TRINITY ELCA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER

140 N. 7TH AVENUE | WEST BEND, WI 53095 | 262.334.2125 | trinitywestbend.com

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2021

Dearest Siblings in Christ,

I write this letter the day after having to check on the safety of a dear friend of mine – a teacher at Waukesha South High School. This followed the news that an SUV drove through the Waukesha Holiday parade, killing some and injuring many – including children.

This year – *sadly like too many others* – the pain of the world around us is impossible to avoid or ignore. I find myself thinking and rethinking once again of the song "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day". The lyrics are taken from a poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day in 1864. Longfellow wrote his poem following several years of horrific tragedy which included: the Civil War, the illnesses of his children, the fatal burning of his wife, Longfellow's own serious burns and a war injury suffered by his oldest son that left him teetering on the brink of life and death. *The raw, honest pain of the opening verses never fails to bring tears to my eyes:*

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men. And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men." These words also prod us to realize that a sweet, peaceful, stress-free Advent world only exists in fairy tales and redacted memories. Like the first Christmas, every Christmas morning dawns on a world filled with hurt, fear, political strife, hunger and injustice.

However, Advent reminds us that pain, hopelessness, suffering, and loss are not the way God's story ends. It ends with new life, salvation and love. Into the darkness breaks God's light, life and love - Immanuel ("God with us"). AND THE DARKNESS CANNOT OVERCOME GOD'S LIGHT.

God's story is not over yet. There is still much darkness all around us. But we celebrate God's love breaking into the world through Jesus. We know God's salvation story has begun. Also, we know that there will be a day when God's story will end – as it began – with all creation reconciled in God's love.

Abreve Abreve

Advent and Christmas are our yearly assurances that God IS and WILL BE with us even in the darkest of times. Moreover - when all is said and done -God's love will win. In the midst of his pain, Longfellow recognized this truth and ended his poem as follows: Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men." Till, ringing singing, on its way, The world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men!

I pray that, as the family of God, we may (*with God's help*) use our lives and our words to make this same proclamation of hope, love and life in our world - this season and always. *God is with us! Prepare the way of the Lord!! Thanks be to God!*

Pastor Custy



Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: () is not dead, nor does He sleep; The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With prace on earth, good will to men.



Decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas Season

Trinity's already beautiful sanctuary has been dressed up for the Christmas season thanks to a few folks pitching in behind the scenes.



rivity TOGETHER it takes every one of us, for we each have different work to do!

BEHIND THE SCENES

Trinity's mission to **Share God's love and promise** is often demonstrated through the generosity of members who share their time and talents, giving of themselves to lend a hand and help make our ministries flow. and put our best foot forward. Time after time, the people of Trinity come through to make a difference in countless ways—often behind the scenes.



Thank you to the decorating crew: Dee Washa, Ruthann Dorn, Ruth Ruh, Cindy Tikusis, Sue Beekman, Wendy Johnson, Sandy Poenitsch *and* HIGH STUFF and BIG TREES by: Phil Wagner and Bryan Johnson.

Trinity's Outdoor Nativity Figures Have Seen Better Days

The large nativity figures we have displayed on Trinity's front lawn for many, many years are in a sorry state of deteriorization. The three kings are especially bad, and Joseph and Mary are close seconds. Investigating their replacement ended in a discovery that it would cost SEVERAL thousands of dollars.

Please lift up a huge shout of THANKS to Sue Gilbertson, who

agreed to take on an attempt to remove a lot of the peeling surfaces, use a combination of products we hope will work to prime and fill in some of the cracks, and then give Joseph and Mary a fresh new paint job! Sue also promises Mary will be painted more ethnically correct.

Due to the state of the Kings, they will remain inside this season and until we can determine if they can be restored—or not.

By the time this newsletter is in your hands, we expect you will be able to view the end result of Sue's labor of love displayed on Trinity's front lawn —Joseph and Mary in the stable, awaiting Jesus' birth!

By the way, another couple behind the scenes people who volunteer to set out the Nativity display are: **Tom Bergerud** and **Seth Bergerud**— **THANK YOU!**

Be sure to take a look!









Advent is a significant time of expectant waiting and preparation for the coming of the Christ child. **Special Advent service in December will be conducted through WORD** *and* **SONG** (*Cantata style format*).

Saturday afternoon worship will include pre-recorded pieces sung by our Created to Praise singers | Sunday morning worship services will include live vocal ensembles.

Come, worship with us during Advent as we WAIT. WATCH. and WONDER.

WAIT SATURDAY | DECEMBER 4 | 3:30 PM SUNDAY | DECEMBER 5 | 9:30 AM

WATCH SATURDAY | DECEMBER 11 | 3:30 PM SUNDAY | DECEMBER 12 | 9:30 AM

WONDER SATURDAY | DECEMBER 18 | 3:30 PM SUNDAY | DECEMBER 19 | 9:30 AM



CHRISTMAS EVE | FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

- **3 PM** | Family Worship Service
- 5 PM | Created to Praise Candlelight Worship
- 7 PM | Traditional Candlelight Worship
- **9 PM** | Traditional Candlelight Worship

CHRISTMAS DAY | SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 AM | Christmas Carol Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

9:30 AM | Christmas Carol Service

Please take COVID precaution responsibility, *always*, but we ask that you be especially cognizant during the holiday worship services. It goes without saying, if you are not vaccinated, please WEAR A MASK, *and even for those who are*, CONSIDER MASKING UP for the sake of all those in attending worship.

Thank you

GIVING TREE

Gift tags for families served through the **Gingerbread House** may still be available to pick up. **Please have all gifts under the Giving Tree by December 14th.**

All gifts shouls be wrapped or giftbagged. Please put any gift cards in a gift wrapped box or gift bag., so they don't get mixed up or lost. The tag from the tree should be attached to the gift so we can identify the gift.

MITTEN TREE

We are collecting donations of winter hats, mittens, gloves and scarves **throughout the month of December.** All items collected will be given to families served through the **Gingerbread House**. All sizes and types welcome, but they especially appreciate waterproof mittens for kids.



SENIOR HIGH FIRST SUNDAY SUNDAY | DECEMBER 5 6 PM - 7:30 PM

Trinity's Senior High Ministry invites ALL 9TH–12TH GRADE folks to gather together for: Senior High 1st Sunday throughout the year for: Small Group meetings; Worship and Service opportunities; Retreats, Lock-ins and activities; fundraising and preparing for our 2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING TRIP.

Every year we talk about how confirmation is not the end of growing your faith. It is the start of a new chapter in your life story. "Senior High 1st Sunday" is a lot like confirmation *but different*. There'll be some video/ discussion and some free time to connect with friends, both old and new. **The difference??** The topics and activities are kicked-up a notch and chosen in response to ?'s/ideas from you!

Please feel free to text, Snapchat, Instagram or Facebook your thoughts.. These gatherings are a work in progress designed to meet your interests and schedules.





RePurpose YOUR SHOES FUNDRAISER () TRINITY YOUTH PROGRAM

The final weeks of the shoe collection period to help Trinity's Youth program fundraiser are upon us!

SHOE COLLECTION ENDS DECEMBER 9th

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY'S SENIOR HIGH YOUTH!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SHARING THE LOVE AND PROMISE OF GOD WITH KIDS FROM AGE 3 UP TO 6TH GRADE!

SEEIT, MAKEIT, TASTEIT, MOVEIT, TELLIT —*SHAREIT* . . . *bring a friend!* SUNDAYS 9:30 AM - 10:45AM

We are excited for the Children's Ministry Christmas Program **'A CAPITAL C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S' Sunday, December 12** Kids arrive 3:30 PM | PROGRAM 4 PM



No Children's Ministry | December 26 and January 2

Sharing God's love with Trinity's kids is guaranteed to positively impact your own life! To get involved with Trinity's CHILDREN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM, contact Alyssa Brockman trinitywestbendcm@gmail.com or 262-343-5557



4TH - 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP F.I.S.H<< | FOLLOWING IMMANUEL SERVING HAPPILY

F.I.S.H<< Christmas PARTY DECEMBER 19 | 11 AM - 12:30 PM FELLOWSHIP HALL—LOWER LEVEL

Attention all 4th-6th Graders | Join us us for a F.I.S.H. CHRISTMAS PARTY! We'll meet in Fellowship Hall from 11:00am-12:45pm for games, food and fun.

IMPORTANT!!! PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 15th.

RSVP vis text **262-483-0792**, email cschoob@trinitywestbend.com, use Facebook—or sign up on the "**Youth Board**" downstairs in Fellowship Hall (between the first 2 doors to the Youth Room).

SAVE-THE-DATES:

- January 9th | Snow Tubing at Sunburst | NOON-2:30 PM IN CASE OF WEATHER ISSUES Epiphany "Glow" Party in Fellowship Hall | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM!
- February 13th | Valentine's Day Party | 11 AM-12:30 PM OR ALTERNATE SNOW TUBING DATE at Sunburst | NOON - 2:30 pm

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SIGN UP FOR FISH ACTIVITIES BY TEXT, EMAIL, FACEBOOK OR ON THE "YOUTH BOARD" OUTSIDE THE YOUTH ROOM OFF FELLOWSHIP HALL.

ohjirma zioh YOUTH PROGRAM Z WEDNESDAY NIGHTS | 6:30-8:00 PM

 DEC 01
 Apostles' Creed ARTICLE 2 | SNACKS: Jacob Kozlowski

 DEC 08
 Apostles' Creed ARTICLE 2 | SNACKS: Matthew Krawzik

 DEC 15
 Apostles' Creed ARTICLE 2 | SNACKS: Christmas Celebration

 DEC 22
 NO CONFIRMATION

 DEC 29
 NO CONFIRMATION

 JAN 05
 Apostles' Creed ARTICLE 2 PARABLES | SNACKS: Kristin Nelson

INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

Advent Holiday Cookie Sale | benefits Trinity's HELPING HANDS Fund



The Incredible Edibles Advent Cookie Sale is BACK!

This year cookies will be sold as prepackaged assortments. cookies will be available for purchase at the December Advent weekend worship services and the Children's Ministry Program—while supplies last.

Satisfy your holiday sweet tooth and support Trinity's HELPING HANDS fund.

HELPING HANDS FUND PROVIDES A HANDUP IN TOUGH TIMES.

Calling all Bakers! You are invited to contribute your tastiest treats. Go to trinitwestbend.com, click on the Volunteer button and go to Incredible Edibles SignUP or call the church office for more detials



Spread kindness in your "village" this holiday season by setting aside time to spend with family, friends and performing random acts of kindness within your community. Here are some ideas to get you started, but let this be the spark that lights the flame!

DECEMBER 1	Leave a treat for a mail carrier or delivery driver
DECEMBER 2	Share a living romm picnic and Christmas Movie with fami
DECEMBER 3	Write a thank you or thinking of you note to someone
DECEMBER 4	Make a time capsule ornament
DECEMBER 5	Leave change taped to a vending machine
DECEMBER 6	Donate blankets and towels or food to an animal shelter
DECEMBER 7	Make and deliver a treat to a neighbor
DECEMBER 8	Have a family outing with a holiday activity
DECEMBER 9	Patronize a small, locally-owned business
DECEMBER 10	Buy flowers for a random person
DECEMBER 11	
DECEMBER 12	
DECEMBER 13	
DECEMBER 14	
DECEMBER 15	
DECEMBER 16	Gather friends & family and go Christmas Caroling
DECEMBER 17	,
DECEMBER 18	
DECEMBER 19	
DECEMBER 20	
DECEMBER 21	
DECEMBER 22	
DECEMBER 23	
DECEMBER 24	Be patient and kind with your family

Just as there are many parts to our bodies, so it is with Juigt's body. We are all parts of it, and it takes every one of us to make it complete, for we each have different work to do. So we belong to each other and each needs all the others.

ROMANS 12:4-5



Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." —LUKE2:13-15

WE ARE LIKE A PUMPKIN

Lord, Open my mind and fill me with Your wisdom and guidance. Take out all my fussies and frownies and fill me with your love. Lord, open my eyes to see all of the beautiful things You have made. Help me to be a sweet set fragrance for You. Help me to always speak Your words of love and kindness. Lord, let me be a light to others For You have filled me with Your light.



So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. -LUKE2:16-20







CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SEEit MAKEit TELLit MOVEIt TASTEIt





















































and it started with learning about



Feliz Navidad (Merry Christmas), from Mexico! Las Posadas is an important Mexican tradition during the holidays-complete with prayer, music, food, and piñatas!

Las Posadas, a nine-night celebration from December 16th to 24th, is an important part of Christmas celebrations in Mexico. Each night, people go to a party at a different home.

They commemorate Mary and Joseph's search for an inn by forming a procession to that evening's location and symbolically asking for shelter. When the owner of the home finally lets everyone in, they celebrate!

For children, the highlight of the night is often the breaking of the *piñata*, a brightly decorated paper (or pottery) container filled with candy and toys.

The Posadas piñatas are often in the shape of seven-pointed stars. The children put on blindfolds and take turns hitting the suspended piñata with a stick. When it breaks and the contents spill out, everyone rushes in to collect the goodies!



Trinity's kids had a very fun, hands-on experience with the Mexican Christmas tradition of breaking the piñata! :)











Project RETURN grew out of a volunteer base that believed men and women returning from incarceration deserved a second chance. It offers a variety of support for those returning from incarceration.

Project RETURN has asked us to concentrate more on these types of priority items:

- Personal hygiene products (such as Soap, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Razor, Hairbrush/
 Comb, Washcloths, Feminine Hygiene
 Products, Shaving Cream, Toenail Clippers,
 Chap stick, Lotion, etc.)
- Gift cards (Walmart, Target, Kohls, Pick-n-Save, Dollar Tree etc. or just a visa gift card they may use to pay cell phone bill or buy a bus card)
- Blankets, pillows, bedding.
- Small kitchen appliances such as microwaves, toasters, etc.



No Bible or book study will be scheduled in December and January due to the holiday season and Pastor Dave's last month of Sabbatical scheculed for January.

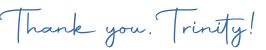












Nothing can stop the power of God's love.

We asked and you gave—all of the Giving Tree gift suggestions for Samaritan Home residents were spoken for very soon after the SignUP Genius invitations were sent out! As of this printing, there are still opportunities to provide gifts to families in need from our community through the Gingerbread House.

We asked and you gave—pre-packed sweet and salty snacks that were donated for families who are staying at **The Ronald McDonald House** connected to Children's Hospitlal. These items were delivered by Tiffany and Evander Wilson.

We asked and you gave—a **FOOD COLLECTION** resulted in a good amount of food and grocery store gift cards to help families in our church and community (through the food pantry) who are struggling to make ends meet.

We asked and you gave—God's Work. Our Hands. Volunteering your time to help with fall clean up at the Blue Lotus Farm & Retreat Center and in tying fleece blankets for the Holiday HOPE program that reaches out to at risk students in our community schools.

> We asked and you gave—your continued support for our Compassion International sponsored child, Kaori is a much needed, ongoing gift with an impact that few of us can imagine. You can donate to this ministry by texting 1-844-385-9887 and specifying Kaori. Enter the amount you want to give, followed by a space and the name Kaori. SAMPLE: if you want to donate \$10, enter 10 Kaori in the text. It's that simple! You can also mail or drop off a donation at Trinity

Don't sop now!

We continue to seek winter hats, mittens, gloves and scarves for the **MITTEN TREE** throughout the month of December. *Waterproof mittens for kids are especially appreciated.*

ONGOING THROUGOUT THE YEAR | Save and bring in your aluminum can pop tabs to benefit The Ronald McDonald House | Keep them coming! House-shaped boxes are in the Heritage room to collect aluminum pop tabs on an ongoing basis. The Wilson family will deliver all the pop tabs each year on 'Tab Toss Day' in mid-May.



You are both invited and needed to help us keep our ministries in and outside our walls working to share God's love and promise. Visit **trinitywestbend.com** to signUP or call Sue in the church office: 262-334-2125

- Ushering: Greeting
- Worship Assistant: Reading
- Coffee Hour Snack Provider or Host
 and more!

ON THE DAY YOU WERE BORN, GOD DANCED, ANGELS SANG AND THE STARS ALIGNED. WE HOPE THAT YOUR BIRTHDAY WILL BE A HAPPY CELEBRATION FILLED WITH BLESSINGS.

Payton Pretsch	12	22
Charlotte Speener	12	22
Xavier Omernick	12	23
Jeffrey Schibline	12	23
Mila Hendrson	12	24
Charles Hillman	12	24
Nicholas Theisen	12	24
Suzanne Barker	12	26
Bradley Pierce	12	26
Glenn Pietschmann	12	27
Jerad Yapp	12	27
Ryan Wojtalewicz		28
Bruce Abel	12	30
Sue Gilbertson	12	30
Joseph Hoppenjan		30
Monty Hull	12	
Caleb Naumann	12	
Myra Olson	12	
Dawn Spaeth	12	

Morgan Doede	12	10
Darlis Wilfer	12	10
Daniel Schmidt	12	11
Ralph Seymer	12	13
Keith Downer	12	15
Harper Kenworthy	12	16
Melissa Klatt	12	16
Christopher Odness	12	17
Jeffrey Fink	12	18
Jack Odness	12	18
Paul Sulik	12	18
David VandeBoom	12	18
Augustus Brockman	12	19
Natalie Granger	12	19
Katelyn Schicker	12	19
Kaitlin Sparks	12	19
Joscelynne Clark	12	20
Jeffrey Esselmann	12	21
Madysen Schlosser	12	21

Evan Beekman	12	01
Steven Crass	12	
Kevin Davis	12	01
Ashlee Geib	12	02
Jacob Myrhum	12	02
Ethan Schicker	12	02
Kristin Anderson	12	03
Nancy Goschey	12	03
Dylan Kenworthy	12	04
Lori Kurer	12	04
Gustave Mog	12	04
Edna Sepersky	12	04
Evelyn DeLuka	12	05
Gerald Schrankler	12	06
Therese Rosenthal	12	07
Kristen Nelson	12	08
Emily Schmitt	12	08
Avis Wallesverd	12	08
Dustin Laatsch	12	09
Leah Shulka	12	09

BLESSINGS



to everyone who has returned the estimated of giving cards you received for our 2022 #TrinityTogether commitments. If you have not, it is not too late. We hope you are prayerfully considering your part in Trinity's contnued mission and ministries.

We are thankful for the faithfulness of all our members and friends.

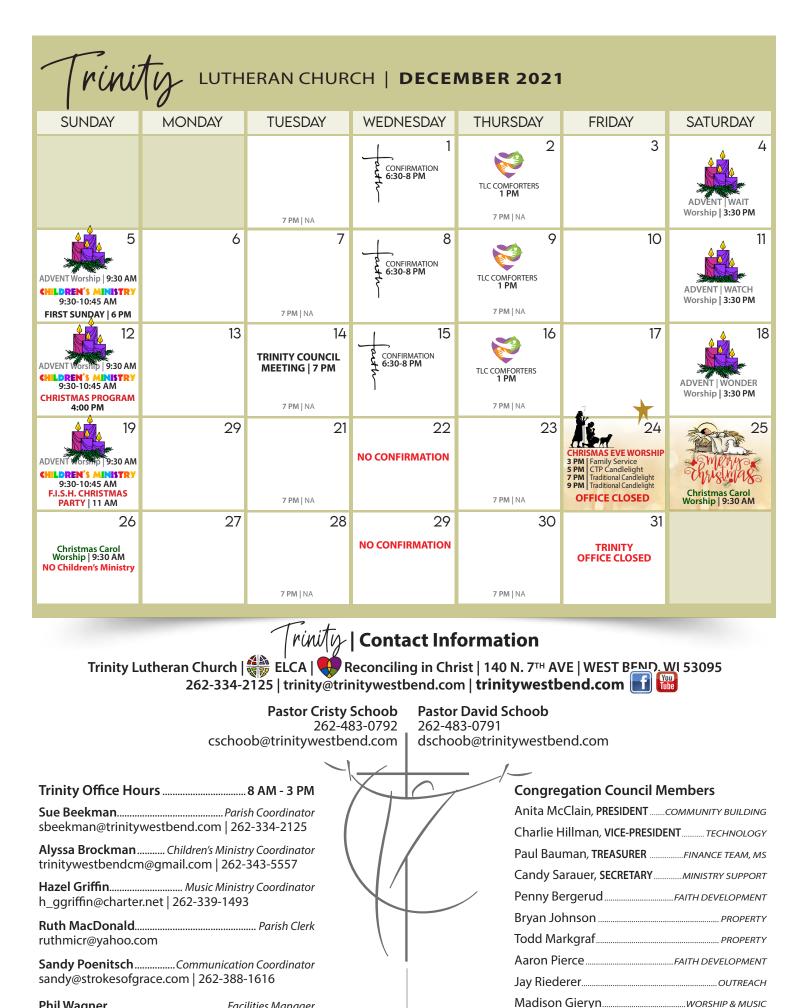
Blessed to be a blessing-ways to give!

- Visit trinitywestbend.com to set up automatic withdrawal with GIVE+ AUTOMATIC GIVING or download the GIVE+ app
- **TEXT-TO-GIVE** | Send a text message to 1-844-385-9887 with the amount you would like to contribute (e.g. 25.00) and you will be sent a text with a link to register. *It's that simple.*
- Support Trinity by designating Trinity Lutheran Church, West Bend, WI as the charitable organization you want to support when you shop through.
 AmazonSmile | smile.amazon.com
 You shop. Amazon Gives! 0.5% of eligible purchases adds up for Trinity.
- Shopping with SCRIP gift cards supports Trinity's YOUTH Program | Go to ShopWithScrip.com | CLICK on 'How to Enroll', then CLICK 'Join Your Scrip Program'. Enrollment Code B4FF674164897



TRINITY: 100 years of ministry

Our Centennial Year is fast approaching! Please contact Pastor Dave with any photos and memories you would like to share from your years as part of Trinity's family.



Phil Wagner Facilities Manager

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