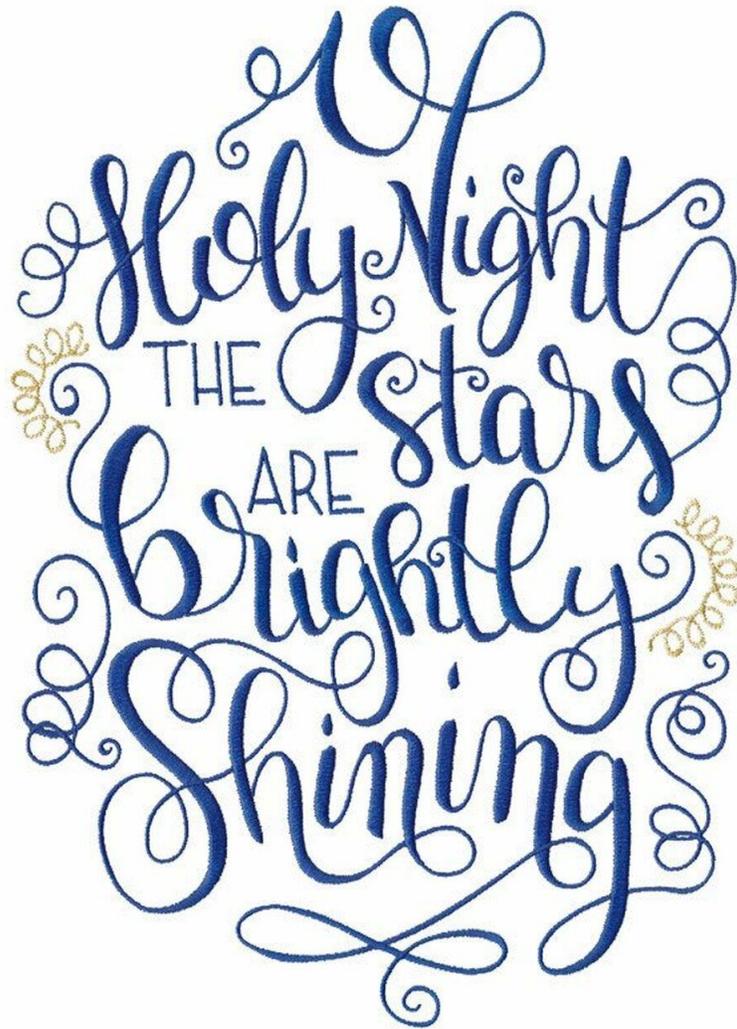


The Herald

Trinity Lutheran Church
1141 West Chester Pike Havertown, PA 19083
December 2021



"It is Christmas every time you let God love others
through you."
~Mother Teresa~

From the Pastor's Desk

Christmas is coming! Advent is here! The season of Advent marks the beginning of the Church calendar year. It is a season of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Christ child, Jesus. He is Emmanuel – God with us – the coming of the Light among us, renewed in our hearts.

The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival”. The focus of the entire season is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ in his “first” Advent and the anticipation of the return of Christ the King in his “second” Advent. It is the celebration of a truth about God, the revelation of God in Christ whereby all of creation might be reconciled to God. This is also a time for individuals and for a congregation to affirm that Christ **has** come, that God **is** present in the world today, and that Christ **will** come again in power.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, and preparation. So as we wait and prepare for Christmas, with our cleaning, decorating, baking, buying presents, cooking, shopping and traveling, let us not forget that, Jesus is the reason for the season. Let us not forget, that love is at the center of this season. God loves **us**, which compels us to love **others**. While anticipating this upcoming celebration, let us not forget those for whom this celebration is a reminder of being alone or feeling disconnected to the world around them. Let us remember those who have lost loved ones or are distant from them in heart or body. Those who have experienced loss often feel sad because Christmas is coming.

May we share the **hope** we find in Advent. That **dynamic hope**, that is filled with the possibilities and opportunities that God places before us. That **compelling hope**, that allows us to open our hearts, to the “God within” and the Spirit of God that energies us. It is **that hope** that allows us to move forward with our heads held high, and with a sense of direction and purpose for our lives. In **that hope** Trinity can also move forward, during this transitional period, and explore who and what God is calling it to be and do, at this point in its history. In **that hope**, God is with us.

Let us embody this upcoming season of love that the Christ child brings, and reach out to those who are away from their family and friends. Reach out to those who feel lost, who are in need of shelter, who have suffered loss, who are food insecure, or who are just plain depressed. We can share that love this Advent and Christmas in the little things. Perhaps it’s with a smile, a hello, a phone call, a visit, a meal, or a simple act of kindness. Be a witness to the love of God, the hope you have within you, and the blessings you have received. Yes, Christmas is coming! Advent is here!

Peace, Joy, and Blessings,
Pastor Gwen, Interim Pastor (AKA: Rev. Gwendolyn S. King)



TRINITY IS OPEN FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP

9:00 AM - Adult Bible study will meet in the Fritsch Room.

9:15 AM - Trinity will have Intergenerational Faith Formation at for children and adults in the Social Hall.

10:30 AM - The worship service will follow the Faith Formation programs.
Choir rehearsal immediately following Sunday service

In-person worship will continue each Sunday at 10:30 AM until further notice.

Those who cannot join us in person can follow us on “Facebook Live.” Please go to Trinity Lutheran Church Havertown on Facebook.



As the end of the year draws near it is time to reflect on 2021 and the experiences it provided. Most of us can say they had some very unique experiences unto themselves. I certainly can say that was true for me! And there are also experiences that we all shared together in 2021 which affected us in different and personal ways.

And as we look back we need to recognized those people who stepped forward to do more than was expected in filling a void here at Trinity. One of those people was our very own Kendyll Ward who most willingly and excellently filled in as our worship leader on several Sundays. Her efforts were most extraordinary and I know she spent considerable time preparing for those Sunday services.

Normally when we have a guest worship leader or supply pastor Trinity will pay that person for their time, like we did for Pastor Johnson and Seminarian Cari States-Codding. But Kendyll served as volunteer and compensating volunteers is not something that is normally done and doing so would create a contradiction in terms and set a precedent that could complicate matters in the future.

Council has decided that we are going to offer you, as a member of Trinity, the opportunity to show your appreciation to Kendyll for her efforts by contributing to a Christmas gift collection that we have organized for her.

Please send your tax deductible contribution to this gift during December via check or electronic payment making sure you have indicated it as Kendyll’s Gift. It is this way we can properly show our gratitude and appreciation to her for what she has done for Trinity.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas Season.

Jim Hasselman, Council President.

ANNUAL MEETING

At our January Congregational meeting following worship on January 23, 2022, we will be voting on a proposed amendment to Bylaw C11.01.02:

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution

A redundant sentence has been identified in one of the bylaws in the text of the revised constitution that was adopted at the Congregation Meeting last January. The Congregation Council, in accordance with the provisions of C17.03. is hereby providing notice of a proposed amendment to remove the redundancy, to be voted on at the January 2022 Congregational meeting. The council recommends approval of the amendment.

Amend Bylaw C11.01.02 in the Constitution for Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, as approved at the April 2020 and unanimously adopted at the January 2021 Congregational Meetings, changing the current text:

C11.01.02. The Vice President shall, when present, preside at all meetings of this Congregation and of the Congregation Council in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall succeed the President if the President is unable to serve. The Vice President shall have such other powers and perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to him/her by the Congregation Council or as may be prescribed in the Constitution or these Bylaws. The Vice President shall succeed the President if the President is unable to serve.

to read as follows:

and of the Congregation Council in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall have such other powers and perform such duties as may from time to time be assigned to him/her by the Congregation Council or as may be prescribed in the Constitution or these Bylaws. The Vice President shall succeed the President if the President is unable to serve.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROSITY

In the month of December if you make a donation to Lutheran Charities, you will be supporting our renowned KenCrest Ministries.

By the way, Linda Weiser works for KenCrest.

MUSIC MINISTRY – ADULT CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

You are invited to join the Adult Choir, following the Sunday service or Bell Choir which meets every other Monday evening at 7 PM.

Things aren't always what they seem...

My co-workers were talking up a local vegetarian spot not too far from the school. And since it was on my way into work around 8 am, I decided to check it out myself. It was small, and while the food was okay, I couldn't quite understand what was so good about it. I happened to mention it to a co-worker, and she said, "How about I take you for lunch?" There was a wonderful buffet, full of delicious salads, stir fry and curries. The reason I never knew it existed was because I was there at breakfast--when a modular wall hid the buffet from view. The buffet opened at noon.

Our faith also has these moments. Doubting Thomas is one of my absolute favorite faith stories. He only believes when he sees Jesus, and I always sympathize with Thomas. I saw Jesus die on a cross, and therefore I know what I saw. But just like the "hidden" buffet, we learned things aren't what Thomas thought. I think a big part of my faith is recognizing that I'll never quite meet Jesus's expectations, but I can look a little deeper, think before I leap, question before I answer, and reach a little further to "see" what isn't obvious, and trust He's leading even when I don't see the path in front of me. ~~*Kirsten*

Trinity Lutheran Nursery School and Mother's Morning Out News

We have so many things for which to be thankful!

First, I am thankful for these little people I get to spend my day with. "They say the darnedest things!" (Art Linkletter) They are very entertaining.

Second, I am thankful for the wonderful people working here. Each teacher strives to facilitate the learning process creatively. Always adapting ideas within the realm of a preschooler

Third, I am thankful for this beautiful church that houses this school. We have been blessed.

The children painted, colored, outlined traced so many turkeys this month. My favorite project was the pictographs. The story telling symbols used by the Native Americans. The children copied some symbols to tell their own story!

In honor of Vincent Van Gogh, we recreated some of his masterpieces. Please enjoy our Stairwell Gallery. The children dab-painted the pieces with a sponge affixed to a clothespin. We mixed different shades of the same color and followed the outlines of the drawing. We properly used a paint brush when we made the stems of the flowers and branches.

At the end of each piece, the teachers helped to accentuate with contrasting colors. "Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." (Vincent Van Gogh) ~ *Miss Marian*

PRAYING THROUGH MEMBERSHIP

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Louise Wallace, The Ward Family, The Karah Weiser, Caleb Lockhart and Demetrius Lockhart Family, Linda Weiser, Malcolm Wise, Carolyn Wrabetz, Jere and Connie Young, and The Zalkind Family  
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Please Pray for... Bill Bast, Jere Young, Dorothy Plantholt, Don and Nancy Cornman, Susan Haines, Carol Lyons, Dave Huntington, Louise Wallace, Glenn Miller, Margit Hibben, Debbie Maguire, Richard Campbell, Tom Shiffer. Jim Hasselman, Darlene Leech, and Connie and Jere Young.

MEALS FOR THE LIFE CENTER

We **NEED** the following to make hot casseroles for the Life Center:
Cream of Mushroom soup, Mayonnaise, Canned Tuna, Mixed Vegetables, and Shredded Cheese (you can put the cheese in the silver refrigerator in the Social Hall)
Please help when you are out grocery shopping.

Cooks for the November meal: Linda Weiser and Tom Shiffer. Delivery and serving: Ann Shiffer and Fred Sanger II and Fred Sanger III from St Paul's and their cousin, Tina.

We are now serving ice tea and/or lemonade from Swiss Farms rather than in powdered form, so any donations for drinks can be made in the gallon jug or perhaps a gift card from Swiss Farms or Wawa. Thank you again for your continued support and generosity.

I want to extend a huge thank you to all those who pitched in one way or another to provide a bountiful early Thanksgiving meal for 30 homeless individuals on Monday, November 22. Whether they donated cash, food items, their artistic talents or their culinary skills, we all pitched in to make it happen. Thanks to Helen and Dave Koch, Leslie and Matt Cardin, Darlene Leech, Linda Weiser, Brigitte Gdovin, Miss Marian's artistic students, Pastor Gwen, Fred Sanger II and III, and a couple friends of mine, Karen Peed and Linda DiMeo. We prepared and served roasted turkey breast, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, peas, cranberries, gravy, rolls, and lots of desserts. We are hoping to do something, perhaps a baked ham, around Christmas. If you want to help us, please contact Ann Shiffer (t.shiffer@comcast.net) or Darlene at the Trinity office.

WHO'S WHO IN OUR HOMELESS MINISTRY PROGRAM

LIFE CENTER – This is the shelter at 63rd and Market, Upper Darby. **The Community Outreach Program** has been serving meals at this shelter for 30 years since it was built. Fifty groups, mostly places of worship, have a monthly date for serving clients who live there.

Formerly 50 clients lived at the Center, there are now 30. Before Covid we also fed anyone from the community who showed up for a meal. Hopefully we will be able to serve the surrounding community soon.

CONNECT and **CONNECT BY NIGHT** - Connect helped homeless individuals find the resources they needed to get back on their feet.

CONNECT BY NIGHT - bused 50 individuals to a different place of worship each month at 9 PM for a warm place to sleep. Trinity hosted CBN during the month of February for a number of years, providing snacks, toiletries, warm outerwear, and a nice lunch for the next day.

CONNECT HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED

PROJECT SHARE - SHARE used to rent office space to Connect, but now they provide daytime-only mental health services for about 25 or more homeless persons. There is no meal program, nor is there guaranteed nighttime arrangements for a place to sleep.

PLEASE HELP TRINITY HELP OTHERS

Trinity is continuing to provide a hot meal the first Tuesday of each month for the Life Center. In addition, we are going to provide **30 substantial lunches** for **SHARE** the next day. If you can volunteer to help make lunches beginning in January, please contact Ann Shiffer at t.shiffer@comcast.net or Darlene in Trinity's office. These lunches will be dropped off on the first Tuesday of the month (Trinity's day to serve a hot meal at the Life Center) so that Ann can get them to **SHARE** to be distributed the next day. If we can get volunteers to make a substantial lunch (no peanut butter and jelly) consisting of lunch meat and cheese; tuna, egg or chicken salad (a real treat for them but please serve on a roll. If you use bread the sandwich will become soggy); a bottle of water or juice box; a piece of fruit (remember that many of these folks have dental issues and biting into a hard apple, for instance, may be impossible, let alone chew); a snack and something for the next morning like a cruller, donut, power bar (remember, soft consistency) or another piece of fruit. I like to make a lunch for them that I would enjoy myself.

Please think about this going forward in January and the following months. We would like to make this a permanent part of our ministry.

I will place a calendar-type list out on the bulletin board by the elevator where you can volunteer and add how many lunches you will make. The lunches need to be dropped off the first Tuesday of the month. Ann Shiffer will take them to **SHARE**. Remember, we need 30 lunches; if you can make 5 that would make it easier for more to volunteer and share the love of helping others.

~~Ann Shiffer (t.shiffer@comcast.net)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday, December 18th 9 AM-11 AM

“Boundless Breakfast”

Available in the Social Hall

Served by Trinity Youth Group

(pancakes, sausage or bacon, juice, fruit)

\$8.00 per plate

Additional Donations Welcomed

Spread the word!

Fundraiser in support of Youth trip to National Youth Gathering

Tuesday, December 21st – 7 PM – Church Council via Zoom

All are welcome to attend!

Let the office or Jim Hasselman know and you will receive a Zoom invite and link to join the meeting.



Friday, December 24th

The Family Service will begin at 4 PM

The Candlelight Service will begin at 7:30 PM





Sunday, December 26th – 10:30 AM The First Sunday of Christmas
Joyful Noise service with
Lessons and Carol Singing.
Wear a Christmas sweater or special Christmas attire and join us.



Sunday, January 2nd – 10:30 AM The Second Sunday of Christmas
“Brunch Church” in the Social Hall.
Please bring a dish to share with our Trinity family.
A sign-up sheet will be on the bulletin board by the elevator.

