TRINITY ELCA LUTHERAN CHURCH

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 12

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

Children of God,

We approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus, once more hearing the good news that God chooses to enter our world as a baby. A baby who is vulnerable and needs the love of those around to survive. A baby who embodies the love of God. God comes in this way so that we might all be reborn in this love.

The Christmas miracle calls us all to remember what it means to be truly human, born with a need for God. Maybe our humanity is tied up in our vulnerability, tied up in our need for one another. Christmas is our chance to be born anew into love and family and connection. Even secular Christmas seems to bear these markings. *But we are also reborn into God's family.*

God comes to remind us that we do not need to bear the weight of the world on our own. God is willing to come and walk with us and care for us so that we can embrace the miracle of love that was ours from the beginning.

Dare we embrace this gift? Can we afford not to embrace it?

This poem encapsulates God's wish for us to embrace and receive the miracle of Christmas—just like a child.

How I wish to trust In life, no questions asked, Hanging on God's words, Confident and relaxed, Just like a child.

How I long for conscience As mild as the breeze, Having goodwill with others And always at peace, **Just like a child.**

How I long for courage That laughs at fear, Knowing I'd surely be caught When tossed in the air **Just like a child.** How I wish to take Life's journey with ease, Jolly through thick and thin, As cool as you please, **Just like a child.**

How I need this grace, So dear Lord, to you I come. Help me to believe And receive your kingdom, **Just like a child.**

Just like a child.

When God calls us to be *like* children it is not to regress, not to abandon maturity or rationality or discernment. Instead, **God is calling us to rediscover our core**—*being humble, vulnerable, trusting, following, believing*—**just like a child.**

May Christmas be a time in which we are all reborn. Christmas truly is for children.

Pastor Cristy

Pastor Dave and Pastor Cristy





BEHIND THE SCENES

There are many things that happen behind-the-scenes at Trinity each and every week of the year. From making prayer shawls to doing the dishes and washing table cloths, pulling weeds and taking care of Trinity's gardens, counting the weekly offerings, changing the altar paraments, filling the oil in the altar candles, making sure there are sharpened pencils and welcome cards in every pew, setting up communion, and a multitude of other tasks, *large and small*, that make a difference. To everyone *(and you know who you are!)* who work behind-the-scenes, *Mark Yor!*

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



Thank you Dee Washa, Ruthann Dorn, Ruth Ruh, Wendy and Bryan Johnson, Sandy Poenitsch and Phil Wagner

Thank you, Sue!

Nothing can stop the power of God's love. Trinity's mission to Share God's love and promise is often demonstrated through the generosity of our members. Time after time, the people of Trinity come through to make a difference in countless and impactful ways—like, for instance.....

THE KINGS MAKE A COMEBACK! Thanks to a very challenging labor of love by Sue Gilbertson!

Last year, **Sue Gilbertson** tackled a restoration of Trinity's large nativity figures of Joseph and Mary. Displayed on Trinity's front lawn for many, many years—they were in very sad condition. Sue worked her magic, however, and brought new life to the Joseph and Mary figures.

The three Kings were a different story as they were even more deteriorated than Joseph and Mary. They did not join the outdoor display last year and, to be honest, whether or not they could even be restored was debatable.

This year, Sue took on the challenge of restoring the Kings! Thanks to Sue's talent, perseverance and painstaking labor of love, Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar are not only back, *they are absolutely beautiful!*



ABOVE: Joseph and Mary, before Sue Gilberton's restoration work and after. BELOW: The before picture hardly captures the sorry state of deterioration of one of the Kings before Sue painstakingly brought each of them new life!





for sharing the gift of your time and talents and perseverance

SUE GILBERTSON

You are a gift to the Trinity family!



INCREDIBLE EDIBLES

Advent Holiday Cookie Sale Benefiting Trinity's HELPING HANDS Fund



1-Pound Prepackaged Cookie Assortments Sold for \$10 EACH

Satisfy your holiday sweet tooth and support Trinity's Helping Hands outreach ministry! This fund provides a hand UP to those in our community experiencing limited resources or hardship.

-----INCREDIBLE EDIBLE ORDER FORM------

RETURN ORDER FORM TO CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8th

NAME:

PHONE#___

#______1 lb. prepackaged container assorted cookies @ \$10.00 each = TOTAL \$____

Orders will be available for pick up before or after worship on the weekend of December 10-11th or during office hours before DECEMBER 18. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF THE HELPING HANDS FUND—MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CALLING ALL BAKERS!

We need your help to contribute your tastiest cookies and treats!

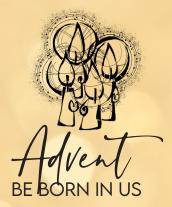
Go to **trinitwestbend.com**, click on the Volunteer button to find the Incredible Edibles SignUP Genius *-or-* call the church office for more details.



The Stewardship Ministry Team is thankful for the positive congregational response to our **NEXT100** fiscal campaign for 2023. Together as one, we share in the mission of allowing God's light shine through Trinity's ministries both inside and outside our walls. If you haven't yet, we invite you to return your Estimate of Giving card in person or by mail by December 4th.

As we prepare for Christmas, let all we say and do reflect our thanks to God for the gifts with which we have been entrusted. May we take our place among the saints, using our gifts to the Glory of God. Your generosity is making a difference at Trinity, in the community, and across the world every day.

Trinity's Stewardship Team Pastor David Schoob, Suzanne Barker, Peter Nelson



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

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

BE BORN IN US When we are alone 4:00 PM | DECEMBER 3 9:30 AM | DECEMBER 4

BE BORN IN US When we feel hopeless and lost 4:00 PM | DECEMBER 10 9:30 AM | DECEMBER 11

BE BORN IN US To a World that needs new life 4:00 PM | DECEMBER 17 9:30 AM | DECEMBER 18





CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24 3 PM | Family Worship Service 5 PM | Created to Praise Candlelight

- **7 PM** Traditional Candlelight
- **9 PM** Traditional Candlelight

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 9:30 AM | Christmas Carol Service



Seth & Penny Bergerud Keri Davis Kelly Doede Nancy Hanvey Keri O'Shea Jennifer Walth

If you would be interested in teaching a 3 week rotation, please sign up outside of Fellowship hall or contact Alyssa.

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



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

- DEC 07 | 4th Commandment SNACKS: Mitchell Doede
- DEC 12 | 4th Commandment SNACKS: Oscar Martin
- DEC 21 | Confirmation Christmas Celebration
- DEC 28 | NO CONFIRMATION
- JAN 04 | 5th Commandment SNACKS: Gracyn Schneider
- JAN 11 | 5th Commandment SNACKS: Alex Davis



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

SHARING THE LOVE AND PROMISE OF GOD WITH KIDS FROM AGE 3 UP TO 6TH GRADE! SEEIT. MAKEIT. TASTEIT. MOVEIT. TELLIT.

SUNDAYS 9:30 AM - 10:45AM

If you haven't registered your child yet, you still can-they are always welcome!

November 20 We started our Christmas, Messengers of the Light rotation! During this rotation we will be learning parts for the Christmas Program, The Christmas Story—Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever.

December 10

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Christmas Program PRACTICE! 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Your child is welcome to stay for lunch, fun, and games. *Parents, go do some Christmas shopping! Please let Alyssa know that your child will be*

staying for this so we can accommodate lunch.

December 11

9:30 AM Children's Ministry 11:30 AM Christmas Program

Packers Bye Week The Christmas Story | Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday, Today, and Forever. Be sure to watch for information coming home about this!

HELP WANTED! If you are interested in helping with the Christmas Program: *props, costumes, set, parts practice,* **ANYTHING—please contact Alyssa**.

December 18 | Children's Ministry Messengers of the Light rotation continues!

December 25 | NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Merry Christmas! January 1 | NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - Happy New Year!



4тн - 6тн GRADE YOUTH GROUP F.I.S.H<< Christmas PARTY

DECEMBER 18 | 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 11:00 AM-12:45 PM for games, food and fun!

SAVE-THE-DATES

January 15th | 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 12th | 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.

Thank you, Irin

Nothing can stop the power of God's love. Trinity's mission to **Share God's love and promise** is often demonstrated through the generosity of our members. Time after time, the people of Trinity come through to make a difference in countless and impactful ways—



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—the Thanksgiving Basket FOOD

COLLECTION resulted in a generous amount of food and grocery store gift cards that were distributed to some very

thankful local families.

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We asked and you gave—all of the Giving Tree gift suggestions for Samaritan Health Center residents were spoken for very soon. As of this printing, there are still opportunities to provide gifts to families in need from our community through the Gingerbread House and through finitg. ALL DONATIONS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 6th

We asked and you gave—the Holiday HOPE Tree benefiting local high school students in financial or emotional need has been another example of Trinity giving from the heart. ALL DONATIONS NEEDED BY DECEMBER 4th



We ask ALL YEAR and you give—your continued support for the Trinity congregation's Compassion International sponsored child—9 year old Kaori Rosalina Ramos Benito is a much needed, ongoing gift with an impact that few of us could even begin to 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.



We ask ALL YEAR and you give—the boxes set out to collect items to support the **ProjectRETURN** ministry for the exincarcerated are rarely empty! SEE PAGE 8 IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR A LIST OF ITEMS ESPECIALLY NEEDED NOW THAT WINTER IS HERE.



We ask ALL YEAR and you give—thank you for saving and bringing 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.





Recenter, Reconnect, Recharge

This is a monthly opportunity to get together, share a light meal, and take some time to renew yourself as a child of God.

- Connect or reconnect with friends
- Recenter yourself with a short, interactive worship experience
- Recharge your passion for compassion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JANUARY'S FIRST SUNDAY:

January 8th, 2023 6 PM – 7:30 PM New Year's Gathering



It's not for money, it's not for fame. It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman. It's just to send a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self. That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride. It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart. It's that feeling that you've been a part.

Of helping others far and near, that makes you be a Volunteer!



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

LUKE 2:1-3

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. LUKE 2:4-7





SEEit MAKEit TELLit MOVEit TASTEit

During the last rotation, Trinity's Little Lambs (pre-school - kindergarden students) learned about Noah's Arc, while our 1st - 6th graders learned about Moses.

In **TASTEI**, they made baby Moses cookies, wrapped them in a fruit roll up blanket and placed them in a Haystack basket

In **MOVEIt**, kiddos played a buzzer game to answer questions about the story about Moses. The photos are of the teams with their "winning" poses! They also wrote down their gifts (things they are good at) and what they can do to be a messenger of God.











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."

LUKE 2:13-15

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



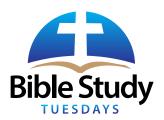
Project RETURN grew out of a volunteer base that believed men and women returning from incarceration deserved a second chance. It offers a variety of support for those returning from incarceration.

The winter months have arrived and **Project RETURN** is looking for warm clothing. All ADULT SIZES (from Small to 5x) of the following are needed:

- Coats | New and gently used
- Hats. Scarfs. Gloves.
- **Boots** | most needed are larger size boots— up to a size 13.
- Sweatshirts. Sweatpants. Hoodies.
- Warm Socks.
- Warm blankets. Pillows.
- Sleepwear.
- House Shoes.
- Gift Cards | any stores. Gas cards. Bus cards.

Cash and checks made out to **Project RETURN** also welcome to help support this ministry. No donation is too small and we appreciate all your support.

Any questions, please contact Nate Shubat:



The Bible Study group will meet in December, but the schedule will be flexible. Pastor Dave will communicate any changes with the Tuesday group. JOIN US, ALL ARE WELCOME.

NO BIBLE STUDY DECEMBER 27TH

DECEMBER BOOK STUDY 6:30 PM | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8



This month, in preparation for Christmas, we invite you to read the book: **The 13th Gift** by Joanne Huist Smith

This true story about the power of random acts of kindness will warm your heart. It is a beautiful reminder of the miracles of Christmas and the gift of family during the holiday season. After the unexpected death of her husband, Joanne Huist Smith had no idea how she would keep herself together and be strong for her three children--especially with the holiday season approaching. But 12 days before Christmas, presents begin appearing on her doorstep with notes from their "True Friends." As the Smiths came together to solve the mystery of who the gifts were from, they began to thaw out from their grief and come together again as a family.

As a holiday treat those attending are asked to bring a holiday treat to share. We will get together on December 8th at 6:30 PM. *Come and join us for a holiday treat—on a number of levels*. Ho Ho Ho!





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Support Trinity by designating <u>Trinity Lutheran Church, West Bend, WI</u> 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...THANK YOU!

A RIDE TO CHURCH

TRANSPORTATION

We have members who need a ride to worship.

If you can help, please call the church office.

262-334-2125

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Evan Beekman 12 01 Steven Crass 12 **Kevin Davis** 12 Ashlee Geib 12 Jacob Myrhum 12 Ethan Schicker 12 **Kristin Anderson** 12 Nancy Goschey 12 12 Dylan Kenworthy 12 Lori Kurer **Gustave Mog** 12 Evelyn DeLuka Gerald Schrankler 12 12 **Therese Rosenthal** 12 **Kristen Nelson** 12 **Emily Schmitt** 12 **Avis Wallesverd** 12 **Dustin Laatsch** 12 Morgan Doede 12 **Darlis Wilfer** 12 10

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.

Daniel Schmidt 12 11 12 12 Sophia Reno Ralph Seymer 12 13 Keith Downer 12 15 12 Harper Kenworthy 16 Melissa Klatt 12 16 **Christopher Odness** 12 17 **Jeffrey Fink** 12 18 Jack Odness 12 18 12 Paul Sulik 18 12 David VandeBoom 18 Augustus Brockman 12 19 12 19 Natalie Granger 12 Katelyn Schicker 19 12 19 Kaitlin Sparks 12 20 Joscelynne Clark Jeffrey Esselmann 12 21 12 21 Madysen Schlosser 12 Payton Pretsch 22 **Charlotte Speener** 12 22

Xavier Omernick	12	23
Jeffrey Schibline	12	23
Jayden Hanvey	12	24
Mila Hendrson	12	24
Charles Hillman	12	24
Nicholas Theisen	12	24
Suzanne Barker	12	26
Bradley Pierce	12	26
Diane Solberg	12	26
Mia Hanvey	12	27
Glenn Pietschmann	12	27
Jerad Yapp	12	27
Ryan Wojtalewicz	12	28
Bruce Abel	12	30
Sue Gilbertson	12	30
Joseph Hoppenjan	12	30
Monty Hull	12	30
Myra Homuth	12	31
Caleb Naumann	12	31
Dawn Spaeth	12	31

CARPETING

The flooring that needed to be replaced in the lower level was completed by Taylor Made Floors. If you haven't ventured downstairs, please go down and take a look! It has been a great improvement that was paid for from the Capital Fund.

The flooring upstairs in the Heritage room is on hold until the beginning of next year. The cost of the whole project will be approximately \$50,000 and, at the time of this printing, the appeal asking for contributions toward the flooring replacement has resulted in gifts of just over \$13,000.

We hope that our maintaining our building's integrity and not depleting our Capital Fund is important to many of you. If you are able and willing to help defray the cost for this improvement, any gift toward that effort is greatly accepted and appreciated. Please place your gift in an envelope marked "CARPETING."

Thank You, Trinity!

It just cannot be said enough, thank you to everyone for your continued support. It is good to see more and more faces attending worship services! Your faithfulness financially allows the ministries of the church to continue, to grow and to look forward to a new year with a renewed spirit. Thank you to all for your thoughts, prayers, cards and food during Pastor Cristy's recovery. And, to all the people who work tirelessly, behind the scenes to keep Trinity humming.

Thanks be to God. Pastor Dave and Pastor Cristy

SHARING YOUR PASSIONS

There are a number of areas in which we could grow through gifts and passions shared from those who are a part of the Trinity family.

- We need more people to help with the technology we use on Sunday morning. We need people willing to run the sound board and the video system. We have people willing to help you learn. If you are interested please let us know in the office.
- We also need people who are willing to count the offering on Sunday after worship. It takes an hour and helps us care for the offerings that people faithfully give. Again there are those who will help you learn the process. If you're interested call the office.
- Our Welcome statement is central to our identity as a congregation. We would like to form a team that will constantly call us into living out this welcome. How can we create a space and a community that is open and welcoming to all? If you would be interested in this important part of our life together—call the office and let us know.

		1-	De	cent	er 2	022
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		7 PM NA		1 1 PM TLC COMFORTERS 7 PM NA	2	3 ADVENT Worship 4 PM
ADVENT Worship 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 9:30-10:45 AM FIRST SUNDAY 6 PM	5	6 7 PM NA	CONFIRMATION 6:30-8 PM	8 top top the first of the fir	9	ADVENT Worship 4 PM Incredible Edibles COOKIE SALE
ADVENT WORSHIP 9:30 AM CHLDREN'S MINISTRY 9:30-10:45 AM CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11:30 PM	12	13 Cookie Decorating Class 6 PM	14 CONFIRMATION 6:30-8 PM	15 1 PM TLC COMFORTERS 7 PM NA	16	17 ADVENT Worship 3:30 PM
18 ADVENT WORSHIP 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 9:30-10:45 AM F.I.S.H. CHRISTMAS PARTY 11 AM	19	20 TRINITY COUNCIL MEETING 7 PM	21 CONFIRMATION 6:30-8 PM	22 1PM TLC COMFORTERS 7 PM NA	23	CHRISTMAS EVEWORSHIP 3 PM Family Service 5 PM Cr Candlelight 7 PM Traditional Candlelight 9 PM Traditional Candlelight
25 CHRISTMAS DAY Christmas Carol Worship 9:30 AM NO CHILDREN'S MINISTRY	26 TRINITY OFFICE CLOSED	27 7 PM NA	28 NO CONFIRMATION	29 7 PM NA	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE Worship 4 PM
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Trivity | Contact Information

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Pastor David Schoob

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Sandy Poenitsch Communication Coordinator sandy@strokesofgrace.com | 262-388-1616

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