



Vol. 55 No. 12

Glad Tidings

DECEMBER 2022

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

Advent is Here - Let it Fill Our Hearts, Minds, and Church

Thank you to all those who attended the "Hanging of the Greens" event to prepare our church for Advent and Christmas. The season of Advent began on November 27th. How will Advent lead you into the Christmas miracle this year?

This year, a free advent resource we hope you will enjoy using is a devotional booklet called *E.E. Cummings and the Joyful Poetry of Advent*. This devotional, a companion to his poems, has scripture readings, practices, prayers, songs, reflections and a simple candlelight service each week.

This new resource is available both digitally and in print. Access it easily on the homepage of our website (trinityherkimer.org). If you currently receive the Weekly Announcements, the downloadable link has been shared there. Printed copies are also available on the table in the Narthex. If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a hard copy in the mail, please contact the church office.

Christmas Worship Opportunities

And then it will be Christmas! Our virtual *Trinity Christmas Eve* service will be available beginning at noon on Christmas Eve. It will be shared on our website (trinityherkimer.org), Facebook (facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer/), and YouTube (youtube.com/@trinitylutheranchurchherkimer). There will NOT be a worship service at Trinity on Sunday, Christmas Day.

Zion Lutheran Church on French Road welcomes you to join their Christmas Eve Service at 4pm and their Christmas Day Service at 10am in person or virtually using either Zoom or YouTube.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84354840714?pwd=TDJGTkwvSTBER2lNb1o1Qzd6WGxDdz09>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@zionlutheranchurchnewhartf2132>

Our Saviour on Genesee Street welcomes you to their worship at 7pm on Christmas Eve and at 10am on Christmas Day with breakfast beginning at 8:30am.

| Date | Worship Leader | Format | Communion |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| December 4 | Deacon Patsy Glista | In House/Virtual | No |
| December 11 | Tom Henry SAM | In House/Virtual | No |
| December 18 | Rev. Gail Wolling | In House/Virtual | Yes |
| Christmas Weekend | No In-Person Services | Virtual Service on 12/24* | No |

*See paragraph above chart for additional Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship options.

To virtually participate in Sunday Service, please join us at 10am on either Zoom, Facebook or the website.

Zoom Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 3158666474 Password: 13350

www.trinityherkimer.org

315-866-6474

Office News

We are pleased to announce that TLC has a new Administrative Assistant effective November 28. Please join us in welcoming Briana Jackson to work with us. Briana lives in Herkimer and also works as an Office Assistant II at Herkimer BOCES. The hiring team found Briana's enthusiasm, outgoing personality, and ability to be a self-directed worker a wonderful match for our needs. During her training period, her hours will vary. Briana will be working 10-15 hours a week - watch the Weekly Announcements for updates as she gets acquainted with us in December. Once training is complete a schedule will be shared. With Briana's depth of clerical experience, we feel she will be a great addition to the TLC team, helping us to support the church.

This news makes 2023 a great opportunity to give ourselves a fresh start and update our records and our directory! We will be mailing out a form with the Annual Meeting letter, requesting updated information. Thank you in advance for helping us to make sure we have accurate information about your family.

News from Your Church Council

Save the date of January 8th for the Annual Congregational Meeting which is held each January. (The snow date for the meeting is January 22nd.) This is an important business meeting of our congregation, during which we approve our annual budget, elect Council and Endowment Committee members, close the books for the year, and give thanks to God for our blessings. This year, we hope it will also provide an opportunity for many of you to meet our new Administrative Assistant Briana Jackson in person. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

As mentioned, this is the meeting when new members are elected to serve for a three year term on Church Council. This year, Kylene Jordan is heading up the Nominating Committee and needs at least one congregation member not on Council to work with her. Please send her an email if you are interested in serving on this important but brief committee assignment, or if the Spirit is leading you to place your name in nomination for election to the Council. Kylene's email address is kjordan@trinityherkimer.org.

Staff Gifts

It is that time of year when we want to show appreciation to our staff members for their untiring work on behalf of our church. Sue Kubica, Wendy DeLuca, Justina Kane, Paul Keyser, Pastor Wolling, and Briana Jackson are TLC's paid part-time staff team. Each year, we honor them with a monetary gift from the congregation. If you would like to donate to this gift, please place a donation marked "Staff Gift" in the Sunday offering plate, or mail a donation with "Staff Gift" marked in the memo line by December 12th. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

LDA Thank You

In September, the TLC Council voted to send a donation of \$250.00 to the Lutheran Diaconal Association. LDA is the program through which Sara Manning became a Deaconess. We recently received a thank you letter from the LDA, which said in part:

Remembering the LDA with this gift means that you understand the impact deaconesses and deacons have as they serve God's people from across the street and around the world.

And, they reach out in Christian love as nurses, teachers, social workers, parish staff, and just about any other vocation you can think of, to those who need a helping hand. The contribution from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church inspires each deaconess and deacon to serve from morning to night and in all aspects of their lives. We appreciate your partnership in helping to create and support the LDA's ministry so that the LDA can, in turn, support deaconesses and deacons around the world. Again, thank you for your thoughtfulness!

An “Inspiring” Way to Start 2023

Volunteers are still working to create books of creative writings by members or relatives of TLC members. It’s been decided to make it a book of Inspiration rather than a devotional and it’s not too late to submit an entry. Journal musings, poems, favorite scripture verses - all inspirational musings will be honored. Send an email with your piece to info@trinityherkimer.org, or contact Sue Harkins or Ann Maher for more information. Pieces for the January 20222 Inspirations “Musings” Publication must be received by December 15th.

Women United in Faith – In Person Luncheon at Trinity November 13th

Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the quarterly gathering of women from Trinity, Zion and Our Saviour, especially the musical support given by Sue Kubica. A collegial lunch was followed by a program based on the new music and worship offerings in the new hymnal All Creation Sings. More events like this will be planned on December 5 via Zoom. Contact JoAnn, Phillis, or Ann for more information or to be included in the planning session.

Oplatki

The tradition of the Oplatki originated in Poland during Early Christian times. It began with a simple white wafer, baked from flour and water. The wafers are wonderfully designed to display Christmas images, such as the Nativity. The tradition is popular throughout eastern Europe, including Lithuania and Slovakia.

The Oplatki are enjoyed by families, typically right before the Christmas Eve meal (in Polish called Wigilia). The entire family will gather around the table with the Oplatek. Generally the eldest member of the family will begin the ritual by breaking off a piece of the wafer and passing it to another member with a blessing. This blessing can simply consist of what you desire for your loved one in the upcoming year - whether it be good health, success, or happiness. The purpose of this act is primarily to express one's unconditional love and forgiveness for each member of his or her family. It is not uncommon to receive Oplatki in Christmas cards from your family around the world.

The significance of the Oplatki Christmas wafer is in that it shadows Holy Communion. Just as we share and receive Christ's love through Communion, the Oplatki allows for one's immediate family to come together and share the love they have for one another. The symbolism is deepened by the fact that the name of the town where Jesus Christ was born, Bethlehem, means "House of Bread," which makes the Oplatki tradition a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas season.

The wafers stay fresh for a long time. It is safe to store them for several months, preferably in a sealed container. If you would like to order Oplatki please contact Wendy at wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org or by calling the church office. You will have the option to pick up at church or it can be mailed.

Help Wanted: Endowment Committee

First and perhaps most importantly, we wish to express our gratitude to Wendy Catera for the dedication and support she has provided to the Endowment Committee for the past many years. Wendy has served as a committee member but also as a record-keeper for the Committee. At this time, Wendy needs to retire from work with the Endowment Committee. If you feel this is a place where your talents may be used, please consider joining Mike Marusic, PJ Marusic, and John Sadlon on this committee. Please email info@trinityherkimer.org so that we can connect you with the committee. Thank you to all previous and new volunteers of the Endowment Committee!

Cans and Bottles

We are seeking a volunteer to redeem the bottles and cans placed at the church at least once a month, sometimes more depending on the amount received. Please contact Kylene at 315-404-3945 or kylene@trinityherkimer.org if you are able to help.

Lutheran Chicks

On December 4, 2022 Lutheran Chicks will gather in the Fellowship Hall from 2-4pm, to catch up, visit, eat some snacks, and do some crafting. Stamps, ink pads, and card stock paper will be provided to make cards, gift tags, gift bags, or whatever you so choose, along with a limited supply of blank cards and gift tags. Please bring any items you wish to stamp or color. All ages and genders are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Kylene Jordan 315-404-3945 or kjordan@trinityherkimer.org. We hope to see you there!

LutheranCare

LutheranCare is in need of gifts for their residents' annual Christmas party! Help brighten the day of someone who may not get much at Christmas time. Personal care items such as unopened boxes of tissue, lotion & bath gel, Jewelry, Afghans, throws & comforters, ballerina slippers, moccasins, slipper socks with gripper bottoms, wall & room decorations, robes, button-down or zipper-front sweaters both male & female. Gifts should remain unwrapped and can be left in the box outside the office door no later than Sunday, December 4th.

Women of ELCA Blue Christmas Service

The Women of the ELCA are offering an online Blue Christmas Service. This service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Register now to attend. The service takes place at 7 p.m. CST (note Central Standard Time) on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. Visit their page for more information or to register:<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event>.

Women of ELCA Devotional Opportunity

Join the Rev. Becca Ehrlich online on Sunday, November 27th at 4pm as we begin Advent 2022 with "Good Things Come in Small Packages," a devotional she has written for Gather magazine. Advance registration required. This is a free on-line offering from the Women of the ELCA. Visit their page for more information or to register:<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/event>.

Christmas Concert in Little Falls

On December 11th at 2pm Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (E. Gansevoort Street, Little Falls) will be holding a Christmas Concert. There will be soloists, instrumentals and sing-along. Free will offering will go towards church repairs. There will be refreshments following the concert.

Christmas Services in the Community

Blue Christmas Service - December 17 at in Frankfort Church 6 pm

Christmas Eve Service at Morning Star Church - December 24 at Frankfort Church 5 pm

Christmas Eve - December 24th at 7 pm at Herkimer First UMC in Herkimer

Interdenominational Christmas Eve Service - December 24th at Ilion First Baptist Church 11 pm

St Augustine Episcopal Church - December 24th at 7pm

Serving and Sharing

DECEMBER'S DONATION FOCUS

For the month of December, our donation focus will be baking ingredients for the Food Pantry and socks. Donated socks will be distributed among several community organizations and groups. Each month we will have a different donation focus, but other items will always be in need and accepted. Donations can be left in the box in the sanctuary, on the parsonage porch, or in the Henry Street vestibule. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

Learning

BOOK GROUP

Our first meeting in 2023 will be Friday, January 20th at 10 am at Trinity. Our book is any Mrs Pollifax book by Dorothy Gilman. The first book in the series is The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax.

FAITH ALIVE

As I write this, it seems that winter is upon us, even though the calendar tells us that winter hasn't arrived yet!!!! Then why do we see snow?? Yep, good question!! But we do know what is here.

THANKSGIVING, WOW, the wonderful time to sing praises to our GOD, lifting HIS HOLY NAME with thankful hearts in song and prayer. This is what FAITH ALIVE is all about, the arms of JESUS CHRIST opened up wide to All of us with HIS saving LOVE. What an awesome GOD we serve!!

Psalm 89:1 is the foundation on which Faith Alive stands; " I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever; to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth."

We are still a work in progress. God happenings keep popping up and the amazing thing is we recognize them. Like having seven precious children learning about Holy Communion at our last time together. They were so open to the HOLY SPIRIT, one could see the joy in their faces and feel our Lord's presence surrounding us. Just ask any of us older people who were there as witnesses. We certainly have the Best Leader JESUS CHRIST, Yes and Yes again!

Our December Faith Alive gatherings will be Sunday the 4th and the 18th from 9-10am. All ages are welcome, come and check it out and consider bringing a friend.

Reminder: we will continue to collect non-perishable food items for our local food pantry for someone who just might need a little help. Thank you so very much.

Any questions, new ideas or project suggestions are always welcome and appreciated. Please call Phillis Becker or Sheila Baker or the church office at 315-866-6474. Thank you and God Bless!

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER 🙏:

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him" (Psalm 34:8)

PRAYER NOTES 🙏:

An important word to remember when you are praying, according to God's character, is the word ALWAYS. Always means ETERNAL. God has always existed and always will. With this in mind, here are 10 important parts of God's character.

1. God is always present. This means God is everywhere all the time. So we can pray anywhere, anytime.
2. God is always powerful. God can do anything. He has all the power. So He can answer any prayer we pray, according to His will.
3. God is always knowing. God knows everything, even before it happens. So we can have peace and confidence when we pray, because we're talking to a God who already "GETS IT".
4. God is always fair. God does only what is right and just. So we can ask Him to do what is right in any situation, even if the situation looks unfair and even if we don't know what is best.
5. God is always Holy. Holy means "perfect". God is sinless. That means He can never make a mistake in the way He hears or answers our prayers.
6. God is always loving. The Bible tells us that "GOD is LOVE " (1 John 4:8). Whenever He talks to us or listens to us as we pray, He is doing it because He loves us so much and so perfectly. Even if we fail, His love for us never will. YES!!!!!!!!!!
7. God is always good. Isn't it a wonderful feeling when people are good to us? It's even better to know that God is good ALL the time. Rely on His goodness when we pray.
8. God is always faithful. Someone who is faithful is someone we can count on, no matter what. God always keeps His word and He will never leave us.
9. God is always truthful. God is Truth (Psalm 119:160a) tells us "The sum of Thy word is Truth".
10. God is always patient. Have you ever made the same mistake over and over again? Thank God for His patience. He will always forgive us when we come before Him with a sorrowful heart. Simply ask for forgiveness and He will!!

Can you think of other parts of God's character that are not on this list? What a wonderful way to have a conversation with Jesus, by calling on His characteristics every day.

STAND AMAZED AT WHO GOD IS!!!

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry

Volunteer Schedule

| | 12/4 | 12/11 | 12/18 |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Counter 1 | Cathy Mayton-Collins | JoAnn Blaise | JoAnn Blaise |
| Counter 2 | Bona Starring | Judy Sadlon | Phillis Becker |
| Reader | Phillis Becker | Judy Sadlon | Bona Starring |
| Communion Assistant | N/A | N/A | Lucille Crane |
| Slideshow/ Zoom | Abby McArthur | Ann Maher | Abby McArthur |
| Unlock Door | JoAnn Blaise | Phillis Becker | JoAnn Blaise |
| Singer | Sue Harkins | Judy Sadlon | Sue Harkins |
| Altar | N/A | N/A | Kylene Jordan |
| Ventilation | Paul Keyser | Paul Keyser | Paul Keyser |

Please contact info@trinityherkimer.org with any necessary changes.

Stewardship

Monthly giving needed to fund the approved budget of \$103,607 is \$8,633.92.

OCTOBER Information

Actual Offerings Received for the month: 6,909.00

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: 7,203.97

Income is short by *294.97*

Paid by using excess Fund Balance from prior years

Designated Funds received monthly **are not included** in the amount above. Examples: Local Charities, Food Pantry, Memorial Funds, etc.

Interested in donating online? The Stewardship/Finance committee has expanded our giving options online through Vanco. Visit our website for a new, updated donation page which allows you more options! If you are currently enrolled in Simply Giving there will be more information about this change coming to you soon. Contact finance@trinityherkimer.org with any questions.

Did you know?

Altar guild is a way to serve on a ministry at church, that takes about an hour or two each month. We rotate the volunteer schedule and training is available. Always looking for volunteers.

| December 2022 | | | | | | |
|---|---|-----|-----------------------------|-------------|-----|----------------------------------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Faith Alive Worship Service Lutheran Chicks | Planning Meeting for Women United in Faith | | | Bible Study | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| Worship Service | | | Council meeting via ZOOM | Bible Study | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| Faith Alive Worship Service | | | | Bible Study | | Virtual Christmas Eve Service |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |
| | | | | Bible Study | | |

Our Church Family

God's children in need of prayer and support: Jerry, Donald, Allison, Ann, Jennifer, David, Rusty, Elaina, Fred, Peter, Charlie, Judy, Jeff, Sandra, Esther, Donna, Billy, Tiffany, Harry, Joe, Emily, Kim, Barbara, Daniel, Gabriel, Janet, Tim, Gary, Irene, Tanya, Brenda.

O MY!! So much suffering and hardship, as we look around the world and here at home. As I mentioned last month, if there is ever a time to pray persistently it is now. Our Lord Jesus tells us to never give up, to be persistent. Read Luke 18:1-8, a teaching from Jesus Himself in a story or parable. God is in control and He will answer our prayers in His time and in His will, but He will answer them. YES !!

A suggested prayer for December:

Lord, we come before You with a
humble heart full of thankfulness,
praising You for Your goodness.
We simply want to say thank You for
loving us unconditionally.
In Jesus' precious Name we pray, Amen!

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

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS:

A big thank you to Kylene Jordan for making the delicious cookies enjoyed by the "Women of Faith" on Sunday 11/13. Thanks to Paul Keyser for the good job he is doing in keeping Trinity clean and in order.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sheila Pierce
Thomas Sherman
Karen Ruff
William Jaquish
Cassie Sherman
Stefan Duga
Suzanne Jones
Addison Flansburg
Donna Wilcox

Austin Stewart
Gordon Marquissee
Brittany Pawelek
Tyler DeLuca
Kolby Fical
Tracy Stewart
Russell Shadders
Daniel Rivers
Rebecca Marusic

Reagan Shaut
Michael Pawelek
Michael Sadlon
Paul Pryor
Nancy Schneegas
Dennis Shaut, Jr.
Paula Fuchs

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ruth & Guy Wicks

Peter & Suzanne Jones

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: Amy Manning | 315-868-9224 | amanning@trinityherkimer.org |
| Secretary: JoAnn Blaise | 315-868-0291 | jblaise@trinityherkimer.org |
| Treasurer: Kylee Jordan | 315-404-3945 | kjordan@trinityherkimer.org |
| Phillis Becker | 315-866-2379 | pbecker@trinityherkimer.org |
| Bona Starring | 315-868-8393 | bstarring@trinityherkimer.org |
| Gary Manning | 315-717-4830 | gmanning@trinityherkimer.org |
| Rev. Gail Wolling | 518-225-7537 | gwolling@trinityherkimer.org |
| Office | 315-866-6474 | info@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! See Worship
Schedule for details.**

Helpful Resources:

Church Calendar: trinityherkimer.org/calendar

COVID CDC Tracker: covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view

Facebook: facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer

SYNOD website: upstatenynsynod.org/

Trinity Lutheran Church Covid 19 Protocols

Updated July 13, 2022

Using the NYS Department of Health Guidelines and Herkimer County data, the TLC Church Council has set the following expectations in place for anyone using the church facilities. This includes worship, meetings, and all other purposes. Council discusses this issue monthly at their meetings.

When the County COVID-19 Community Level is **High**:

- All persons will wear a mask at all times, except when taking Communion, or in the Fellowship Hall & seated/consuming food. Masks must be worn correctly.
- Sign in on the chart when you enter the church, at the bottom of the stairs.
- Maintain a comfortable and safe distance between yourself and others (six feet).
- Stay home if you are not feeling well or have any symptoms of illness.
- Use good hygiene practices, including use of the hand sanitizing stations provided.
- Respect one another at all times.

When the County COVID-19 Community Level is **Medium or Low**:

- Unvaccinated individuals must wear a mask at all times.
- Sign in on the chart when you enter the church, at the bottom of the stairs.
- Maintain a comfortable and safe distance between yourself and others (six feet).
- Stay home if you are not feeling well or have any symptoms of illness.
- Use good hygiene practices, including use of the hand sanitizing stations provided.
- Respect one another at all times.

The county rate is measured weekly, and we share the rate in our Weekly Announcement email. In addition, a sign is posted on the church door to state the risk level of our county. Masks are available to those who are in need.

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!

This policy is reviewed monthly by the TLC council.