



# *TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS*

## *DECEMBER 2020*

*The monthly newsletter of  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

This past Sunday, November 29, we lit the first blue candle of Advent. The Advent season has begun. Advent comes from the Latin word, *Adventus*. It means coming. Who is coming? Jesus, of course! During Advent we use the liturgical color blue; blue is a waiting color. Followers of Jesus wait in hope expecting Jesus to come.

This first Sunday of Advent, we remember again that Advent isn't about Christmas but the coming of Jesus. Baby Jesus is already born over 2000 years ago. And while we remember that historic event and the importance it holds for the world and especially ourselves. We aren't WAITING for it.

Instead, we live the mystery of our faith. Christ HAS come. Christ IS come. Christ WILL come.

We spend time at Trinity every Sunday reminding people to share where they've seen God. God IS present and active in our lives right now. Yet, we also confess that Jesus is coming at the end of the age. We're in that already and not yet between time. Jesus gives us a road map for waiting during this in-between time – between Jesus present today and Jesus coming at the end of the age.

So, why Advent? Advent is MORE than a simple countdown to Christmas. Advent reminds us to slow down, even in the hussle of the holiday frenzy, and make time to deepen our relationships with God. What spiritual practices is God calling you to renew or begin? How might your day be shaped by your connection with God?

Recognizing THAT we wait and HOW we wait are important to our walks with God. That's where Christmas makes a difference. Yes, we aren't waiting for baby Jesus. Yet, Jesus' coming as a vulnerable infant DOES matter to who we are and how we are in the world. Think about it! Christmas is a celebration of the incarnation. Incarnation is a big church word meaning became flesh. We hear that particularly in the prologue of John's gospel: John 1:14

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

The word became flesh. Jesus gave up everything it means to be "God" to become one of us. God must love us A LOT to want to become us. The fact that God loves you is NOT a trite saying. It is who God is and the basis for our relationship with God. We know we have value because we are beloved children of God.

Equally important is the mystery that since we are followers of Christ, we are called to be incarnational as well. We are called to bring God's word of love and healing to our broken world. We join with God in bringing the kingdom of heaven on earth.

We are incarnational when we live from our center that is God's love and peace: when we speak kindly to the people around us, especially to those who particularly annoy us or hold different political views. When we give our time, talent or money to help alleviate suffering in the world. When we focus on what really matters: our relationship to God, ourselves and our neighbors. May Christ bless you in your Advent journey.

Peace,

*Pastor Barb*





# december 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study via Zoom 2PM	3 Prayer via Zoom 6PM	4	5
6 <b>2 ADVENT</b> Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i> Congregational Meeting	7	8 Finance Team 7PM	9 Bible Study via Zoom 2PM Council Meeting 7PM	10 Prayer via Zoom 6PM	11	12
13 <b>3 ADVENT</b> Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	14	15	16 Bible Study via Zoom 2PM	17 Prayer via Zoom 6PM	18	19
20 <b>4 ADVENT</b> <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Worship 11AM 5 PM 7:30 PM	25 PJ Party Worship 9 AM	26
27 <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	28	29	30	31		

# December Worship Assistants

	DECEMBER 6	DECEMBER 13	DECEMBER 20	DECEMBER 27
Ushers	Kippy Fox Karla Fox	Charlie Ford Richard Miller	Don Swart Darrell Swart	Larson Thomas Dave Wolfe
Acolyte	Larson Thomas	Abigail Wolfe	Ella Swart	Bella Stevens
Singer	Matt Cessna	Zak Reynolds	Matt Cessna	Zak Reynolds
Communion Preparer	Carol Swart Don Swart	Sue Wunderlich	Beth Ford Charlie Ford	Donna Wolfe



## WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY

The executive team continues to evaluate worship in light of the recent Covid surge. For the present, sanctuary worship at 10AM will continue. The team will meet Dec 7 to reevaluate. We will continue to update you. Please avail yourself of the on-line options if that feels safer to you. Worship is broadcast via Facebook Live and downloaded to YouTube and the website after the service.

If you attend in sanctuary worship, please follow mask and social distance safety measures. We have added these guidelines: If you have a temperature or feel ill, do not attend worship in the sanctuary. Please observe a 14-day self-quarantine if you have been traveling. Please use hand sanitizer before entering the sanctuary.



## POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY

The tradition at Trinity has been to have the poinsettias decorate the sanctuary from the second Sunday in Advent until Christmas. Covid has once again challenged our creativity. You will see many of the plants adorning the narthex until Christmas Eve.

We discovered the ozone generator used to disinfect the sanctuary will kill the plants if they are in the sanctuary. The generator runs Sunday evening after midnight for several hours. The compromise is that volunteers will place a few plants each Sunday in the sanctuary for worship and then remove them after the service. Christmas Eve, volunteers will place all the plants in the sanctuary before the 11AM service and then



## JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**Christmas Eve: Dec 24, 2020**

Christmas Worship will be different than we're used to. Covid may be helping us to take a step back and focus on what truly matters rather than the traditions of Christmas.

For now, worship services are planned for: 11AM, 5PM and 7:30PM. Our on-line community can gather with us at 7:30PM via Facebook Live which will then be downloaded to YouTube and our website after the service.

Weather permitting, we will move outside at the end of the service to light candles and sing Silent Night. If you are gathering at home, have your candle ready so you can do the same.

## Christmas Morning: Dec. 25, 2020

Our traditional PJ Party is scheduled for Christmas morning at 9AM.

## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Worship Assistants are needed for the services on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Help is needed for:

- 11 AM Christmas Eve - Usher/Greeter
- 5 PM Christmas Eve - Acolyte, Communion Preparer and 2 Usher/Greeters
- 7:30 PM Christmas Eve - Acolyte, Communion Preparer and 2 Usher/Greeters
- 9AM Christmas Day - Acolyte, Usher/Greeter and Communion Preparer

If you would be willing to serve at any of these services, please call or email the Church Office.



## MUSIC NOTES

Here at the end of a confusing year of CHANGE, I want to thank you for keeping me employed as music director for this past year. It is a distinct privilege and calling which I don't take lightly! I will close this article with the words of a Christmas hymn which are my prayer: "Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee - Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art, dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by Thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne." Amen and Merry Christmas!



Adopt a Family Tree

## ADOPT A FAMILY

Thanks to the generosity of our family of faith, the list for our adopted family is almost complete. If you still feel called to be part of the project, please consider giving a food item that a growing family of teens would enjoy. Some suggestions might be: cereal, canned veg or fruit, Christmas candy, pasta and sauce, soup. Another idea might be gift cards to a box store like Walmart or to a restaurant. Please call the office or email what you plan to donate.



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, DEC. 6

A hybrid Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2020 after the 10AM Worship service both in person and on Zoom (a video conferencing software). It is possible to dial into zoom on your phone if you don't have access to a computer. If Zoom is uncomfortable for you, please notify the office. We will ask someone to phone you and leave the phone on speaker so you can participate. Zoom information for the meeting will be emailed this week.

New Council Members are needed for next year. We are a small church. Even if you have been on council before, it's important that all of us step up as we move God's mission forward into the neighborhood. Meetings are currently on Zoom so safety isn't an issue. Please pray about whether God is calling you to this very important service for the church. If you are asked to join council, please say yes.



## WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives. The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. **Please fill out the slip in your bulletin each Sunday or make a comment on Facebook. Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:**

- I saw God in my family Zoom meeting with my in-laws participating. We looked like the Brady Bunch up on the screen.
- Family commitments to their public safety jobs. We have a grandson who is a DC police officer. Prayer please - he's a good guy!
- The special moments that we savor by being grandparents.
- Doing things for other kids.

## THURSDAY DEVOTIONS

Pastor Barb is broadcasting a midweek devotion on Facebook Live on Thursday afternoons. Take a minute to breathe and recharge! It helps in this time of uncertainty and challenge to remember God walks with us. After recording, the devotions can be found at the bottom of the first page on the website.

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YOU CAN HELP



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP

God blesses us with enough so we can share those blessings with others. Barbara Grange at the Greencastle Food Pantry is asking for our help to stock the shelves. As Covid continues to ravage those with the least resources, we can be helpful in providing food. A recent survey shows that 1 in 8 US citizens are at risk for food insecurity. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item. Please bring the assigned item when you come to worship to place in the box in the narthex or place it in the box by the front door anytime.

Dec 6: canned vegetables and fruit

Dec 13: canned meat such as tuna, chicken, etc.

Dec 20: potato, rice and pasta mixes

Dec 27: ketchup, mustard and salad dressing

Nov 29: pasta and sauce

## THANK YOU FROM THE FOOD PANTRY

*Thank you on behalf of our patrons for your generous donation of \$237.00 to the Greencastle-Antrim Food Pantry. May God bless your church community for the commitment they show to our local pantry.*

## DECEMBER SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for December is Women In Need (WIN). Over the past 40 years WIN has made it possible for countless victims and their children to take steps to move beyond the violence in their lives and to not only survive but thrive. Services are provided to both Franklin and Fulton County, Pennsylvania. If you desire to make a donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".



## YOUTH CORNER

Tuesday Zoom devotions continue. The Apple Dumpling fundraiser was cancelled due to Covid. The ET Planning Team discussed future outdoor winter activities that could be conducive to social distancing such as tubing. One other activity for spring for consideration is the Great Race Scavenger Hunt where family units remain in their own cars but follow a list of clues to get to a final destination such as ice cream tailgating at Mikey's.

God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen. Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are appreciated! If you know of someone who should be on this list, call the office.



- TruPrecision Lawn Service: trimmed the garden and lawn making the property winter ready.
- Tom Sidoli: Provided K95 masks to the musicians for worship so they can sing with masks on.
- Anonymous Donation for the pre-packaged communion kits
- Brandon Sidoli: Continues to work with sound for Worship and Facebook Live and downloads the video to YouTube.
- Bud and Donna Wolfe changed the banners in the sanctuary several times.
- The Harvest Committee for coordinating the Adopt A Family project.
- Scott Valentine: Creates the screens every week.
- Ivan Wingert and James Thomas: Helps Scott with the Screen during Worship.
- Trinity Family: Growing in generosity providing food for the pantry, signing up for items for our adopted family and continuing to tithe in these uncertain times of Covid.
- Sue Wunderlich: Offering to take the food to the pantry each week.
- Darrell Swart, Don Swart, Dave Cline, Pam Arnold, Keith Arnold, Donna Wolfe, Matt Cessna, Beth Fiord and Charlie Ford spent 2 hours making certain hybrid meeting would work for everyone.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## PANDEMIC FATIGUE

Are you feeling mentally and emotionally exhausted from all the disruptions to life brought on by the pandemic? Are you facing isolation, loneliness, anxiety, grief, health issues, financial strain or job loss?

Please know you don't have to face these things alone.

If you or someone you care about is experiencing difficulties like these, our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and be there to offer support.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately—by phone or video chat—to focus on you and your needs. It's free and completely confidential, and it offers real care, comfort, and hope.

To learn more, please contact Stephen Ministry Leader, Linda Beaver at 717-264-0737 or [lbeaver@spiristrustlutheran.org](mailto:lbeaver@spiristrustlutheran.org)

## God equips us for 'new things'

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*—Isaiah 43:19

Advent and Christmas are all about celebrating that most amazing "new thing" God brought about for our sake – incarnating God's divine essence in the human form of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

We prayerfully ask at the beginning of every church year, "To what 'new things' is God calling us?" But this Advent the question holds special significance.

With its racial unrest, political divisiveness, riots, wildfires, hurricanes and COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 will be remembered as one of the most troubled years in recent history. And everybody is bracing for a "new normal" that is still unknown.

The pandemic has caused us to cancel many of our cherished Advent and Christmas observances. We pray the Holy Spirit will give us the creativity and wisdom to find new ways faithfully to steward the mystery of the incarnation and tell God's story.

More broadly, we also pray for guidance to steward our lives that we may be, as Jesus directed, the salt of the earth and light to a world that needs us more than ever.

As we listen for God's direction, preparing us for "new things," the four traditional Advent themes may offer a path. We cultivate these themes in our hearts and congregations and share them with the world:

**Hope** as an antidote to the culture of despair.

**Peace** in our hearts to bring to an angry world.

**Love** for our friends and enemies alike.

**Joy** in Christ, who makes all things new.

God, who promises to make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, will prepare us and equip us to do "new things" to steward our lives and congregations to meet the challenges ahead.

**-Rob Blezard**

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*Advent and Christmas Blessings  
to our Trinity Family.*

