

Trinity Steeple Notes

November 2020 News and Notes Part 2



Thanksgiving Worship Broadcast

This year's virtual Thanksgiving worship, *Thanksgiving in a Time of Pandemic*, will feature powerful reflections from various members of Trinity who have been blessed to see God's gracious hand in the midst of the challenges they have faced during this time. Along with beautiful music, readings from adult children of members who live at a distance, and prayers of gratitude, this time of worship is sure to be a meaningful element of your own Thanksgiving celebration. Thanks be to God, who sustains us and enables us to give thanks, even in difficult days! The service will be broadcast on Comcast Channel 190 at 10:00 AM Thanksgiving Day and will also be available on YouTube, Facebook, and Trinity's website.

Advent Worship: Advent is a season of hope. Hope for Jesus' birth among us, hope for the day he returns in glory, and hope for God's presence, love, and healing in our lives today. Advent music is filled with a sense of anticipation for what God will do, and our readings and sermons will focus on the hope which will not disappoint us with the following themes:

Advent 1	11/29	Lamenting in Hope
Advent 2	12/6	Comforted by Hope
Advent 3	12/13	Empowered in Hope
Advent 4	12/20	Praising with Hope

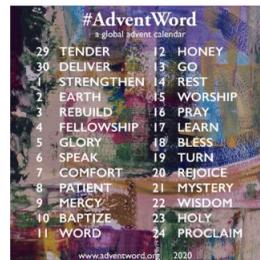


As we light the candles of the Advent log on our altar, we invite you to join our hope-filled celebration by lighting your own Advent candles at home. See the Advent log article on page two of this newsletter. Come, Lord Jesus!

Parish News

#Advent Word – Devotions

#AdventWord is a global, online Advent calendar. Each day from the first Sunday of Advent through Christmas Day, #AdventWord offers meditations and images to inspire and connect individuals and a worldwide community of believers to the themes of Advent. **You are invited to participate by posting your own images using the hashtag #AdventWord #trinityreadingpa and the word of the day, for example, #tender.**



Sign-up for the podcasts or daily emails, the visual and daily meditations that are delivered each morning to your inbox. Follow #AdventWord on Instagram, Facebook or Twitter to see the same visual and written meditations.



Advent Logs Available

Thanks to Ron and Karen Eddinger for creating beautiful Advent logs for Trinity members to use in their home worship in this holy season. While supplies last, these wonderful worship aids will be available to Trinity members at no charge. To reserve yours for pickup or delivery, email

rgambone@trinityreading.org or call the church office on Wednesdays between 9:00 and 2:00. You may customize your log with your own decorations or enjoy the simplicity of an unadorned Advent decoration. Light your candles for devotions, virtual worship, daily prayers, or however the Spirit moves you.

Parish News

Metrics Established for Suspending and Restarting Live Worship

Trinity's Vestry has approved the following recommendation from the Program Staff and the Reopening Task Force in order to ensure the safety of our members and staff:



In-person worship will be suspended when Berks County has been in the designated SUBSTANTIAL RISK category for four consecutive weeks and will resume once Berks County returns to a MEDIUM or LOW RISK category for two consecutive weeks. The metric used will be taken from the website <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Pages/WhatsNew.aspx>. Although we have now been in the Substantial Risk category for four weeks, we will hold live worship this Sunday so that members can be given adequate notice. **There will be no live public worship for at least two weeks beginning November 22.**

Registrations are still being taken for the last three Sundays in Advent. Email Pastor Alan at pastor@trinityreading.org or call his cell phone at 727-543-3531. Members who have registered will be notified if services have been suspended and Trinity's public calendar will be updated.

Bishop Election: The Northeastern PA Synod made history by successfully holding its 33rd annual assembly — “We Are Church Together” — completely online. That means 525 voting members participated over two weekends (approximately 12 hours spread out) in worship, business reports, approval of the 2021 spending proposal, celebration, individual mission district meetings, and voting for a new bishop.

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Parish News

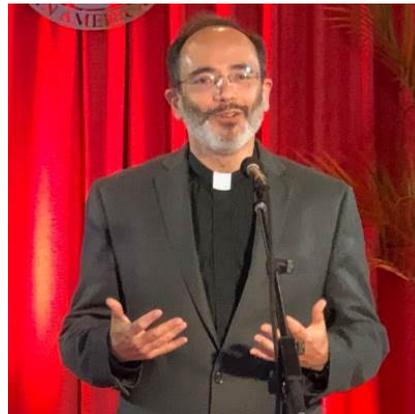
Bishop Samuel Zeiser preached an inspiring and hopeful sermon in the opening worship service. Other highlights included the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women via a wonderful video presentation; the assembly's guest speaker, Mr. William Horne II, Vice President of the ELCA; and of course, the election of a new bishop!

The election took place over the two weekends including five ballots. The top seven nominees answered in writing and on video six questions that were previously designed via a process that included the entire synod. The top three nominees were invited to answer a final question and then it took two more ballots to result in the choice of our new bishop, Pastor Christopher deForest, who is currently Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Kutztown. Congratulations to Pastor deForest!

At the end of the assembly's closing worship, it was voted to name Bishop Samuel Zeiser Bishop Emeritus of the Northeastern PA Synod in recognition of and respect for Bishop Zeiser's dedication and faithful service as Bishop for 12 years.

A benefit of this new online method is that you may go to the synod's website at www.godslove.org and click on the Online Assembly 2020 to see most of what transpired, including reports.

(We thank Steve Hofmann and Pat Richter for attending the Synod Assembly)

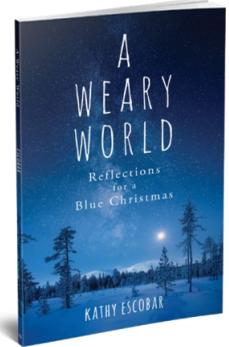


Bp.-elect Christopher deForest

Advent Book Discussion

Advent Tuesday Evening Discussion/ Prayer Group

A Weary World: Reflections for a Blue Christmas by Kathy Escobar



Let's face it. This year is different. For so many of us during the holidays, 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 stark against the backdrop of festivity and joy that everyone else seems to be feeling. Observing Advent and Christmas in a world still struggling with pandemic illness means that grief, trauma, depression, and more are compounded by added anxiety and uncertainty.

For those who would like to go deeper, Trinity is offering a time for discussion and prayer on **4 Tuesday evenings in December at 7:00 p.m.** The goal will be to enact in our lives the four central themes of the book: **honoring reality, practicing honesty, embracing paradox, and borrowing hope.**

We will meet via Zoom (which is accessible by computer and telephone.) Please speak to Deaconess Deborah if you are interested in participating.

If you would like a copy of this devotional, please contact Deaconess Deborah.

(The book is free; donations are welcome to offset the cost.)

Mission & Service

Angel Tree Advent/Christmas Giving Opportunity – Adopting a Dayspring Home!



Looking for an opportunity to share some joy this season? This year Trinity is adopting the four adult residents of the **Hillside House**, one of the local Dayspring Homes that provides a continuum of care which meets the ongoing needs of people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities within a Christian Environment. You can learn more about their ministry at <https://dayspringhomes.org/>.

There are two ways you can sign up for a specific gift: you can go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e48adab2ea0fa7-trinity5> and choose what gift you wish to give OR you can contact Deaconess Deborah at 610-374-4861 ext. 26 / dgraf@trinityreading.org and she can provide you with updated needs. Groups of members can choose to share a larger gift: Bible Scholars, choirs, committees could pool their resources to purchase a nice warm winter coat or some boots. Any monetary donations will be put towards the residents to bless their Christmas this year.

Wrapped gifts can be dropped off **by December 13** at Trinity Monday-Thursday 9:30-11:30 AM. Deaconess Deborah will even personally come to your home to pick it up if you would prefer. Thank you for making the difference in their lives!

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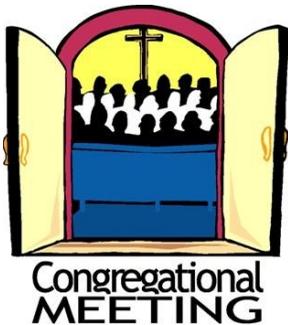
Northeastern PA Synod News

Jen— Adult female. Winter coat XL, winter boots size 11, electric shaver, jewelry, winter clothes and any surprise gifts.

Michele— Adult female. Winter coat XL, winter clothes, electric shaver, winter boots size 8, and any surprise gifts.

Liz— Adult female. Winter coat XL, winter clothes, electric shaver, and other surprise gifts.

Lee— Adult male. Winter coat XL, winter clothes, electric shaver, winter boots size 10, and other surprise gifts.



Congregational Meeting via Zoom

Sunday, December 13 at 9:30 AM

The annual budget meeting of the congregation will be held via Zoom on Sunday, December 13 at 9:30 AM. Voting members (those confirmed members who are on the active roster of Trinity) will need to register by Monday, December 7 by contacting Deaconess Deborah at dgraf@trinityreading.org or by leaving a message on her voicemail at 610-374-4861, ext. 26. Once you are registered, you will receive an invitation to join the meeting, which you may do either online or on your phone. Copies of the proposed budget will be sent to all members by the beginning of December.

Broadcast Schedule November 2020

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.



Sundays in November

6:00 PM: First Friday—Retrospect and Prospect of the Institute

6:30 PM: In-person Holy Eucharist

7:00 PM: Pre-recorded Trinity Worship Service

Wednesdays in November

4:00 PM: Pre-recorded Trinity Worship

5:00 PM: Music from Trinity—
Christ Beveridge, soprano

5:30 PM: First Friday—Retrospect and Prospect of the Institute

Thanksgiving Day Worship: Thursday, Nov. 26 at 10:00 AM on Comcast Channel 190 plus all of our online platforms listed above.



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. Learn more at <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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