

December 2023

Volume 65

Number 12



The Lamplighter

Watch for the Good Stuff

The news these days can be disorienting and even frightening, clobbering us like cracks in the firmament of existence. We can appreciate the prophet Isaiah pleading with God: break through those cracks and come down here to help us – in the midst of our enduring mess of mishaps and misdeeds. In the season of Advent, waiting and watching for God to act, our Scripture lessons tell us to keep awake, to stay alert. But what should we keep alert for?

We can easily fall into just seeing the negative in our lives. Stuff happens, and the *negative* stuff makes a stronger and more lasting impression. A *New York Times* article, “Praise Is Fleeting, but Brickbats We Recall” notes that “the power of a setback to increase frustration is over *three times* as strong as the power of progress to decrease frustration.” Also, “bad events wear off more slowly than good ones.” It takes *five* positive events to make the same impact as one negative event.

So, we surely can get discouraged. A couple of years ago, I had lost a notecard that I bought to send to my niece. She had sent me a lovely card for Thanksgiving, expressing appreciation for being a role model for her. But her appreciative note sat on my table, ignored while I was looking all over for the lost card I wanted to send. At that same time, my printer at home had run out of ink. I had gotten a 20% off coupon from CVS, so I stopped there to buy a cartridge – and then I couldn’t find my coupon at the checkout counter. So it was one of those days when the collection of little negative things was really getting me down.

It was time to watch for the gift of being able to reframe these negative things: at CVS, I was assured I could bring the ink back if I found the coupon, *and* I got a \$4 off coupon for buying the ink. So that evening, I looked again for the notecard, and found it, on the floor behind the inkless printer – but after I found something *else* that I also needed to deal with. I also found the “20% off” coupon, right where I had put it and somehow missed seeing it the day before. So I was able to get the discount on the ink, and an additional \$4 off because of the coupon I had gotten the day before. And I sent off the card that I had found to my niece.

19th century Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard wrote: “Life can only be understood *backwards*, but it must be lived *forwards*.” Dealing with that tension, stay awake. Take spiritual care of yourself by watching and waiting for God’s grace in your life, and share kindness with others. Look back and remember what positive things God has done, and trust, in this season of looking to the future, that God is in the midst of our lives for good, now. Watch for the Good Stuff!





E-Connect Notes: December 2023

Your E-connect team experienced LINK 3 October 27-28 in Beech Grove. Guided by I-K Synod Staff and lay leaders, **our goal was to use the information** we have been gathering about Trinity assets and local neighbors to **sharpen focus on Sprit led initiatives.**

The next phase in the link journey **will reach beyond** the E-connect team to involve more members of our faith community! Upcoming Developmental Activities (DA) are sorted into several areas:

- Sharing our Faith/Outreach
- Leadership Development
- Stewardship
- Faith Formation
- Worship/Hospitality
- Communication/Website/Social Media

We are doing this work NOW! So what's **NEW?** The E-connect process asks us to be more intentional by using **SMART-IE Goals**—have you heard of this method? Our faith activities and practices can be enhanced by **written goals that are:** SPECIFIC, MEASURED, ACHIEVABLE, RELEVANT, in a specific TIME frame and INCLUSIVE/EQUITABLE—such goals **are more LIKELY to be DONE.**

In 2024 we will celebrate **“A Century of Amazing GRACE, Gratitude and Growth”**. **Prayerfully consider how YOU will “Grow in Grace, Sharing Christ’s Love”**. **Thank you for all you DO!**



THANK YOU TO THE NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVANTS:

Recording/sound engineers: Adam & Jody Pomfret;
Andrew & Elizabeth Eichmiller.



Lay assistants: John Neuenschwander, Eli Moffett, Sue Gosse,
Linda Afdahl

Ushers: Ray & Suzi Bloomer, Marvin & Barb Mericle, Tina Teeters, Aiden Pomfret, Pete & Donna Gustafson

Altar Care: Jody Pomfret, Denise Taylor, Suzi Bloomer

Communion Bread: Sandy Teeters, Denise Taylor, Barb Mericle, Carol Hawn

REMINDER! Please check the church calendar in the office before scheduling an activity at the church. Thanks for your help!

Please Note:

Council Meeting - Wed. 12/13 @ 7p

Newsletter Items Due - Wed. 12/20 @ 9:30a



DECEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 12/4 Kayla Goldsworthy | 12/12 Molly Essig |
| 12/5 Ben Stallings | 12/18 James Pendergast Jr |
| 12/7 Jackie Mathis | 12/21 Andrew Eichmiller |
| 12/7 Erica Yeagley | 12/25 John Butler |
| 12/7 Lily Yeagley | 12/29 Sherry Tacker |
| 12/11 Gary Erickson | 12/30 Gabriella Greene |
| 12/11 Karol Martindale | 12/30 Theresa Spallone |



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1/3 Charles Parks | 1/25 Adam Pomfret |
| 1/16 Corrine Erickson | 1/26 Sue Gosse |
| 1/9 Trenton Shook | 1/29 Helen Andres |
| 1/13 Jean Chance | |
| 1/16 Jody Pomfret | |
| 1/17 Marvin Mericle | |
| 1/23 Donna Gustafson | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/5 Donald & Theresa Spallone
12/28 Gordon & Linda Afdahl
12/31 Rev Dana & Susie Newhouse



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/2 James & Denise Pendergast
1/12 Joe & Darlene Kuzmission
1/16 John & Kim Schoffstall

VOLUNTEERS FOR DECEMBER

Counters for December: Bob & Denise Taylor



<u>DATE</u>	<u>Lay Assistant</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Communion Assistants</u>
12/3/23	Pete Gustafson	Gordon & Linda Afdahl	Jody Pomfret/Donna Gustafson (set up/clean up) Donna Gustafson (bread)
12/10/23	Gordon Afdahl	John & Kim Schoffstall	Suzi Bloomer/Sue Gosse (set up/clean up) Barb Mericle (bread)
12/17/23	Carol Hawn	Tina Teeters & Aiden Pomfret	Denise Taylor (set up/clean up) Denise Taylor (bread)
12/24/23	Patricia McIntyre	Andrew & Elizabeth Eichmiller	Jody Pomfret/Donna Gustafson (set up/clean up) Donna Gustafson (bread)
12/31/23	Gayle Bland	Marvin & Barb Mericle	Jody Pomfret (set up/clean up) Sandy Teeters (bread)



Join the **Sisters of Providence** of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, and the Providence Community from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., on Sunday, Dec. 17, for Brunch with Santa! The brunch will take place in the O'Shaughnessy Dining Hall, located in Providence Spirituality & Conference Center. Cost for the holiday brunch is \$33 for adults, \$25 for children ages 6-12 and \$20 for children ages 3-5. Children under 2 will be admitted for free. Don't forget to bring your phone or camera!



Sisters to host "Christmas Fun at the Woods"! Join the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, and friends as we celebrate Christmas Fun at the Woods! Festivities will take place from 1:30-4:30 p.m., on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Many activities will be available for guests of all ages throughout the day, including crafts, wagon rides, face painting and sing-a-longs. There is no cost to attend and no pre-registration is required. For more information, visit Events.SistersofProvidence.org or contact 812-535-2952 or provctr@spsmw.org.



Did you know?

An "RMD" is a *Required Minimum Distribution* from your Traditional IRA. RMD is required beginning with tax year after you become 72 years old. RMDs remitted *directly* to a Qualified Charity (such as Trinity Lutheran Church), are *not included* in your taxable income. Consequently, the income taxes you pay are less.

RMDs sent by the IRA administrator directly to a charity are "Qualified Charitable Distributions" (QCDs) and are not included in your taxable income subject to Federal or state income tax. QCDs are not deductible as an itemized deduction.

If you are required to have Required Minimum Distributions from your IRA accounts, speak to your Financial Advisor about QCDs. After consulting with your financial advisor, let your IRA custodian know you wish to make a QCD. Be sure to provide them with the information they request. Do not ask the IRA custodian to send the QCD to you. They must send the QCD directly to the charity.

CHARITY



Taxes from RMDs



QUILTING

There will be no quilting for the month of December. Take the month off and rest those hands and scissors!!!



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Cackleberries on Tuesday 12/12 & 12/26 @ 8:30am.



FIRST FRIDAY CARDS: On Friday, November 3, we joined together for yet another Friendly Game of cards. First, though, we had to eat. There was lots to eat but not nearly enough chocolate. Perhaps with the holidays next month there will be chocolate. After stuffing ourselves with finger foods and fork foods and spoon foods, the cards were dealt. Actually they were dealt before we ate, but we didn't look at them because we had food. As usual, one person was more successful during the course of the evening than the others. Maybe it was skill, maybe it was luck or maybe it was prayers. Throughout the evening we shared our joys and our woes and had some laughs. We play again on Friday, December 1, at 6 pm in the fellowship hall. Food will have a holiday theme. Maybe some chocolate, maybe some gingerbread, maybe something nutritious. See you there.



TRINITY WOMEN: The annual Christmas party will be held at the home of Dianna Wright, 7900 East Glenn Dell Avenue, at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, December 13th. Bring a holiday dish to share for the evening meal. Also, bring your layette items and your favorite holiday memory or tradition or both! All women are invited. For those interested, a carpool will leave the church at 6:15.

TRINITY RINGERS continue rehearsals on Wednesday at 5:15 pm. Bring your rested and relaxed hands and wrists, your sharp eyes, and be ready to laugh and play some music. **NO REHEARSAL WED., DEC. 27TH!** Thanks for your dedication and willingness to play.



Questions, see Suzi Bloomer (812-877-4273).

Blessing Box Items

We continue to collect non-perishable food items and personal care items for the Blessing Box. Please see the list posted in the Narthex of acceptable items. No perishable food, please. Items can be left in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting this ministry!



The **Growing Young Committee** will meet on Tuesday, 12/5 at 7p.

Ruth Circle is gathering on Wed, 12/20 at 10am in the library.



Worship & Music Committee meeting on

Sunday, 12/3 after the service.



TUESDAY ZOOM BIBLE STUDY 11:30-12:30 COME AS YOU ARE!

Topical Bible study using the book, *102 Fascinating Bible Studies*, written by a Baptist pastor, Preston A. Taylor. The unusual thing about this study is that each of the 102 chapters stand alone. There are 102 topics arranged in alphabetical order. Each chapter contains ten Bible passages with questions related to the topic.

We read the Bible passages and discuss the questions. We usually spend two meetings on each chapter. Talk to Johnny Neuenschwander who sets up the Zoom meetings. He will send you a link and reminder. Everyone is welcome to participate.

If viewing the pdf while you are online, you can click:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9142075889?pwd=VkU5R3BydFMzMzZ0ZzgyS3kvdjFzd09>





First, a big round of applause goes to all those who were part of the November 5 All Saints and Organ Dedication service. It was a beautiful and meaningful worship experience. Our thanks are extended to Michael Rathke for building our beautiful pipe organ and for his presence with us that day; our guest cellist Dr. Lori Honer; the Trinity Choir; cantor Charles Parks; bell toller Patricia McIntyre; Larry Hawn for the beautiful crosses he crafted from our old organ console that were gifted to all present; Linda Afdahl for the beautiful bookmarks she created and authored that were also shared with all present; the organ committee for their years of work and their efforts creating our Organ brochure; Jenna McFarland, our Parish Administrator for compiling and publishing the Organ brochure and our other worship materials; Sandra Teeters for the beautiful photo display showing the evolution of Opus 13; all those who helped with the reception; Pastor Karen Husby for her leadership of our worship and her meaningful message that was part of the service; and most important of all the singing congregation who brought our sung liturgy and hymns to life. Thank you all for the important role you play every Sunday in our worship together.

We also extend our gratitude to those who have provided music for our other 10 am worship services in November: Trinity Ringers on November 12th; soprano and guitarist Elizabeth Eichmiller on November 19th; and the Trinity Choir on November 26th.

Thanks to our corps of cantors who serve us throughout the church year: Elizabeth Eichmiller, John McIntyre, Patricia McIntyre, John Neuenschwander, Charles Parks and Bill Strecker.

Our gratitude is also extended to Jenna McFarland, our Parish Administrator for providing all our printed and online worship materials, keeping us informed of our schedule of activities and performing many unseen but necessary tasks.

And last, but certainly not least, our gratitude is extended to Pastor Karen for her leadership of our worship on Sunday mornings, her guidance of our congregation, her meaningful messages and her pastoral care. We are blessed to have her leadership of Trinity.

*****NO CHOIR REHEARSAL WED., DEC. 27TH!*****

BE PRAYING FOR...

Joyce Bailey, Christina Browne, Carla Chapman, Corrine Erickson, Braden Hunt, Kristan Hunt, Jade, Janet, Don Johnson, Keith Johnson, Kris Johnson and Debbie, P.K. Johnson, Jean Lapp, Jack & Carol Lee, Mary Lee, Deval Lennon, Bruce and Karol Martindale, Richard Martindale, Judy McGregor, Pastor Dana and Susie Newhouse, Briar Osborn, Charles Parks, Pastor Ben and Pastor Susan Stallings, Sarah Stroik, Sarah VanSell, and Rhoda Wood.

Bottle Cap Collection

We are collecting bottle caps for Reach Services in Terre Haute. Info on what is accepted is located in the Narthex. We look forward to collecting caps and lids & building more benches! For more information, contact Elizabeth Eichmiller @ 812-698-3365 or ebrochin95gmail.com

Pastor's Discretionary Fund assists with individuals in need of assistance, primarily utility needs by working with the Salvation Army. Any help replenishing this fund is greatly appreciated. *Mark your offering envelope .*

Calling all adults! Come join in on
 Adult Sunday School held
 every Sunday
 before service at 9am!



2023 PENNY POWER OFFERING

On the last Sunday of each month, our pennies are donated to Lutheran World Hunger in order to buy milk for children in a developing country.

January	71.68
February	36.45
March	55.93
April	71.20
May	41.23
June	89.26
July	60.30
August	66.43
September	30.04
October	62.32
November	70.71
December	



2023 Total: \$655.55

Equals 65,555 cups of milk for needy children!!



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Operating Budget Summary at November 30, 2023

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Operating Budget Summary at October 31, 2023

	2023			2022		
	Actual	% of Budget	Budget	YTD Actual	% of Budget	Year End Actual
Giving/ revenues received for budget	\$124,816.08	87.4%	\$ 142,869.00	\$117,453.64	84.7%	\$ 138,622.11
Expenses for budgeted items	\$127,842.81	79.0%	\$ 161,824.00	\$117,640.20	83.5%	\$ 140,952.90
Revenues over/ (under) expenses	(\$3,026.73)		\$ (18,955.00)	(\$186.56)		(\$2,330.79)

At October 31, 2023, unified giving and other revenues were \$7,362.44 higher than the previous year, and were \$5,758.58 higher than budget for the year. Expenses were \$7,010.52 lower than budget for the year, but much higher than the previous year. Year to date expenses exceeded revenues by \$3,026.73. Please note there is a budgeted deficit of \$18,955 for the whole year.



ANGEL TREE: The Angel Tree is up and decorated. Each year we collect gifts for the children living at CODA. These gifts are used for both Christmas and birthdays. Mothers are allowed to select gifts appropriately when the celebration comes around. If you wish to participate, select an angel (or two or three), buy a gift, wrap or bag, attach an angel and put it under the tree. If you are not able to shop, you can support this cause with cash donations. Give to a Trinity Women member or include in your offering and mark Angel Tree.

All gifts are due December 17.

LAYETTES: Trinity Women are, once again, collecting preemie and newborn clothes and accessories for Union Hospital. Preemie clothes are used to clothe stillborn babies as part of the grieving process. Newborn clothes are used for those who are in need. If you wish to participate, simply leave the items in the church office or bring to the Trinity Women Christmas party. If you are unable to shop and wish to make a cash donation, you may give the donation to a Trinity Women member or include it in your offering marked Layettes.

All gifts are due December 17.



BLESSING BOX ITEMS

We continue to collect non-perishable food items and personal care items for the blessing box. Please see the list posted in the narthex of acceptable items. No perishable food, please. Items can be left in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

Earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco have cause wide-spread devastation. Lutheran World Relief is prepared to serve here as we continue to help in Maui following devastating wildfires.

Your help is needed.

Give to Lutheran Disaster Response

P O Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Give by phone: 800-638-3522

Give online: disaster@elca.org



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.

Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!




The BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

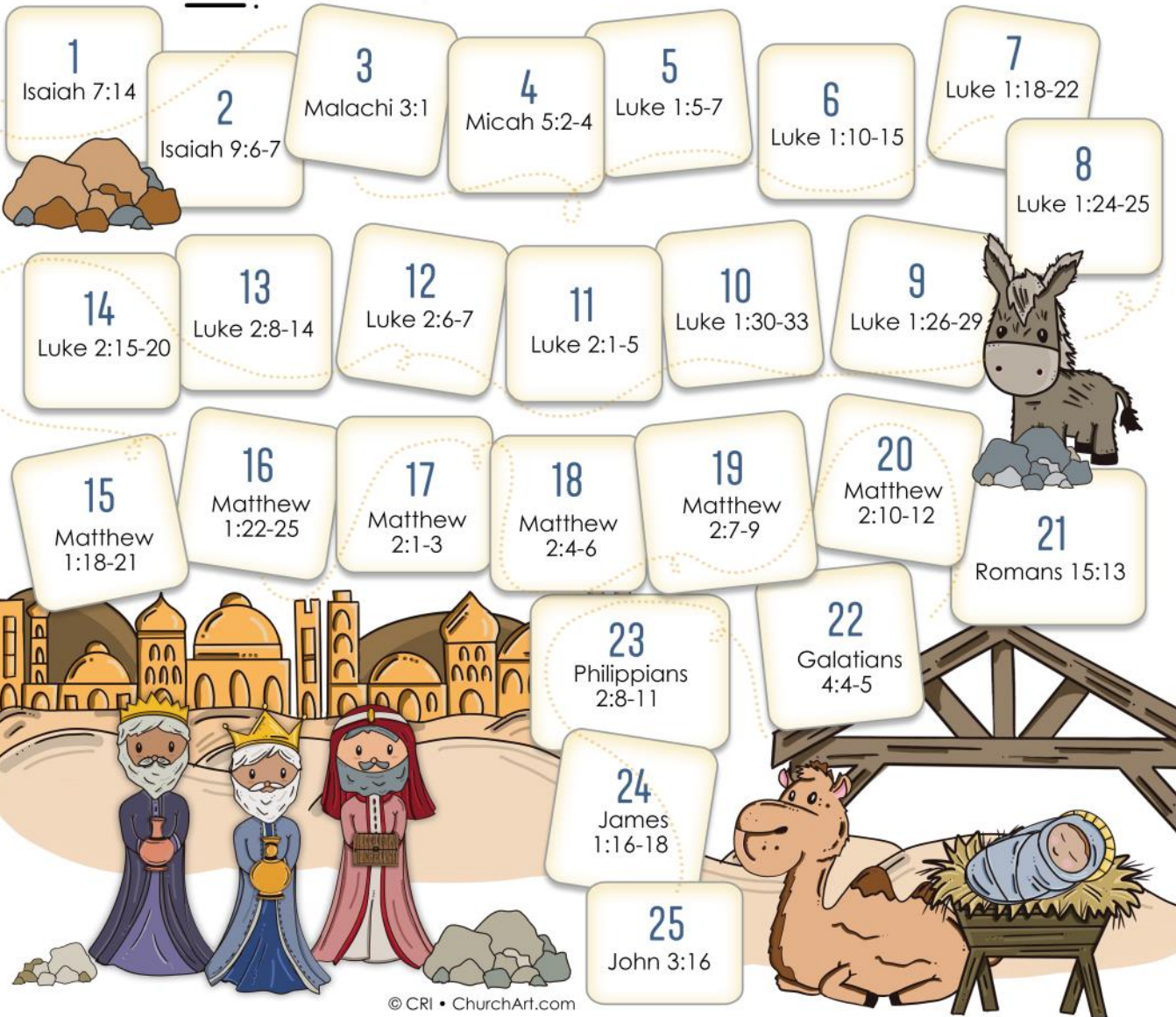
- I am God's child (John 1:12)
- I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
- I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
- I am bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20)
- I am a saint (set apart for God) (Eph. 1:1)
- I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
- I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt. 5:13-14)
- I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
- I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)
- I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil. 3:20)
- I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
- I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
- I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
- I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom. 8:35-39)
- I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
- I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
- I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
- I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)
- I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
- I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
- I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2:10) I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).
- I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
- I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1).
- I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
- I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be Perfected (Phil. 1:5-6)
- I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph. 1:5)
- I belong to God. Do you know who you are?!







A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**



1 Isaiah 7:14	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22
8 Luke 1:24-25	9 Luke 1:26-29	10 Luke 1:30-33	11 Luke 2:1-5	12 Luke 2:6-7	13 Luke 2:8-14	14 Luke 2:15-20
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13
22 Galatians 4:4-5	23 Philippians 2:8-11	24 James 1:16-18	25 John 3:16			

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<p>1  6p First Friday Cards</p>	2
<p>3 9a Sunday School 10a Worship Worship & Music Committee</p>	<p>4  Follow in Jesus' Steps Wear Brown Shoes Day</p>	<p>5 11:30a Zoom Bible Study 7p Growing Young Committee</p>	<p>6 5:15p Handbells 6:30p Choir</p>	7	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 9a Sunday School 10a Worship</p>	11	<p>12 8:30a Men's Breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible Study 5:30p Mutual Ministry (Zoom) 7p Council Meeting @ St. Mark's</p>	<p>13 5:15p Handbells 6:30p Choir 6:30p Trinity Women Christmas Party</p>	<p>14  Roast Chestnuts Day</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 9a Setup 11a-3p Holiday Craft Fair</p>
<p>17 9a Sunday School 10a Worship Due Date for Angel Tree/Layettes</p>	18	<p>19 11:30a Zoom Bible Study</p>	<p>20 9:30a Newsletter Items Due 10a Ruth Circle 5:15p Handbells 6:30p Choir</p>	21	22	23
<p>24 9a Sunday School 10a Worship 7p Worship</p>	<p>25  CHRISTMAS DAY Office Closed</p>	<p>26 8:30a Men's Breakfast 11:30a Zoom Bible Study</p>	27	28	<p>29  Call a Friend Day</p>	30
<p>31 </p>			<p>IMPORTANT NUMBERS <i>Pastor:</i> Karen Husby: 812-230-2628 <i>President:</i> Andrew Eichmiller: 812-797-2720 <i>Vice President:</i> Adam Pomfret: 812-236-0886 <i>Financial Secretary:</i> Greg Essig: 812-514-8055 <i>Treasurer:</i> Gordy Afdahl: 812-877-0903</p>			
					<p><i>Organist/Music Director:</i> Sara Johnson: 812-360-0897 <i>Administrative Assistant:</i> Jenna McFarland: 812-240-3970 <i>Church:</i> 812-232-7628</p>	



MISSION STATEMENT:

Believing in Christ, we
GATHER, GROW and GO
with the good news of
His love, compassion and forgiveness.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Phone: 812-232-7628

Pastor Husby: 812-230-2628

TLC email: office@trinityterrehaute.org

TLC website: <https://trinityterrehaute.org>

Office Hours:

Mon. - Fri. 9:30a-1:30p

Sunday Services

10a IN-PERSON &
ONLINE SERVICE



[https://www.youtube.com/
@trinitylutheranchurchterre4439](https://www.youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchterre4439)

TRINITY'S VISION STATEMENT

We are a welcoming family of believers in the triune God; we believe we are called to live out our faith by serving others and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Accompanying Guiding Principles

- We are committed to a triune God who governs our lives: God the Father, Jesus Christ—his Son our Lord, and the Holy Spirit.
- We acknowledge our spiritual weaknesses and accept our forgiveness as sinners redeemed by Jesus Christ's death and resurrection; it is by God's grace that we are saved.
- We praise God, pray for his help in our lives and seek a strong sustaining relationship with Him.
- We pursue the expression of Jesus Christ's teaching in our lives, supporting each other, and inviting all to join with us.
- We strive to be a community of believers, helping and supporting, within the congregation and in the broader community; we believe that we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

Trinity Lutheran Church
2620 Ohio St.
Terre Haute, IN 47803