



*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

Time continues to fly, and I find it hard to believe, but we on the council are preparing for Advent, Christmas, and the January Annual Meeting. Council received a resignation letter from our Administrative Assistant, Tina Diehl, effective 12/02/2024. Join us for worship on December 1st to wish her well!

The Stewardship & Finance Committee has prepared a Proposed Budget for the new Fiscal Year beginning 02/01/2025. Council has reviewed the initial plan, made a minor change, & will vote on the budget at the December meeting. When approved by Council, the budget will be up to a Congregational vote at the January Annual Meeting which is scheduled for January 26, 2025. Council & Endowment Committee members will be voted upon.

Current Incumbents, eligible for a 2nd Term, are: Council: JoAnn Blaise, & Judy Sadlon; & Endowment Committee: P.J. Marusic. There is a vacant seat on Council that we would like to fill. Formerly, it was Ann Maher's seat, with 1 year remaining in her Term.

There is activity in our Call Committee, and I will use the cliché: "the ball is rolling."

I am pleased we are continuing to plan Fellowship events with Our Saviour, Utica, & Zion, New Hartford, and hope to see this continue, including a Carol Sing-Along on December 8th at Our Saviour, Utica at 2:00pm, with a coffee/snack time afterward. Also, Our Saviour has invited all to their Tuesday midweek Advent Worship services, on 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17 with potluck at 6pm and worship at 7pm. If you come to the potluck please bring a dish of food to share.

The Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 26, 2025, at 11:30am/after Worship. This meeting is to approve the Budget for the new Fiscal year starting 2/1/2025 through 1/31/2026, as well as voting on eligible new terms for Council & Endowment Committee members. We will be developing the list of Voting members as per Constitution rules, Confirmed members who have donated at least \$0.01 in their name to Trinity, & have taken Communion in the past year. If we have a "snow day" on January 26th, we will change to a Zoom meeting beginning at 11am.

Also, I anticipate we will participate in the "Tackle Hunger" food-raising campaign, the Souperbowl of Caring, in January & February, with a major focus on Superbowl Sunday, 2/09/2025. More details to follow in the future Tidings editions.

I wish you each Peace & Good Health in the Holiday season,
Amy Manning, Council President.

Date	Worship Leader	Format	Communion
December 1	Wendy Catera	In House/Virtual	No
December 8	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
December 15	Judy Sadlon	In House/Virtual	No
December 22	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
December 24	Rev. Victor McKusick	In House/Virtual	Yes
December 29	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

Advent Worship

We are in the midst of setting aside time to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth and the anticipation of his return. Let us come together and celebrate the season during worship.

The first Sunday in Advent, December 1, we will celebrate the long tradition of the lighting of the first candle on the Advent wreath. Immediately following service, there will be the "Hanging of the Greens". This is a time of fellowship to decorate the tree and church for the Advent and Christmas season. All hands are welcome to join in!

The second Sunday in Advent, December 8, is a communion service with the blessing of the lighting of the Christmas tree and the second Advent candle is lit.

The third Sunday of Advent, December 15, is a regular service, with the continuation of the lighting of the Advent candles and joyous singing of Advent hymns.

The fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22, the lighting of the last Advent candle and a special program by the Faith Alive participants.

Tuesday, December 24, there will be a new Christmas candlelight service at 3 p.m. with communion. It includes your favorite Christmas carols and scripture readings and a beautiful anthem from the church choir (Christmas Lullaby of Joy).

Sunday, December 29, is a new Christmas Lessons and Carols worship service with reflections from Martin Luther. It includes lots of opportunities for singing your favorite Christmas hymns and participation from the congregation to read bible verses. The celebration of Jesus' birth continues!

Advent is for Ambulances

Many people in Zimbabwe do not have vehicles of their own to transport another person, and hospitals are often miles away. Ambulances are not provided the way they are in the United States by public infrastructure. The church has been operating ambulance service for decades and their ambulances are about to break down permanently. It is literally a matter of life and death. Throughout Advent we can join our fellow upstate congregations in the Bishop's Advent giving challenges for ambulances for Zimbabwe. The goal is 4 ambulances at \$40,000 each. Please mark on your envelope "Advent for Ambulances". All donations must be received by December 29th.

Vitality Survey

Our second meeting with Rev. Imani Olear was postponed. Please be sure to do your "homework" and keep an eye out for details about a future meeting date. The link to do the "homework" online can be found in the Weekly Announcements or paper copies can be found on the table in the front of the sanctuary. Please contact the office with any questions.

Last Call for LutheranCare Donations!

Christmas gifts for residents of LutheranCare will be gathered until December 5th. 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 will be a box outside the sanctuary to receive these items. Last day to drop off items is December 5th, at Trinity.

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 the office at info@trinityherkimer.org or by calling the church office at 315-866-6474. You have the option to pick up at church or it can be mailed.

Offering Envelopes

The 2025 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the Narthex near the library. Please be sure to pick yours up!

Game Days

We will have some Game days again this winter. We will meet at 10am at Trinity for cards or Scrabble or whatever games the participants choose. The dates are January 24th, February 28th and March 28th. Come and join for a relaxing time of fellowship.

Preparing for Winter's Worst

In anticipation of Winter's arrival, and learning from last winter, we are making plans to be able to notify the Congregation in case bad weather causes a need to cancel a Worship Service or meeting.

WKTV will be used to notify of closures due to weather, Parking Bans/Snow Emergency declarations by the Village of Herkimer would cause us to cancel Worship or meetings which were to be in-person at Trinity. We will also put notices on our Facebook pages.

If you are in need of a personal phone call, instead of TV or internet/social media options, please speak to Amy or Justina directly, email info@trinityherkimer.org, leave a message/voicemail on Trinity's phone, 315-866-6474.

Amy Manning, Church Council President

Serving & Sharing

We continue to serve the Salvation Army with a take out meal once a month and the freezer is full of take out meals for our shut ins.

Thanksgiving Dinner is our biggest meal this month to provide along with the Methodist Church. We are having a cookie exchange along with coffee hour on December 8th, hoping to bring the spirit of Jesus into our hearts. That afternoon there will be a Carol Sing at 2pm at our savior church in Utica.

May you all have a wonderful blessed Christmas season.

DECEMBER'S DONATION FOCUS

For the month of December, our donation focus will be Canned Vegetables for the Food Pantry. We will also be collecting hats and mittens. 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 Henry Street vestibule. Thanks to all who continue to donate!

Learning BOOK GROUP

The book group will take a break for December. We will resume in January. Again we are making a change due to availability of the book.

The January meeting will be Friday, January 10th at 10am. Our book will be *Murder on Bank St* by Victoria Thompson. This is a murder mystery set in New York City in the early 1900's. The main characters are a police detective and a midwife. This is part of a series titled "Gaslight Mysteries". We hope to see you there. We will try to schedule *Surprisingly Bright Creatures* for February 2025.

FAITH ALIVE

Are you looking to have CONTINUOUS love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, then join us at Faith Alive. This is quite a tall order, isn't it?? However it is possible when we choose to follow Jesus and not depending on ourselves. How? you might ask! Jesus doesn't leave us in the dark but tells us Himself. Take your bible and read His Words of promise in Matthew 11:28-30.

This is what we discuss at FA in a fun and joyful environment. Building special relationships with each other and an awesome personal relationship with Jesus. Leaning on Jesus first is the gateway to living in truth and His amazing love.

December FA gatherings will be December 8th and 22nd from 9-10am. Bring a friend and/or family member. All are welcome. Being a member of Trinity is not a requirement.

Psalm 89:1 "I will Joyfully sing of the loving kindness of the Lord forever, I will make known Thy faithfulness with my mouth". PASS it on with the Joy of the Lord!

Have you noticed the children during Sunday church service? They glow as God's love is expressed in their actions. All of this puts a smile on our faces as we recognize the Lord's love flowing through them. Yes, what an awesome God we serve!!

Johnson Park Center located in Utica continues to be FAITH ALIVE's outreach ministry. Sharing Jesus' amazing love to all is our JOY!

COMMUNION

The door is open! If you would like your baptized child to learn about why, we as God's children, are instructed to remember Jesus Christ through the bread and wine then prayerfully consider bringing them to FA where they will learn in an environment of love and hands on. Please call Phillis Becker and special arrangements may be made if needed.

CONFIRMATION

Our youth are precious to all of us at Trinity. Our goal is teaching them, in a unique way, to grow in their faith both spiritually and righteously into their adult life. To know that our God is a banner over all of us with His Love. To be active in spreading God's love in a hurting world through WORD and ACTION.

Don't lose heart for your child. There is presently discussion, at council, about starting this class up SOON. In the meantime please contact Phillis Becker with any questions you might have. Your input is very important to us. Please remember that our God is working in His time, not ours, which is always perfect. Peace!!

BIBLE STUDY

Every Thursday 10am-12noon downstairs in the fellowship room. No knowledge of the bible is required. If you have your own bible please bring it, if not, we have plenty to share. Come and enjoy the fellowship and of course good eats.

Worship, Music, and Prayer

BLESSINGS OF PRAYER:

"And on that day shall you say, PRAISE THE LORD, CALL UPON HIS NAME, DECLARE HIS DOINGS AMONG THE PEOPLE, make mention that HIS NAME IS EXALTED.*

PRAYER NOTES:

There are four particulars in this verse which will greatly benefit our spiritual walk. They are:

PRAISE THE LORD

When we "Praise the Lord" we are praising Him for a task that is already done, a victory that has already been won, and a Salvation that has already been secured. It was done at the Cross! We truly have so much for which to PRAISE HIM; we have no grounds whatsoever for complaints.

CALL UPON HIS NAME

This statement actually speaks of prayer, which should be done, at least in a sense, without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Many Christians, unfortunately, do not avail themselves of the great and glorious opportunity to "call upon His Name" in prayer. Those who do experience the constant JOY which come to those who have a close relationship with Jesus. We should, we must, " Call upon His Name".

DECLARE HIS DOINGS AMONG THE PEOPLE:

We should constantly be witnessing, testifying, and by every method possible, "declaring His doings among the people," and in such a way that the people will always know how good GOD really is.

EXALT HIS NAME "

This proclaims the fact that the Name of Jesus must be exalted above every name, because HE is the One Who has paid the price for our Redemption. Out of all the Names that are applied to Him in the Bible, the greatest Name is "Jesus." This Name means "Saviour," and as such, is the culmination of what all the other Names, as important as they are, lead up to (Matthew 1:21).

"And she shall bring forth a Son, and you shall call His Name JESUS (Saviour) for He shall save His people from their sins".

PRAYERFULLY consider joining Trinity's prayer chain. Guaranteed to receive God's blessings as you bless others in prayer for their needs/concerns. Glory in God's Love and Grace spending a special time with JESUS in prayer. It's Amazing!!!

In His Service,
Prayer Ministry

December 2024							>
<	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Worship Service				Bible Study		
	Hangings of the Greens						
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Faith Alive				Bible Study		
	Worship Service				Worship and Music Committee Meeting		
	Cookie Exchange Coffee Hour						
	Sing Along at Our Saviour						
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Worship Service		Loaves and Fishes Meeting	Council meeting via ZOOM	Bible Study		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Faith Alive		Christmas Eve Worship		Bible Study		
	Worship Service						
	29	30	31				
	Worship Service						

Volunteer Schedule

	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/24	12/29
Counter 1	Bona Starring	Bona Starring	JoAnn Blaise	JoAnn Blaise	Amy Manning	Amy Manning
Counter 2	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Cathy Mayton-Collins	Phillis Becker	Phillis Becker	Judy Sadlon	Judy Sadlon
Reader	Bona Starring	Amy Manning	Sue Harkins	Phillis Becker	Bona Starring	Amy Manning
Singer	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon	Sue Harkins	Judy Sadlon
Altar	Amy Manning	Judy Sadlon	NA	Amy Manning	Amy Manning	NA
Worship Leader	Wendy Catera	Rev. Victor McKusick	Judy Sadlon	Rev. Victor McKusick	Rev. Victor McKusick	Judy Sadlon

Please email info@trinityherkimer.org with any changes.

Stewardship

Monthly giving needed to fund the approved budget of \$152,472 is \$12,706

September Information

Actual Offerings Received for the month: \$4,008.62

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: \$17,817.87

Income is *short* by \$13,809.25*

Paid by using a combination of excess Fund Balance from prior years and designated funds

*\$11,974 of expenses was Parsonage Roof final payment

October Information

Actual Offerings Received for the month: \$3,446.25

Actual Expenses Paid for the month: \$6,187.05

Income is *short* by \$2,740.80

Designated Funds received monthly **are not included** in the amount above.

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.

Did You Know:

Lutherans settled in the Mohawk Valley in 1872. They began to worship together in their language at the CourtHouse and, for a short time, at the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

Our Church Family

God's children in need of support through prayer, phone call, or maybe a note of encouragement or short visit. In the precious Name of Jesus Christ, we lift to You Your children who are hurting in mind, body and or spirit for need of Your healing touch of Love and Mercy: Scott, Sheila, Michele, Neil, Karen, Linda, Jeff, Levi, Gary, Rich, Barbara, Jason, Sue, Charlie, Asha, Judy, Jim, Alice, Ruth, Leah, Matt, Mary, Rosemarie, Amy, Theresa, Billy, Jim.

The joyful blessings of prayer is that we can be anywhere, in any state of mind, at any given time and connect immediately through the Holy Spirit with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please place before the Throne of Grace all those listed above by name, even if you might not know them, knowing Jesus does. Thank you!

"Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the desires of your heart." Psalm 37:4 Ponder on these words of God's wisdom: When we get ourselves into God through Prayer, we will find the JOY of being with Him more valuable than anything else in life. Discovering that delighting in the Lord alters the desires of our heart. WOW!

We, as a congregation, are blessed in welcoming Kim Schrader to Trinity's prayer chain. Jesus must have a big smile on His face. Thank you Kim! "The Lord hears the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29b).

PRAYERFULLY consider joining Trinity's prayer chain. If you have concerns for the prayer chain or other personal family matters, which are kept in confidence, please speak to Phillis Becker.

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

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
Sec/Tres: Judy Sadlon	315-868-8387	jsadlon@trinityherkimer.org
Bona Starring	315-868-8393	bstarring@trinityherkimer.org
Phillis Becker	315-866-2379	pbecker@trinityherkimer.org
Wendy Catera	315-360-7447	wcatera@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.**

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