

## Activities and Opportunities

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December 15, 2024

### Births

A son, Otto Wink, to Shane and Lauren Smithman on December 6

A daughter, Lucie Louise, to Cassie Castle and Aaron Beale on December 12

### Hospital Patient

Cassie Castle - Discharged

Lauren Smithman - Discharged

Connie Stieghan -208, Saint Francis Downtown

**Welcome to worship at Trinity**, a place of love, grace, and belonging where all, without exception, are loved, honored, valued, affirmed, welcomed, and celebrated. If you are new to Trinity, we are thrilled to have you here. If you would like to know more about this congregation and our ministry please share your contact information with us by filling out a Connection Card which can be obtained from the pew racks or baskets. Thank you for your presence among us.

**Contributions.** Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to our website [trinitylutheran.ws](http://trinitylutheran.ws), by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



**A Blue Christmas Service** will take place Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary. This candlelit worship service is quiet, contemplative, and leaves plenty of room for the expression of the difficult emotions that often surface around the holidays. Please consider taking time to slow down and care for your spirit with your Trinity family at this meaningful service.

**Hymnals** are available on the bleachers in the Gym for anyone who would enjoy having access to the music to the hymns sung in worship.

**Christmas Brunch.** Please join us following worship for a catered brunch of chicken and waffles, bacon, eggs, biscuits, fruit, and yogurt bar to be served in the heated Multipurpose Room. Juice, coffee, and tea will also be served.

**Faith Formation for Adults.** An Advent series entitled *The Advent of Christ Within*, led by Josh Warner, former Trappist Monk and friend of Trinity, takes place each Sunday of Advent at 9:00 am in Rooms 12 and 13. The series explores themes of ego and self within the gospels. The class ends in time for worship each Sunday.

**Worship Bags** are available in the Narthex or Gym for children. Bags for preschoolers are tied with a white ribbon. Bags for elementary age children have no ribbon. After worship, used bags may be placed in the baskets next to the stands.

**A Midweek Advent Worship Series** called *Pause, Prepare, Ponder* will take place on Wednesday December 18 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. This Advent service will include prayer, word, and song while incorporating poetry and silent reflection. This service will feature the poetry of Mary Oliver and include a simple devotional to take home. Worshippers will be invited to join The Welcome Table for lunch immediately following worship. Please mark your calendars to join your Trinity family as we watch and prepare for the arrival of the Christ child.

**The Welcome Table.** December's meal will take place Wednesday, December 18 at 11:30 am in the Multipurpose Room. An RSVP is not required to attend. All are welcome and encouraged to come for lunch! If you would specifically like to volunteer, please reach out to Patrick Preacher via text at 864-483-2590.

**New Communion Set.** In an effort to further embrace Trinity's focus on welcome, affirmation, and hospitality, a new communion set has come into use. This communion set features split chalices, a larger portion for the wine and a smaller portion for grape juice. This change was made with love and mindfulness for God's beloveds in this community for whom alcohol is problematic. Offering both wine and grape juice allows more people to fully participate in the sacrament by receiving both the body and blood of Christ with discretion. Worshipers preferring to commune with wine may dip their wafer in the larger portion of the chalice and worshipers preferring to commune with grape juice may dip their wafer in the smaller portion of the chalice, trusting that both elements convey God's grace. Thank you for your grace and understanding as Trinity expands our communion practices in an effort to make space at the table of God's grace and love for more and more people.

**History Reading Group.** Please join the Trinity Lutheran Church History Reading Group to discuss selected topics based on historical nonfiction books. The group will meet today, December 15 at 3:00 pm in Rooms 12 and 13 to discuss *The Ghost Map—The Story of London's Most Terrifying Epidemic—and How It Changed Science, Cities, and the Modern World* by Steven Johnson. Suzanne Rudisill will lead the discussion. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Don Todd at [dkttodd47@gmail.com](mailto:dkttodd47@gmail.com) for more information. Participation via Zoom will be available.

## Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Intergenerational Christmas Pageant with Holy Communion

at 10:00 am in the Gym

followed by a festive, catered Christmas Brunch

Thursday, December 19

A Blue Christmas service will be held in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm for all who are grieving the death of loved ones or who are experiencing illness, struggles, or other losses during the holiday season

Sunday, December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Refreshments and Fellowship to follow on the front lawn

Tuesday, December 24

The Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Eve

3:00 pm - Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion in the Gym (Nursery provided)  
followed by cookies and hot cocoa

5:30 pm - Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary

Sunday, December 29

First Sunday of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary  
Refreshments and Fellowship on the front lawn

Sunday, January 5, 2025

Second Sunday of Christmas/Epiphany

Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym

Refreshments and Fellowship to follow

**Sharing Tree.** This year the Sharing Tree includes gifts for Mental Health America, Neighbors in the Trinity Community, and Fostering Great Ideas. The link is below to select your gift. All gifts are due back by December 15. Thank you for your generosity.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4DAAAF2BA2FD0-53577968-trinity>

Gifts are to be put in gift bags only please. Gifts may be returned on Sunday mornings and placed in baskets in the Narthex or the Gym. During the week gifts may be brought to the Church Office.



*Order Your Poinsettias*



2024 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 \$20.00 for each poinsettia no later than Wednesday, December 18. Poinsettias may be picked up Friday, December 27 through Tuesday, December 31. Any remaining Poinsettias will be shared with our Towers East neighbors.

Enclosed/attached is my \$20.00 for each poinsettia given.

in ( ) honor of

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

in ( ) memory of

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_