



Activities and Opportunities

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December 8, 2024

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, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



Children's Worship Activity. Accompanied by Child Protection trained adults, children are invited to leave the worship after the children's sermon to go hear the scripture read in ways more appropriate for their age. Using lectionary stories heard in worship each Sunday, the children not only hear scripture, but enjoy a related activity such as a game, craft, or music. Children return to worship during the sharing of the peace and in time to participate in the celebration of Holy Communion.

New Communion Set. In an effort to further embrace Trinity's focus on welcome, affirmation, and hospitality, a new communion set will be debuted today. This communion set features split chalices, a larger portion for the wine and a smaller portion for grape juice. This change is being 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.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will take place after worship today. The ten nominees for the five three-year terms are Carl Brune, Jaime Fivecoat, Kellie Fontecchio, Angie Hager, Richard Moose, Patrick Morgan, Maria Roberts, Margaret Roth, McKinsey Threlkeld, and Brad Waters.

The nominee for the one one-year youth term is Lexi Thomas-Harewood.

While the ballots are being counted, participants will enjoy donuts, juice boxes, and coffee on the front lawn.

Nursery for infants and toddlers. A nursery hosted by a member of the Trinity staff, Beth Oswald, as well as a small group of rotating volunteers who have been trained in Trinity's Child Protection Policy is available each Sunday morning beginning at 9:45 am to care for infants and toddlers who would prefer enjoying play time instead of attending 10:00 worship. The nursery is located on the first floor of the Pence Building. Please reach out to a greeter or usher if you need assistance.

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.

Men's Reflection and Fellowship Group. A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men meets on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Church Parlor. Calvin Harmon leads and facilitates this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Upcoming meeting dates include December 11 and January 8.

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.

Advent Devotionals. Advent devotional materials are available in the Narthex and near the door by the Sacristy.

A Midweek Advent Worship Series called *Pause, Prepare, Ponder* will take place on Wednesdays December 11 and 18 at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. These Advent services will include prayer, word, and song while incorporating poetry and silent reflection. This year's services will feature the poetry of Mary Oliver and include a simple devotional to take home each week. On December 18, worshippers will be invited to join The Welcome Table for lunch immediately following worship. On December 11 a time of fellowship over a warm beverage and cookies will follow worship. Please mark your calendars to join your Trinity family as we watch and prepare for the arrival of the Christ child.

Advent and Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

Followed by Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Refreshments served when meeting is in recess

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 (location to be determined)

Refreshments and Fellowship to follow

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.

Love Wins is a group that meets monthly to discuss a book/podcast and to enjoy some social time together. All are welcome to celebrate the holidays together on Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm at the home of Jaime and Karen Fivecoat, 11 Andy Court, Taylors. Those attending are asked to bring an unwrapped ornament and an appetizer or dessert to share with the group. Contact Angie McCormack at 864-630-4026 or ahmccormack@trinitylutheran.ws for more information or to sign up for this event.

Mental Health America of Greenville County's Operation Santa has provided gift bag donations to mental health centers, supported housing and other organizations serving individuals with a chronic mental illness for over 60 years.

As we approach the holiday season, Trinity will participate in collecting new/unused items toward these gift bags filled with essential health & hygiene products.

Unwrapped items may be dropped in the designated bin in the breezeway, or brought to worship. During the week items may be brought to the Church Office.

Requested items: hand sanitizer, deodorant, gloves/hats, socks, Kleenex, bar soap, body wash, shampoo, Chapstick, throw blankets, socks, size L or XL sweatshirts, adult coloring books, journals, body lotion and hand lotion/Vaseline. Contact Caroline Otten at caroline29712@gmail.com or 864-354-4457 with questions.

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.

A congregational Christmas Pageant that is both interactive and intergenerational will be held next Sunday, December 15 at 10:00 am worship in the Gym. There is a place for everyone at the manger! Come and participate in this meaningful worship experience. Following worship a catered brunch of chicken and waffles, bacon, eggs, biscuits, fruit, and yogurt bar will be served in the Multipurpose Room. Juice, coffee, and tea will also be served.