

The Trinity Times

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

December 2018



"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night." - Luke 2:8

Advent is upon us and we look forward to Christmas. The season of Advent is a time of anticipation in which we anticipate not only the coming celebration of Christmas, but also the coming again of Jesus.

Advent is the "new year" of the Christian Liturgical Calendar. The theme of Advent is the already and the not yet. In Advent we celebrate that God has sent his Son, is sending his Son and continually sends his Son into the world.

The stories in Advent tell of watchfulness and alertness. The prophets of old called for people to be watchful and alert for what God was up to in their midst. In the Christmas story we hear of the ones called shepherds who were "keeping" watch over the sheep by night.

Isn't it interesting that the Christmas story tells how some of 1st century's nobodies were the ones who first got to see and witness to the Messiah's birth? Was it because they were busy watching and were alert to the angel's message?

The watchfulness of the shepherds

allows them to "go and see" what God is up to in the world (and especially up to in nearby Bethlehem). Our watchfulness allows us to see what God is up to in the 21st century. It takes some effort on our part because it becomes easy to overlook the events around us and miss God's activity. We know that many missed the extraordinary in the ordinary...the birth of a baby!



This is why the Church has felt it necessary to keep the season of Advent throughout time. Advent is a time of preparation and watchfulness. We have to learn to prepare and watch so we don't miss the extraordinary in the ordinary. Jumping to the Christmas celebration to soon means that we might miss the exciting news that God is born in us and we nobodies of this world are meant to bear Christ (and his message) to the world through our actions and love.

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December Worship: Christmas Through Joseph's Eyes

The Christmas story has been told through the eyes of Mary, the mother of our Lord, and occasionally through the eyes of various characters/animals that were imagined to be there on that joyous day.

This Advent and Christmas we will try seeing the Christmas story from a new perspective, that of, Joseph of Nazareth. Informed by the book by Adam Hamilton entitled "Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph, we will look at Joseph's influence of Jesus and how his decisions saved the Holy Family. This will be through all of our December worship services.

NOTE: On Sunday, December 16 we will have a "Spontaneous Nativity" as part of our worship service (this will replace a Children's Christmas Program). Children come to worship and select a headdress in order to have a part in the Nativity during the service. They sit with their family and come and participate as the animal/character they selected. No rehearsal necessary.

Note: Living Nativity on December 9th at the church. Invite friends and family.

~Pastor Dave

Christmas Eve Services

Please join us for our candlelight Christmas Eve services on December 24th. We will have two services, one at 4:30 pm and another at 6:30 pm.

You are encouraged to invite friends and family to join us for these beautiful services.

Hiding on the Leeward Side of God

Men and women have gone to sea since ancient times, and sailing vessels have changed in amazing ways over the centuries. The earliest seagoing boats were little more than hallowed-out logs, while some of today's ships are gigantic floating cities. Once sailors navigated by the stars, now they position themselves with the aid of satellites. In the beginning, boats moved only by manpower, the sails harnessed the wind, and next coal and petroleum entered the picture. Today some ships move by nuclear power.

A ancient mariner would surely be at a loss with all the high-tech gadgets that allow modern ships to sail the oceans. But there is one nautical

necessity that has remained basically unchanged since the first voyagers put to sea. Thousands of years ago, and still today, no ship sails without an anchor.



Without an anchor, there is no respite from the winds. No way to flee the waves and hide on the leeward side of an island when storms enrage the sea. No way to hold firm to a position and stay secure in safe harbor.

The apostle Paul said hope is our anchor that holds us firm and secure to God and his promises. Hope shields us from the winds of adversity. Hope anchors us in safe harbor on the leeward side of God.

So when life's storms threaten to cast you adrift, drop anchor in His love, take hold of His promises and be gently encouraged.



ANNUAL WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS TEA

December 9th at 6:00 pm

Trinity Center

Theme this year is Sweet Christmas.

All women are welcome!

Invite friends and family!

Sign up in the Trinity Center and bring a dessert or hourderves.



All of the church staff and council want to wish each and every one of you a Blessed Christmas!!



Bingo December 10th

**2:00 pm at
SRMC Extended Care**

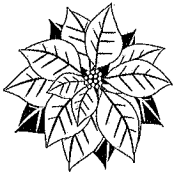


A Big thank you to everyone who helped decorate our beautiful church and make it ready for Advent and Christmas! Job well done Elves!

REFRESH PROJECT UPDATE



Things are moving along with the refresh project in the basement. New light fixtures have been installed, the ceiling and walls have been painted and the old flooring is in the process of being removed. Tentative date for the install of our new flooring is the week of December 10th.



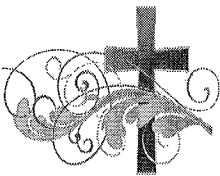
Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to share your poinsettia plant with the congregation in memory or in honor of someone, please mark it on the back of the green pew card or contact the office. Plants need to be at the church by Dec. 20th and can be picked up after the 6:30 service on Christmas Eve.

Young at Heart will meet at Noon on Wednesday, December 12th in the Trinity Center. Bring a covered dish and enjoy some fellowship. All are welcome!



Caring and Sharing will meet on Wed., December 19th at 8:30 am at Grandma Jo's. This is a group for those who have lost their spouses. Join them for fellowship and breakfast. All are welcome!



ANNUAL MEETING:

Committee reports for the Annual Meeting in January are due by December 30th. Please drop off to the church office or email to htlcsecretary@outlook.com.

The Annual Meeting will be January 27th, 2019.

ATTENTION!!!

If you haven't turned in your Time & Talent forms yet, please get them into the office as soon as possible. These are important tools to our Council and the Office Secretary in preparing for the coming year!! If you need a form, contact the office or one of the Sunday ushers.



December Youth Activities

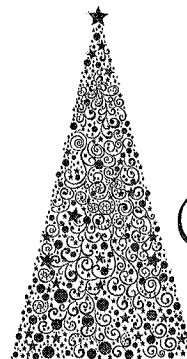
Dec. 2nd ~ Breakfast Club @ 8:00am at Grandma Jo's grade 7-12
~ Confirmation, 4:30 at church. Dinner will be served.

Dec. 9th ~ Live Nativity
4:30-6:00 pm
Outside in front of church with pizza at Sam & Louie' to follow.
(paid for by the Witter's)

Dec. 16th ~ Breakfast club @ 8:00am at Grandma Jo's grade 7-12
~ Spontaneous Children's Christmas program during church.

The Giving Tree

We are giving you an opportunity to give "in the spirit of the season" again this year. We have set up a Christmas Giving Tree for you to meet the needs of members of our church who are residents of the nursing homes and Sloan Estates as well as a few of our shut-ins. We also have an opportunity to support a few families in Sidney who could use some help this Christmas. Just take a "Christmas Tree" Tag from the Giving Tree in the Trinity Center and purchase the item(s) listed. Wrap the gift and put the **tag** on it, then bring it back to HTLC by Friday December 14th. It is that easy. Thank you for giving!



Giving Tree



November Council Highlights Happy Holidays!

We pray that everyone had a safe and joyous Thanksgiving. We give thanks to God for providing us with plentiful food, shelter and family all year long. We now look forward to celebrating the birth of his son, Jesus. The church has been decorated and looks as wonderful as ever. The advent season begins on December 2nd .

As our church year comes to a close we will also say goodbye to Pastor Dave Hall and his family. He has accepted a call from St. John's Lutheran Church, Shell Creek in Platte county Nebraska. Pastor Hall's last day with us will be December 30th. We thank him and his family for the six years they have spent with us at Holy Trinity. We are going to have interviews for interim pastors this month and the call process will begin in 2019. We ask that we all pray that this will be done with God's help.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church is handling the food pantry now. We have had donations to the Food Pantry throughout the year so we gave \$1,000 this month. We encourage people to continue to give to these charities as they are needed now more than ever. Donations to the Table of Grace can be done directly as Bell Pole Company is matching donations given this month. Lutheran Disaster Response is taking donations for the California wild fires relief. Donations will go to them and they will send it forward.

The Holy Trinity Annual meeting will be January 27th 2019. We look forward to adding new faces to the elected positions at Holy Trinity. This is a great time to revisit your Time and Talent Survey we hope you filled out. There are many ways to serve the Lord and help make everyone's worship experience a truly Spirit Filled!

The basement refresh project is moving along with the new flooring being installed this month. This is the first step of the Refresh Project. We look forward to the completion next year.

I truly hope that everyone can share their Holiday Spirit with all their families and our family at Holy Trinity.

Happy Holidays

Steve Miller , Council President

From the Treasurer,

As the end of the year is quickly approaching, it is a good time to remember and reflect on what our individual stewardship goals for 2018 were. The church and our congregation certainly came together this year, and because of everyone's generous donations the church remains in good financial health. To help the church council prepare for next year, the more 2019 stewardship commitments we obtain, the better we can plan and follow our important budget for next year. Please take a quick moment to consider what contributions you will be willing to make in 2019. Finally, please remember that all 2018 donations must be received at the church before January 1st to be counted on your year-end giving statement.

Happy Holidays, Matt Benzel, Treasurer

Thank you for your prayers, cards and visits from the congregation and Pastor while I have been recovering both in the hospital and at home.

We miss our church families kindness and love.

~Peace & Grace be with you

Glea & Jerald Haupt

