

December 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

What words would you use to describe the Christmas season? The word “magical” comes to mind for many. The word “stressful” comes to mind for many others. I’m quite sure that very few use the word “incarnation” to explain their experience of Christmas, but it is certainly a word that we could use to describe God’s experience.

Christmas is the great celebration of the miracle of all miracles—the Incarnation—God assuming human flesh and blood and thereby uniting Himself with His creation for eternity. So great is God’s love toward us because it wasn’t for His benefit. It was for ours. He went through all of the stages of life in our sinful world in order to give life eternal to all who believe.

In the rush of the season and trying as best as you can to live large, take some time to reflect on the wondrous event of God as a baby born in our miniscule corner of the universe. Treasure that time and allow yourself to let it sink in deep. Read Luke 2 to help you in your reflection. Savor it. It’s God’s gift to you and to all!

I wish you a very Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

Pastor Hoag

December Newsletter 2013

SOCIAL MINISTRY

MorningStar Mission

Thanks to the many caring people who have taken “stars” to shop for Morning Star’s patrons’ Christmas gifts. Please remember... if you wish to be reimbursed for your purchases, you must submit all purchase receipts to Ginny DeCarlo. Thanks again for your help.

Trinity Christmas Party

Sunday, December 8th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Pizza, salads, desserts and drinks are on the menu. A free-will offering will be collected. Dino Jump, games and prizes for the kids. A hymn-singing Christmas Carol session will take place in the Sanctuary during the children’s activities. Each family is asked to donate a food item (see sign-up sheet). The meal will be served at 5:45 p.m. in the lower level.

A belated thanks to Sue Kunce for “heading up” the Hay Ride activities, and for setting up the MorningStar Christmas Tree donation site. Also, thanks to Jan Toepke for chairing the Cookie Dough fund raiser, with profits to be spent for local charities. Thanks also to diligent Beth Parker for handling the Meals Program for many years.

Virgil Switzer will be paroled in mid-May, and plans to return to our congregation for worship. If possible, please make his holiday season happier by personally sending him your Christmas greeting, to the Western Illinois Prison; otherwise, please sign the congregation greeting card on the coffee table outside the office. Address labels are available in the manila folder for your mailing.

From all of Social Ministry to Trinity Congregation: Thanks for your prayers, donations, encouragement and lasting support for our many outreach endeavors this past year. Our best wishes and prayers for a most blessed holiday season.

CHANCEL GUILD

Our next meeting is Monday, **December 2nd** at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Judi Donovan and Allene Bachmann. We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

Chancel members: The ladies from Women’s League made and donated all the desserts for our fall luncheon. Now it is our turn to help them. If at all possible, please bake some cookies for their **cookie sale which will be held on Saturday, December 7th.**

POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

What a sight with the altar covered in poinsettias! Would you like to place a poinsettia or two in the Chancel for Christmas? Each plant is only \$11.50 and can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. You can order by completing the yellow form on the hallway table, calling Christine Stark (815.478.4069) or by calling the church office (815.485.6973)

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

ANNUAL COOKIE WALK is Saturday **Dec. 7th from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.** Cookies will be \$8.00/pound. Set up will be Friday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. Donations of Christmas cookies, homemade candy and other bakery goods from members of our congregation are greatly appreciated. Bakery can be dropped off Friday until 6:00 pm or by 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Trays are available in the gym for you to use in transporting your cookies to the church. ***If you make any “nut free” bakery items, please label them accordingly, and they will be placed on a separate table.***

Women's League is also in need of resale items for their second hand table at the Cookie Walk. Please drop off any new or gently used Christmas decorations, or other items that can be used for gifting. Children love to shop for inexpensive gifts. Please drop your items off at the designated tables in the back of the gym.

Meals Program: Trinity's Social Ministry Committee sponsors an ongoing meals program for our members who are in need of meals due to illness, surgery, etc. If you would like to participate in this program by providing meals, please contact Beth Parker at 815.485.6842. If Beth calls and you are unable to help at that time, you may decline and Beth will contact the next person on the list. Beth will let you know of any dietary restrictions and delivery instructions. You may complete the orange Meals Program form on the hallway table and turn it in to the office.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Where has the year gone? It's time to let you know about our annual Christmas luncheon! The date is Tuesday, **December 10th** at 12:30 pm in the church basement. The price will be \$10. If you have any questions, please call Pat at 815 485 6441. Please join us! Reservations are due by **December 2nd.**

MORNING STAR

Thank you to everyone who contributed over the past couple months for the laundry detergent, mugs and the food items needed at MorningStar. **A special thanks to Judy Wilmsen for all the trips she made to deliver these items. Your help is greatly appreciated by Trinity and also MorningStar!**

Serving dates are December 2nd and December 16th. Time: 3:45 pm. Sign-up sheets are on the hallway table. If you have any questions, please call Judy Wilmsen at 815.462.1374..

FMSC in the Philippines By now we all know about the tragedy in the Philippines. The devastation and loss of life is overwhelming! There are approximately 600,000 people left homeless. The Feed my Starving children people are already on the ground there, and have already supplied a half million meals to the typhoon survivors. Our LAMP partners have asked us to help. They are planning a packing event on January 18th, 2014, during which they hope to pack over 100,000 meals. You will be given an opportunity to help pack if you are interested, and more information on that will be coming over the next few weeks.

Obviously money is needed to purchase the food, and here again, you will be offered an opportunity to contribute if you choose to. Please keep the Philippine people in your prayers, and thank you for your support. Details about the January packing event will be furnished as soon as it is available.

COME ONE CALL ALL!

YOUTH OF THE CONGREGATION

Village Tree Decorating. Sunday School students are invited to help decorate a tree at the New Lenox Village Commons on Sunday, December 8th from 3-5 p.m. Meet at the Commons – the whole family may attend.

Church Christmas Party – Sunday December 8th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Youth grades 7-12 are invited to come at 5:00 p.m. to help set up the games for the party. They will run the games and crafts for the younger children. Pizza, salad, and dessert are included – please sign up on the youth board if you plan to attend.

Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, **December 22nd** at the 10:30 a.m. church service. Children should come at the regular 9:15 am time to prepare. The practice will be Saturday, **December 21st** at 10 a.m.

CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2013, please write a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Doris, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. If you would like to stop receiving envelopes, please also fill out a form and indicate as such. Blue request sheets are on the table in the hallway. You may also contact Janice at (815) 485-3558.

Members using offering envelopes may pick up their 2014 envelope boxes in the hallway outside the office starting **December 7th**. Envelopes not picked up by **12/31** will be mailed in January. We really appreciate it when you pick up your envelopes and save us the expense of mailing them!

TRINITY PRESCHOOL

Preschool registration for the 2014/2015 school year for congregational members will be during the month of December. **Trinity members have priority registration during the month of December.** There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00. Cost for Preschool will be \$100/month for 2 days a week and \$125/month for 3 days a week. During January, families with children already in our preschool will be able to register, open registration begins in February. Children must be three or four years old on/before September 1, 2014 to be enrolled. If you have questions, please call Jeanine Welsh at (815)485-6973.

TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. Please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 to request a prayer. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b.

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny a call. You can also call the office at (815) 485-6973. We would be happy to provide you with all the information. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

PEOPLE TO REMEMBER DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Evelyn Clancy
123 S Cherry Hill Rd
Joliet, IL 60433

Edna DeLair
17339 N. Manhattan Road
Elwood, IL 60421

Betty Dunn
263 W. Francis Road
New Lenox, IL 60451

R Lee Hedden
10839 Doral Dr
Frankfort, IL 60423

Mary McElroy
4 Kildare
Joliet, IL 60423

Karin Pecoraro
1338 Spector
New Lenox, IL 60451

Mr. Virgil Switzer
Inmate #M28114
Western IL Correctional Center
F2500 Route 99 South
Mt. Sterling, IL 62353

Edward J. Tatro
811 Winter Park Drive
New Lenox, IL 60451

Bill White
635 Davis Ave
Joliet, IL 60433

Giving the gift of Life

In this holy season when we celebrate the wondrous gift that God gave us in the form of a baby; won't you take the time to give a gift – perhaps to save the life of a baby? Please donate blood and save 3 lives. **Our final blood drive of the year will be Tuesday, December 17th from 3- 7. Questions or to schedule an appointment: contact Deb at 815 462 0687.**

Today's Light Bible Study books have arrived. They are in the office. Please pick them up if you have previously ordered them.

Portals of Pray are also available in the Narthex and on the hallway table.

Church office hours: Monday, 9-3; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4; Friday, 9-12.

Christmas Services:

Sunday, December 22nd

8:00 a.m. Advent Lessons and Carols Worship Service

10:30 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Program

Christmas Eve – December 24th

5:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Service

7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service with communion

Christmas Day Worship Service – December 25th at 10:00 a.m.

Christmas is Joy! Christmas is Peace!

May the peace and joy of this holiday season remain in your heart throughout the New Year.

Remember to keep Christ in your CHRISTmas!

Brock Krohe	20
Mick Lerner	20

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Gavin Evans	1	Rebecca Johnson	21
Haleigh Ziebell	1	Layla Johnson	22
Emily Perkins	2	Sheldon Klemm	23
Raymond Koehler, Jr.	3	Evelyn Clancy	24
Sharon MacFarlane	4	Ronald Molenaar	25
Ali Wasowicz	4	Mark Lord	26
Khloe Stuart	4	Raymond Miletich	26
Diane White	4	Trent Berkey	27
Wyatt Grady	5	Sharon Molenaar	27
Holly Hunley	6	Alan Good	28
William Jackson	6	Floria Kelderhouse	28
Carol Oldendorf	7	Jeff Lorenz	28
Carrie Ann Welsh	7	Loretta Renwick	28
Ruth Hucher	9	Hallie Remm	29
Kenneth Oldendorf	10	Elissa Delcorio	30
Brett Carr	13	Matthew Minger	30
Debbie Fahey	14	Jacob Standard	30
Jake Cook	15	Linda Whitehead	30
Jim Minette	15	Grace Minett	31
Natalie Briese	16	Robert Stark	31
Melissa Studer	17		
Zachary Burke	18		
Bill Walter	18		
Mason Vallow	18		
Bill Walter	18		
Jake Carrier	19		
Caden O'Connor	19		
Kelli Simon	19		
Colleen Dampf	20		
Brenden Kosel	20		

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Keith and Heather Kumlin	11
George & Floria Kelderhouse	29