

The Herald

Trinity Lutheran Church 1141 West Chester Pike
Havertown, PA

January 2021

Whenever we feel as if we can no longer go
on... **HOPE** whispers in our ears to
remind us that we are strong.



Let us go forward in 2021 with **HOPE**
in our hearts.



January 2021

Dear Trinity

Happy New Year!

Grace, peace, life and love from God our Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

This time last year we were all so hopeful for the joys, wonders of 2020. A new year, a new decade, and didn't it just sound so amazing – 2020! It would be a year that we would “see” clearly! It was to be a year of great new adventures, new discoveries and new opportunities.

But it wasn't so amazing. By the time we got to February we started to hear news of this strange new virus – but we were still hopeful or maybe naïve that it would not come our way. However, by the time we got to March we were beginning to know what Covid-19 was going to be. Then each month we learned more about the virus than anyone wanted to know.

2020 - what a year! Covid-19. Infection rates sky-rocketing. Lockdowns. Stay at home orders. Ventilators. Riots. Job losses. Toilet paper shortages. Stock market plummeted. Vacations and sports canceled, Zoom funerals. Zoom church. Election results confusing. Second wave. No traditional Thanksgiving or Christmas celebrations. Over 307,000 deaths. Hospitals filled to capacity.

And finally the arrival of the long-awaited vaccine.

We all have been through a lot – and I think there is a general mood that once the clock strikes 12 AM on January 1st we can all put 2020 in the rear-view mirror and things will magically return to normal. We lived through it and now things have to get better and better.

I really hope that they do. I pray that they do. I anticipate that things will get better. I want them to not only get back to normal but be better than normal. But I

think “normal” will be a slow return – and some things that we were used to may never return to normal.

I think we will forever mourn the loss of some local businesses that were not able to survive the shutdowns.

I think it will take years for some people to build back after being laid-off from work. I also think that our culture will need to make adjustments to care for all of the economic and community changes because of our 2020 experiences.

When I wrote January 2021 on the header of this letter – it felt good and very hopeful.

But what will we do if the years 2021, 2022, 2023 are not better?

When things get bad we need to acknowledge them. We don’t have to let them overwhelm us but we do have to acknowledge that things like viruses cause sickness and even death. Really bad viruses and disease can lead to pandemics which can lead to millions and millions of deaths.

We don’t want to gloss over the truth. And these things are truths that we may already be facing or may have to face in the future.

But saying all of that doesn’t mean that we simply give up on the next few years. It doesn’t mean that we go into hiding. It doesn’t mean that we stock up on toilet paper and Purell. It doesn’t mean that we lose our love, our joy and our peace. It doesn’t mean that we give up on life.

So, what do we do during troubled times? What do we do when we faced with trials, sufferings and persecutions?

We turn to the basics of our faith. We look toward the LORD for he is Lord and our keeper. During these months I found myself meditating on Psalm 121 that reminds us over and over again that our Help comes from God and He is our keeper.

Jesus knew what it meant to live during troubled times. Jesus lived under the rule of King Herod the Great and then his sons, King Herod Archelaus, King Herod Antipas and King Philip. None of these rulers could be considered to be great

advocates of personal freedom and democracy. They all did their best to rule over their people with an iron hand.

Jesus also lived under the rule of Rome. He lived at a time when Rome was doing its best to crush the Israelite nation under its feet. He lived at a time filled with political unrest, ruthless violence and tyranny.

We know that Jesus lost his cousin, John the Baptist, all because John upset King Herod Antipas. John had preached against Antipas stealing his brother's (Herod II) wife (Herodias). Herod Antipas was so upset with John's preaching that he put him into prison. Later on at the request of Herodias's daughter, John was beheaded.

The Bible tells us that while Jesus was traveling and preaching, He was in constant danger of being arrested by the Romans, Herod Antipas and/or the religious rulers (Pharisees and Sadducees). All of them at one time wanted nothing more than to kill Jesus. They all saw Jesus as a threat to their way of life.

So, we know that Jesus personally understood tragedy. He knew what it meant to have the government against you, what it meant to go days without food and water and what it meant to even have your own family think you are insane (Mark 3:21).

But in light of all of that, Jesus tremendously enjoyed life here on this earth. He danced at weddings. He fed multitudes as they celebrated hearing God's Word. He brought peace to those who were going through a storm and brought healing and wholeness to thousands that He met along His travels.

Jesus lived a life of hope. Jesus lived a life filled with inner peace, with joy and with amazing love. Jesus lived what He called the Abundant Life. Jesus did all of that by placing His Hope in His Heavenly Father and in His Holy Spirit.

And Jesus tells us that we can have that hope as well.

"I have said these things to you, that in me you can have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

Because Jesus overcame the world we can have hope today no matter what is happening around us. In Jesus we can constantly experience peace, a peace that passes all understanding. In Jesus we can rise above the trials of this world and live a life of victory filled with love, joy and peace.

When we put our faith in God – when we lean into the Lord - we have hope.

Think about that for a moment or two.

This is how the Apostle Paul lived.

And if there was a man who experience more than his share of trials and temptations it was the Apostle Paul. Listen to one passage where Paul shares what he has already had to endure:

“ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys; in danger from rivers; danger from robbers; danger from my own people; danger from Gentiles; danger in the city; danger in the wilderness; danger at sea; danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship; through many a sleepless night; in hunger and thirst; often without food; in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.” 2 Corinthians 11:24-28

I don't think that there are many people alive today who have had to suffer the number of trials and tribulations that the Apostle Paul experienced.

And yet, this same man having experienced all those hardships is able in the Spirit to write words like these:

“Rejoice always” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice” – Philippians 4:4

The really amazing thing is that he writes these words while he is sitting in prison arrested and jailed because of his faith. What can we learn from St. Paul?

In fact, when Paul thinks about his life and his troubles he is able to say: “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.” – Romans 8:16

Then he reminds us all of a basic truth of our faith that “Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness.” – Romans 8:26a

The Holy Spirit has been given to you in your Baptism – and this means that we are never alone and that God is ALWAYS with us through the ups and downs of this life.

So, because of this no matter what comes our way we have the victory not because we are determined and full of grit and stamina. We can face the future because of the Lord. We can face it because our trust is in Jesus. We can face it because we have been infilled with His Holy Spirit. And when life gets hard I remind myself that: “I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.” – Philippians 4:14

So, we welcome the new year – looking forward to whatever the year brings knowing that I have all that I need in Christ. As we turn the calendar to 2021 I encourage you to turn off the news and open up your Bibles. Put down the cell phone and tablet and talk to Jesus. Shut down the social media and allow the Holy Spirit to bring you comfort, wisdom and guidance.

Hopeful in Christ,

Pastor Littleton



As we begin a New Year . . .

We are in the midst of a time of heightened spiritual, emotional, and physical awareness. In this time of world weariness and human hope, comes the light in the midst of the darkness.

Wisdom comes in this prayer practice offered by Howard Thurman in *Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans*.

I Need Thy Sense of Time

Always I have an underlying anxiety about things.
Sometimes I am in a hurry to achieve my ends
And am completely without patience. It is hard for me
To realize that some growth is slow,
That all processes are not swift. I cannot always discriminate
Between what takes time to develop and what can be rushed,

Because my sense of time is dulled.
I measure things in terms of happenings.
O to understand the meaning of perspective
That I may do all things with a profound sense of leisure —
of time.

I Need Thy Sense of Order

The confusion of the details of living
Is sometimes overwhelming. The little things
Keep getting in my way providing ready-made
Excuses for failure to do and be.
What I know I ought to do and be.
Much time is spent on things that are not very important
While significant things are put into an insignificant place
In my scheme of order. I must unscramble my affairs
So that my life will become order. O God, I need
Thy sense of order.

I Need Thy Sense of the Future

Teach me to know that life is ever
On the side of the future.
Keep alive in me the forward look, the high hope,
The onward surge. Let me not be frozen
Either by the past or the present.
Grant me, O patient Father, Thy sense of the future
Without which all life would sicken and die.
(Compiled by Healthy Congregations)



Congregational Meeting



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting on Zoom on Jan 24 @ 10:50 AM

We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 24, immediately after worship using the same zoom link. Worship and meeting Zoom Meeting ID: 817 1868 9398

The agenda of the meeting will be two very important items

- Approval of the 2021 Budget
- Approval of the newly revised Constitution that was updated with changes made by the ELCA

We shared the revised Constitution with the membership last May at the Congregational Meeting. Mr. David Koch walked us through some of the changes. According to the present constitution we are required to do a process of two congregational meetings for the adoption of the constitution.

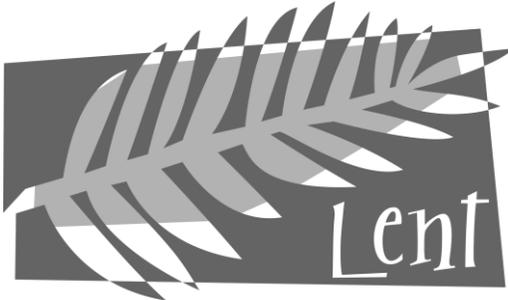
This year because of the Pandemic we have faced some unique financial challenges mainly because the school was closed and did not have tuition income. Over the years Trinity has become very dependent on the income generated through the school. Marian Galante, our Nursery School Director, has done a wonderful job of making our school viable and safe this fall. But because about 35% of families withdrew their children from the school until the virus is under control they are not financially secure. Because of this the school will not be self-sustainable probably for the rest of this school year. We are hopeful that the school will be able to resume their normal summer camps and have a near normal opening in September 2021. Ms Barbara Ryan worked hard working with numbers to put a realistic budget together.

I will share both the 2021 Budget and the Constitution in my weekly letter prior to the meeting.

If you do not get my letter and would like a hard copy of these documents, please reach out to Darlene in the church office at 610-446-6398 and request a copy.

If you are not getting my weekly newsletter – please send me your email and I will include you on the list. You can email me at DrDee3@gmail.com

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**Lent begins on Wednesday, February 17.  
Pastor is planning a Virtual Lenten program.  
Details coming soon.**

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Opportunity for Generosity

Once a month in your pack of Trinity Offering Envelopes there is a red special giving envelope that highlights 4 opportunities for giving. These areas are Synod Benevolence, World Hunger, Missionary and Lutheran Charities. I want to highlight Lutheran Charities. We used to be able to send our gifts in a bundle way and the various Lutheran Charities in Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod would simply divvy the monies between all the organizations. Now they are asking us to be specific about who receives the money. If you like to make a special gift to KenCrest please send your check to Trinity with the notation of “KenCrest” in the memo line. **Therefore, in the months of January and February if you make a donation to Lutheran Charities, you will be supporting our renowned KenCrest Ministries. By the way, Linda Weiser works for KenCrest.**

KenCrest services 3 populations - Adults, Youth and Children – all populations have varieties of concerns that stem from cognitive and developmental delays.

KenCrest supports community development by exploring possibilities, mobilizing resources, and empowering dreams.

For Adults -



- Community Living- group homes for adults.
- Supported Independent Living – allowing adults to be independent
- Supported and Customized Employment
- Day Programs

For Youth –



- Transition and Education Supports – school base support
- Project Search – Job training and skill development

For Children –



- Early Learning Centers (pre-school with special needs children, infants -5 years)
- ChildFind - identifies children as risk
- KenCrest Nursing – nursing care for children in transitional care centers
- Children’s Transitional Care Homes – for children who are medically fragile and Educational Programs for schools

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## CONFIRMATION

This year the youth will study Luther's Small Catechism. Besides catechetical classes, the youth are required to complete 22 sermon notes, 25 hours of service each year, regularly attend worship.

## CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE

Confirmation classes are held Sunday evenings at 6:15 PM via ZOOM unless otherwise indicated by Pastor.

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Women's Bible study meets via ZOOM every Friday at 10 AM and we will begin our classes on January 8, 2021.

We start off with socializing, prayer requests and we will begin to read and discuss 2 Timothy. If you would like to join our engaging and inquiring group, let Pastor or Darlene know and we will make sure that the ZOOM link is sent to you.



MUSIC MINISTRY – ADULT CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

All are welcome to join us when we are able to rehearse again!

Music in Isolation

Musicians all over the world have succumbed to the loss of live performances, but so much music is being created. A quick trip on YouTube will indulge you with some beautiful virtual videos that have given us all something to look forward to! In fact, some of the greatest composers learned the benefit of seclusion long before a pandemic forced it. Here are a few examples-

Gustav Mahler- Mahler built huts in the woods around pianos so that he could be completely secluded while he wrote. Apparently, servants would leave bread and butter at the door, but come and depart on a separate path than the composer himself. The servants often shared great concern that the composer would be mauled by a bear. The concept of a composer's "hut" was also popular with others such as...

Edvard Grieg- Grieg built a hut down on the river's edge. Because it was on a water channel frequently used for transportation. He left a handwritten note on the desk because of frequent "visitors" to the river, "If anyone should break in here, please leave the musical scores, since they have no value to anyone except Edvard Grieg."

John Luther Adams- a contemporary composer, Adams built a small cabin in the mountains. Having no electricity, Adams kept food and beverages in his car cooler. He tells the story that one evening, his car door had been wrenched open and the cooler destroyed by a passing bear. (Mahler's servants had valid concern!)

Though the pandemic has ended live performances for now, I'm hopeful that today's composers are finding their creative voice, and we'll come out of this time with a LOT of amazing new music to work on and perform for all of you!

~~ Kirsten Halker-Kratz, Music Director





Trinity Lutheran Nursery School & Mother's Morning Out News

Christmas time is here! The children are getting excited for Santa. Our students are writing letters (literally...the letters A, B, C, up to J), making pictures, and are practicing a lot of Ho Ho Ho's! No matter what is going on in the world the children make things better!

The kids come to school each day eagerly and they are so happy to see their friends and teachers. They leave their masks on and follow all the guidelines of the classroom. In class they sit at their desks or lap desks and do their projects, eat their lunch or just have a snack. Our children are wonderful little people.

With our out-front play yards, each class is having 40 minutes of fresh air each morning. We have some huge puzzle boxes for them to assemble. Some are snowmen, and one is a giant gingerbread house with two cute gingerbread men! We are having lots of fun outdoors under our 'snowflake' trees.

Rumor has it that Santa might visit our front lawn playground very soon. That will be a very exciting day!

Thank you to our families for donating the slides and tables. We appreciate their generosity.

We are looking forward to the New Year and Miss Marian is looking forward to the vaccine!

God's Blessings to all! Shalom, Pace, Salaam, Siochain, and Fried to you all during this holiday season.

~~Miss Marian



PRAYING THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

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The Amadio Family, Penny Starr Ashton, Bill Bast, The Bazik Family, Ardeth Berg, The Bistline Family, The Buonviri Family, and The Rishel Burke Family,
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Please Pray for... Bill Bast, Jere Young, Dorothy Plantholt, Don and Nancy Corman, Susan Haines, Carol Lyons, Dave Huntington, Louise Wallace, Maria DeFeo, Jenny Zalkind, Jon, Jenna and Ryan Sweeney, Eli Kelley, Debbie Maguire, Stark Lash, Tom and Ann Shiffer, Judy Pusey, Dan Romano, Pastor Sara Hale, Kathy Mosley and Judy Hancock

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Thank You

Debbie Maguire would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers, offers of help during the time she was hospitalized, while at Bryn Mawr Rehab and after she returned home. It means a lot to her and has helped her persevere in her continuing efforts in recovering fully.

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MEALS FOR THE LIFE CENTER

Winter approaches and the need to feed the homeless continues. The following items are always needed to make hot meals for the Life Center:

Cans of tuna
Creamed soups – any kind
Pasta - **no spaghetti, please**
Jars of mayonnaise
Jars of applesauce

If you would like to drop food off at the church, the office is opened from 8-1, Monday – Friday. Call the office (610- 446 6398) to let Darlene know you are coming and ring the bell at the Office door. Darlene will come down to the door and take your donations and put them in the pantry closet in the Social Hall kitchen.

Thank you all for supporting our Homeless Ministry. If you have any questions or concerns about the meal program, please contact Linda Weiser (for cooking) and Ann Shiffer (for serving) or Brigitte Gdovin for general information.



December cooks: Linda Weiser

December servers: Tom Shiffer, Fred Sanger, 2nd and Fred Sanger, 3rd. Fred and Fred are members at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lansdowne. We have been serving with St. Paul's for many years, sharing the cooking and supplies.

Thank you all for supporting our Homeless Ministry. If you have any questions or concerns about the meal program, please contact Linda Weiser (for general info or for cooking opportunities), or Ann Shiffer for serving opportunities. I know we are

always asking for help and we can't expect every member to be involved in every donation request, but please know that we absolutely appreciate every single can of tuna for our pantry or handful of change that goes into the noisy offering. And those we serve every month are very appreciative also. For some, it is the only meal of the day. And our smiles may be the only smiles they see. That is what makes it all worthwhile.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,... ~-Matthew 25:35

It has been brought to my attention that the shelves at the Food Bank at Hope United Methodist Church at the corner of Steel and Eagle Roads are just about empty.

At this time of year especially during winter, food items need to be replenished for those who are less fortunate than we. **Items needed the most are: coffee, tea, juice, ketchup, boxed macaroni and cheese, pasta, beans, canned meats, toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap,** and really anything else you can bring to help those in need to prepare a meal or take care of their other needs.

I went “shopping” in my pantry at home and found many things that I donated and I plan on doing so again. Maybe you can go “shopping” in your home pantries, too?

You can call Hope at 610-446-3351 to arrange a drop off time before 1 PM, Tuesday-Fridays. You will be met with a shopping cart to help you bring groceries inside.

Hope will be open to the public on the third Saturday of each month, 1-3 PM.

~- Thank you, Darlene



On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from the list of eligible organizations.

We are listed as:
Trinity Lutheran Church of Havertown

When you shop make sure you are in Smile.Amazon.com

Those using Chrome as your browser will be able to download an App that will take you automatically to AmazonSmile



**JANUARY 2 - RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE
10 AM – 3 PM
TRINITY SOCIAL HALL**

**JANUARY 17 – MUSIC AND WORSHIP MEETING
FOLLOWING OUR IN-HOME CHURCH SERVICE**

**JANUARY 19 – CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME – EMAIL PASTOR FOR THE ZOOM
INFORMATION**

**JANUARY 24 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FOLLOWING OUR IN-HOME CHURCH SERVICE**