

Trinity Steeple Notes

December 2021 News and Notes



Advent Worship

In Advent, we will be blessed by the return of our Senior Choir and the reintroduction of “real bread” (pita) for Communion. (Other precautions will remain in place until Berks County is out of the high/substantial community transmission level.) The Advent wreath will be lit to mark our weeks of hopeful waiting and decorations will gradually unfold as Christmas approaches. Prepare for the season by reading or singing some of the beautiful hymns of Advent in your hymnal, and by reviewing each week’s readings before coming to worship. Advent begins Thanksgiving weekend, on Sunday November 28.



Christmas Eve at Trinity

It will be so good to celebrate Christmas at Trinity this year! Our prerecorded service of 2020 was beautiful, but not the same as gathering in person around the altar, the creche, and the tree, raising our hearts and voices together in praise of our Incarnate God. Things may be a bit simpler than in previous years (smaller choir, no orchestra, no choral prelude, etc.), but the glorious news of Emmanuel, God with us, will fill our hearts and souls with love. Worship will be offered at 5:00 PM and 10:30 PM, with special music, Holy Communion, and a candle lighting ceremony at each. The sermon will be the same at both services, and the 5:00 service will include a special Teaching Time with Deaconess Deborah. The Christmas Eve live broadcast will begin at 10:00 PM with archival Christmas music from Trinity. Worship will then be rebroadcast at the normal broadcast times the following week (Sunday and Wednesday).

Trinity In-house Craft Show

Plus Baked Goods

Sundays from November 28—December 26

Hintz Room from 9:00—10:00 AM

and 11:00 AM—noon

Cash (or check) and Carry

Trinity has tons of talented members and our in-house craft show has much to offer:

Woolen knitted or crocheted mittens, hats and scarves, slipper socks, shawls, felted mini totes, pottery, woodworked items, dishrags & scrubby squares, jelly & jam, notecards with art or flower photographs; Christmas wreaths and decoration baskets; hooked rugs & pillows, hydrangea wreaths, gorgeous sea shell frames; and cross stitched creations & Christmas ornaments.





Please take time to support Trinity and its members for all of your holiday hand-made gifts this season. For more information, call Annie Harlin at (610) 926-5488.



Plus — Each week we will have baked goods made by Trinity members. Treats will include Peter Graf’s made-from-scratch sour dough bread and Ron “Cookie Man” Eddinger’s best—ever chocolate chip cookies, to list just a few.

Advent and Christmas



Advent Event: Sunday, December 5 at 9:00 AM

Join us in the auditorium and take some time to relax, create, and simply be together. Creation Stations include: writing Christmas cards to members and crafts for kids and the young at heart.

Caroling on the Portico: Sunday, December 5 after worship

We will sing beloved Christmas carols and seasonal songs. When Trinity members get together to sing, the harmonies are beautiful. Bring some jingle bells if you wish.



Christmas Craft Fair: Sundays in Advent (Nov. 28– Dec. 26)

A great place to pick up one-of-a-kind gifts created by members of Trinity.

See pages 2-3 for photos and article.

Christmas Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 AM



Will we sing your favorite songs and carols this Christmas season? Worshipers will have a chance on the First Sunday after Christmas to request the hymns we sing in this relaxed service of song, prayer, Word, and Eucharist.

Advent and Christmas

Angel Tree Advent/Christmas Project

“Adopting” 10th and Penn Children and a
Dayspring Home, Hazel House

Bring gifts to Trinity by December 12

Although we may not be able to volunteer in person helping the students at 10th and Penn, there are other ways we can support them. On our Angel Tree you will find tags for warm coats, underwear, socks, and clothing. These are not as ‘exciting’ to purchase as toys, yet they are the most needed gift this time of year. (We will also accept gently used children’s coats and warm clothing.)

Dayspring Homes provides a continuum of care which meets the ongoing needs of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within a Christian Environment. We are adopting the residents of Hazel House. You can learn more about this ministry at <https://dayspringhomes.org/>.

Please bring your gifts to Trinity by December 12. (Please do not wrap the gifts for 10th and Penn.)



December Scriptures

Dec. 5: Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; and Luke 3:1-6

Dec. 12: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; and Luke 3:7-18

Dec. 19: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; and Luke 1:39-55

Dec. 24: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; and Luke 2:1-20

Dec. 25: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; and Luke 2:1-20

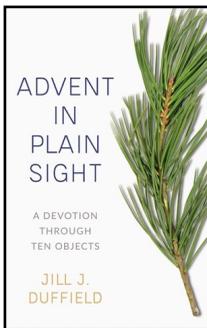
Dec. 26: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; and Luke 2:41-52

Advent Devotions

Advent at Trinity – Opportunities to Prepare

Devotional Books available in the Narthex. There is no cost for a devotional book. (Donations to support this ministry are always welcome.)

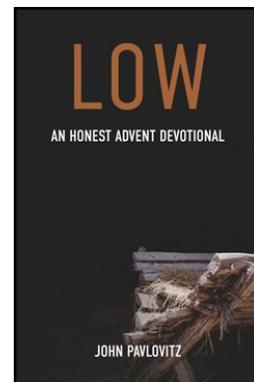
Advent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through 10 Objects



At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see. In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, Jill J. Duffield draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophecy and incarnation. This devotional book will help us to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be.

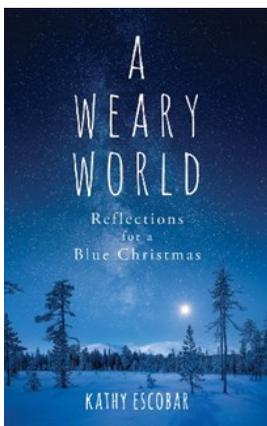
Low: An Honest Advent Devotional

In this honest Advent devotional, John Pavlovitz reminds us that God came to meet us in the low places in our lives, in the gritty, messy reality of the world. In these daily devotionals for the holiday season, Jesus walks with us, reminding us that the journey isn't about escaping this world to an elevated Heaven somewhere else, but to bring Heaven down. "God with us" is Jesus, getting low.



Advent Devotions

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A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas

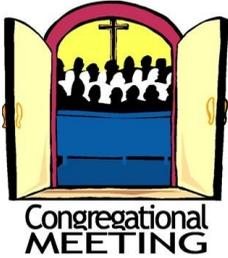
During the holidays, so many of us can suffer for all kinds of reasons. The magnitude of our weary world weighs on our hearts and minds. We wrestle with chronic pain, broken relationships, shattered dreams, fragile faith, and unexpected losses. Our grief and sorrow feel particularly acute when compared to the festivity and joy everyone else seems to be feeling. In *A Weary World*, Kathy Escobar provides twenty-eight daily reflections paired with prayers and practices to honor our struggles during the holidays. (This was our 2020 devotional.)

Two Advent Book Discussions

Advent in Plain Sight: Tuesday Evening Discussions and Compline 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. via Zoom (and telephone) each week using the devotional book to help guide our conversation. Please contact Deaconess Deborah for Zoom information.

LOW: An Honest Advent Zoom discussion Sunday, December 12, 7:00 PM via Zoom (and phone) Pajamas optional. Grab a glass of your favorite beverage, put your feet up. Join Deaconess Deborah for an informal discussion of the LOW Advent devotional. How is it with your soul?

Parish News



Congregation Meeting Sunday, December 19

The Congregation budget meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, December 19 following 10:00 worship. A remote option will be available for those who cannot attend in person. The primary order of business will be the adoption of a budget for 2022. The proposed budget will be available for review in early December.

There may also be a separate vote to approve a major HVAC renovation project which has been under study for nearly a year. (We are awaiting final quotes and a Vestry recommendation which we hope will be ready before December 19.) All confirmed members are voting members. Please be present to show your support to our congregation's leaders who have worked faithfully to manage Trinity's resources through these difficult days.

Vestry Update

(The following is a brief summary; not official minutes.)

Trinity's Vestry met via Zoom on Monday, November 8. The joint Finance/Vestry budget meeting was scheduled for November 29 at 7:00 PM via Zoom. A discussion was held on contacting the Reading Parking Authority to inquire about the possibility of RPA building a multi-tiered parking garage on our current lot with perpetual Trinity use guaranteed, providing more and better secured parking for Trinity and the community. Steve Welz will make initial inquiries. The HVAC Committee has a meeting scheduled with SiteLogiq November 23 to receive final bids and estimates and to determine the project's scope. Staff reports were received. The congregation meeting was scheduled for December 19 following worship. The meeting adjourned to executive session to discuss a personnel matter.



Church Leadership

Common Ground Recovery Ministry

Gratitudes

Those of us in recovery know gratitude and community are essential for all of us to thrive. When we pause to list our gratitudes, we find that our list is never ending even on the worst of days. And we at Common Ground are feeling so grateful! We are grateful for the warmth of being able to worship inside Trinity each Sunday. We are grateful for all the clothing, shoes, jackets, and toiletries that have been donated to our community. We are grateful for the joint Thanksgiving worship with Trinity as well! What a joy to be partners in ministry!



We worship every Wednesday at 7:00 PM at Atonement Lutheran Church in person and on Facebook live. We also worship at Sundays 4pm at Trinity Lutheran Church with hot to-go meals served at 4:30pm. All are welcome!

In November, we kicked off our annual campaign! If you would like to help our ministry thrive, you can donate at cgrcommunity.org/donate. We thank you for your generosity! If you would like to be on our email list to stay update with Common Ground news, email Vicar Melissa at intern.cgrcommunity@gmail.com. We are so grateful for you all!

Genesius Theater and Wyomissing Foundation present:

A Berks County Christmas Carol

Trinity's own Daniel Graf plays Bob Cratchett in this beloved tale on Dec. 10-12 and 15-19. For tickets, visit genesiusdifference.org or call (610) 371-8151.

Learning Ministries

Sunday Forum at Trinity!

Back by popular demand, Sunday forums will meet in the Auditorium at 9:00 AM

(Yes, we will have coffee.)

11/28: Reflections. How has the past year affected you? What have you learned? What are your dreams? Led by Deaconess Deborah, we will spend time in honest contemplation and have opportunities to share our journey and deeply listen to others.

12/5: Advent Event. Join us in the auditorium and take some time to relax, create, and just be together.

12/12: El Camino de Santiago/The Way of St. James: A Journey of the Heart and Soul across Spain. Experience a 1200-year-old pilgrimage across Northern Spain. This talk discusses the historical, cultural, and spiritual aspects of The Camino and reasons for its renewed popularity. In 2018 and 2021, **John Gallen, Jr.** walked the Camino de Santiago from France across Northern Spain to the Atlantic Ocean. On the Camino, he discovered that when one walks 15-20 miles a day for several weeks, one enters a state of mind few experience. In Galicia, he reached this summit of introspection, spiritual rejuvenation, and inner peace.



12/19: A Journey to Nepal. **Emma Care**, a senior student at Wyomissing High School, will share memories and reflections from a group trip to experience Nepal.

12/26: No forum today.

Parish News



In Our Prayers This Week

Those who are sick or in need of healing:

Nancy Nagle, Lisa Speece, Linda Motley, Grete Furrow, Tom Shultz, Brenda (friend of Carol), Julia Cherry (friend of Jenn Smith), Doris (friend of Pat McMahon), Darlene Lupo (family of Dar Unger), and the family of Dylan Gilbert (friend of Linda Motley), who died this week.

Ongoing prayer requests for friends and members of Trinity:

Dick Horst, Luther Route, Darryl Jeffries, Dick Evans, Elton Richards, Walter Schur, Ed Harlin, the Sawyer family, Grey Dinsmore (nephew of Rachel Gambone), Kate Cogan (friend of Linda Motley), Barbara & David Regar (friends of Barbara Ketchum), David Unruh (brother of Ralph Unruh), Tina Koch (friend of Jenn Smith), Jacob Unger (grandson of Dar Unger), Cindy Marsh (Anita Dolak's classmate), Celia Cosentino (friend of Jane Zobian), Mark Kummerer (son of Larry Kummerer), and Rich Stewart (friend of Ginny Biniek).

Homebound members: Karin Flatt, Joan Goncher, Sarah Rothermel, Betty & Karl Leuffen, Dick & Suzy Evans, Walter Schur, Noreen Showalter, and Tom Shultz

Trinity households: Miles & Elizabeth Dechant; Virginia Deem; Melissa, Erik, Elena, and Robert DeMotta; Ronald Derr; and Blair Dewalt

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Hannah Shelly, who will be performing with the travelling show "Disney on Ice: Into the Magic." She will be skating in Wilkes-Barre January 6-9 and in Allentown January 20-23. You can go to <https://www.disneyonice.com/> to order tickets.

Broadcast Schedule for December

All of our programs listed below can be watched on Comcast Channel 190 (in the Reading Hospital, Channel 80) or online at any time at www.trinityreading.org or on our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/trinitylutheranchurch. Trinity's Sunday morning worship is also live streamed via Facebook and YouTube. You may log on to either platform on Sunday mornings at 10:00 AM and worship at the same time as the in-person congregation.



Sundays

6:00 PM - First Friday

6:30 PM - Music from Trinity

7:00 PM: Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays

4:00 PM: Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity

5:30 PM: First Friday



Affirmation of Welcome: Trinity Lutheran Church is recognized by Reconciling Works as a "Reconciling in Christ" Congregation which welcomes all LGBTQ persons into all facets of congregational life.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of Reading Lutheran Parish and West Berks Mission District