

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

December 2020

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*Wait for God - stand tall and let your heart take courage!
Yes, wait for God!
Psalm 27:14*

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

This advent season may be our first and only opportunity to practice Advent in the way it was intended to be practiced. Perhaps life in an ongoing global pandemic will finally force us to settle down, to stay close to home, to experience the joy of simple pleasures, to make time for rest, stillness, silence, prayer, and meditation. Perhaps this season of our lives will help us with the discipline of mindful watching, waiting, longing, and desiring for Christ's presence in our lives which is the very essence of Advent.

In order to keep ourselves and others safe during this Advent and Christmas season, our lives should look very different. That means no large gatherings, no indoor parties, more online shopping and fewer, if any, trips to the mall, more time at home, less time out in the world. For those of us who prefer to be constantly moving and active, this Advent Season may be calling us to stillness. This Advent Season may also be calling us to frame our lives a bit differently. For me, this reframing is going to include an intentional effort to stop asking the question, "What if?" I ask this question constantly. What if I get sick? What if my family gets sick? What happens when or if somebody on our church staff gets sick? What if the weather is bad and an event cannot be held outside? What if this pace cannot be sustained? There are so many what-ifs and all of them are based on fear, fear of the unknown and fear of the future. My intention is to stop focusing on a fearful future and instead focus on the moment right in front of me. My hope is to be open to God's presence in my life in the present, instead of worrying about the future. Instead of "what if?", I am going to start asking, "What now?" and "What today?" My hope and prayer is that this adjusted mindset might bring peace, comfort, and meaning to this season of life.

In this time of distress, fear, and chaos, the hope and promise of Advent is this: The goodness of the Lord will prevail. Let us wait with faith trusting that, no matter what, God's goodness will prevail.

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the November meeting of the Congregation Council, the council...
---learned that expenses for October were \$15,227 below projection;
---approved fifteen new members for membership into the Trinity family;
---learned that both the Organ Rebuild project and the construction of the columbarium continue;
---accepted the 2021 budget proposal from the Stewardship Committee in the amount of \$1,043,874 and voted to recommend its adoption to the congregation;
---received a report from the COVID19 Transition Team; and
---approved a questionnaire that will be shared each year with outgoing council members with the intent of seeking additional input and insight.

DECEMBER WORSHIP

Sunday morning services will be premiered at 10:00 am on December 6, 13, 20, and 27. A Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be premiered on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm.



MID-WEEK ADVENT WORSHIP

All are invited to gather on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm for a thirty-minute online advent service. These services are designed to bring comfort, hope, peace, and calm to these days of Advent waiting. Services will be as follows:

Wednesday, December 2 - Holden Prayer Around the Cross with Pastor Crowell preaching
Wednesday, December 9 - Holden Evening Prayer with Deacon Amy Brown preaching
Wednesday, December 16 - Holden Evening Prayer with Amanda Cook preaching
Wednesday, December 23 - Christmas carols with Pastor Jim Parham

COMMUNION BREAD DISTRIBUTION

On Sunday, December 20 from 4:00 to 5:00, small home-baked loaves of communion bread will be available at the red canopy door.

GUEST PREACHERS AT TRINITY

On Sunday, December 13, Trinity will welcome Vicar Amanda Burke as our guest preacher. Amanda is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC and is currently doing her pastoral internship at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC. Amanda and her husband Kevin are both seminary students and they are the parents of five daughters.

CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Church Office will be open Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Church Office will be closed from Wednesday, December 23 through Monday, December 28. It will reopen Tuesday, December 29 at 8:30 am.

GIVING TO TRINITY

Please help us to continue to shine the love and light of Christ into our community and world by supporting Trinity's ministry through your regular giving and special offerings. Online giving is available by texting TLCGIVE to 73256 or by following the *Online Giving* link on the homepage of our website, www.trinitylutheran.ws. Offering may also be mailed to the Church Office at 421 N. Main St., Greenville, SC 29601. Please contact Kay Cook in the Church Office if interested in signing up for automatic bank draft.

According to IRS regulations, gifts should be made on or before December 31 to be considered tax-deductible for the year 2020. During the last week of the year, the Church Office will be open from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Tuesday, December 29, Wednesday, December 30, and Thursday December 31.



ANNUAL MEETING

Given the challenges posed by COVID19, the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to approve a budget and elect Congregation Council Members will be held on Sunday, November 29 at 3:00 pm in the parking lot adjacent to the playground. In case of inclement weather the meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 pm. Members will park in the lower lot off of Townes Street and walk through the Activities Building to access the lot adjacent to the playground. Special arrangements can be made for assistance with parking. Registration through the Church Office to attend the meeting is essential. Members will bring their own tailgate chairs or blankets and sit in pre-assigned safely-distanced circles. Safe, pre-packaged refreshments and hot drinks will be provided as well as sidewalk chalk for the children (and adults) to decorate their circle. All persons in attendance must wear a mask. Those who have registered to attend will be notified via email an hour before the scheduled start time if the meeting needs to be postponed to the following week.

The ten nominees for the five three-year terms include Greg Alley, Connie Blackstone, Wynne Boliek, Heather Peden Fanning, Debbie Farstad, Greg Hamluk, Calvin Harmon, Melissa Kolb, Richard Moose, and Mike Parker.

The two nominees for the one one-year youth term are Campbell Balck and Ryann Roth.

FAITH FORMATION

TLC Kids is our Faith Formation venue for Trinity children in preschool and elementary school. It meets on ZOOM on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 9:45 am. The gathering includes video, Bible stories and learning activities. The ZOOM invite is emailed out each week, and the recorded event is posted in our private FB group weekly to be viewed at any time. For more information, contact Deacon Amy Brown at the Church Office.

Adult Faith Formation begins with Coffee and Conversation at 8:45 a.m. on ZOOM on Sunday mornings, followed by a discussion oriented class. The class ends by 9:45, so participants can be ready for worship. In December, the class will continue their study of the book Light of the World: A Beginners Guide to Advent by Amy-Jill Levine. All adults are welcome to join the ZOOM meeting.

FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTION

Many thanks for the generous donations of non-perishable food items to support Trinity's food box ministry which sustained twelve families during the past seven months. Trinity's Backpack Buddies program is now supporting these families by providing weekend food bags that are being distributed through local schools.

LUTHERAN CHURCH YOUTH

Youth in grades 6 through 8 will meet at 5:00 pm and youth in grades 9 through 12 will meet at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 6 in the Multipurpose Room. Masks must be worn the entire time, so youth should eat before or after attending. The events are each limited to 8 youth & a weekly RSVP is required.

There will be a Tacky Christmas Sweater LCY drive thru from 4:00 - 5:00 on Sunday, December 13. LCY will then break for Christmas and resume on Sunday, January 10, 2021.



Lutheran Church Youth

CONGREGATION BOOK DISCUSSION

As we search for peace, contentment, and hope in our lives, our community, and our nation, all members and friends of Trinity are invited to read Love is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times by Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Discussion groups will be hosted by Pastor Crowell in Rooms 12 and 13 on Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30 pm and on Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 am. In order to keep everyone safe, participants will wear masks and each group is limited to eight participants. Please contact the Church Office to reserve your space.

THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE

Theology Roundtable is a group that meets several times a month to discuss theology and faith. In December the group will meet December 6, 13, and 20 at 4:00 pm. Currently the group is discussing the book *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. If you would like to join this group, which is meeting by ZOOM, please contact Peggy Schotsch at schotsch@bellsouth.net.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

The Women's Bible Study and Fellowship Group will meet on Thursday evening, December 3 at 6:30 pm by ZOOM. Participants will continue their study of the book *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. Contact Terry Morgan at 230-6252 or tfmorgan101@gmail.com for the ZOOM invite.

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>7:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>6:30 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM</p> <p>6:30 WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP IN PERSON</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>7:00 ONLINE WORSHIP 7:00 LAUNCH VIA ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>9:00 MORNING COFFEE IN PERSON</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>7:00 ONLINE WORSHIP 7:00 COLLEGE STUDENTS VIA ZOOM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>5:00 ONLINE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>		

MUSIC MINISTRY

Adult Choir will continue to meet via ZOOM at a time to be determined by our singers.

Handbell Choir will rehearse in the first two weeks of December, and then go on break until January.

Youth and Children Choir members will be invited to participate in a ZOOM Christmas singalong in December. That time will be worked out with the families.



ADVENT FOOD
COLLECTION

DECEMBER FOOD COLLECTION FOR TOWERS EAST AND AID UPSTATE

During December Trinity is collecting non-perishable food items to stock the food pantry at Aid Upstate and to provide pantry staples for our neighbors at Towers East.

Aid Upstate - canned fruit and canned vegetables

Towers East - dried beans, peanut butter, and toilet paper

Donations to support this effort and other non-perishable food items will be collected at the red canopy door on Sunday, December 20 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Items may also be brought to the breezeway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30 pm.



SHARING TREE

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Sharing Tree to provide Christmas gifts for individuals in need that reside in our community. Our gifts will support teen girls at Pendleton Place, the boys at Generations Group Home, a local United Ministry family and Mental Health America. Approximately 70 gifts will be needed to support these individuals. Most gifts can be ordered on-line. To sign up, please go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ACAD2CA46-tlcsharing> Drive through collections will take place on Sunday December 6th and Sunday December 13th, between 1-2 pm on both days. If you have questions, please contact Rachel Balck at 915-6039 or rachel@balckfamily.org or Melanie Wessinger at 616-1725 or pwessinger@aol.com. Please consider helping us with this important ministry.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Bette Anderson - December 5
Cathy Baus - December 3
Jeanne Blinkoff - December 19
Ellie Boda - December 26
Ralph Boeker - December 13
Evans Cegelis - December 28
Kade Corell - December 26
Brian Craig - December 1
Karen Craig - December 16
Jan Dominick - December 31
Louise Fletcher - December 11
Melinda Fulmer - December 1
Paige Geiger - December 11
Donna Greene - December 10
Samantha Hegarty - December 30
Aiden Hill - December 5
Wayne Hollinger - December 30
Mackenzie Keaton - December 6
Harriet Ligon - December 28
Benjamin Long - December 20
Caroline Long - December 22
Wayne Mangels - December 4

Janet Mathis - December 1
Lee Mathis - December 19
Hadley McCaskill - December 27
Rob McCormack - December 1
Steve McElhinny - December 10
Lilly McNeice - December 18
Jamie Mercer - December 25
Gail Moose - December 20
Ralph Moyer - December 26
Beth Oswald - December 6
Anna Louise Panhorst - December 1
Patti Parker - December 20
Parker Sherwood - December 2
Kingstyn Small - December 29
Patricia Thompson - December 3
Russ Wise - December 13
Alison Wood - December 25



QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group meets in the GYM on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. several times a month. They make quilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Participants do not need to know how to sew in order to assemble quilts. Willing volunteers who can cut fabric, iron, thread a needle or tie knots are especially welcome. Work is usually finished around noon, and participants can work as little - or as long - as they would like. There are also at-home sewing opportunities for those who cannot make it to the gatherings.

The group will meet in December on Mondays December 7 and 14. They will then take a break and meet again starting in January. In order to comply with safety issues, the group is limited to 10 persons, and participants must wear masks at all times. To reserve a spot, contact Sarah Weeks at sweeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.

ITEMS NEEDED for the quilt ministry include cotton or mostly cotton fabric, and sheets. Colored sheets are used for the backing on the quilts. Sheets can be new or very gently used. The preferred size is twin flat, in all colors except white or cream. Larger sheets are acceptable and can be cut down to size. Donations for this ministry can be brought to the Church Office.

december 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
		1
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>6</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>1:00 - 2:00 SHARING TREE GIFT DROP OFF</p> <p>4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM 5:00 MIDDLE SCHOOL LCY - IN PERSON 6:30 HIGH SCHOOL LCY - IN PERSON</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:30 QUILTERS - IN PERSON</p>	8
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>13</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>1:00 - 2:00 SHARING TREE GIFT DROP OFF</p> <p>1:30 OUTREACH COMMITTEE VIA ZOOM</p> <p>4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM 4:00 LCY DRIVE THRU EVENT</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30 QUILTERS - IN PERSON</p>	15
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</p> <p>20</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p> <p>4:00 - 5:00 DRIVE-THROUGH CHRISTMAS EVENT 4:00 THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE VIA ZOOM</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:15 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p>	22
<p>FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS</p> <p>27</p> <p>8:45 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:15 TLC KIDS VIA ZOOM 10:00 ONLINE WORSHIP</p>	<p>28</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	29
		7

CHRISTMAS DRIVE THROUGH EVENT



*Join the Trinity Family
for a Drive-Through Christmas Event*



Sunday, December 20

4:00 to 5:00 pm

*Hot chocolate and pre-packaged refreshments,
Christmas Eve worship bags,
a special 2020 Trinity ornament to place on your tree,
and loaves of home-baked communion bread
will be distributed.*

Nonperishable food items will be collected.

MORNING COFFEE GROUPS

On Wednesdays, December 2, 9, and 16, a member of Trinity's Pastoral and Program Staff will host a coffee hour at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13 of the Activities Building. All participants must pre-register through the Church Office. Each gathering is limited to eight participants to insure safe distancing. Each participant should wear a mask and bring their coffee. The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, December 2 - Pastor Susan Crowell

Wednesday, December 9 - Deacon Mandi Whitley

Wednesday, December 16 - Deacon Amy Brown

LAUNCH GROUP

LAUNCH is Trinity's Young Adults Group for people in their 20s to early 30s. The group will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00 pm. Contact Mandi Whitley with questions.

TLC COLLEGE STUDENTS

Trinity's current college and graduate students will meet via ZOOM on Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 pm. Contact Mandi Whitley with questions.

BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets regularly to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be on December 17 at 7:00 pm to discuss *The Lions of Fifth Avenue* by Fiona Davis. Other upcoming selections include *The Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd on February 18, *The Glass Hotel* by Emily St. John Mandel on April 15, and *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger on June 17. Email Deacon Amy Brown at abrown@trinitylutheran.ws to receive a ZOOM invite to the meetings.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER

Lay Assistants

December 6

Sue Boeker
Mark Godfrey

December 13

Peggy Schotsch
Mac Wannemacher

December 20

David Crigler
Angie McCormack

Christmas Eve

Mary Mueller
Chris Sorenson

Assisting Ministers

December 6

Deacon Amy Brown

December 20

Deacon Mandi Whitley

December 24

Philip Wessinger

December 27

John Beckford



GIFTS OF HOPE

Gifts of Hope is a program of the wider church, which allows individuals to provide daily needs, build for the future or bring joy to persons or organizations in need. There is a catalog of support opportunities which include such things as medical and dental supplies in Tanzania, lunch for a seminary student, rocking chairs for Camp Kinard, or trail repair at Lutheridge. Gifts in this program cost as little as \$10. To participate, go to www.giftsofhopesc.com, or contact Valerie Hollinger at 864-414-3613.

NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

Through the end of the year and with the help of our friends at Advoco, Table 301, Francis Produce, and Euphoria, Trinity will continue to host our neighbors at Towers East and other vulnerable people in the downtown community at a weekly event on the front lawn to provide boxed lunches and fresh produce. These events will occur on the following dates in December:

Wednesday, December 2

Wednesday, December 9

Wednesday, December 16

Monday, December 21

COLUMBARIUM CONSTRUCTION

During the construction of the columbarium, the breezeway doors on the red canopy side of the building will not be in use. Visitors to the Church Office should access the building via the lot adjacent to the playground and accessible via Townes Street.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Janna Kelley - Discharged
Marilyn Koerber - Discharged

Birth

Thatcher McCartha, son of Brandon and Andi Moose on October 28.

DEATHS

Sheely Miller - November 19
Margie Rigdon - November 7

ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>11/1</u>	<u>11/8</u>	<u>11/15</u>	<u>11/22</u>
Onsite	5	5	5	6
Online devices	<u>671</u>	<u>504</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>350</u>
TOTAL	676	509	513	356
Midweek	<u>11/18</u>			
Onsite	4			
Online devices	<u>321</u>			
TOTAL	325			

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

(DOES NOT INCLUDE OFFERING FROM NOVEMBER 22 AND 29)

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$96,186	\$1,058,046
Given to Budget	<u>\$48,175</u>	<u>\$894,987</u>
Difference	\$(48,011)	\$(163,059)
PPP Loan Proceeds		\$ 122,837
Given to World Hunger	\$1,058	\$25,040

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601-2090

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor
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Roy L. Cook
Facility Manager
rlcook@trinitylutheran.ws

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

A candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be premiered online on Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 pm. All members of the Trinity Family are encouraged to gather together at this time so that as many members, friends, and guests as possible can share together in this time of worship. Christmas Eve worship bags containing items to enhance the Christmas Eve at home worship experience will be available on Sunday, December 20 from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at a Drive-Through event at the red canopy door. Bags will also be available on Monday, December 21 and Tuesday, December 22 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm in the Church Office. Make plans now to gather safely in your homes and virtually with the Trinity family at 5:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

2020 Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Church for the Christmas Eve Service. If you would like to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, complete the form below and return it with \$16.00 for each poinsettia no later than Tuesday, December 15. Poinsettias may be picked up Tuesday, December 29 or Wednesday, December 30. Any remaining Poinsettias will be shared with our Towers East neighbors.

Enclosed/attached is my \$16.00 for each Poinsettia given.
You may also use the *Online Giving* link on the homepage of our website.

Enclosed: \$_____

In () honor of, In () memory of

Given by: _____