

Trinity SONRISE News

December

Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2019

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Personal security seems to be more important today than it ever was before. Protecting family goes beyond a lock on the door and secure windows, we must protect our identities, our location, even our digital footprint from those who would use it to exploit us, “kidnap” our data and hold it for ransom, or otherwise harm us. In protecting our digital footprint we set up what are called “firewalls.” These background “shields” prohibit all access to private information on our phones, our tablets, or our computers except by those people or organizations with whom we have given permission. It accomplishes this by allowing every attempt to access a device to gain such access through only one portal. Like a bouncer at the front door of an entertainment venue, the firewall keeps out all the riff raff and allows in only the guests “on the list.”

The Season of Advent speaks of the coming of our Savior, first in Bethlehem, today in our hearts, and finally when he returns to the world to judge the living and the dead. We invite him into our lives in the successive weeks before Christmas. He is not only a guest, but a welcome one. Listen to the old Advent Hymn, Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come. Though it was written in 1664, Johann G. Olearius speaks in a way we can understand him, even in the 21st century:



Come, Thou precious Ransom, come, Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, O Savior of the world! Open are to Thee **all portals**.
Come, Thy beauty let us see; Anxiously we wait for Thee.

In Advent, we tear down the firewalls that relate to our welcomed guest, Jesus, the savior of the world, the one who ransomed us from the dead, and we wait for our hope to come to all fruition in His appearing.

I would also like to remind you of our midweek Advent worship opportunities. There will be three services beginning Wednesday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. preceded by a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. The theme for the Advent Midweeks is God opens the Womb. We will look at three miraculous pregnancies where God opened the wombs of faithful women who were formerly childless in order to bring into the world important branches in the line of our great savior, Jesus. Not to mention that even Mary’s womb was opened by God to make this happen.

Thank you for all who sent cards and gifts during pastor appreciation month. Thanks also for those who supported the Thrivent Action Team Wellspring Game event. Five cartons of games were packed and were delivered to Wellspring in Mio. Also nearly 50 volunteers enjoyed the Haystack dinner. Keep your eyes peeled for other Thrivent Action Team projects in the weeks ahead. Thank you again.

In Christ,

Pastor Timothy Azzam





- 12/2 Mike Hohf
- 12/3 Charlie Rainey
- 12/6 Kathy Azzam
- 12/7 Greg Pancost
- 12/12 Larry Akers
- 12/12 Clifford Healey
- 12/17 Christine Rogel
- 12/18 David Wagner
- 12/19 Wayne Fortney
- 12/23 Laurie David
- 12/24 Barbara Dewald
- 12/25 Adam Dettmer
- 12/25 Matthew Ounan
- 12/26 Amanda Brown
- 12/26 Joseph Garrison
- 12/29 Jack Inman
- 12/29 Clara Pavlak
- 12/30 Jennifer Agtergael
- 12/30 Nancy Kreuzwieser
- 12/31 Adrith Akers



- 12/4 Charles & Ella Durfee
- 12/20 Robert & Janice Schauwecker



Elders		
Dec. 1		
Dec. 8	Communion	
Dec. 15		Charlie Rainey
Dec. 22	Communion	
Dec. 24		Mitch Davis
Dec. 25		Mitch Davis
Dec. 29	Communion	



Ushers		
	8 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Dec. 1	Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann	Fred Rogel Mike Hohf
Dec. 8		Kathy Azzam Henrietta Fortney
Dec. 15	Ruth Golm	Ann & Lee Dawley
Dec. 22	No 8 AM SERVICE	Bruce Welther Mike Welther
Dec. 29	NO 8 AM SERVICE	Bill Davis Mike Hohf

Know the Elders

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

- Pastor Azzam - 739-4820
- Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469
- Charlie Rainey - 724-6704
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701
- Rodger Wenzel - 724-6800

STEWARDSHIP

Jesus Is the Reason for the Season

Here we are, ready to celebrate the birth of Christ – a major event, even for those who don't believe in Him. It used to be that merchants would wait until after Thanksgiving to begin the celebration by filling their shelves with enticing gifts, decorations, and all the trappings but now we see that it often starts in October.

How different from the first Christmas! Mary and Joseph settled down in a stable. There were no photographers waiting outside to snap the first picture of the new king. No one knew what was happening! No one, that is, except for the parents and the host of Heaven who made the announcement. But to whom was this announcement made? To the powerful who would speed through the towns and villages, spreading the news? No, it was made to shepherds who were outcasts, hired hands who were so low on the social scale that they weren't even allowed to give testimony in a court of law. They weren't even allowed to come into the Temple.



Yet these were the ones chosen by God to tell the good news. These ostracized creatures saw the angels with "... the glory of the Lord [shining] around them..." They heard the message the angels brought: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior Who is Christ the Lord... You will find a baby...lying in a manger" (Luke 2:9,11-12). They saw, they listened, and then they went to see for themselves. After receiving the Good News, they shared it. "When they had seen Him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this Child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:17-18 NIV).

If lowly shepherds could tell the story, can't we as well? "All who heard it were amazed," Luke writes, but he doesn't say all believed. All we're asked to do is tell the story. How could fear, uncertainty, or apathy hold us back? This is the biggest news mankind has ever received! As stewards of the Gospel, we have no choice but to follow the example of the shepherds and "spread the word concerning what has been told [us] about this Child."



December Mission of the Month Ann Hume's God's Children - Haiti

God's Children Haiti is a non-profit, 501c3, faith-based mission dedicated to helping the country of Haiti with its five greatest needs; Faith in Jesus Christ, Health Care, Food, Housing for Children in Need, and Education. You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet or pick one up from the ushers stand at the back of the sanctuary to support the "Mission of the Month." If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.

The Love Fund and the Building Fund

The **Love Fund** provides funds for those with immediate needs. The need may be a meal, food, gasoline, medication or help with rent. The funds are authorized by our pastor when presented with the need. We are told, "We love because He first loved us." The Love Fund is one opportunity to show the Lord's love.

The **Building Fund** is used for necessary repairs of our building not covered in the budget. We know with our homes that we can have unexpected repairs. We also have those repairs at our church. Right now, we need doors replaced near the altar area for which some of the cost was budgeted, and the lights in the parking lot need to be evaluated and repaired. The building fund may provide funds for these unexpected repairs.

Please consider the Love Fund and Building Fund when making memorials and special gifts to Trinity. Together we serve our Lord in the Oscoda area by showing love and providing a place for the people of God to gather. Building fund envelopes are in the pew racks and there is an envelope with your offering envelopes. For gifts to the Love Fund simply designate the Love Fund on your gift.

Let's Pray!

For hearts that imitate the generosity and graciousness of Jesus.

That the Lord would preserve His Word and Sacraments in our midst, so that we may be kept strong in the one, true faith until Christ's return.

That the people of God would be faithful in their attendance of the Divine Service, where God strengthens our faith toward Him and our steadfast love for one another.

That all people would fear God and find hope in His gracious forgiveness through Christ.

For all who do not believe in Jesus, that they might hear the Gospel and believe.

For all Christians, that we might repent of our sins and prepare for Christ's return.

For steadfast faith as the world writhes and groans in anticipation of the day of judgment.

For the ministers of the Word, that they would be faithful to their calling.

For the Church's missionaries, that through them the Word would go forth into the world with power.

For our government, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives.

For parents, that they would see their role in raising children as a holy calling from God in these last days.

For patience, as we wait for Christ's coming, that we might believe God is not slow in keeping promises, but patient.

For those who mourn the loss of loved ones, that the promise of the resurrection may be their hope.

For those who are dying, that they may entrust their whole lives unto God who keeps them.

For the coming of Christ. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

For faithful reading of Old Testament, that all who read may see Jesus as the promised Savior. For opportunities to proclaim the Gospel in this season. When the world is open to hearing the story of Christmas, may we be unashamed in our witness.

That all Christians might see the needs of their neighbor and love with the love of Christ.

For those who only attend worship at Christmas, that the Spirit would work faith through the hearing of the Word.

That we may believe the truth of the two natures of Christ.

For St. Thomas, apostle. That with him we might believe and confess that Jesus is Lord and God.

For faithful readings of the New Testament. That all the words of the apostles and evangelists may result in faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

For pastors who serve as Christ's under-shepherds in our midst. That they might proclaim the truth of the Good News of Christmas.

Rejoice that Jesus is Immanuel. God is with us to save us.

Rejoice in the incarnation of Jesus Christ. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen His glory — glory as the only-begotten son of God.

Thank God for St. Stephen, the first Christian Martyr. That we might also serve God with our lives — thoughts, words and deeds.

That God would grant us faith to believe that He comes to us in the Means of Grace.

For all those who face depression and desperation at this time of year. That God's gift of love in Christ would gladden their hearts.

For all those who travel. That God would grant them safety.

That all would know and believe in the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus for the world's salvation.

That the Lord would abundantly bless the efforts of the LCMS and its partners in the coming years. That the Gospel is the primary focus of all that.





Chris Exnowski, Wayne Fortney, Dick Jones, Lou Kuhlmann, Bill Ruckel, Robert Schauwecker, David Thomas, Jr., and George Wright

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge
Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald

Military:

Jason Cooper
Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)
Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)
Nathan Boettge (Marines – Fortney)



Praise the Lord and Thank You to all who prayed for me! My recent PET scan showed no evidence of lymphoma cells! I will be continuing with 2 more chemo treatments to assure all minor traces of the cancer are gone. Thank you for your support.

-- Lou Kuhlmann

Angel Tree Information



We will be collecting hygiene kits again for Wellspring Lutheran Services. They offer foster care for children and adult elder care. Children removed from homes come to Wellspring with only the clothes they are wearing and nothing else.

The Angel Tree Committee will place a two-gallon size Ziploc bag on the tree with a list of items needed inside. You are asked to purchase **ONLY** those items, place them in the Ziploc bag and then place the filled bag under the tree.

The Angel tree is available for you to take a bag. We will collect filled bags through December 15th. Thrivent will help sponsor this mission project by purchasing pajamas of all sizes to give along with the hygiene kits. If you wish to donate a \$25.00 gift card to Walmart or Meijer, these may be given to Carol Wenzel. These will go to the children for gifts for Christmas.

Items needed for children:

Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, regular size shampoo, regular size conditioner, bar of soap (no trial size please), package of socks, package of underwear, hat, mittens and/or gloves.
(No candy, barrettes, coloring books, toys, etc.)

Items needed for adults:

Deodorant, toothbrush, regular toothpaste, bar of soap, hand lotion, shampoo, conditioner, comb and crossword puzzle or word search books.

NO HAIRSPRAY OR ALCOHOL BASED PRODUCTS!

Please take note – hat and glove sizes will be on the list in the bag

The kits will be delivered to the Fairview Wellspring office the week of December 18th and distributed throughout the year.

Thank You

--TLCW, Thrivent, and Angel Tree Committee – Henrietta Fortney, Kathy Azzam & Joann Pancost



Midweek Advent Services
Wednesdays, December 4th, 11th, and 18th
7:00 p.m.

There will be three Advent Midweek services this year with the theme “Lord Opens Womb” in preparation for celebrating the Birth of Jesus. The services will look at three times in the Old Testament when the Lord opened the womb of faithful women beyond their years of childbearing to bring to life offspring who would foreshadow the promised Savior.

- December 4th - Sarah who bore Isaac
- December 11th - the unnamed mother of Sampson – *Bells of Glory* will provide prelude music
- December 18th - Hannah, the mother of Samuel

On Christmas Eve we will consider Mary, the Mother of our Lord

Advent Soup Suppers
5:30 p.m.



A soup supper will be held before each Advent Service.
 The December 4th Soup Supper will be provided by TLCW
 You are invited to enjoy a meal and some fellowship before
 each Advent worship service.



TLCW Presents
ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
Thursday, December 12, 2019
5:00 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church



Please invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy an evening of fellowship, food, music and a presentation by guest speakers and missionaries from Lutheran Bible Translators Rev. Chuck & Mrs. Karen Tessaro from Nigeria.
 There will be a free will offering to help with this mission project.
 The program will conclude with dessert and Christmas carols.
 Members of Trinity are asked to bring an appetizer to pass.
 Music provided by Susie Manning on the harp during appetizers.



Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, December 24th
 3:00 p.m. – Holy Communion
 5:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service & Holy Communion

On Christmas Eve we will consider Mary, the Mother of our Lord

Christmas Day Service
Wednesday, December 25th
10:30 a.m.





The Board of Elders would like to remind everyone that once again we will be going to **one service** for the winter months.

Worship service will be at 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study will remain at 9:15 a.m.

This schedule will be in effect
December 22, 2019 through March 29, 2020

The normal schedule will begin again on April 5, 2020 with services at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

We know that this schedule may be inconvenient for some, but in consideration of everyone's safety, please bear with us. "God's Blessings to All".

Thank You!

--The Board of Elders & Pastor

DATE CHANGED FOR DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Due to the TLCW Advent by Candlelight event, the December Church Council Meeting has been changed to Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.



IT'S LUTHERAN WITNESS TIME!

It's time to subscribe or renew your subscription to **LUTHERAN WITNESS** at a discounted rate. The **Lutheran Witness** is the official periodical of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It is published 11 times a year and provides Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective. Each subscription includes the **Michigan In Touch** supplement which is automatically inserted into each issue of those who have subscriptions through the District Office renewal process.

The new subscription year doesn't begin until March 2020, but **orders need to be submitted to the church office by December 2nd** to take advantage of a discounted District rate of \$11.60/year. (Individual subscriptions ordered directly from CPH are \$19.99/year).

Payment for subscriptions should be made directly to Trinity Lutheran Church. Late orders will be charged an additional \$2.

If you have any questions about subscriptions, e-mail the church office at churchoffice@trinityoscoda.org or call 989-739-9292.

We will be decorating the church for Christmas in early December. If you are willing to help, please let Dave Wagner, Pastor Azzam, or one of the elders know. Many hands make light work!



Your 2020 offering envelopes have been placed in your church mailbox. You should start using the new envelopes on January 5, 2020.



Winter Weather is Here

For worship cancellations, call the church office 739-9292 and check the answering machine!



POINSETTIAS

Anyone interested in ordering poinsettias for Christmas, the cost is \$8.00. Deadline to order is December 15th. Order forms are available on the ushers' stand. Please make check out to TLCW and put in Kathy Boschma's mailbox. Please remember to take your poinsettia home after Christmas.



gg70013316 GoGraph ©

- Chris Paul for volunteering to teach Sunday School
- Joann Pancost and Kathy Azzam for raking the prayer garden
- Pastor Azzam for removing the bags of leaves
- All who donated journals and toothpaste for Lutheran Wellspring
- Everyone who attended the Haystack Dinner and donated games for Lutheran Wellspring
- All who donated cookies for the TLCW Bazaar
- Everyone who helped set-up, tear down, or who worked at the TLCW bazaar

FUNDRAISERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF ANNABELLE NICKELL a 6-year-old with cancer on her brain stem



Bake Sale and Silent Auction

December 6th and December 7th – 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Twinning Market – 105 State St., Twinning
and

Bake Sale and Silent Auction

December 6th and December 7th – 9:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Good News Ministries – 3107 M-65 (between Whittemore and Twinning)



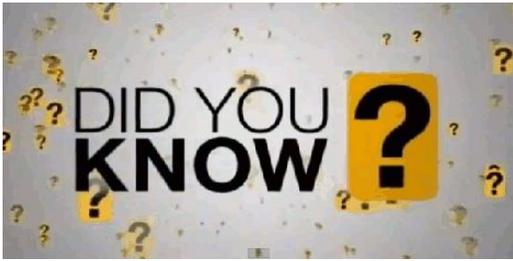
Say NO to Dismemberment Abortion

An opportunity is before Michigan citizens. By working together, we can ban the inhumane abortion procedure known as the D&E or dilation and evacuation method. This method of abortion uses surgical instruments to forcibly remove arms and legs from a living human being in the womb. Michigan's Constitution allows the people to initiate legislation through a petition. The petition seeks legislation that would amend our partial-birth abortion ban by adding the equally horrific dismemberment abortion to that ban. The advantage of this approach is that the bill's language cannot be changed by the legislature, but more importantly, it cannot be vetoed by Governor Whitmer! We need to collect 400,000 signatures, and we have 180 days to do it, starting June 26, 2019; so we still have time until mid-December. As of mid-November, we have not yet turned in the suggested number of signatures for Iosco County.

Seventy-five persons at Trinity Lutheran have signed the petitions for Iosco and Alcona Counties, with 14 signatures from other Michigan counties. THANKS to all of you! If you have not already signed this petition, please see Miriam Kuhlmann. If you are a registered Michigan voter, be sure to sign a petition specifically for the county in which you are registered. She can create a petition for any county in Michigan.

For more information, and a video depicting dismemberment abortion, please go to the Michigan Right to Life special website: michiganvalueslife.org

HUMOR



Composer Johann Sebastian Bach was a devout Lutheran. He wrote about 200 cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and holy day in the Lutheran church year.

*The Lutheran church – Missouri Synod is in possession of Bach's personal Bible at the Concordia Historical Institute of the campus of St. Louis



"I know we're trying not to be stuffy around here, but let's not refer to 'A Mighty Fortress' as 'Martin Luther's Greatest Hit.' "

QUIZ

1. Why did Joseph take Mary and Baby Jesus to Egypt?
2. Who wrote most of the books in the New Testament?
3. In the New Jerusalem described in Revelation, what are the twelve gates made from?



YOU KNOW GUYS, RUMOR HAS IT THE BABY SHIVERS IN THE COLD ... MAYBE INSTEAD OF GOLD AND PERFUME HE WOULD ENJOY A BLANKET?

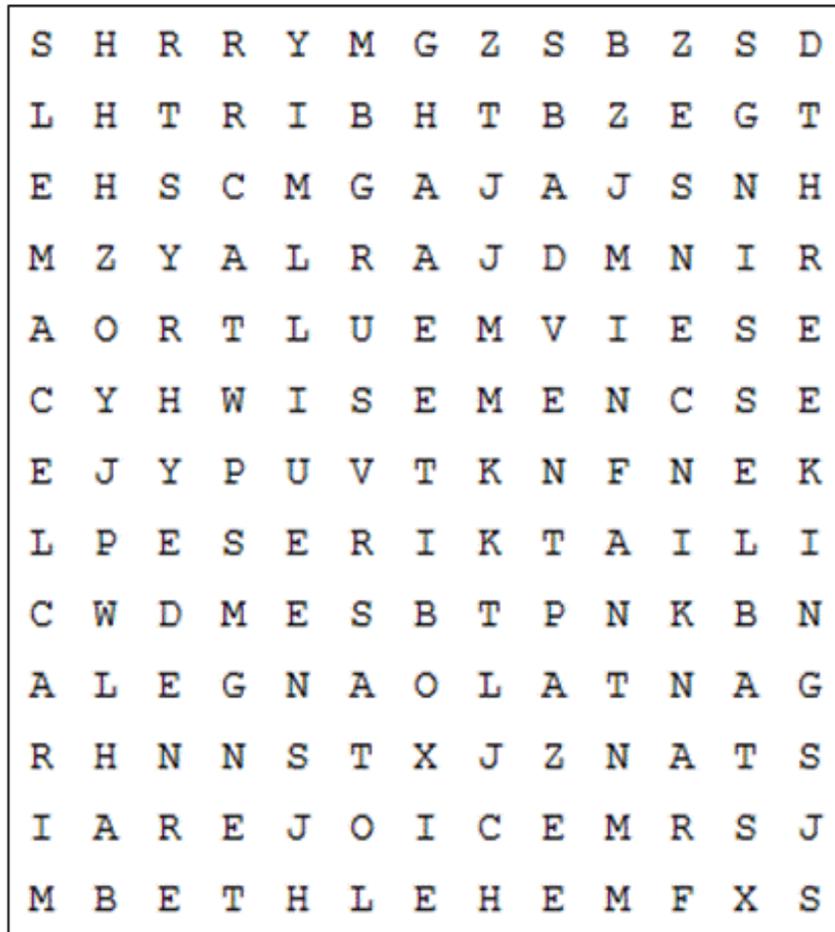
Deadline to submit articles for January Newsletter is December 22nd



- Answers to Quiz:
1. To escape from King Herod, who wanted to kill Jesus.
 2. Paul
 3. Pearl



Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8 & 10:30 am--Worship 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School	2	3 8 am - Men's Bible Class 9:30 am - Ladies Bible Class 10-12 Noon - P. N. Office Hours 10:30am - Crafts & Quilts 6 pm - Elders Meeting	4 5:30 pm - Soup Supper TLCW 7:00 pm - Advent Service	5 10 am - Bible Class	6 <i>Office Closed</i>	7
8 8 & 10:30 am--Worship & Communion 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School	9	10 8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10:30am--Crafts & Quilts 7 pm - Church Council Meeting	11 5:30 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Advent Service	12 10 am--Bible Class 5 pm - TLCW Advent by Candlelight	13 <i>Office Closed</i>	14
15 8 & 10:30 am--Worship 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class 9:15 am--Sunday School	16	17 8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10-12 Noon - P. N. Office Hours 10:30am--Crafts & Quilts 11:00 am - TLCW Christmas Party	18 5:30 pm - Soup Supper 7:00 pm - Advent Service	19 10 am--Bible Class	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21
22 ONE SERVICE BEGINS 10:30 am--Worship & Communion 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class	23	24 3 pm - Christmas Eve Service Holy Communion 5 pm - Christmas Eve Service Candlelight & Holy Communion	25 10:30 am - Christmas Service	26	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
DEADLINE FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER	30	31 8 am--Men's Bible Class 9:30 am--Ladies Bible Class 10:30am--Crafts & Quilts		December Newsletter Calendar		
29 10:30 am--Worship & Communion 9:15 am--Adult Bible Class						
<p>Secretary's Hours: Mondays & Thurs. 9 am - 2 pm Pastor's Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Church Ph#: 739-9292 Pastor's Home Ph#: 739-4820 (anytime, day or night) *P.N.(Parish Nurse) Ph#: 724-6800</p>						