpse, most of you/us have similar expectations and anticipation for improvement.

Together with the Board of Properties and Church Council the Capital Campaign committee will sort out priorities examining the nature and scope of various projects along with a number of potential improvements.

This is an exciting time in the life of Trinity. We look forward to bringing you our plan for Trinity early next year.



Articles and submissions for the
January 2018
newsletter are due no later
than noon on
Thursday, December 21!





FALL CLEAN-UP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Thanks to several volunteers and a big hand from the Boy Scouts, the following was completed:

- Complete clean-up of leaves and spent plants
- Thorough clean out of Rose Garden and major trim of roses and bushes
- Patched black top in parking lot to relieve flooding conditions
- Painted church parlor ceiling and upgraded the lighting
- Repaired flashing on exterior of gym window
- Developed plan to repair leaking heating valve in classroom
- Developed plan to replace damaged cable to camera mounted on the Stammel Center
- Winterized sprinkler system and identified damaged sprinkler heads



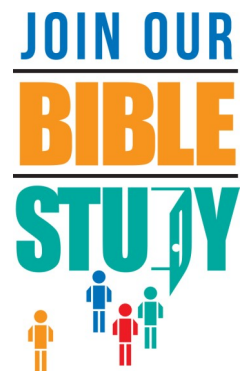
Thank you!!

The Good News

Bible Studies and Christian Education

THE BOOK OF ESTHER

The Tuesday afternoon Bible study group meets at 3:30pm in the Stammel Center with a study on the Book of Esther. Esther is a book filled with twists and intrigues that match any secular novel. However, above all it is a story of God never abandoning his people, even in what appear to be hopeless conditions. It is a story of God fulfilling his promise, to us his people. Come join us for the exciting study!



The Good News

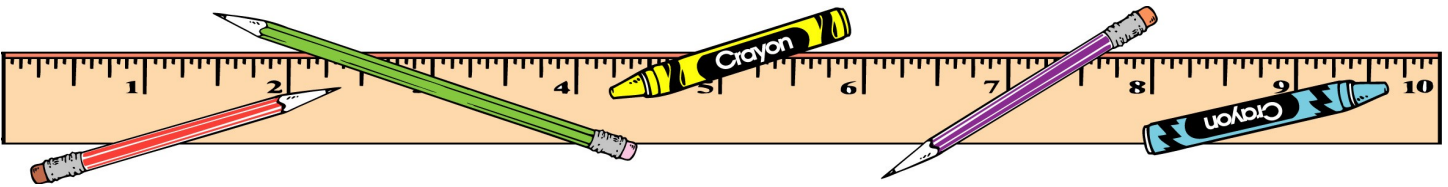
Thrivent Action Team Cards

Thrivent Members use their Action Team Cards to help Trinity Lutheran Church and School. Members get two \$250.00 Action Team Cards per year. They are used for fundraisers, servant events and education events as seed money. Here at Trinity, they have been used to help our volunteers to buy paint, plumbing and carpentry supplies to do repairs. Also our ministry groups have used them to buy party and food for fundraisers. The school used one for the students help after school in our Critter Club, feeding and cleaning the animal's tanks. If you are a Thrivent member please consider using this benefit to help at Trinity. For more information please call Lynn in the church office (x230).





Trinity Lutheran School has had a great month of togetherness and giving. Our annual Spirit Week was a huge hit with both students and staff. We then had a visit from State Senator Elaine Phillips. She spoke to our students about giving and thanked them for their generous contribution of water that was sent to aid the relief efforts in Puerto Rico. The Board of Christian Education then sponsored our church and school Fashion Show; the kickoff event of our Honor, Serve, Provide Campaign. Trinity's Girl Volleyball Team worked hard and came together to show great improvement this season. The Robotics Club is underway and working toward their participation in the Long Island Lego Robotics League. Parents and faculty spent a very productive two days in Parent-Teacher conferences. Finally, we all came together to give thanks for all of the fruits God has provided at our annual Thanksgiving Feast.



The Good News
Early Childhood Center News

All of our Early Childhood Center children spent the month of November talking about being thankful. The children sang, shared, and learned about all the blessings they have received. The Pre-K children were blessed to be able to join our K-8 students for the wonderful Thanksgiving Feast.

The Toddler classes continue to work on their small motor skills and learn fun new songs in class. The Nursery children discussed leaves, turkeys, and worked on their counting. Our Pre-K classes were hard at work writing, sorting, and baking!

As we begin the busy Christmas season with our ECC children we will teach the true meaning of the season to our youngest children at Trinity through song, crafts, and Bible stories.





Sunshine Ministries

This month I would like to focus on th what the Sunshine Circle does at Central Island Nursing Home. The second Saturday of each month, a group of volunteers meet at 2:00pm to prepared to share a smile and God's love to all who join us. While the recreational director gathers the nursing home residents who come to our service, we set up the altar and hand out worship books.

This is the format we follow:

Order of Worship

Pastor or Leader: We begin in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PSALM READING

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

HYMN

SERMON

PRAYERS

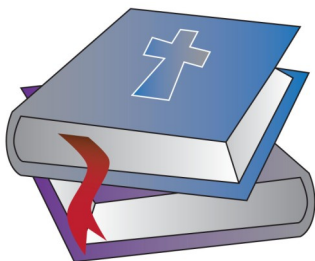
THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Jane Kramer plays hymns to go with our devotion. When the service is over we celebrate the birth-days of those with us with a gift and then we all sing "Happy Birthday." Last of all, everyone receives a small hand-made gift. We end as close as possible to 3:00pm.

Please join us as often as you can! We always come away more blessed than when we came. You can contact Helen Peter at 516-938-6914 if you are interested.

Helen Peter,
LWML President





Thank you one and all for answering God's call to our Consecration Sunday pledge cards! We are still open to receive your cards if you have not done so already.

To date here is a tally sheet for the cards received so far:

- TOTAL CARDS RECEIVED: 92
- THOSE WITH NAMES: 67
- OF THOSE WITH NAMES, SINGLE NAMES: 42
- OF THOSE WITH NAMES, MORE THAN ONE: 25
- NO NAMES: 25
- THOSE WHO WILL GIVE WEEKLY: 76
- THOSE WHO WILL GIVE MONTHLY: 14
- THOSE WHO WILL GIVE ANNUALLY: 3
- THOSE WHO INCREASED THEIR GIVING: 54
- THOSE WHO ARE TITHING: 6
- THOSE WHO ARE TITHING PLUS: 3
- THOSE WHO ARE WORKING TOWARD TITHING: 9
- 1 CARD MARKED WEEKLY WITH NO AMOUNT BUT INCREASE
- 1 CARD MARKED WITH NAME AS MORE THAN ONE BUT NO AMOUNT BUT INCREASED



**Thanks
for Your
Support!**

Please continue to pray for guidance and commitment to the ministry plan here at Trinity. You truly are a blessing to our church and especially to God.

The Good News
Christmas Food Baskets

You Make A Difference!



Thank you to all of you who, throughout the year, donate food, gift cards, clothing, and money, whatever is needed when asked. We have been blessed in our lives and at Christmas and throughout the year we have the joy of being able to help our neighbors in need. We will be packing food baskets for Christmas on Monday, December 18. Food and gift cards to grocery stores, Walmart and Target are appreciated. Any questions please call Deacon Lynn Waldeck in the church office (x230). Thank you and God Bless.



BEGINNING DECEMBER 17, Please pick up your 2018 offering envelopes outside the Multipurpose Room. If yours are missing or you would like a set of envelopes, please call Lynn in the church office at extension 230. Thank You.



This month as we celebrate the joyous birth of our Savior, it seems appropriate to focus on a few of the art pieces hanging up on the walls of the Stanley J. Kramer Memorial Art Gallery (East Wing).



Sarah Et Les Anges - "Sarah with the Angels," original lithograph by artist Marc Chagall, was given in memory of Henry Endorf (relative of former TLS principal Weldon Endorf). This lithograph was from Chagall's series "Drawing for the Bible," 1960. Chagall's bible illustrations form a major part of his work. The Great Chagall was the last surviving member of the School of Paris. Born in Russia in 1887, he painted in Paris in his early years, returned to Russia and was exiled in the U.S. and France during WWII. His superb works dot the continent. All of Chagall's works have a dream-like quality. In this particular work, Chagall has captured Sarah, "Ancestress of All Israel." Sarah, unable to conceive a child and now in her elderly years, is suddenly visited by three angels. The angels reveal to Sarah that even though it seems impossible, God will bless her with a son (Isaac) of whom will form the lineage to the birth of God's Son, the promised Savior.

The Nativity (Christ Shown to the People) - is an original etching and aquatint by artist Andrea Scacciati II (1770) given by the Wagner family. Andrea Scacciati, born in Florence, was a pupil of the famed J. Schweykhard. In 1766 he published a set of forty-one plates in aquatint from drawings by distinguished masters in the Uffizi (one of the oldest and most famous art museums of the western world).



The Flight into Egypt - given in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Wagner by their friends, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Vernon C. Wagner Funeral Home. This piece is an original stencil by artist Sadao Watanabe (1970), which features the artist's vision of Joseph fleeing to Egypt with Mary and infant son Jesus. Born in Tokyo of Buddhist parents, Sadao Watanabe connected to Christianity when he was eighteen and had been fascinated by biblical themes ever since. His stencil prints were done on washi, a hand-made Japanese paper. The black stencil design was applied and each print hand colored. Watanabe's works enhance the Museum of Modern Art, the Carnegie Museum and the Vatican Collection.

TRINITY CHURCH AND SCHOOL FAMILY CHRISTMAS DECORATING AND TREE LIGHTING

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2017
FOLLOWING THE LATE WORSHIP SERVICE
(APPROX. 12 NOON)



ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- ❄️ MAKING A CHRISTIAN-THEMED ORNAMENT FOR TRINITY'S TREE
- ❄️ HELPING THE BOARD OF PROPERTIES DECORATE THE SANCTUARY
- ❄️ A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS
- ❄️ 1:00PM CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING AND CAROL SINGING IN THE NARTHEX
- ❄️ FOLLOWED BY THE OFFICIAL COUNTDOWN TO THE
❄️ LIGHTING OF THE TREE! ❄️



HOT CHOCOLATE AND COOKIES TO FOLLOW!

*YOU ARE ALSO INVITED TO DONATE ONE OF YOUR PERSONAL CHRISTIAN
ORNAMENTS TO ADD TO TRINITY'S TREE AS WE CREATE
A TRUE TRINITY FAMILY CHRISTMAS TREE!*



**We Invite You to Worship with Us
This Christmas Season!**

Trinity's Advent worship services will be held each Wednesday on December 6, 13, and 20 at 7:15 pm. Regular worship is on Saturdays at 6:30 PM and Sundays at 9:00 and 10:45 AM.

Advent 4, Saturday/Sunday, December 23/24

- 6:30 PM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship w/ Holy Communion

Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

- 6:00 PM Family Christmas Worship Service
- 7:30 PM Carols and Candles Service
- 9:00 PM Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion
- 11:00 PM Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion

Christmas Day, Monday, December 25

- 9:30 AM Family Communion Service

Saturday/Sunday, December 30/31

- 6:30 PM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 10:45 AM Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

New Year's Eve, Sunday, December 31

- 6:30 PM Holy Communion Service

We recognize that this time of year is a very busy time for all of God's people. We invite you to take a moment in the midst of that busy-ness to worship God, who gives us every gift. Come into His Sanctuary, take refuge and rejoice!

