



*Disciples of Jesus Christ called to bring God's light into the world: through worship, serving, learning and sharing the Good News!*

### Happy New Year and Welcome to 2022

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future". Jeremiah 29:11*

### The Annual Meeting



The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> ("snow day" is Jan 30<sup>th</sup>.) **Watch your mail for a letter with more detailed information coming early in January.**

Since we will be voting on a change to the TLC Constitution, we encourage all to attend this in-person meeting. The Annual Meeting is an important time to guide the focus of Trinity's mission in Christ into the future. We will also vote on the annual budget, discuss and elect Council members and make plans for 2022. The meeting will begin at 11:15, shortly after the worship service. According to NYS law, annual meetings for churches can be held in person or virtually, but not hybrid.

Date	Worship Leader	Format	Communion
January 2	Deacon Patsy Glista	In House/Virtual	No
January 9	David Grindle SAM	In House/Virtual	No
January 16	Rev. Gail Wolling	In House/Virtual	Yes
January 23	Rev. Bill Preuss	In House/Virtual	Yes
January 30	Rev. Gail Wolling	In House/Virtual	Yes

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on either Zoom, Facebook or the website. All in person worship services are subject to change to virtual only if Covid status changes.

### Thank you to Trinity's Staff

We want to reward our staff members for a year of faithful service. Donations are requested toward a "Thank You Gift for 2021" for each of our employees. Checks can be sent to Trinity's office by January 12th with "Staff Gifts" marked in the memo line.

### **A Final Note of Advent Gratitude**

The TLC Worship and Music Committee did an amazing job planning and executing our Advent worship experiences. Thank you to Bona Starring, Sue Kubica, Justina Kane, Sue Harkins, Dean Wolling, and all of the volunteers who contributed to our Advent and Christmas Eve services this year. The virtual Christmas Eve service was complemented by many people. Pastor Preuss praised it for being “the best Christmas Eve service he’s ever seen.” Thanks to everyone!

### **News from the UNY Synod**

This sounds like a wonderful opportunity to support needs outside of our own community. If you would like to participate, please send a donation to Trinity’s office, marked “Gifts of Comfort and Joy” on the memo line.

#### **Gifts of Comfort and Joy:**

The Upstate NY Synod Hunger Team invites you and your congregation to raise \$400 or more to provide personal and household necessities for disaster survivors. \$400 provides a month’s supply of necessities for two families.

The synod-wide challenge, *Gifts of Comfort and Joy*, will take place during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. 100% of your gift will be directed to Lutheran Disaster Response. Food, new clothes, housewares and toiletries can greatly help families when they have no place to call home. Your gift reminds them that they haven’t been forgotten!

Wildfires, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, Covid-19—these are some of the disasters that have been addressed by Lutheran Disaster Response in the last year, bringing God’s hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted, providing ongoing assistance to those in need. Thanks to generous donations, Lutheran Disaster Response is able to respond quickly and effectively to disasters around the globe.

### **Churches United in Faith**

Members from Trinity, Zion, and Our Saviour continue to meet and share ideas about working together. Two groups are presently meeting. The original group will hold another meeting in January via Zoom to pursue ideas about sharing resources among our three churches. Watch the Weekly Announcements for more information about meeting date and time. Call or email Ann Maher if you have any questions or ideas to share. Patsy Glista is facilitating the “WELCA Group”: that group is exploring shared learning experiences especially aimed toward the ladies of the congregation. A joint, in-person meeting is being planned for March. This group will be exploring the ELCA Social Statement on Faith, Sexism and Justice. Paper copies will be available for our congregations; the document and accompanying study guide can be found on the ELCA website (elca.org). The next Planning Meeting for this project is scheduled for January 19 at 7:00pm on Zoom.

## Serving and Sharing

### Get Ready for the SOUPer Bowl!

This year, we will again be participating in the SOUPer Bowl of Caring! Hunger and poverty have a negative impact on individuals and the communities in which they live, yet there is joy in serving and giving to those in need. The SOUPer Bowl is a great way to inspire people to give locally and make a collective impact on hunger. Let's put the energy of the "Big Game" into action and make a difference! Food and monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Last year we raised \$40 and 55 items, can we beat it?! Donations can be put in the offering plate or sent to Trinity's office marked for "SOUPer Bowl". Contributions go to our local food pantry. We will collect for our TLC SOUPer Bowl through the end of February and report our results then. Let's win this game!

### FOOD PANTRY

For the month of January, we will be collecting soup items and crackers for the Food Pantry! Please leave any donations in the basket at the entry of the church or in the bin on the parsonage porch. Thank you!

### BOX FOR SOCKS

We are still collecting socks on the parsonage porch! During these harsh cold months, let's help others keep warm. Thanks to all who have donated!

## Learning

### FAITH ALIVE

WOW! How exciting as we continue to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst. What a great God we serve!

December 5th, our second time together, was awesome. Our focus was on Advent. "HOPE, LOVE/FAITH, JOY, PEACE" The children read, from the children's bible, the wonderful story of when the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to a son and name Him JESUS. The children were full of enthusiasm with big smiles and a heart of love 🥰 As an activity we made crosses using pipe-cleaners of various colors focusing on the wonders of the Cross. Thank you to Sheila Baker for donating the supplies needed.

By the time you read this we would have met for the third time on Sunday, December 26th. I Know, it was the day after Christmas, but what's a better place to be than singing and worshipping our Lord together in Word and Song.

Our next get together will be Sunday, January 16th 9-10am. New and exciting things are beginning to happen as we continue to be a work in progress as Jesus Christ leads us.

Remember: ALL ages are invited to join in the 😊 fun. New crafts and/or ideas are always welcome and appreciated 👍.

Questions? Please call Cassie at the church office 315-866-6474, Wendy Catera or Phillis Becker.

## BIBLE STUDY

Did you know that there is an active discussion about the Bible and its messages for us happening every Thursday morning at 10 am? You are welcome to join the conversation! The group is led by Phillis Becker, and meets weekly in the Fellowship Hall.

Dean Gail offers virtual Bible Study experiences on Facebook. The study is streamed live on Facebook and can also be viewed at any time after it is posted.

## BOOK GROUP

We will be reading "The Personal Librarian" by Valerie Benedict & Victoria C. Murray for January 21st and "The Possibility Dogs" by Susannah Charlesson for February 18th. Please meet us at Harriet's house at 10:00 AM (call her at 315 868-9977 with any questions). We really would love to see at least one new person, so plan to stop by for a visit if possible.

## Worship, Music, and Prayer

### BLESSINGS OF PRAYER 🙏:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with Thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6,7)

### PRAYER NOTES 🙏:

Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. If you do this, you will experience God's Peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand.

In our "journey of life" we all encounter numerous valleys of adversity. Referring to the TRUTHS that God shows us in His Word, as "Hope Signs" of encouragement can help us pray our way through these valleys. Here are some:

- There is another side.....Psalm 23:4 is familiar to those experiencing adversity. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me." No matter the pain of the moment, our Shepherd, Jesus Christ, will guide us safely through to the other side.
- God can be trusted to do what is best for us..... In Isaiah 55:8,9 the Lord tells us, "My thoughts are completely different from yours"..... Praying through adversity means praying with the assurance that God knows what is best and that He can be trusted to turn our valley into a gateway of HOPE.
- There may be a variety of "hope signs" along the way to encourage us, but Jesus is the answer for all that hope. We need to keep focused on Him!! Hebrews 12:2 tells us "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our Faith, who for the Joy set before Him endured the Cross".

Let us find strength and encouragement as we hold tightly the hand of Jesus and 🙏pray our way through adversity.

In His Service,  
Prayer Ministry

## Volunteer Schedule

Please contact Cassie with questions or any necessary changes.

	January 2	January 9	January 16	January 23	January 30
<b>Counter 1</b>	Phillis Becker	Amy Manning	Amy Manning	Bona Starring	Bona Starring
<b>Counter 2</b>	Joann Blaise	Gary Manning	Gary Manning	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins
<b>Reader</b>	Phillis Becker	Bona Starring	Sue Harkins	Phillis Becker	Bona Starring
<b>Technology</b>	Cassie/Ann	Cassie/Ann	Cassie/Ann	Cassie/Ann	Cassie/Ann
<b>Unlock Door</b>	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker
<b>Singer</b>	Sue Harkins	David Grindle	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins
<b>Altar</b>	N/A	N/A	Amy Manning	Kylene Jordan	Amy Manning
<b>Ventilation</b>	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser	Paul Keyser

## Stewardship

Thanks to everyone who has continued to mail offerings to church (443 Henry Street, Herkimer, NY 13350) or continues 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](mailto:wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org).

During the first 4 Sundays in November, Trinity received offerings in the following amounts.

Average In-person Attendance	General Fund	Capital Fund	Designated Funds
19	\$5,239.00	\$20.00	\$1,115.00

Designated Funds include: Flowers, Candles, Clinton Homes, World Hunger, Youth Groups, Fundraisers, Synod, Reimbursed Items, Local Charities, Memorial Fund, Capital Fund, Organ Fund & Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Needed from 4 Sundays each month - \$8189.33

# JANUARY 2022

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
					<b>1</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>2</b> 10:00 am Worship Service
<b>3</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>9</b> 10:00 am Worship Service
<b>10</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Virtual Bible Study	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm Council meeting via ZOOM	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:00 am Faith Alive Event 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Annual Meeting
<b>17</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>21</b> ALL DAY Book Group Meets	<b>22</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>23</b> 10:00 am Worship Service
<b>24</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>25</b> 10:00 am Virtual Bible Study 6:00 pm Habitat For Humanity Meeting	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting	<b>30</b> 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Annual Meeting Snow Date
<b>31</b> 7:30 pm NA Meeting						

## Our Church Family



God's children in need of prayer 🙏 and support: Ann, Cooper, Larry, Jerry, Eleanor, Daryl, Ethan, Edith, Joanne, Gary, Nancy, Richard, Rose, Jason, Chase, Peter, Felix, Irene, Barbara, Tanya, Graham, Loren Jr, Jodi, and all others on Trinity's prayer 🙏 chain.

Please keep all those around the world and those at home who are suffering from the current natural disaster, oppression, persecution and those who have COVID and their families in your prayers. Thank you so much.

Katherine Baker, great grandmother of Sheila Baker, went home to be with our Lord recently. Please keep Sheila and her family in your prayers for peace and comfort 🙏.

A big thank you to Eleanor Clements for donating the two beautiful Christmas 🎄 wreaths which are hanging on the German Street entrance doors. The Manger Scene which is set up faithfully, every year, by Mike Marusic and others, thank you. All those who helped decorate the interior of God's house, thank you 😊.

EMMANUEL--GOD WITH US-----YES

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

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Christine Stegeman  
Cindy Manning  
Gabrielle Griffin  
Myrtle Irons  
Colt Nemecek  
Rebecca Shaut  
Zachary Snow  
Carol Obermann  
Jonah Levi

Kali René Fical  
Maria Schroeder  
Daniel Pollak  
Shane Kucerak  
Kendall Guccione  
Kathy Schrader  
Miranda Meinzer  
Rebecca Walrath  
Carol Farrington

JoAnn Blaise  
Timothy Marusic  
John Wilcox  
Jenna Macri  
Joanne Mencer  
Arnold A. Schrader  
Connor Griffin  
Victoria Bunn

### JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Maria & Jerome Madden  
Rebecca & Michael Marusic

Kathy & Frank Kapusta  
Kathy & Donald Schrader

**If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!**

### Council Contact Information

President: Ann Maher	315-891-3952	amaher@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: Phillis Becker	315-866-2379	pbecker@trinityherkimer.org
Sec.: Cathy Mayton-Collins	315-867-8426	cmayton-collins@trinityherkimer.org
Treasurer:: Kylene Jordan	315-404-3945	kjordan@trinityherkimer.org
Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
Bona Starring	315-868-8393	bstarring@trinityherkimer.org
Gary Manning	315-717-4830	gmanning@trinityherkimer.org
Paul Kucerak	315-868-8805	pkucerak@trinityherkimer.org
Dean Gail Wolling	518-225-7537	gwolling@trinityherkimer.org

**Worship With Us  
From Anywhere!**

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

**Church Office Hours:** Cassie will be in the office Tuesday-Friday from 1-4pm for any of your church needs. She can always be reached at [CSherman@Trinityherkimer.org](mailto:CSherman@Trinityherkimer.org) or leave a message on the church phone 315-866-6474.

### Helpful Resources:

Church Calendar: [trinityherkimer.org/calendar](http://trinityherkimer.org/calendar)

COVID CDC Tracker: [covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view)

Facebook: [facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer](https://facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer)

SYNOD website: [upstatenysynod.org/](http://upstatenysynod.org/)

### Covid 19 Protocols

At the August Council meeting, in response to rising Covid 19 infection levels, the TLC Council revised the Covid Policy for the church as follows:

- Unvaccinated individuals must continue to wear a mask at all times.
- When the Herkimer County Infection Rate is Substantial or High, masks are required for all individuals during the Worship Service. ([Click here](#) or visit [covid.cdc.gov](https://covid.cdc.gov) to check the status)
- When the Herkimer County Infection Rate is Low or Moderate, masks are required for vaccinated individuals while singing during worship, or singing anywhere in the church building.

Thank you for continuing to do the following:

- Maintain a comfortable and safe distance between yourself and others
- Stay home if you are not feeling well
- Use good hygiene practices, including use of hand sanitizing stations provided
- Respect one another at all times.

Our Church is following the New York State Department of Health Guidelines as we make decisions for the church and its members. The county rate is measured weekly, and we will share the rate in our Weekly Announcement email. In addition, a sign will be posted on the church door to state the risk level of our county. Masks are available to those who are in need. The Office for the Aging has provided Trinity with a generous supply of masks. If we all follow these guidelines, our church will continue to be a welcoming and safe space, both virtually and physically. Thank you for being a part of Trinity!

The pandemic is affecting each of us differently and in many ways. While we continue to hold each other in prayer, we especially lift up all families who have lost loved ones during this time.