



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

Council President's Musings

Hello to all,

As I'm writing this, I can see blue sky & pleasant-looking white clouds, which have been missing most of November. It is a pleasant reprieve from the gray skies.

I would like to thank our donors of knitted & crocheted items. I made our 2nd delivery of items on 11/16, which included 10 scarves, 6 pairs of gloves/mittens, 10 headbands, 1 earmuff, & 11 hats. This was 2 full paper shopping bags, which I am both thankful & proud of. The lady who accepted them from me was pleasantly surprised at the quantity & thought they were beautiful. I would love to keep making drop-offs such as this, so please keep knitting & crocheting for our Neighbors in Utica.

I wish you peace & pleasant faith & family traditions as we enter Advent,
Amy Manning

Date	Worship Leader	Format	Communion
December 3	David Grindle SAM	In House/Virtual	No
December 10	Rev. Gail Wolling	In House/Virtual	Yes
December 17	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
December 24	TBD	In House/Virtual	TBD
December 31	Judy Sadlon	In House/Virtual	No

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

The results have been recorded from the Christmas Eve service survey. Thank you to all persons who participated giving us their feedback. The overwhelming results were to have a Christmas Eve service during our regular worship time at 10 a.m. in the morning on December 24th. We will have lots of singing during the service and we suggest you bring ribbons and/or bookmarks to mark pages.

The Worship and Music committee struggled to come up with a service that will recognize that it is also the fourth Sunday in Advent as well as a traditional Christmas Eve service which includes the joyous singing of our favorite Christmas hymns and bible readings. This is the first time in a couple of years that we have had an in person and internet service and we want it to be heartfelt.

The following Sunday, December 31 we will have a traditional Lessons and Carols service. It will be another opportunity to sing the beloved Christmas hymns and hear the story of Jesus' birth. There are plenty of opportunities to participate in reading lessons and prayers and presenting the offering. Please let Bona Starring know if you would like to be a participant in the December 24 and/or December 31 worship service.

Vendor & Craft Event

There will be a Vendor & Craft Fair at Trinity on Saturday, **December 2, 2023** from 9am to 2pm. We have a large variety of vendors and crafters who will be selling Fudge, Candy, Wreaths, Clothing, Pot Holders, Koozies, Decor, Jewelry, Candles, Woodworking Items, Feel Better Bags, Specialty Popcorn, Bird Feeders, Dried Flowers, Fried Dough, Baked Items and more! Come out and support this wonderful event!

Last Call for LutheranCare Donations!

Christmas gifts for residents of LutheranCare have been gathered in November, and the donation window closes soon. This “wish list” includes: 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. There is a box outside the sanctuary to receive these items. **Last day to drop off items is December 5th**, at Trinity.

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 Tina Diehl 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!

News from Your Church Council

Save the date of January 21st for the Annual Congregational Meeting which is held each January. (The snow date for the meeting is January 28th.) 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.

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 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.

Advent Devotional Booklet

Be sure to look for your copy of our First TLC Advent Devotional Booklet. Hard copies will be available on the Narthex table. We are working on creating the online version, so watch for more information or contact the office if you are interested in a digital copy. This devotional contains inspirational reflections from members of the congregation, in the same spirit as the Inspirational Words publication that was offered last January. We hope you enjoy it!

Thank you to all who shared their time and talents to make this publication possible!

Serving and Sharing

DONATION FOCUS

For the month of December, our donation focus will be Canned Vegetables as our food emphasis. Each month we have a different donation focus, but other items will always be in need and accepted. Food donations can be left in the box in the sanctuary or in the Henry Street vestibule. Donations of socks are also requested. The Box for Socks is on the table in the narthex. Thanks to all who donate!

I can not thank many of the congregation members enough for their enormous generosity. Whenever I ask for food for many of our programs and missions, they always donate unselfishly. Many of our missions help people feel better about themselves, whether it be a meal, when they don't have one or socks or winter wear or a gift at Christmas. May you all be proud of yourself for helping Salvation Army, food pantry, meals to house bound, or not enough food, and the warming center for the homeless. Whatever I ask for I am blessed to receive.

May God bless you to know you are living a Christian way of life.

Blessings for a wonderful holiday season,
JoAnn Blaise

Learning

BOOK GROUP

Our next meeting will be January 19th. Stay healthy and enjoy the advent season!

FAITH ALIVE

Guess what? Those wonderful love Thanksgiving turkey cards (60) were delivered to Johnson Park on Wed. Nov 15, and were received with open arms by their staff. Thank you to all at FA, especially Annabelle, Tommy, Marty, Allison, Ty and many adults who worked in God's love to spread that love to the residents. All done with a smile on our faces serving Jesus. JOY! JOY! JOY! GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS!!!!

Now let us go forward, directing our hearts in prayer, focusing on Jesus, as He leads and inspires us toward our next project at FA. It's called sharing the Gospel message!!!

Psalm 89:1 - " I will sing of the lovingkindness of the Lord forever: to all generations I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth "

CONFIRMATION UPDATE: Things are happening at Trinity in a positive way, all led by the Holy Spirit. One of them is praying over the question, What Would Jesus Do? Our young people are precious to all of us at Trinity. Our goal is teaching them to grow in their Faith, in a unique way, both spiritually and righteously, even after classes are over. To realize that our God is a banner over us/them with LOVE. In other words, being active in spreading God's love to ALL in a hurting world, through WORD and ACTION. So parents/ guardians of those eligible for confirmation, please be patient and call Phillis 315-866-2379 with any thoughts/ questions you might have.

COMMUNION: As a parent or guardian would you like your baptized child to learn about why we as God's children are instructed by Jesus Christ to remember Him through the bread and wine offered at communion? If so, then bring them to Faith Alive where they will learn about, in an environment of love and hands on the beauty of communion. Please speak to Phillis Becker if the timing is difficult, due to various reasons. I would be happy to make different arrangements for you and your child. Peace!!

Our next Faith Alive gathering will be Sunday December 10, 9-10am, in the fellowship hall for all ages. Never too young or old, just come and enjoy the fun!!! YES

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:10)

PRAYER NOTES:

Personal Prayer

HOW SHOULD WE PRAY?

- (1) There is no right or wrong position for prayer.
- (2) Always begin by taking a deep breath and being still.
- (3) First of all we need to focus on relaxing our body, unwind and let our mind quiet down.

Say, out loud, the words. "BE STILL" to our:

a) BODY -- until bit by bit our muscles begin to relax and our breathing becomes slower and deeper.

b) MIND -- Bit by bit our mind begins to quiet down.

c) SPIRIT -- To our deepest self, until we begin to let go and sink peacefully into the silence. In prayer, GOD convinces us that HE has been waiting for us all along. HE will listen to us as long as we want to talk. We matter to JESUS and HE cares deeply about us.

- 4) Continue with the rest of Psalm 46:10, taking it slowly one word at a time

" BE STILL AND KNOW "

Just "KNOW", know deep down, know for yourself.

To KNOW GOD means to stand in awe of HIM and to be STILL in HIS presence. How awesome is that?.....

" BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD"

- 5) God is the LIVING God, Alive, personal and present with us now and FOREVER.

- 6) God is the great "I AM"

GOD IS: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
 Alpha and Omega
 Absolute, the ALL

" Be STILL and KNOW that I AM GOD "

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry

PS: Come join the community of faith by taking part in Trinity's prayer chain. The only requirement is a heartfelt willingness to bring the concerns and needs of others to Jesus. Prayerfully consider joining and if so inspired by the Holy Spirit, please speak to Phillis.

On a personal note:

I've always loved this definition of prayer:

"Linking our nothingness to God's Almightyness". Such a powerful truth!

Volunteer Schedule

	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24	12/31
Counter 1	Amy Manning	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise	Bona Starring	Bona Starring
Counter 2	Judy Sadlon	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins
Reader	Bona Staring	Sue Harkins	Phillis Becker	Bona Starring	Amy Manning
Unlock Door	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise	Phillis Becker	JoAnn Blaise
Singer	David Grindle	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon
Altar	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	NA

Please email info@trinityherkimer.org with any 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: 4,151.84

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: 5,027.69

Income is short by 875.85

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? You can visit our website and use the donate tab in the top menu. Contact finance@trinityherkimer.org with any questions.

December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Vendor & Craft Fair
3 Worship Service	4	5	6	7 Bible Study	8	9
10 Faith Alive Worship Service	11	12	13 Council meeting via ZOOM	14 Bible Study	15	16
17 Worship Service	18	19	20	21 Bible Study	22	23
24 Worship Service	25	26	27	28 Bible Study	29	30
31 Worship Service						

Our Church Family

God's children in need of support through Prayer, phone call or maybe a card or visit: Ann, Levi, Irene, Peter, Sue, Tom, Julie, Tiffany, Paul, Hope, Judy, Bill, Charlene, Gary, Arnold, Nancy, Jeff, Michelle, Edith, Charlie, Patti, Carol, Joe, Harry, Tanya, Gayle, Chase, Theresa, Rachel, Skyben, Barbara, Medisyn.

We as the children of God have much to pray about! All those listed above for healing of mind, body and or Spirit. There also is much needed prayer for America and the Nations of the world, especially Israel, Ukraine and the list goes on and on. God's Word of absolute truth instructs us in, (2 Chronicles 7:14) to humble ourselves, call on His Name, seek His face, repent, and He will forgive us our sins and heal our land. WOW, what a promise from our Lord! Will you pray?? Jesus looks forward to hearing from us and I am sure it puts a smile on His face!!!

SHARING TRINITY'S BLESSINGS:

A big thank you to Eleanor Clements for supplying various trays of delicious food to be used to feed many people. She wanted to make sure Trinity has enough frozen meals before she leaves for Florida in early December. Thank you so much Eleanor as you share God's gift with so many. God's love shines through you!

If someone has been inadvertently omitted please bring it to our attention. Thank you!

If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal family matters, which are kept in confidence, please speak to Phillis or call 315-866-2379.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Ruth & Guy Wicks	Peter & Suzanne Jones
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If you spot an error or omission, please notify the office. We will be happy to update this list!

Council Contact Information

President: Amy Manning	315-868-9224	amanning@trinityherkimer.org
Vice President: JoAnn Blaise	315-868-0291	jblaise@trinityherkimer.org
Secretary: Ann Maher	315-891-3952	amaher@trinityherkimer.org
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Treasurer: Kylene Jordan	315-404-3945	kjordan@trinityherkimer.org
Financial Sec.: Wendy DeLuca	315-866-6474	wdeluca@trinityherkimer.org
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**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.**

If you would like to receive a copy of finalized Council meeting minutes please contact the office.

Helpful Resources:

Church Calendar: trinityherkimer.org/calendar

Facebook: facebook.com/TrinityLutheranChurchHerkimer

SYNOD website: upstatenysynod.org

Looking for additional opportunities to worship on Christmas Eve?
Here are some local options!

Christmas Eve Services

9am - Herkimer United Methodist Church

10am - St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

10am - Trinity Lutheran Church

10:30am - Morning Star Methodist Church

4pm - Mohawk Reformed Church service at Fort Herkimer church

5pm - Morning Star Methodist Church

5pm - St. Augustine's Episcopal Church

7pm - Herkimer Methodist Church

7pm - Our Savior Candlelight Service

7pm - Zion Christmas Eve Candlelight

Christmas Day Service

10am - Our Saviour