



The Trinitarian

Our Mission *Worship... Learn... Serve...*
Our Vision *Seeking and Accepting All*

December 2019

Dear People of God,

On December 1, Advent begins. And with it, a new church year. How wonderful that the new liturgical year begins at the time of year when, in the northern hemisphere, the days grow their darkest. Almost like an act of defiance, the church insists on singing songs of hope and new life as the sun withdraws from our days. It is very much like the faith we have - it is seeded in the most unlikely time and in the most unlikely places.

In my lifetime, the church has moved from using purple as the color of the season (one which was shared with Lent) to using blue, the color of hope. Who can live without hope? Knowing the story as we do, remembering that the promises of God are true and always made new, our hope can be renewed.

What are you hoping for this Advent? Something personal, perhaps. Or maybe something for your family, friends, church? Perhaps for the nation? The world? There really is no limit. And that's because the God in whom we live and move and have our being is limitless. And also because our hope is an active hope. It's not just a mental set or a wish. Holy hope has a way of energizing us to claim whatever agency we have to command the faith that is in us to work toward our hope. It is animated and active.

Each day we remember that we are baptized and sent out into the world to show the world what it looks like to be alive in Christ. What are you hoping for this Advent? How is God calling you to that hope in your life? What will you do to try and give life to your hope?

Blessings,
Pastor Kern



SUNDAYS AT TRINITY

Worship 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Adult Ed 9:30 a.m.

Friday, December 20

7:00 p.m. **Blue Christmas Service**



*For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6-7

Youth News

Intergenerational Sunday School - December 1

Please come to Sunday School (9:30 a.m.), and help us make personal care kits for refugee camps around the world. We will also make dog toys for the Montgomery Co. Humane Society.

Youth Group - December 8 - 6 pm - All 6th - 12th grade youth are welcome to join us for our Advent Party. Bring a gift worth \$10 to exchange with others!

Christmas Eve - The Family Service will be at 4 pm. If you are interested in helping lead worship, please let Anita know.

Kids Morning Out - January 4 - All Youth are welcome to come to Trinity for a morning of fun and games! We will also be getting ready for the Epiphany Pageant! Please let Anita know if you will be there.

Epiphany Pageant - We're trying something new! We are trying an Epiphany Pageant this year on January 5. Join us in helping tell the story of the Kings visiting Baby Jesus.

Looking Ahead: No Sunday School - December 22 or 29
Youth Group - January 12
Super Bowl Sub Sale - February 2
Youth Group - February 9
Scout Sunday - February 9
Pretzel Sunday - February 23

Rides to Church

Have you missed Trinity events because you lacked transportation? Trinity has missed you too and the following members of the congregation would like to provide you with a ride to Trinity events:

20886 Carol B
20850 Margaret F
20854 Peggy & Dick J
20854 Miriam M
20853 Nancy N

Zip codes are provided to aid in finding a driver close to you. Do not hesitate to call. If you would like volunteer to drive, call Dick J.

Personal Care Kits for LWR

On **Sunday, December 1**, during the Sunday school hour, we will prepare 144 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). LWR delivers these to people around the world suffering from natural disasters, violence, or poverty.

Each kit contains a bath towel, two bars of soap, one toothbrush, comb, and nail clipper. Social Ministry Team will purchase all the necessary items to meet particular LWR requirements. Your monetary donations make this effort possible. Checks may be made out to Trinity with "Personal Care Kits" in the memo line. We estimate the cost of each kit to be \$7.

Please contact Anita S or Kathy T with questions or suggestions.

Council Summary

Oct 15, Nov 3, and Nov 12, 2019

The Council held its regularly scheduled monthly meeting on October 15 and had two ad hoc meetings in November before the *Trinitarian* deadline. The first ad hoc meeting was on Sunday, November 3, 2019 and the second was Tuesday, November 12.

- At the October meeting, the Council approved re-enrollment in the ELCA Health Benefits program for staff. We also discussed (1) the results of the congregational survey eliciting opinions about moving to a single service while we are in the call process and determined no change to service times is in order at this time; and (2) the plans for Stewardship Campaign, culminating on November 10. Please note that the results of the survey shared with the Council have been posted in the Social Hall. In October, the Council also celebrated the good news that we had been able to make a \$90,000 mortgage payment in September.
- At the November meeting, the Council (1) elected Sarah G as Council President to fill the vacated position due to John B's resignation from Council; (2) discussed the recommendations of the Constitutional Amendment Committee, but tabled action on the recommendations until the next scheduled Council meeting on November 19; and (3) agreed the "Get Out the Word" team would explore alternatives to the "pew pads" as a means of gathering visitor contact information.
- At both the October and November 3 meetings plans for a Congregational Retreat were discussed. After initially moving forward with the plan in October, the Council determined that it would be better postpone the retreat until after the first of the year. Please note that a letter from Sarah G went out to the Congregation on November 4 explaining Council's decision.
- The November 12 meeting was an informal "brainstorming" session to plan for the remainder of 2019 and actions in 2020

Council meetings are now held on the third Tuesday of every month and the next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, November 19, 2019. The December meeting is Tuesday, December 17. Minutes of past meetings are available from the Church Office.

Sarah M, Secretary

President's Message

Hello Trinity Church!

I am humbled to have been entrusted by my fellow Council members with a profoundly important position in our time of transition together. I think you might agree with me that this transition is hard work. I think many of you might also agree that I do not shy away from hard work or responsibility. Neither do my fellow Council members! Indeed, we were quite busy in November! We gathered on multiple occasions outside of our regular monthly meeting to do the work of transition. By the time you read this, you will have already seen some tangible evidence of our work. You will see more at the December 8th Congregational Meeting (I hope that entices you to attend!). And when we ask for your help (because we will if we haven't already) I pray that your response is an enthusiastic "YES! I thought you'd never ask!"

Also, just in case you were not aware, the Council has decided that now is not the time to consider collapsing our current two Sunday services into a single service and I am deeply appreciative to those who provided responses to and comments on the survey.

Lord, I pray for your church, Trinity. I ask your help in our time of transition. Help us to have grace-filled conversations that are marked by empathy and love. I do not know your plan for us, but I know I trust You to reveal that plan to us. Help us to see that plan with open eyes, ears, and hearts. AMEN.

Sarah G

Advent Challenge for ALL: The Six Word Faith Story

As we prepare in Advent for the coming of our Lord, I would like to challenge community members to join me in writing and sharing our individual Faith Stories captured in Six Words. That's right, SIX words!

What is this you ask? Allow me to explain.

Over the years, I have been asked to tell my life story in six words. I shared my childhood with colleagues as "Complete freedom within loving, secure boundaries." For me, this was an attempt to reflect growing up in Toledo, Ohio in a very comfortable, privileged family, unconditionally loved and supported in all my endeavors. Think Norman Rockwell painting.

Another time, for a meeting of public administrators and caseworkers considering how to better support expectant and parenting youth in foster care, we were asked to reflect on our teen years and I came up with, "Motown dancing in age of Aquarius." This reflected the fact that it

was the 60's and we lived 90 miles from Detroit and I wore flowers in my hair to football games!

Lastly, I have a friend who works for the Race Card Project, (see theracecardproject.com/the-race-card-project-wall/) and she helped me find six words to reflect my racial identity: "Plain vanilla, but so much more."

Composing these "six word memoirs" has been challenging but fun. And, when shared with others, they have led to great conversations that have formed or strengthened relationships. So, when it came to thinking about how to share my faith story with you, my Trinity family, and others, I came back to this convention.

I have also learned, it's not as much fun to do it alone. Thus, my Advent Challenge. Write your faith story and join me in posting it in the Social Hall. Use it to foster conversations and relationships at Trinity and with friends and colleagues.

And now my faith story: "Water of life, shallow and deep." Growing up, every Sunday I went with my parents and grandparents to the German Lutheran Church my great grandparents helped found. It was a routine, unquestioned, handed down. To be honest, I don't have much of a prayer life. Or, I don't think I do when I read about or listen to others. I have not been disciplined enough to read the Bible daily, but I know and admire those who do. And another confession – I don't think about my faith much, but I believe it undergirds everything I do and how I think. So, when I do think about my faith, I sometimes wonder whether these omissions in discipline reflect a very shallow faith. Or, does my absolute confidence in being a child of God, saved by Grace alone mean my faith is so deep, it is in my DNA and, like water, sustains.

Now that I have shared, I hope you will too. Look for the "Faith Story Wall" in the Social Hall.

Peace,
Sarah M

PS: For more about six word memoirs, check out the videos found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8zY0oAdQrs> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OZOxhHXZW6o>

Trinity Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 12, 12:30 p.m.
Normandie Farm Restaurant
10710 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854
R.S.V.P. to office@TrinityELCA.org

Blue Christmas Service

Trinity's Stephen Ministry will hold a Blue Christmas Service on **Friday evening, December 20, at 7:00 p.m.**

Our culture has high expectations for happiness at Christmastime. However, it is very common to struggle physically, emotionally, and spiritually in December.

Any number of events from the past year - death of a family member or friend, relocation, job change, end of a significant relationship - may easily trigger feelings of sadness, loneliness, and grief. These feelings may be overwhelming and diminish our ability to cope with everyday stressors.

You are not alone. At the Blue Christmas service we will read scripture, recite poetry, sing hymns, light candles, pray, and honor our losses.

We hope you will join us for this special service.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Potluck Brunch/Lunch: December 8

We will have a potluck brunch/lunch after the late service on December 8 before our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting. Bring your favorite brunch or lunch entree, side dish, salad, or dessert. Beverages will be provided. Let your culinary skills shine, or buy your contribution at your favorite store. We will eat while we meet. See you there. Any questions? Contact Lynn B, Parish Life.

Community Family Life Services Annual Give-a-Gift Program

through December 8

The holiday season is a wonderful opportunity to share with many children in need. In fact, your gift may be the only Christmas gift a child receives.

We are collecting new toys, games, books, and clothes for children infant through 18 years old for Community Family Life Services' annual Give-a-Gift program. (special need for children ages 12-18) Toys must be new and in their original packaging, but not wrapped. Look for the brick-papered box in the Social Hall.

CFLS hosts a free holiday store so parents can choose gifts for their children. If you are interested in assisting, you may contact Bria Washington at CFLS: 202-347-0511 or brwashington@cflsdc.org.

Gifts of Hope— Shop, Receive and Give:

Would you like to give a unique gift to your loved one this Christmas season? Would you also like your purchase to benefit those in need? You can do both with a purchase of a Gift of Hope. The Gifts of Hope Catalog has 42 different gifts, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$300. These gifts support the mission and programs of area Lutheran social ministry organizations, camps, college or seminary, and our Synod's companion synods abroad. Your Gifts of Hope purchases will bring hope to others while you honor those on your gift list. View all the participating organizations on the back of the catalog or on the web at www.GiftsofHopeDC.org.



There are a wide variety of gifts such as a week at camp, transportation for women going to job interviews, nutritious meals, and backpacks with healthy snacks for foster children. For each gift you select from the catalog you will receive a beautiful Christmas card and a description of the gift you purchased and of the beneficiary organization. Your Gift of Hope is guaranteed to benefit those in need and to please those on your shopping list.

The Gifts of Hope catalog will be available at the Gifts of Hope table in the Social Hall after worship services **now through Dec. 15**.

Trinity Mailbag



During Carol Bosley's health struggles, many Trinity friends cheered her with cards, notes and phone calls. Though it had been nearly ten years since moving to Michigan, the friendships built during nearly 15 years as members of the church remained deep and meaningful. This was made even more clear when her funeral was held at Trinity on October 19. We were overwhelmed and grateful to see so many familiar faces setting up the social hall, preparing the altar, serving as ushers and, of course, playing in the bell choir. Clearly, our wife and mother was "home." Thanks to all who helped, prayed with and consoled us.

Scott, Julie, and Jeffrey Bosley

How Can I Support a Good Mission?

Nominate it for a Trinity Mission Endowment Award!

The Mission Endowment Committee looks to the congregation for recommendations of organizations to receive awards in the spring. Annually, income from Mission Endowment Fund is used to enhance our mission outreach apart from the operating budget. By sustaining the annual awards, the fund is a gift that keeps on giving!

Mission Endowment Fund awards are made in three categories:

1. Special (non-budgeted) projects of Trinity Lutheran Church – our congregation
2. Special ministries in the community
3. Special benevolence – supporting mission of the church beyond our congregation

Submit nominees to the church office (office@trinityelca.org), or place this form in the offering plate, or return it to the church office. Nominations are due by January 15.

I nominate:

Name: _____



Passages and Milestones

December Birthdays:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 01. Nathaniel C | 19. Kristine S |
| 01. Katie J | 22. Jonah W |
| 02. Donna S | 23. Kirsten G |
| 05. Leslie S | 23. Emily W |
| 07. Linnea A | 24. Jean B |
| 10. Lynn B | 24. Timothy F |
| 11. Thor N | 24. Shannon P |
| 12. Kim B | 27. Lisbeth D |
| 13. Kellen B | 27. Glenn M |
| 15. Ione L | 27. Diane S |
| 15. Sabrina R | 28. Margo W |
| 15. Hudson S | 29. Alexander D |
| 15. Rob S | 29. Richard G |
| 15. Mike S | 30. Lois F |

December Baptismal Days:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 11. Logan D | 25. Roger B |
| 12. Matthew C | 25. Cooper G |
| 19. Julianne N | 25. Donna S |
| 21. Yulie N | 26. Alexander D |
| 24. Georgine R | 29. Dick J |
| 25. Matthew B | 29. Anna V |

Death:

June R +Nov 9 (mother of Lois R)

Remember in Your Prayers

THE CHURCH

our synod & bishops:

Bishops Elizabeth Eaton, Leila Ortiz

our missionaries: Stephen Deal, Marta Giron (C.America)

our congregation: Trinity Church

THE NATIONS: Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Korea, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Liberia, Libya, Mexico, Namibia, Palestine, Somalia, Spain/Cataluña, Sudan, United States, Venezuela, Yemen, Zimbabwe

THE SICK AND SUFFERING

nursing/rehabilitation center:

Philip T (Manor Care Potomac)

home: Tigist G, Susan K, James T, Chris T, Margo W

family and friends*

Dan G, friend of Margo and Turquoise W

Joyce R, friend of Diana B

Francis R, friend of Bill B

Jean R, mother of Sabrina R

**For family and friends, prayer requests will be kept on the list for four weeks. After four weeks, please complete another card.*

Assisting in Our Worship – December 2019

		DEC 1	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 29
Acolytes	8:15 10:45	Matthew B Vincent M	TBD Linnea S	TBD Anders S	Matthew B Colin G	TBD Anusha A
Altar Guild	8:15 10:45	Carol B Jackie K	Carol B Jackie K	Carol B Jackie K	Carol B Jackie K	Carol B Jackie K
Assisting Ministers	8:15 10:45	Tad D Leslie C	Jerry B Sabrina R	Nancy N Len S	Bill B Nalini A	Sarah G Carol B
Children's Church	8:15 10:45	TBD TBD	Margaret F David C	TBD Nicholas C	Margaret F Jane R	TBD TBD
Coffee Hour	8:15 10:45	potluck potluck	Steve S potluck	Keith, Lily C Louise G	TBD TBD	TBD Bud, Lynn B
Greeters	8:15 10:45	Keith, Lily C Pam B	Louise G Trevor H	Donna, Steve S Peggy J	Jerry B, Brian A, Stella Susan S	Diana B Hagen S, Kristina S
Lectors	8:15 10:45	Phil D Susan S	Nancy N Nicholas C	Sarah M Hagen S	Jerry B Linnea A	Jerry B Greg F
Tellers		Lynn, Bud B	Annie A, Mina	Dick, Peggy J	Lynn B, Bud B	Greg, Margaret F
Ushers	8:15 10:45	TBD				

Mar-Lu-Ridge Summer Camp

Come join us this upcoming summer for a wonderful week of camp! The summer camp brochure with the full schedule and camp descriptions is available here at the church as well as online at www.mar-lu-ridge.org

Mar-Lu-Ridge offers:

- a fun, small group, Christ-centered week in the woods
- affordable pricing starting at \$415 per week for overnight and \$210 for day camp
- friendships and memories that stay with your child
- camperships to ensure that all children can attend camp
- a wide variety of unique specialty programs for all ages!
- ACA certification means MLR meets the highest safety standards

Interested families may consider joining us at one of our open houses 2:00-4:30 p.m. on Sundays, March 15 and May 17.

If you have any questions, please contact MLR by email at mlr@mar-lu-ridge.org or by phone at 800-238-9974.

Registration opens Jan 1, 2020

Lessons from an 8-Year Old Champion

By Douglas J. Lanzo (Copyright 2019)

Your Christian family fled Nigeria to save your lives,
Escaping hateful terrorists wielding machetes and knives,
You sought asylum in Manhattan as a persecuted refugee,
Living in a homeless shelter, but cherishing that you were safe
and free,

Learning chess on a cold floor without table or chair,
You never complained that the playing field was unfair,
Your hard work at chess puzzles and sheer love of the game,
Propelled you, a mere eight-year old, to stardom and fame,

Defeating players rated over two hundred points higher,
You vanquished would-be champions, lighting the tour on fire,
Unbeaten and first place in your State championship category,
You garnered a huge trophy, giving voice to your powerful
story,

Destitute, you could not afford the fee to play chess,
Yet overcame all odds, achieving stunning success,
Receiving a free apartment and meeting a former President,
Transformed from a bullied kid to a famous Big Apple resident,

Your family stunned the world, eschewing huge, heart-felt
donations,

Retaining not a cent despite heavy job obligations,
Instead tithing ten percent, the rest seeding a foundation,
To offer new African immigrants hope and salvation.

December 2019

December is Worship month

Sunday, December 1, 2019 1 Advent

CFLS Give-A-Gift; Gifts of Hope
LWR Personal Care Kits
Coffee Hour Potluck (names M-Z)
Mission Endowment Applications
8:15am **Holy Communion**
9:30am Inter-generational Sunday School
10:45am **Holy Communion**
12:00pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

Monday, December 2, 2019

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

1:45pm Staff Meeting
6:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision (10)
7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (11)

Sunday, December 8, 2019 2 Advent

CFLS Give-A-Gift; Gifts of Hope
8:15am **Holy Communion**
9:30am Adult Forum, Sunday School
10:45am **Holy Communion**
12:00pm Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting
12:00pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal
5:00pm Youth Group

Monday, December 9, 2019

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1:45pm Staff Meeting
7:30pm Mission Endowment (10)

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

1:00pm Trinity Men's Group (off-site)

Thursday, December 12, 2019

12:30pm Lunch Bunch (Normandie Farm)

Sunday, December 15, 2019 3 Advent

Gifts of Hope
Trinitarian January Newsletter Deadline
TBA Serve Dinner at Women's Shelter
8:15am **Holy Communion**
9:30am Adult Forum, Sunday School
10:45am **Holy Communion**
12:00pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal
1:00pm Handbell Concert (TBD)
1:45pm Bethesda H&R (Choir)

Monday, December 16, 2019

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, December 17, 2019

1:45pm Staff Meeting
6:30pm Soup & Bread Supper
7:00pm Hanging of the Greens
7:00pm Stephen Ministry Training (11)
7:30pm Congregation Council (10)

Friday, December 20, 2019

7:00pm Blue Christmas Service and fellowship

Sunday, December 22, 2019 4 Advent

8:15am **Holy Communion**
9:30am Adult Forum
10:45am **Holy Communion**
12:00pm Trinity Singers choir rehearsal

Monday, December 23, 2019

7:30pm Heavenly Handbells (Wor)

Tuesday, December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve

TBD Church Staff meeting
4:00pm **Children & Family Holy Communion**
7:30pm Music of the Season
8:00pm **Candlelight Festival Eucharist**

Wednesday, December 25, 2019 Christmas Day

11:00am **Carols and Communion**

Sunday, December 29, 2019 1 Christmas

(no choir rehearsal)
8:15am **Holy Communion**
9:30am Adult Forum
10:45am **Holy Communion**

Monday, December 30, 2019

9:15am Trinitarian mailing
(no handbells rehearsal)

Tuesday, December 31, 2019

(no church staff meeting)

See the full, up-to-date calendar any time at www.trinityelca.org/calendar



Trinity Lutheran Church
11200 Old Georgetown Road
North Bethesda, MD 20852-3202

Date Mailed
Nov 25, 2019

Non-profit Org
US Postage Paid
Permit #34
Suburban, MD 208

Address Service Requested

301-881-7275
office@trinityelca.org
www.trinityelca.org
facebook.com/TrinityELCA

Christmas at Trinity

Christmas Eve	
4:00 p.m.	Children & Family Holy Communion
7:30 p.m.	Music of the Season
8:00 p.m.	Candlelight Festival Eucharist
Christmas Day	
11:00 a.m.	Carols and Communion

www.trinityelca.org

Sunday bulletin deadline is 9:00 am Tuesday.

The Trinitarian deadline is the 15th of the prior month. *Submissions should be no more than 150 words. The editor and church staff reserve the right to determine the content of The Trinitarian and may edit articles for clarity, grammar, or length.*




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.