

HERE WITH US

HOPE
LOVE
JOY
PEACE

Christ working
in us and among us.



MEMBER
REFLECTIONS

RECIPES
AND CRAFTS

CONVERSATION
STARTERS

UPDATES
AND MORE!

What does ADVENT mean to you?



As a youngster, Advent meant a special chocolate surprise behind a perforated cardboard window; we were oblivious to the miracle of Jesus. And the true meaning of Advent is most definitely not chocolate, it also isn't Elf on the Shelf finding another spot to perch in your home and spy on your children, nor is it about the hustle and bustle and stress that goes along with finding the perfect gift for your loved ones. It's about preparing to celebrate the birth of God's son, draw near to Him, and anticipate His hoped-for return. It is a time of expectation as we wait in hope, peace, joy, and love.

However you choose to observe Advent, remember that it is far more than simply counting down to Christmas. Focusing your heart on Christ, thanking God for sending him to save us, and expectantly awaiting his return will deepen your celebration of Christmas in all its facets. So much so, that you just might share that chocolate from the calendar...*maybe*.

How can we be reminded of the grace, power, and certainty of God's presence in our lives and the world around us? How about...

- Leaning into Prayer
- Dwelling on the Word
- Reading Daily Advent Devotions
- Observing Online Worship
- Attending Special Drive-in Advent Events
- Lighting Candles on the Advent Wreath
- Observing God-Sightings in Your Life

Be assured that **Christ Jesus is Here With Us.**

Let's Pray:

Dear Heavenly Father, you are coming in flesh to dwell among us in the name Jesus Christ. As we await your healing and comfort in our broken world this Advent season, help us to make room for your Word in our everyday lives. It's been a very difficult time for so many as we are plagued with worry and isolation; help us to empty ourselves to make room for the Holy Spirit so that we are made full and can pour forth your love throughout our community just as you have called us to do. Help us to draw close to You as it will enrich all other aspects of our Christmas celebrations—fellowship/video conferencing, gift giving, gift receiving...even shopping. Keep our eyes open to Your works all around us, in the seen and unseen, in the big and the small, in the shouts and the whispers, in the extraordinary and in the most ordinary. Grant us the time to stop, breathe, and embody the glory of the Word made flesh. May we find peace and stillness, and work to cultivate a closer relationship with you, our beloved Creator. Amen.

HOPE
LOVE
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TRINITY LONG LAKE
SPECIAL EDITION
ADVENT NEWSLETTER
-----2020-----

ADVENT AT TRINITY | Outdoor Drive-In Events |

For safety, everyone must stay in their cars and listen to the programs through their radios via FM Transmitter (90.9).

Sunday, Nov 29 / 4pm

Wreath Lighting &
Holden Evening Prayer Service
Trinity Kids families
may pick up Advent Wreath Kits

Sunday, Dec 6 / 4pm

Blessing of the Stable &
Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, Dec 13 / 4pm

Live nativity featuring
some of our Trinity Kids families

Sunday, Dec 20 / 4pm

Carol-Sing led by Megan Moroff &
Ben Richter and Car-Decorating Contest

Christmas Eve Worship
Thursday, Dec 24
3, 4, or 5pm

(Due to limited space in parking lot,
online reservations are required.)

ADVENT AT TRINITY | From Your Home |

Online Worship

Sunday Mornings at 8:30am
and Christmas Eve

Search *Trinity Long Lake Live* to find
YouTube Channel or watch on Facebook.



*Please note: Events may be altered
due to rapidly changing COVID situation.
Please visit Trinity's website
for event details and updates.*

TrinityLongLake.org

THE FOUNDATIONS AND FUTURES OF OUR STORIES:

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN STROMMEN

It is so good to be partnering in ministry with you all! Since I'm quite new on the scene and the normal opportunities for meeting a new pastor are not there because of the pandemic, I thought I'd introduce myself a bit more. I grew up in Richfield, the son of Lutheran pastor turned research psychologist and a high school teacher. I have three older brothers, but lost my younger brother in 1986. I was a basketball player in high school and a philosophy major in college, eventually leading to a call to attend seminary. I met my wife, Heidi, around this time, as she was on her way to becoming an insurance executive. Heidi and I have two sons, Thomas, 26, and Connor, 22. Connor is finishing at the U of M in environmental science and Thomas is a professional saxophone player and instructor. Heidi and I love to travel, read, listen to music, watch movies and favorite TV shows together, meet up with friends and have date nights out to dinner. I have taken up cycling of late and love to exercise. I am also an avid photographer and have my own website.

In my faith story, I have been shaped so much by my family of origin. My family of origin was essentially a small group that my parents led where we regularly had family devotions together, discussions about faith and theology, sang religious folk songs, and practiced faith rituals during special seasons. One example of this is what we did at Christmas every year and still do to this day with our extended family. On Christmas Eve, we all light our individual candles from the Christ candle and say, one by one, "I am lighting my candle because I want Jesus to light my way." Then we each place our lit candle in its predetermined place on the family log. When we're done, there is a sea of candles all lit up! This reminds us who we are, of course. My family defined for me what it means to be a Christian. This small group model is hugely relevant for us moving forward, as everyone needs a faith family of some kind – several people with whom you can gather and work out your faith journeys with each other.

I am also a passionate Lutheran! Because of my conviction that Luther's theology has so much relevance for today, I went back to school four years ago to work on a Masters of Theology degree at Luther Seminary. We're all trying to figure out how "do church" in the 21st century, and that task is not easy. In my studies and ministry, I am devoted to helping God's church find ways to innovate, dig

deep and discover God's preferred future for them in a new time. And that leads us to Advent and Christmas.

A long time ago, God observed that his message was not getting across very well to the world God made. Meanwhile, the world yearned for a savior to rescue them from their brokenness. And God decided to get closer to the situation on the ground. Much closer. In becoming a human person - Jesus of Nazareth - God made a decision to pitch a tent with these rebellious, often misguided souls God made. God did this in order to relocate their existence in God's own life, a life that would embrace brokenness in all it's dimensions, then rise again to new life.

As we struggle with the discouraging reality of a pandemic this year and a culture that doesn't seem to recognize its need for Christ, stay with us, Lord, in the tent you've pitched with us! Remind us that you meet us where we're at, fill us with new life in ever new ways, connect us to a community rooted in you, then invite us to join you in your mission in the world. Just as my own story always leads back to Christmas hopefulness and Easter proclamation, I know that Trinity's story does as well. Our stories always come back to the foundational truths.

I am so excited to be with you at Trinity. I am energized by your energy, and look forward to the ways that the incarnate God will lead us through the present wilderness. But rest assured, God will lead us through this, and it will be a privilege to accompany you on the journey!

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas!

God's Peace,
Pastor John



REFLECTIONS *from our Trinity Family*

We've been hearing over and over again from many people that the thing they miss most about being at church is checking in with each other. They miss seeing each other on Sunday mornings to celebrate new babies, engagements and marriages; to offer their support to those who are struggling; and to grieve with those who have experienced loss. Staying connected this year has been difficult, and we want to offer a space for our Trinity family to check in with each other. Here are a few reflections from Trinity members on how their year is going and how they are adapting for a different kind of holiday season.

We want to hear from all of you! If you would like to give an update on your family, talk about your year, or share about the holidays – how you're adjusting plans this year or memories from past years – we have set up a **Kudoboard** to post messages, pictures and videos. Visit TrinityLongLake.org/check-ins to share and to hear from others.

Janice Lehrke

This year has been like no other in our lifetime! I am familiar with the 1918 flu pandemic, which I discovered while doing genealogy research, and I hope it is 100 years before the world has to deal with another pandemic.

Dale and I feel we are luckier than many. We are in our own home, can come and go as we please, and are not trying to work from home or doing schooling from home. Actually, I feel like it has been a little vacation. There are so many things I have not had to do, such as having several get-togethers for cousins, entertaining, helping with projects for others. I have had more time to just have coffee in the morning, read the paper, etc.

But at the same time, I miss getting together with family and friends and having "Dinner of the Month" for two people who are like adopted grandchildren. I also miss seeing everyone at church on Sundays, Trinitarian events, serving coffee, and assembling the Tower newsletter. And I miss funerals, such as not being able to have closure for my friend and counting partner, Dee Swanson.



It has been a time to reflect on our blessings, and we have many!

We wish everyone the best in 2021!

– Janice & Dale Lehrke

Chuck Ritchie

As we draw near to the end of 2020, I find myself settling in to the thought of a protracted existence of uncertainty, curtailed social interaction with friends and family, and a realization that Zoom may be the soul-saving grace of these times. Beyond the constant concern for good health and a sane mind, I do find that there is a positive force in my life for which I am grateful. Next to my computer in bold large letters (in Russian) are the words "Faith, Hope, Gratitude, and Generosity." These have become my watchwords, and they remind of what will sustain me through these difficult times.

I am also finding that this has been a good time for inner inspection and reflection. I have been reading books such as *So You Want to Talk About Race*, *Caste*, *Unpoverty*, and *On Fire*, all of which are challenging me to take stock and reassess where we are as a nation and where I am as an individual. All of these I read out of involvement here at church, where we are undergoing unsettled times to be sure, but where we are also challenging ourselves to be better children of God and a better community.

I feel inspired, blessed, and so grateful to be a part of Trinity.

– Chuck



Vicki Drink

Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again Rejoice! (Philippians 4:4) Does this describe my mood this Thanksgiving? Yes but ,believe me, I didn't start here.

Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday. For 16 years, we hosted both sides of our extended family, plus anyone who didn't have a place to go, in our home. This meant 55 people sitting down together to share in a Thanksgiving dinner with all the fixings.



It was all hands-on deck for this celebration. Everyone walked in the front door with their specialty dish for our small village feast. My cousin Jay carved the 30 pounds of turkey while my mom, cousin Mike and our son Harrison made the gravy (pictured left). It was three generations mixing

love, tradition, and secret ingredients. Before the buffet line formed from oldest to youngest, we joined in a prayer of gratitude to our Gracious God, Provider of our food, family, and every good thing.

Like so many other things, 2020 flipped our Thanksgiving tradition off its foundation. My mom passed away. My dad moved reluctantly into assisted living. COVID hit. Quarantine. The latest is another spike in COVID cases just in time for the holidays.

Fear replaced festivities. Tears replaced traditions. No gatherings. No mom to make the gravy. Our daughter and new son-in-law are staying in Texas for the holiday. A home filled with the light of laughter now replaced with a dark, quiet emptiness.

How can I rejoice without our family gathering to share another year of traditions? How can I rejoice while still mourning? The circumstances of a COVID Thanksgiving left me sad, defeated and wanting to skip the holidays all together.

So when did joy return? It revealed itself in my Bible study of Genesis with the story of Noah. Noah was called by God to a new place and he answered in obedience and trust. Blind trust really, since God didn't reveal His divine plan or purpose for building the ark.

God is leading me to an unknown place this Thanksgiving. We will not be gathering with our extended family for Thanksgiving dinner and maybe

not my Dad. I don't know how to safely celebrate with my 90-year-old Dad, but it breaks my heart to picture him eating alone. I'm not sure how many more Thanksgivings we will be blessed to share. I never thought last year would be our last with our mom. Thanksgiving will not look or feel like the Thanksgivings I love.

But here I am stepping into a new place, leaving behind what I know. I wonder what Noah was feeling as he stepped out of the quarantine of the ark onto unfamiliar land. A little after a year living in the protective isolation of the ark, God said to Noah, "Come out" (Genesis 8:15-16).

Noah came out and built an altar on which he sacrificed burnt offerings to the Lord. Noah's first response was worship! Not mourning what was gone. Not fear of the unknown. It was worship of his merciful God.

Noah expressed gratitude to God by making worship his first priority. His altar revealed his heart of devotion to God, and it pleased the Lord. "The Lord smelled the pleasing aroma" of the sacrifice (Genesis 8:21) showing how God delights in our acts of faith from the heart.

What does my heart reveal? Have I built an altar to worship my merciful God or is my altar to worship my plans and wants? Like Noah, do I worship in gratitude to God's provision?

My altar is my "Prayer Chair" – a place I sit every morning seeking God. It's in this quiet time of communing with God where I reclaimed joy.

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith: "Faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Noah confidently obeyed God. God shut Noah safely in the ark, saving him from death from the Flood and giving him new life through faith. God saves me from death and gives me new life through faith in Jesus. In this I can rejoice!

–Vicki



Abby & April Stovern

(Abby recently learned how to knit and started selling hats, donating the proceeds to cancer patients and the homeless. She's been at area farmers markets and featured in the news.)

I started my hat business because I can help people in need or people who could use them like the homeless or cancer patients. I donate part of my money to Interfaith Outreach and WeCan. I started this to help people, and I hope one day I can give away \$10,000. That's my goal.

– Abby Stovern, age 10

Footnote from mom:

My coworker had been knitting & she talked about how much she liked it. Abby loves crafts so I bought her a loom and a skein of yarn. She watched a YouTube video and then made a hat and then another and another. She taught me and then got Brandon involved too. Soon we had lots of hats.

Because of COVID we were talking about how we could help other's in such a tough time. We came up with the idea to give hats to cancer patients and the homeless. We thought about selling them and decided we could help more people in need by donating to WeCan & Interfaith Outreach. Abby has donated over 100 hats to people in need and also given cash donations.

On a Friday night you'll find the three of us spending time making hats together! COVID has given us the opportunity to help others, have a new hobby & spend great family time together!

– April Stovern



Katy Gagne

Don't get me wrong – we have had our share of feelings of “This isn't fair. This year bites the big one.” But overall, in our house this year, we have found out many things about ourselves.

1) The kids are experts in technology. They are accountable. They know how to keep a schedule. They understand a checklist. Bonus: they know how to do a PowerPoint presentation! (Or rather, Google Slides, but for us older fogies, it;s still PowerPoint).



2)Diamond Art! A hidden treasure at Hobby Lobby, my kids have discovered the art of sticky rhinestones to do a modern-day color by number. They have also discovered TikTok, but I will take a win when I can get one.

3)Mid-30s (okay, late 30s) is not too late to start a new career! Taking advantage of COVID furloughs and time to learn new things, I decided to use my finance and sales background to a new and completely different level! PS: If you have real estate or mortgage lending/refinance needs, let me know.

4)Overall, even from a true introvert, social interaction is the key to life. We miss people when we do not get to see them!

We miss all of you, and we cannot WAIT to see you all in person again someday!

– Katy Gagne

School of Mom Professor of the Year, 2020

Susan Vickerman

This is the time of year I begin to ramp up for the annual Holiday Rush! I plan a Thanksgiving meal that includes anyone who can make it. That is usually over 25 people! I begin planning a holiday party that can exceed 50 people, and not to be out done by all the other events, The Annual Family Swedish Christmas Eve dinner that can top 35 people. These events bring me so much Joy! I love my family and friends! There is nothing better than sitting around a dinner table with the people you treasure most, thanking God for his love and Grace.

Enter the year 2020! The world as we know it has turned upside down. I have had long talks with my family about what we can do this year. It has been difficult to accept the fact that this year must be different. We all have a responsibility to take care of the ones we love. That means change. I cannot control tomorrow, but I can take charge of today and do the right thing.

Our family will celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas as smaller groups. My normal two-turkey dinner will be pared down to one. I will figure out the best way to safely include my parents in the Christmas plans. I am hoping to connect with my family in new ways, maybe a family Zoom! or a morning walk with my sisters. I will let my family know how much I love them, because that is the effort that has the greatest power.

I miss my Trinity family as well! The in-person holiday greetings will have to wait, but you are in my prayers!

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” –Isaiah 40:30

Hope and Faith!!
– Susan Vickerman



Laurann Patterson

This holiday season is unlike any other, but then 2020 has proven to be a year unlike the ordinary. In an ordinary year, friends and relatives would stop for a visit with us here in North Carolina as they escaped the cold winter months up north. But not this year because COVID-19 changed the “ordinary” in our lives and in the lives of many other folks as well. Instead of in person meetings, appointments, school, church and big group events, they became virtual or Zoom gatherings.

How many times have we experienced graduations, weddings, visits with friends or family gatherings that we took for granted as part of our ordinary world? Suddenly, these memorable, momentous events that seemed the ordinary were taken away from us. We have learned to adapt, to modify our ordinary into a new normal. We have had time to reflect on the importance of family, faith and friendships. A time to welcome the quiet stillness of our surroundings with thanksgiving.



Now it's the season of Advent and Christmas, and COVID continues to interrupt our ordinary parties, concerts and preparations. This now becomes a time to embrace the change from the ordinary. This is the time to make a long overdue call to a friend, to send a note of encouragement, to prepare for Christmas in the quiet of our hearts. Instead of singing carols in a church sanctuary with a congregation of people, it's a time to sing praises from our hearts for the wonder of this season. Instead of living in fear and apprehension of these uncertain times, it's time to hear the angels' message that we shouldn't be afraid but know this Child of Bethlehem will overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

In this out of the ordinary world, we are given this season to celebrate a baby born in a stable on an ordinary night. Yet, into this ordinary night came the extraordinary. Indeed, we are living in difficult, different out of the ordinary times, but Jesus lives today as surely as He lived back then.

When this season is past, I want to be out of the ordinary and be more centered on Jesus, more thoughtful, more caring and more thankful.

– Laurann Patterson

Amanda Anderson

Last Christmas brought smiles and a few tears to my entire family. After a miscarriage in October 2019, we were pregnant again! God may have wanted our first child, but he gave us another: one filled with hope we'd lost and new joy and love. As we relaxed through the holidays, work came quickly in January. I wasn't showing quite yet, so the pregnancy was my little secret at Boston Scientific. Hunter on the other hand couldn't wait to share the news with his coworkers, so he spilled the beans as soon as he could! Keeping it a secret for me meant work went by rather quickly and suddenly it was March 2020.

I had been keeping up to date on COVID-19 as I was in the first trimester with our precious baby inside me. They say getting the flu or any fever with a pregnancy in the first or second trimester is dangerous, so naturally, my worrying went into overdrive. I had been in contact with my boss (one of the few who knew at work) sharing my fears. Friday, March 13th, I packed up my cube to take home - little did I know it would still be here as we near the end of 2020.

Working from home was a difficult transition in terms of adjusting my work habits and communication, but being at home was the silver lining of the beginning days of a pandemic. As I worried what was going on outside our home, I was as safe as a caterpillar in a cocoon in our home. Hunter's job (4th grade teacher) also went remote as many parents at Trinity likely remember that considerable change in schools. That change overturned his whole work world. With the added stress on him, it took away stress of mine because I knew he was safe from exposure to this unknown viral disease.

Our home life rapidly took shape. You know when everyone says, "spend as much time together as possible before the baby" and, "this is the last time it'll be just you two in your life"? Oh, we got the time together that we needed before the baby. Between relaxing and our breakfasts, lunches, and dinners together, we adventured outside frequently and played games or watched movies daily. This was a major advantage to the unique hand COVID dealt our family.

As I kept growing and spring and the second Minnesota winter passed, summer arrived in all of its Vitamin D glory. Summer brought our expansion of our exposure bubble from just us two to our intimate family. We still limited our time together and made sure we were all being safe wearing masks and keeping our distance, but these times together enriched my soul deeper than before. It had been just me, Hunter, and our two animals for the last couple months, but now we got to reconnect with family in person - not through a computer!

Through ultrasounds and prenatal appointments, which I attended alone due to COVID, I was finally able to bring Hunter and a doula to support me during labor. And let me tell you, this was a whopping benefit when I was alone with most other baby things. Labor itself couldn't have gone better, and I'm extremely thankful for that. Once Baby Addie was here and healthy, we got family time. Visitors weren't allowed as they once were, so we got time together as just us parents and her, that bonded us right away. I'd extend that bonding even into the first month of Baby Addison's life. Per our pediatrician's recommendation, visitors that go into work had to be masked and outside 6' apart, and all less-exposed visitors need to wear a mask and hold the baby with

a swaddle between their skin and her. You can imagine, as grandparents with a new baby, they wanted to protect her as best as they could. That meant less visits than we likely would've gotten in a regular world. As much as that impacted the support we received when the baby was new, we got along just fine with my savior of a mother, and to be honest, I'm not sure I would've had the energy to have changed anything if we could!

The negatives during this time will never be forgotten, but while we were growing our family, I look at them with



rose-tinted glasses. We regularly had friends over at our house for games or barbecues in 2019. This wouldn't have changed if not for COVID-19. All of our friends together, seeing my bump grow, talking about pregnancy and the baby with those I hold dear, that was a sizable hole in our 2020 life, and it will be until we can all meet again safely.

We also learned my sister was pregnant this summer, which is another blessing! Unfortunately for the scenario at hand, she lives in California, and the rest of our family is here in Minnesota. As she grows and transitions to motherhood, we won't be able to see her or touch her belly in person.

Thirdly, we make it a point to visit with Hunter's parents by putting on our foodie hats and trying hot restaurants around Minneapolis. With our last time being without a child in tow, those would've been special moments.

Fourth, work would've been fun to start showing and share my news. I still got to do it in a way that worked, but for everything I've learned in this isolation, in-person connection has so much more weight to it than a substitute meeting over Zoom.

Lastly, the big Kahuna: a baby shower. My mother-in-law hosted a drive-by shower and I was extremely thankful for it, but it happened to be on a 90°F, humid summer day. It would've been glorious as a pregnant woman to sit inside A/C for a celebration that lasted all day! Nevertheless, I sweltered in a mask, waving to friends and family I would've hugged, to celebrate our soon-to-come addition as it was priceless to me to have that in-person moment with so many that we love.

It's not like we could have truly done this year any other way; COVID happened, and we adjusted. Now we are thriving as a family of three, knowing one day, she will have a normal life once again, hopefully one that includes Sundays at Trinity!

– Amanda, Hunter & Addie Anderson

Terrie Allen

2020: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

The Bad. There is plenty of material for this one. You don't need my help here.

The Ugly. Did you see my hair when the salons were shut down? Yikes!

The Good? Yes! This is the one we need to spend more time thinking about. I catch myself saying things like, "2020 stinks!" or "When is this horrible year going to end?" But when I stop for a moment and think about 2020, there has been good. This year, my best friend was blessed with the birth of another grandchild. Our daughter got engaged. We had the best summer EVER as a family at our cabin. Who would have thought how awesome drive-in worship services are!

There WAS good in 2020. It's harder to see but it is there if you look hard enough. Ask yourself, "how do my friends and family feel when I declare 2020 the worst year ever"? What life celebrations am I overlooking or dismissing? Why is it easier to see the bad and the ugly?

It really comes down to having faith, doesn't it? It's a challenge to be sure but we have all the tools, right? God's word, prayer, staying engaged in our community, taking part in worship and serving others are the things that we do to keep connected to our faith. That's why we "practice" our faith, for these bad and ugly times. As you look ahead to 2021, don't forget to look back to reflect and be thankful for the good in 2020.

"Faith is the art of holding on to things in spite of your changing moods and circumstances." –C.S. Lewis

– Terrie



Martha Tofteland

A Story of Loss Filled with Hope

“...Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” – Romans 5:3-5

These are strange times. There are rich blessings and deep heartache woven throughout the world we live in right now. From the very beginning of COVID-19’s arrival, it has been evident that each of us has a story about the here and now. This is an event in history that affects everyone. For a lucky few, the result may still just be mere inconveniences and disruptions to daily life; for the rest of the community, the impact is growing more significant with having to juggle work-from-home commitments with kids’ educational goals; being concerned for our loved ones’ health and the effects of on-and-off-again forced isolation; worrying about finances, a job or the livelihood of a business; the list goes on. I think of all of you as I reflect on our personal story.

For our family, last spring began with the loss of my 40-year-old husband, a wonderful man who publicly, bravely fought ALS for four years. If you recall seeing a young man in a power wheelchair some Sundays, chances are you know who he was. Somehow Ryan managed to maintain his sense of humor and a twinkle in his eyes despite slowly losing all of his abilities.

Ryan passed away just two weeks before Governor Walz declared a Peacetime Emergency in Minnesota; his funeral was the weekend before, packing Trinity with over 350 or so attendees. I am thankful we were able to pay proper tribute to him, but sad this has not been the case for so many who followed him to Heaven. Immediately after, life as we all know it changed. In our house—which includes my two young children (Finn and Liv) and mom (Shirley Hemenway)—we went from isolation to more isolation. At a time when we needed the comfort of family the most, we were left to scatter and mourn alone. Our house was no longer bustling with visitors, meal drop offs, the hospice team, or casual but cherished lunches and dinners that often included whatever loved ones were helping with care that day.

True, our grieving period was not off to an ideal start. And there were times of great emotional difficulty over the summer. But I am thankful every day that Ryan was alive at a time when it was possible to have visitors without extra worry. What a blessing!

For the kids and I, though I crave social interaction and activity, the pandemic has afforded us time to embrace the simplicities of life. There’s much to say about how little we need to just “be.” Some days are better than others, but I have hope that we will all come out of this with some renewed focus on what really matters: faith, hope, love, family, joy, memories and new traditions.

– Martha Tofteland

Julie Vagle

On March 12th my family began sheltering at home as a result of COVID-19. We hunkered down immediately because I am a type 1 diabetic, and I had a newish baby. I worked full time from home with both kids (Blake-4, and Sophie-1) for nearly 7 months before we made the decision to send Blake back to Preschool, not an easy decision to make but necessary for both him and us. During this time we’ve stayed away from going into stores by getting delivery groceries, and Target pick-up, gosh I miss Target. After months of being at home and being very cautious we started having some backyard family dinners, and found creative ways to connect with friends, and others outside, which was so needed. We remain very cautious to keep me healthy, as well as my parents who help with Blake once a week.

This time has been challenging with the ages of my kids, both busy in different ways, but I remain grateful as well for the extra time we’ve had to watch Sophie’s milestones, and see our kids bond. It has also be rewarding to be able to help families do faith at home with their kids,



and other activities together during these different times.

This year I grieve the traditional ways we do the holidays, gathering with both sides of our families, singing Silent Night in the Sanctuary with candles, parties and gatherings with friends, going up north to my in-laws, and shopping with my mom at the mall. Instead we are getting creative over here with how we plan to celebrate, our trees are already up. We plan to take advantage of outdoor Christmas light displays with kids in Christmas jammies and hot cocoa, watch Christmas movies together at home, decorate gingerbread houses, go sledding and play outside, Zoom and Facetime with family, and find other creative ways to make this season special.

I remain grateful for the ways in which God continues to be with us during these challenging days of uncertainty as we cling to the promise of the baby born in the manger. May you find peace, and the comfort of the newborn king during this Christmas season.

– Julie



Tom Lane

Where did they go?

As I grew up, I had this aunt and uncle who had 19 children and lived in this very small, two-story home on about 10 acres of land. They had a couple of cows, chickens, and I think a couple of goats.

Over the years, suddenly it seems, the children were all out on their own, and how quiet it must have been. Daily life must have changed... going to the grocery store, planning meals, deciding what to do with their evening time without games to go to and constant practices to attend. Wow – a weekend without a bunch of kids to get ready for church!

Now that's the way I feel about what's going on with COVID. It's much too quiet.

Our life has been about family: two sons, three grandsons and now a couple of beautiful great granddaughters. It's also been about our much larger family for the past 65 years: Trinity.

Trinity, are you all still here? Who is getting married? Who is having a new baby? Who is having a baptism? Who is getting confirmed? It's also been about the presence of God in the Sanctuary. I know, all we need to do is find a quiet moment, press our knees to the ground, and bow our heads to His presence. He is with us wherever we are, but when we are able to share the moment with others, it seems to mean just a little more. It gives us total confidence in our beliefs.

Why? Because I guess my faith isn't quite as strong as the Lord would want it to be. I do have doubts on occasion when things don't seem to add up. My logical mind can't seem to see the logic in the death of a good friend who spends every day at church on her knees, and still she dies when others who had the same cancer regain their health and live on for years to come. So this is what it gets down to... I need my Trinity family who seem to understand the Lord better than I, to be there for me and help me understand the whys.

By the way, the quiet in my aunt and uncle's life only lasted until that first grandchild was born, and then another, and another. I think they would be still counting, but the Lord decided He needed their help keeping up with all those grandchildren and great grandchildren.

I pray that this quiet doesn't last long either and we get a chance to get together with our Trinity family in the very near future.

We miss you all!

– Tom & Judy Lane



Kassy Heinrich-Wydra

Advent has always been my favorite time of year. I love the excitement of Christmas coming, the idea and image of Jesus coming down to earth to be with us. Our Emmanuel, God With Us. I love the snow. I love the children's program and the candlelight service at Trinity. And I love my family's tradition of homemade pierogi on Christmas Day. But this year, Advent seems like a cruel trick. The word in of itself is just a poke in the eye.

Advent. It comes from the Latin word, adventus and means coming. It gets even better though... adventus comes from the Greek word παρουσία (parpousia) and means "presence." I can't help but scoff when I think of this. Really, God? Presence, during a pandemic? How can I count on you to show up this Christmas when most of this year has been one of solitude and confinement?

2020 was a big year. I got married. My husband and I bought a house. My mom (Julie Dzubay) moved back to Minnesota and now lives with us in our new home. So many of my prayers have been answered by our faithful God this year, but there is a part of me that can't help but be bitter.

Our wedding was small and intimate. My sister wasn't able to join us due to a COVID-exposure the week of the wedding, so our dogs stood in as our bridal party. We haven't been able to throw a house-warming party or even serve a meal large enough to use the leaf in our dining table. An unexpected breast cancer diagnosis kept Julie in Minnesota past her expected summer stay and visitor restrictions have meant I can't always keep

her company during her chemotherapy sessions. Group-size restrictions have meant we have to figure out how to mourn our COVID casualties from afar and far too often alone.

It's been a year of so many blessings, but surreal in its solitude and the change of pace. This year has left me lost and lonely and in a way I never expected. None of the usual markers for the seasons have happened: no spring baseball games or summer concerts; no trips to El Salvador or reunions with college friends. Now the holidays are around the corner, and I'm trying to do the math to cut recipes down to serve two instead of 12 or 20....

And yet, Advent is here. My favorite liturgical season feels a bit more like salt in the wound. Will group-size restrictions prohibit the shepherds from meeting Mary and Joseph at the manger? Will Jesus arrive on Christmas Day with a negative COVID-test like my wedding guests did? Will he even come at all?

I have to believe He will. After all, Christmas is a time of miracles. Looking more closely at the Greek root of our Advent word, παρουσία (parpousia) it may mean arrival. Perhaps this year Advent needs to be one of arrival rather than presence. An invitation to us all to embrace the "already but not yet" space that we as Christians must walk in as we wait for Christ to come again. We are already saved with the gift of Jesus, but all we have to do is watch a few hours of TV to know we have a ways to go until heaven is here.

This Advent, I'm going to trust in the promise of His arrival and strive to find ways to bring a bit more of the kingdom's kindness to the world around us: breaking bread, praying for peace, and singing:

*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.*

My dear friends at Trinity, even though this year has been long and lonely, we have a God that makes miracles happen each and every day... and He is with us. May you find rest as you remember the Christ child and prepare for his presence. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

With love,
– Kassy Heinrich-Wydra





Holiday CRAFTS

AVOCADO GREEN MAGAZINE
DRIED CITRUS
Garland

ACTIVE TIME: 30 minutes
BAKING TIME: 3 hours

MATERIALS:

- Fresh navel oranges (two make a 3-ft garland)
- Baker's twine (or other string)
- Fresh cranberries



- Scissors
- Tapestry needle
- Baking sheet
- Parchment paper

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat your oven to 250°F and line the baking sheet with parchment paper or a baking mat.

Use a sharp knife to slice oranges into 1/8" rounds and arrange on a cookie sheet. Place into the oven and bake for 3 hours, checking every 20 minutes or so and flipping the slices halfway through to ensure they dry flat. When the oranges are stiff and dehydrated, remove from the oven and allow to cool completely.

To make the garland, cut the desired length of twine and make a loop at one end. Thread the tapestry needle on the opposite end of twine and thread on a cranberry. Next, thread the needle through the top of an orange slice, poking needle through the front to back of the orange, then back to front.

Continue alternating orange slices and cranberries, being sure to evenly space the fruit, until you've reached the desired length of garland. When you're done, finish with a cranberry and make another loop with the end of the twine.

Now your garland is ready to display! Hang it from a mantel, from your banister, or around a doorway.

Salt Dough ORNAMENT

Here's a simple and fun idea to create your own ornament. If you have kids you can use handprints to create memorable ornaments or use a favorite cookie cutter to decorate your tree.



INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup salt
- 1 cup cold water



DIRECTIONS:

Mix flour and salt together in a bowl. Slowly stir water, a few tablespoons at a time, into flour mixture until dough is smooth and easy to handle. Knead dough for a few minutes until dough is smooth. Roll out the dough until about an 1/8" thick. Use a cookie cutter or handprint and then cut away the excess dough. Using a straw poke a hole in the top of each ornament to hang on the tree.

Bake the ornaments at 300 degrees for about an hour. They are done when they feel hard. Let the ornaments cool. Time to decorate! Use items around the kitchen to create texture or paint your design. Let dry and hang on the tree.

Holiday CHIT CHAT STARTERS

Whether you're at the table, on the phone, or video conferencing, we often use the same go-to questions like...*What's new with you? What's the weather like today? How about this election year? Gasp.* Instead, why not switch it up a bit? In doing so, you just might gain insight into the heart of your friend or loved one, take a wonderful stroll down memory lane together, discover new commonalities, or just share in a good laugh. Thousands of conversation starter questions can be found online but we've selected some of our favorites for you to try over the holidays. We even brought the Trinity staff in on the fun!

- #1 What's the best – or worst – Christmas present you've ever received?
- #2 What holiday movie or special do you watch over and over again?
- #3 What was Christmas like when you were growing up?
- #4 What's your favorite tradition around the holidays?
- #5 Share one vivid Christmas memory, good or bad.
- #6 If you could travel anywhere for Christmas, where would you go?
- #7 You're walking down the street, feeling great — what holiday song would be playing in the background? Why?



Cari Bullemer

WOMEN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR

#1 Let me premise this with I love my father very much, but...on the very first Christmas my now-husband spent with my family in 2001, my dad who puts a lot of thought into his gift giving, handed me said gift excitedly. I opened it...immediately I went flush as inside the box was a pair of pants – not ordinary pants – but stretchy pants with stirrups! Folks, I was mortified. One, had I put on so much weight that my dad determined I needed pants with give!? Two, not my taste, never put leggings on my body at any point in my entire life. Three, not remotely the current fashion – not that I ever followed trends anyhow. Four, I expressed to my family numerous times, very clearly, to never ever buy me clothing...EVER; it just puts people in that position of either pretending to like the item or asking for the gift receipt (awkward). And finally, I don't ride horses! In hindsight I was probably a little harder on my dad than I should have been. But to this day it cracks my husband

up recalling the moment I unwrapped those black "fat" pants with stirrups.

Mark Hemingway

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & WORSHIP

#2 Our family always watches *White Christmas* and *It's A Wonderful Life*. *White Christmas* is a sing-along. The stage background this year for our drive-in worship was inspired by the closing scene of *White Christmas* when they throw open the barn doors. Merry Christmas.

Rindee Erdmann

FINANCIAL MANAGER

#3 We spent Christmas Eve with my mom's family – our grandparents and aunts/uncles/cousins from near and far. Christmas Eve dinner was always oyster stew (with chili for those who wouldn't eat the oyster stew) and lots of desserts. Santa always made a personal appearance to deliver gifts! (Santa turned out to be Grandpa, who always said he was holding the reindeer on the roof when we questioned where he was!) Then we ended the day at the 10pm

candlelight service at our church.

Julie Vagle DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

#4 The holidays are my absolute favorite time of the year. Some of my favorite traditions are cookie baking day at my parents' with my mom, sister-in-law, and the kids, decorating the Christmas tree together with Christmas music playing, singing Silent Night with candles at church, and watching Christmas movies with the family.

Stacy Thoma

EARLY CHILDHOOD COORDINATOR

#4 Christmas Eve service. I have such great memories of the service at Trinity. Trinity used to have two large trees up front on either side and they had these huge ornaments on them - I always loved those. The Christmas Eve candlelight service was my favorite - something sooo special about it. We would go home after the service, have dinner and then open our presents in front of the fire. That is a tradition we continue today.

Jerilyn Miller Lowe DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

#1 In the 1960's and 70's shopping in my small town mostly took place via mail orders. My brothers and I would scour the Sears and JC Penney Wish Books and give our lists to Grandma and Grandpa and Aunts Dorothy and Joanne. My favorite big girl present was no lie, a vanity from my grandparents. Check it out! The mirror was framed by clear bulbs. I felt so grown-up and fancy!



Jill Cornell

DIRECTOR OF SHARED MINISTRIES

#4 We cut our own tree down. A few times it has been in the rain and other times below zero. When the kids went to college, we waited until they got home to get the tree, even though it was December 23.

We want to connect you to one another; visit our website to access the **Kudoboard** created for members to post messages, photos, and videos. Share your favorite Chit Chat Start answers!

Linda Koltes

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

#5 In 2008, we were on a beach in Jamaica on Christmas Day with Troy's whole family swimming, soaking up the sun, and listening to Reggae music.

Kelly Govrik PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

#5 1999 was my favorite Christmas ever! Greg got down on one knee, told me I was his best friend and he would love me forever. He opened the little box. There was no ring. It was a pair of diamond earrings which were beautiful and lovely, but not an engagement ring. I'm pretty sure I laugh/cried. I was trying not to be disappointed in this very thoughtful gift. As I started to put the earrings in, Greg pulled out our engagement ring from his pocket and asked me to marry him. I again laugh/cried and said yes! I love him!

John Strommen

INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

#5 Every year we would read the Christmas story before we opened presents. One year, my brothers

and I decided to enact the story on our deck using our black lab as a stand in for all the animals, but nothing about our performance conveyed peace! Our dog was not stationary but very agitated and restless. The weather was blustery, and with minimal props and harsh spotlight lighting, it was the worst re-enactment ever. So, as my parents looked on through the picture window with considerable grace, three of their sons at least tried to do something different!

Kelsey Arens

OFFICE MANAGER

#6 Spain. I love Spain and have been fortunate to travel there twice so far, but never around Christmas. My first visit to Madrid was over Holy Week and Easter, and parades filled the streets almost every day, with elaborate floats depicting scenes from the Passion. It was a very moving and holy experience, above and beyond anything I've seen here at home. I would love to see the celebrations at Christmastime. I can only imagine the beautiful Christmas trees, lights

and nativity scenes everywhere!

Megan Moroff

DIRECTOR OF HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRIES

#7 If I could travel anywhere for the holidays, I'd go on a Christmas cruise to Germany. My Granny wanted to do that in 2013 after she beat Leukemia but wasn't able to make the trip happen, so I would go on her Christmas dream trip in her honor.

Kristin Nafstad

HOSPITALITY COORDINATOR

#7 All Christmas music plays in our house (sometimes all year-we are a Christmas family). Some favorites are *Sleigh Ride*, *White Christmas* and *Silent Night*.

Ann Fenlason

ASSOCIATE PASTOR

#7 *Sleigh Ride* (by Leroy Anderson). So cheerful with the sleighbells and the clip-clop of the horses! I've sung it in choirs a number of times (a super fun song to sing with orchestra), and will never turn it off when it comes on the radio.

Holiday RECIPES

Fruitcake

- Janice Lehrke

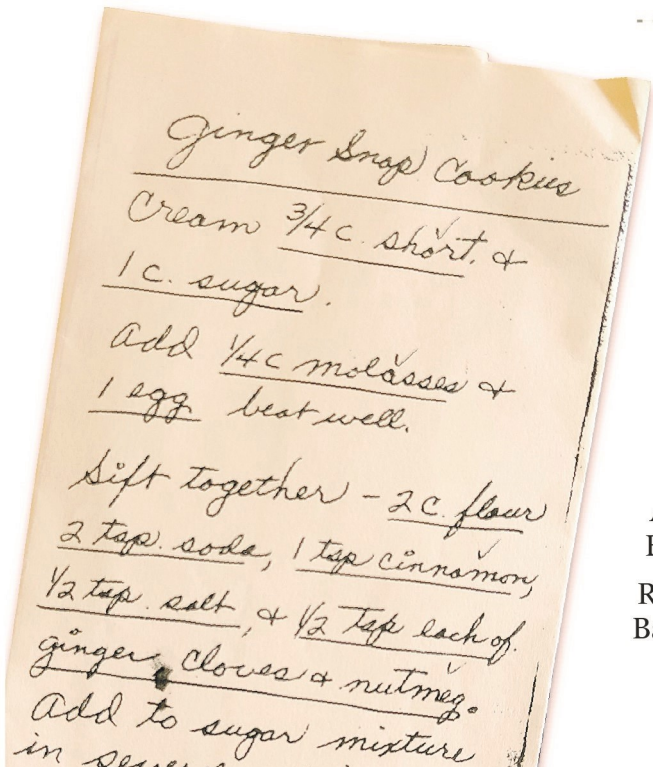
"My mother always made fruit cakes with orange glaze for the holidays, and they had to be made by Thanksgiving. I decided to make them in the smallest muffin tins so they are bite-size – and they still have to be made by Thanksgiving. This recipe is my favorite!"

In a saucepan, combine molasses, brandy & vanilla, add raisins and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in fruit. Cool. Meanwhile cream butter and sugar, add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Stir together dry ingredients, add to creamed mixture alternately with milk. Stir in fruit mixture, mix well.

Fold in nuts. Spoon into miniature muffin tins, filling almost to top.

Bake at 325° for 22-24 minutes or until done.

Notes: I used a rounded measuring spoon for spices to add more flavor. Can use buttermilk. Use miniature papers in muffin tins. Store in refrigerator for a week before storing in freezer.



- Camille Pearson Walz

Ginger Snap Cookies

"This is one my favorite recipes from a generation before me. Tried and true."

Cream 3/4 cup shortening and 1 cup of sugar.
 Add 1/4 cup molasses and 1 egg. Beat well.

Sift together: 2 cups flour, 2 tsp. soda, 1 tsp. cinnamon,
 1/2 tsp. salt and 1/2 tsp each of ginger, cloves, and nutmeg.

Add to sugar mixture in several additions.
 Beat after each (by hand).

Roll into small balls (size of a quarter). Roll balls in sugar.
 Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes. Makes 5 dozen cookies.

Find and share more recipes on our
Kudoboard at TrinityLongLake.org/check-ins.

Lefse

Overland (Decorah)/Mondloch (MSP)
Combined Recipe

John Overland,
King of Lefse, makes this
recipe all year long
and shares it with
Agape Gift Market
bakers every year!



DAY ONE

Boil 5 lbs. (1 bag) of unpeeled russet potatoes (makes 24 sheets) and let cool to the touch. *Do not boil extra-large (individually purchased) russets or force cool/peel under cold running water, because the batter will get soggy/sticky.*

When cool to the touch, peel and immediately rice 9 cups of boiled potatoes, then rice again.

- add 1 stick of butter (melted OK)
- add 3/4 cup heavy cream (whipping cream)
- add 3 Tbsp sugar
- add 1 Tbsp salt

After mixing ingredients with an electric hand mixer in a bowl, scoop out 9 separate one cup mounds into a wax paper lined

cake pan. *A flexible 1 cup silicone measuring cup works best; it pops the batter out cleanly.*

Place cling wrap or aluminum foil over the pan to seal and refrigerate at least overnight. *Do not freeze or liquid will be lost from the mixture.* This refrigerated potato mixture will stay usable for at least a week in this state.

DAY TWO

When ready to cook, use a manual pastry blender to blend 3 cups (mounds) of this potato mixture with 3/4 cup of general purpose unbleached flour; this 4:1 ratio to flour is very critical. *Be aware that the mixture is not usable for very long once flour is added; you can refrigerate for up to a day in the final mixed state.* Re-cover the remaining un-mixed 6 mounds in the pan and place back in the refrigerator until ready for rolling out.

After the flour is blended in, knead by hand and roll into a log. For thin lefse about the size of the lefse grill, cut the log into 8 equal portions. Use your hands to roll the first of the log sections into a sphere and then pat into a patty that's ready to be rolled out.

Set Lefse Grill (Bethany Home

Products) to 500F. However, the actual measured grill temperature will be just under 300F (measured via thermal camera). *Do not set the grill on a metal surface (painted or unpainted) or reflected hot spots can form; consider a wooden board.*

Flour a sock covered square cut rolling pin. Flour a pastry board until the red letters are almost opaque. The outer red ring, plus a 1/4 inch, is the goal for thin lefse. Flour gets absorbed primarily from the board center and the sock. Use a fine mesh flour sifter to lightly flour the rolling pin sock again (over the center of the board) after rolling out each patty.

Roll the patties (from center out) until you see pastry board's red outer ring through the lefse.

Place a wide (1.5") lefse stick about a stick width from the edge and use a second narrow lefse stick to wiggle underneath the exposed flap and then flip it up on the wide stick and just start rolling it up on the stick... and then unrolling it on the lefse grill. If the lefse sticks to the pastry board, use the side of a cake spatula to scrape the cloth dry. Next use a stiff brush; then re-flour. If lefse sticks to the rolling pin sock and can't be brushed clean, just replace with a spare sock.

Stack cooked lefse rounds between two sheets of wax paper that are in turn kept between towels...to hold in moisture and soften the edges of the final product. When finished stacking, consume warm or fold rounds to fit in a plastic storage bag and freeze. *(10 sec nuke defrosts)*

SERVE WITH BUTTER, CINNAMON, SUGAR, BROWN SUGAR, OR LINGONBERRY JELLY – THEN ROLL AND ENJOY!

Updates from TRINITY MINISTRIES

Thank you for supporting worship!

First-off, a huge thank you to all your continued support, viewing and participating in worship events for the past nine months. Trinity has experienced very steady attendance for our drive-in worship, averaging at least 150 per Sunday, with another 200+ views each week for our online worship. While we can't track who is watching online, we have received notes of appreciation from several individuals across the US who had no connection to Trinity prior to finding us on YouTube.

We would also like to thank the dedicated volunteers and staff who have made these worship services possible: Charlie Allen, Cari Bullemer, Denny Pederson, Kate Hemingway, and Kelsey Arens. Also to the many musicians who have come in to record music for our worship. You have all added to our worship life and filled a spiritual void which appeared when we lost in-person worship. Blessings to you all!

Worship Events in December

We will continue our online worship services, which are pre-recorded on Thursday mornings and presented every Sunday at 8:30am. These are available anytime on Youtube. Simply search for "Trinity Long Lake Live" to view all past worship events, Pastor Ann's video devotions, Trinity Kids lessons and more.

Outdoor drive-in events will continue!

In Advent, we will have special drive-in Advent events on Sunday afternoons at 4pm in Trinity's parking lot. Families must stay in their vehicles and can listen to the program through their car radio. While we can't gather in the wonderful traditional worship events of Christmases past, it is our hope that these out-of-box experiences can be just as meaningful for you and your family during this

festive and important time of the church year.

Please view the beginning of this newsletter for the full Advent and Christmas Eve schedule.



December Community Meal

Our next Monthly Community Meal is Thursday, Dec 17, 5:30-6:30pm. These meals will continue throughout the winter months, with curbside pickup available from Trinity. The Monthly Community Meal is a collaboration of St. George Catholic, Calvin Presbyterian and Trinity Lutheran Churches. Members from St. George will serve the December meal. These are free and open to the community.

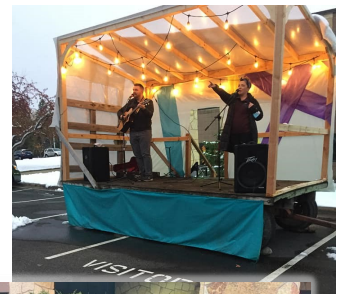
Children & Family News

Trinity Kids continues to be online with weekly videos by Stacy and Julie incorporating their curriculum, and at-home activity sheets and crafts for preschool families are given each week. Our preschool and elementary kids are also meeting on Zoom once a month with Julie and Stacy. Each registered family in children or youth programs at Trinity will receive an Advent To Go box full of ways to engage families each day in scripture through a devotional book and advent calendar, a few simple crafts, offering project for ELCA Good Gifts, and some holiday goodies.

Confirmation & TNT

Confirmation had a lot of fun meeting outside in the Parking Lot on Wednesday nights. It was a joy to be together as we worshiped God, studied the bible, and grew in our faith! Confirmation has now transitioned to Zoom for the foreseeable future.

High school youth also loved meeting outside for TNT! We had several bonfires, played capture the flag, and enjoyed brunch from the incomparable John Thiesse. TNT has moved to Zoom with hopes of returning to in-person some time this winter.



Giving Tree

Our purpose remains the same: supporting several organizations with holiday gifts for families and individuals they serve, but it will look a bit different. More organizations are requesting gift cards for in lieu of actual gift items. Our Giving Tree lists are available by online sign up to simplify the process. Please visit Trinity's website to access the sign up.



Looking for different gift ideas? Consider these donations.

ELCA Good Gifts

As members of the ELCA, we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous, loving hands, we can make a difference. ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

The animals of God's Global Barnyard are among some of the most popular gifts in the catalog. Your gifts to God's Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources, and much more to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat or dairy products. Your gifts support this comprehensive approach to animal husbandry. Learn more at goodgifts.elca.org

Feed My Starving Children

This past April, Trinity would have hosted its sixth FMSC MobilePack event. While we weren't able to host the event and have postponed it until April 2022, you can still support FMSC and God's children across the globe. With the pandemic, more children than before are growing hungry each day. Every year, millions of children die from hunger. FMSC believes hope starts with food and is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. These nutritional meals allow children to grow, thrive and develop to their full potential. A gift of \$88 will feed a child for a year. Any amount donated helps to provide these life-giving meals to children. Visit www.fmssc.org

Interfaith Outreach – Sleep Out

Twenty-five years ago, a local man named Bob Fisher slept out in his tent to raise funds for his neighbors experiencing poverty and housing insecurities. What started as a one-man effort to raise \$7,000 and feed 100 families Thanksgiving dinner, has grown into a community-wide effort that has raised more than \$32 million to help local families with basic needs, including housing, employment, childcare, and food.

This year, Interfaith Outreach is celebrating 25 years of the annual Sleep Out campaign, the community's eight-week series of events and experiences to raise awareness and \$2.6 million to prevent homelessness and create opportunities for everyone in the community to thrive. Visit IOCP.org/sleepout to learn more. Your support and participation will help more than 2,000 families, stabilize and strengthen in our community and address the root causes of poverty.

Organizations we are supporting with the Giving Tree: Interfaith Outreach, Families Moving Forward, Lutheran Social Services Homeless Youth, The Woodlands (group home next to Trinity), Simpson Shelter, St. Stephen's Shelter, WeCan, and Lutheran churches in El Salvador.



In addition to the list of online items, we will collect socks, hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for shelters through Christmas. Wool socks and waterproof gloves/mittens are specifically requested to help keep guests warm and dry.

Dates that items are due vary and details can be found on the sign up. If you have questions, please contact Marlys

Jenson at mkjenson7@gmail.com or 612-308-6111. Thank you for supporting this year's Giving Tree!

AGAPE Gift Market Update

Due to the escalating COVID situation in our community and the latest order from the governor, Trinity's COVID Response Team made the decision that the outdoor AGAPE Gift Market planned for Nov 14 was to be cancelled. Our AGAPE Team quickly came up with an alternative way for people to shop safely and set up an online version of the market.

Thank you to everyone who shopped online and supported the market during this year of changes. 100% of net proceeds from the market will be used to support local food, housing and mental health needs. A full recap of the market and distribution of funds will be shared later.

HERE WITH US

HOPE
LOVE
JOY
PEACE

Christ working
in us and among us.

TrinityLongLake.org

TRINITY LONG LAKE SPECIAL EDITION ADVENT NEWSLETTER 2020

What's inside...

Preparing for Him
Member Reflections
and Check-ins
Crafts for the Season
Member-shared Recipes
Conversation Starters
Ministry Updates



ADVENT AT TRINITY

| Outdoor Drive-In Events |

Sunday, Nov 29 / 4pm

Wreath Lighting &
Holden Evening Prayer Service
Trinity Kids families
may pick up Advent Wreath Kits

Sunday, Dec 6 / 4pm

Blessing of the Stable &
Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, Dec 13 / 4pm

Live nativity featuring
some of our Trinity Kids families

Sunday, Dec 20 / 4pm

Carol-Sing led by Megan Moroff &
Ben Richter and Car-Decorating Contest

Christmas Eve

Dec 24 / 3, 4, or 5pm

(Reserve your parking spot online)