



ADVENT IS HERE!

It is the season of change as we prepare for winter and celebrate Christmas. For our congregation, we move from the 'green' and embrace the blue of Advent – the season of preparation.

Most years it is difficult to embrace the 'waiting' and 'anticipation' that Advent encourages because of the insanity of the great Thanksgiving/Christmas extravaganza. This year we are offered an opportunity to embrace the Advent time of watchful waiting, to make this unusual time more holy and intentional by celebrating Advent in our homes.

The color of the season is blue – or purple if you wish. Four candles mark each of the weeks as we wait in hope, love, joy and peace. At church we have an Advent wreath. **You can create an Advent corner in your home for yourself.**

I rummaged around and found all kinds of containers to make an advent corner. I used dessert cups and mis-matched candle holders. I used tea candles and a favorite pillar candle and 4 purple tapers that I found in a box. I even added a variety of decorative elements. It doesn't all have to match. Watch our Facebook page to see pictures of my advent corners.

In one of the pictures you will see 4 cans of food with candles on the top. I was thinking that each week your family (however big or small) might want to gather cans for the food pantry, perhaps add them to the Advent corner and donate all at once. Children or grandchildren could draw pictures of people preparing or waiting as decoration. They could draw family preparations or even parts of the coming Christmas story with the kings preparing for the journey, the angels in heaven, and shepherds waiting in the fields.....all with the theme of preparing and waiting.

We are preparing for the announcement that God has come down to us and taken on human form in order to dwell among us. We are also waiting for the time when Jesus comes again to bring into final form God's new creation. This is so much more than a story about a baby; it is about God embracing every human being, every human form as a reflection of God's holy love.

Watch for prayers and ideas to use as a part of your Advent time: a time apart, of waiting and watching and hope. In the meantime, set up an Advent corner for your home as a part of our shared worship.

In all things, may you know peace.

Pastor Gail Wolling



| Date | Worship Leader | Format |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| December 6 | Pastor Miranda Hammer | Zoom/Facebook |
| December 13 | Deacon David Grindle | Zoom/Facebook |
| December 20 | Pastor Edwina Landry | Zoom/Facebook |
| December 24 | Dean Wolling | trinityherkimer.org |
| December 27 | Lessons and Carols | Zoom/Facebook |

Worship With Us From Anywhere!

Call on your landline phone, use your computer, receive a DVD, or receive a printed copy of the sermon!

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas Poinsettias will be available this year from Massaro's Florist. Even though we are worshipping virtually, you can help us decorate for the Christmas Eve service!



Red medium poinsettias for \$25 can be ordered through Trinity by calling the church office and placing your order. You may include a message of honor or in memory of, which will appear at the end of the Christmas Eve virtual service. You may pick up your plant(s) by calling Cassie Becker in the church office and arranging a pick up time. Our plan is to have them available starting December 14th, so that you can have your plants in time to decorate your own home for Christmas! **Orders are due by December 7th.** Call 315-866-6474 or email cbecker@trinityherkimer.org

Oplatki

Orders for Oplatki (Christmas Wafers) may be placed with Cassie Becker by calling the church office at 315-866-6474, or by email: cbecker@trinityherkimer.org. All Oplatki will be mailed. We encourage donations to cover the cost of the wafers and the mailing. We will not be distributing them in person due to Covid-19 precautions. Please place your orders by December 10th.

Traveling Through Advent Together and Christmas Eve

Worshipping "virtually" instead of in person this year is a challenge, but a necessary one, for the safety of all. We will share all resources for Christmas Eve service on our Church website (trinityherkimer.org). Christmas Eve service will be available starting at 1pm on Christmas Eve, along with a printable bulletin, including lyrics for the songs, for the service. If you would like to receive a printed copy of the bulletin or a DVD of the service by mail, please contact Cassie Becker at cbecker@trinityherkimer.org or by calling 315-866-6474. We are church together always, even when we are apart!

Drive-By Cookie Exchange

Kylene Jordan is organizing a drive-by cookie exchange on **December 5th at 10am** with drop off and pick up being at her house in her garage. Participants are asked to bake 5 dozen (60) cookies at home, pre-package them with saran wrap/sandwich bags in groups of 4. Bring your 15 packages of 4 cookies each to Kylene's home on Saturday morning. Kylene will get them from your vehicle (wearing a mask), then while you wait, she will bag up your cookies to take home from all the participants, and return them to you in your vehicle. If you would like to participate or have questions, please email Kylene Jordan at kjordan@trinityherkimer.org or text at 315-404-3945.



Christmas provides an opportunity to say thank you to our Trinity staff for their work, their support, and their generous spirit. As we remember the challenges of 2020, each of these special individuals has been a blessing as they met Trinity's needs. If you are able to make a contribution to gift our dedicated staff members (Wendy DeLuca, Sue Kubica, John Keiser, Justina Kane and newly hired, Cassie Becker), that would be greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas! Please indicate on your check "Staff Gift".

Risleigh Roche, Council President

The Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 17th ("snow day" in case of technology issues is Jan 24th.)

This will be a zoom meeting and we encourage all to attend. The Annual Meeting is an important time to guide the focus of Trinity's mission in Christ into the future. We will vote on the annual budget, elect Council and Endowment members and discuss our plans for 2021.

In January, we will notify you of the time and login in for this meeting. Please mark your calendars now.

In preparation for that, the TLC Nominating Committee is seeking four congregation members to stand for election to Church Council. There are three full term (three years) seats to fill, and one two year term. Ann Maher and Gary Manning are serving on the Nominating Committee. Please be encouraged to talk with either of them if you feel the Spirit calling you to become involved. Reach Gary at 315-717-4830 or Ann at 315-717-4257; amaher@trinityherkimer.org. Thank you for praying about serving the church in this important way.

Sharing and Serving

The Holidays give us the opportunity to share Christ's love in a variety of ways. This committee has not let a couple of obstacles stand in their way and we are grateful for all their efforts! They have continued their regular ministries feeding the community along with coordinating gifts for the Lutheran Home residents and collaborating with other local churches to provide Thanksgiving meals to those in need.

Your continued support makes all these ministries possible! If you would like to donate, **The Lutheran Home is looking for donations** of unwrapped puzzles, blankets, toiletries (for males and females), candies, scarfs, shawls, fleece blankets and pillows as Holiday gifts for residents. Please leave donations on the parsonage porch **by December 10th**.

Thank you and may you have a blessed Holiday season!

Faith Formation/Learning

FRIENDS IN FAITH

No Friends in Faith activity planned for this fall. Look for us again next spring! In the meantime be sure and join some of the other activities Trinity offers. See you there!

BOOK CLUB

The TLC Book Club will not meet in December. Since "Bookshop on the Corner" was enjoyed by so many of us, Sue Harkins shares the following titles, which contain some of the same characters: "The Bookshop by the Shore" and "500 miles from You". Let's read our way through the winter and look forward to meeting again in the new year.

RACIAL JUSTICE AND ANTIRACISM WORK

Looking for something interesting to read/watch/do during the stretch of winter at home days? Check out the Racial Justice resources that have been collected for our use on the Synod website. Go to the website at <https://upstatenysynod.org> and click on the homepage tab for "Justice Ministries". Watch for news of a group meeting in the new year.

Worship, Music and Prayer

BLESSINGS of PRAYER:

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in All circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

PRAYER NOTES:

PRAISE, REPENT, ASK, YIELD

These four simple steps can take our prayers beyond empty words of recitation to the kind of intimate, personal communication that our Lord so desires to have with his children. God is the Master Creator, our Father, the source of all Love and wants a relationship with all of us. Jesus once told a story about a widow who repeatedly asked a judge for justice against an adversary (Luke 18:4-7). Scripture says that Jesus told this parable to show "that men ought always to pray, and not to faint" (Luke 18:1). Let us never faint from the privilege of coming before our God of grace in prayer!!

As 1Thessalonians 5:16-18 states we already know God's Will for us. YES!!!! Prayer is our privilege of constant, unbroken communication with God. We can consistently talk with Jesus about anything. Incessant prayer may be the best way to stay in tune with the perfect will of God!!!!

Prayerfully consider joining Trinity's prayer chain ministry. Speak to Phillis or any one of us. YOU WILL BE BLESSED!!

And at the same time blessing others.

In HIS Service,
Prayer Ministry

Volunteer Schedule

As needed, the following have volunteered as counters:

- December 7 & 14th - Ann Maher and Phillis Becker
- December 21 & 28th - Sue Harkins and Cathy Mayton-Collins
- January 4 & 11th - Wendy Catera and Judy Sadlon

Additional counters are welcome. If you would like more information please contact Wendy DeLuca.

Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has continued to mail offerings to church (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or continue to use Simply Giving. The mission of the church continues throughout the pandemic. If you wish to receive more information about giving directly to Trinity through the Thrivent Simply Giving Program, please contact Wendy DeLuca at wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org.

Our Church Family

God's children in need of prayer and support: Steve Crane, John Sadlon, Rose Snow, Judy, Peter, Mike, Loren Jr., Ron, Ann, Nick, Alyx, Rich, Irene, Norm and all those on Trinity's prayer chain.

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal/family matters, please call Phillis Becker at 315-866-2379.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Sheila Pierce | Gordon Marquissee | Reagan Shaut |
| Thomas Sherman | Austin Stewart | Michael Pawelek |
| Karen Ruff | Brittany Pawelek | Michael Sadlon |
| William Jaquish | Tyler DeLuca | Paul Pryor |
| Cassie Becker | Kolby Fical | Nancy Schneegas |
| Stefan Duga | Tracy Stewart | Dennis Shaut, Jr. |
| Suzanne Jones | Russell Shadders | Paula Fuchs |
| Addison Flansburg | Daniel Rivers | |
| Donna Wilcox | Rebecca Marusic | |

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ruth & Guy Wicks
Peter & Suzanne Jones

Happy Holidays from the Tidings Team

It is truly a team effort to get our monthly Glad Tidings to your mailbox, and the team wishes you a wonderful holiday season, as we welcome Cassie Becker joining the team. Again this year, we will do separate December and January issues, to stay current with planning and news. Beginning now, you can send news for the upcoming issue to Tidings@trinityherkimer.org. Justina, Cassie and Ann will all receive that email. We appreciate feedback and ideas to improve our newsletter too!

Safe Use of Trinity's Space During This Time

Thank you to those who have used our new Safety Procedures when in the church building. Since we don't clean the building after each person exits, compliance with safe practices is important. The latest CDC information indicates that the virus can remain airborne for many hours. Therefore, wearing a face covering is **MANDATORY IN ALL PARTS OF THE BUILDING**, even if you are ALONE! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Please sign in on the form at the bottom of the stairs. Use the hand sanitizer. Don't touch your face. If you are with other people, maintain social distance.

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|---------------------------|--------------|--|
| PRESIDENT: Risleigh Roche | 315-866-1915 | rroche@trinityherkimer.org |
| VICE PRES: JoAnn Blaise | 315-894-3703 | jblaise@trinityherkimer.org |
| SECRETARY: Deke Pollak | 315-717-2789 | dpollak@trinityherkimer.org |
| TREASURER: Judy Sadlon | 315-429-9575 | jsadlon@trinityherkimer.org |
| Kylene Jordan | 315-404-3945 | kjordan@trinityherkimer.org |
| Bona Starring | 315-868-8393 | bstarring@trinityherkimer.org |
| Ann Maher | 315-891-3952 | amaher@trinityherkimer.org |
| Cathy Mayton-Collins | 315-867-8426 | cmayton-collins@trinityherkimer.org |
| Paul Kucerak | 315-868-8805 | pkucerak@trinityherkimer.org |

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