

December 2021

Dear Friends,

Christmas is the very first major festival in the new church year, so it can be thought of as an anchor that secures us in the stormy sea that characterizes much of our lives.

The Bible history of the Old Testament can be thought of as that stormy sea. If you read the stories carefully, you'll notice some very relatable themes. But peppered throughout these accounts is a voice coming from the future promising One who will bring everything to a focal point and drop an anchor of stability and permanence in the chaotic waters of life. The birth of Jesus brought the glories of heaven clothed in human flesh straight into the mess of this world and secures the world in the love of God.

Everything about the birth of Jesus spoke of the upheavals he would face. This lowly and humble birth in Bethlehem pointed forward to the time of his death. Being placed in a manger shows that very body would become food for humanity just as hay and straw was food for animals. The baby Jesus would be wrapped in swaddling cloths just as the adult Jesus would be wrapped in burial cloths after his brutal crucifixion. The swirling smoke of frankincense depicts Jesus' ascent into the heavenly sanctuary after his victory over death and the grave.

Jesus came to be our anchor. To be *your* anchor.

We have this (God's promises) as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain (God's presence in the sanctuary not made with hands), where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (eternal intercessor of God's love). (Hebrews 6:19-20)

We enter into God's rest, now and forever, in Jesus Christ!

Have a very Joyous and Blessed Christmas in our Lord Jesus.

Pastor Hoag



December Newsletter 2021



Update from our Church Council

Trinity Church Council has a new President. Gary Purnell will be the new president of council for the next two years.



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2022, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and place in Tammy Doerrer's, Financial Secretary, church mailbox. Request forms are on the table in the hallway. Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Tammy.

Members using church envelopes may pick up their 2022 envelope boxes on the table in the hallway. Envelope boxes not picked up in December will be mailed the 2nd week of January.

Great appreciation to members who pick up their envelopes rather than having them mailed!

Questions – contact Tammy, 815 263-8800.

Thanks! Tammy, Financial Secretary

SOCIAL MINISTRY

MorningStar



MorningStar Christmas Activities

The MorningStar Giving Tree is on the hall table, complete with envelopes for monetary donations, to be forwarded for this most charitable mission's works. While we know it is hard to use the envelopes at this time, you can still make a donation if you choose to do so by either mailing in the donation or making the donation on line but please mark it for MorningStar. Please remember to make any checks payable to Trinity so all donations can be recorded and then distributed to MorningStar. Thank you, in advance, for your gifts in any amount.

"Stars of Hope" - All "Stars" have been taken. Thank you to all. If you are interest in helping with this project.

All purchased, wrapped, and tagged gifts must be returned to Trinity by Wednesday, December 1st , so they can be delivered to MorningStar. Your continued support of this project is very much appreciated.



Sunday School – Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 12th during the 10:30 am church service.

Program rehearsal will be on Saturday, December 11th from 10 to 11:30 am.

No Sunday School on December 26, 2021 and January 2, 2022.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

A family Christmas Party will be sponsored by the Sunday School on Thursday, December 30th at 5:00 p.m..



Blood Drive – Will be held on December 15, 2021 in the church parking lot from 3 – 7pm. Please remember to social distance and wear a mask. Upon arrival at church, go directly to the mobile unit in the parking lot.

USHERS 

Trinity Lutheran Usher Schedule:

Dec. 5th - 9:00 am – Tom Kaun / Larry Wennlund
10:30 am – Brett Carr / Paul Krol
Dec. 12th - 9:00 am – Ed Tatro / Tim King
10:30 am – Tom Buell
Dec. 19th - 9:00 am - Mike Gardner / Gary Purnell
10:30 am - Jeff McDonald / Dana Knodel
Nov. 26th - 9:00 am – Steve Tomany / Randy Varju
10:30 am – John Buell / Phil MacFarlane

If anyone is interested in being an usher, please contact Ed Tatro or the church office.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing, Worship and Spiritual Life Directors.

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org



SCRIP GIFT CARDS – In the month of December, there will be two scrip card deadlines. One will be Dec 5th and the other will be Dec 12th. Orders will be ready for pick up the Sunday following the order date. There are currently extra bonuses offered just in time for holiday shopping.

Additionally, keep in mind there are many low denomination cards available which make great gifts for teachers, bus drivers, coaches, etc.

Any questions please contact Angie at minett411@yahoo.com or [815-228-4902](tel:815-228-4902). You can also learn more online at shopwithscrip.com. Thank you for your support!



ALTAR FLOWERS: Chancel Guild members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a Sunday this last year. We thank you for your flexibility considering the impact Covid-19 restrictions have had on church attendance and on our flower orders. **A new 2022 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted.** You can find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across from the general office. If you would like to reserve a Sunday for 2022 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's Blessings, please fill out a sponsor order sheet and put it in the Chancel Guild mailbox. The sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. Thank you for supporting Chancel Guild's efforts to keep fresh flowers on the altar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

Advent is a time of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. To honor and celebrate this special event, Chancel Guild Members will be decorating the Chancel area with poinsettias. If you would like to help decorate the Chancel area by purchasing a poinsettia for them to use, please fill out the order form and **turn it in no later than Sunday, December 19, 2021.** The cost for each plant is \$21.50. Your Poinsettia can be picked up after the Christmas Day service. If you have any questions, email or call Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or (815) 485-9017. Thank you!



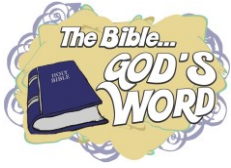
CHANCEL GUILD Our next meeting is Saturday, **December 4th** at 9 am. We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season and holding election of officers. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.

Chancel Schedule for December:

December 5 – Judi Donovan/Doris Bay
December 12 – Doris Bay/Jennifer Mudrock
December 19 – Jennifer Mudrock/Wendy Kaun
December 23 – Set up Christmas Flowers at 9:00 am
December 24 - 7:00 PM 11:00 PM
 Sally Jackson Denise Buchanan
 Debbie Crawford Jennifer Mudrock
December 25 – Sharon MacFarlane/Denise Buchanan
December 26 – Denise Buchanan/Rita Larson

Altar Flowers:

Dec. 5 Denise Buchanan and Rita Larson
 In Memory of their husbands, Bob and Terry
Dec. 12 The Dobbs, Dempsey, and Ruhle Families
 In Memory of Adelaide Ruhle
Dec. 19 The Gary Purnell Family
 In Thanksgiving for Pastor Hoag, Dan Bay, Lori Hilger, Judi Donovan, Council Members, and the rest of our countless church workers and volunteers who have seen to it that God's message was and is still being delivered during these difficult Pandemic times
Dec. 26 Phil & Sharon MacFarlane
 In Memory of Phil's brother, Richard MacFarlane



Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 8:30 a.m. Please join us.

Thursday Evening Bible Class is held at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.

Both groups are in person or online so please contact Pastor Hoag if you wish to join the online group and he will get you the link.



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 feel free to contact Beth Parker if you have a prayer request. You may call Beth at 815.485.6842 or email her at elizabemarie@sbcglobal.net. You may also contact Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441 or email her at ppfuerst@gmail.com.

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 Beth or Pat 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.



Christmas Services



Sunday, December 12th

10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 19th

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Regular Sunday Services at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve – December 24th

2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service with communion

Christmas Day Worship Service – December 25th

Christmas Carol Singing – 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

December 26th

10:30 a.m. Service without communion

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!***

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-1 pm

