

## Advent/Christmas 2022

Newsletter  
of

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
918 Tayman Avenue  
Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

*Together in Jesus Christ our  
mission is to serve faithfully,  
boldly, and joyfully.*

YOU ARE MORE  
THAN WELCOME.  
YOU ARE INVITED!

**Weekly in-person Worship  
with Holy Communion  
on Sundays in the Nave**  
8:00 a.m. Spoken Liturgy  
10:00 a.m. Music and Hymns

5:00 p.m. Holy Communion  
in the Chapel **each** Sunday  
5:45 p.m. Prayers and Laying  
on of hands for healing in the  
Chapel **each** Sunday

**Vicar Regina Holliday's  
Installation Service  
Sunday, December 11**  
during 10:00 a.m. worship

**Christmas Eve Services**  
**Saturday, December 24, 2022**  
4:00 p.m. with TLC Band  
8:00 p.m. Traditional Liturgy

**Sunday Christmas Day Service**  
10:00 a.m. in the Nave



Pastor Ruth Kocha Jensen  
[pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com)

Vicar Regina Holliday  
[reggieart123@yahoo.com](mailto:reggieart123@yahoo.com)

Director of Music  
Nicholas Carroll  
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Child Care and Learning Center  
Director  
Jody Jurgeevich  
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Sexton  
Douglas Fanale

Part-time Sexton  
Frank Kyle

### How to Contact Us:

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## ADVENT/ CHRISTMAS 2022

Volume 23, Issue 6—December 2, 2022

## FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART



God rest ye merry, gentlemen  
let nothing you dismay  
Remember, Christ, our Saviour  
was born on Christmas day  
To save us all from Satan's power  
when we were gone astray  
O tidings of comfort and joy,  
Comfort and joy  
O tidings of comfort and joy

*Author unknown*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! Glad tidings of comfort and joy be yours! Christ, our Savior was born on Christmas day! The Kingdom of God has come to us! The King of kings and Lord of lords is among us!

This is the Great Good News of Christmas:  
That God is with us, in the person of Jesus Christ: Emmanuel. What's more, it isn't just that God has come to be among us to rule over us. It's that God has come *as* one of us, to live among us, to literally love us to death *and* back to life again.

**God's presence with us is *THE* present of Christmas.**

God's presence with us is such a radical gift that it calls for a change in the way we live. God sent his only son into this world to live for us, to die for us, to be resurrected for our sake, so that we might truly live! Jesus, God's Emmanuel, continues to be with us through the gift of his Spirit, to comfort us and to breathe joy into our lives *each and every day*.

What an unspeakable gift! And yet, how often do we turn our backs on God and allow so many other things to become more important to us than the One who loves us most?

Since the true gift of Christmas is the presence of God in Christ – a presence that opens the door to a new relationship with God, then it would seem most appropriate that we should celebrate Christmas by giving more of our presence to those who are most important to us.

I pray that on the Nativity of our Lord – Sunday, December 25 – you will give

more of yourselves,  
more of your time,  
more of your energy,  
more of your attention,

to those you love. Speak openly and listen even more. Listen with your heart as well as with your ears. By seeking to build deeper relationships with those who are most important to us, by giving lots more *presence*, and by the power of the Spirit, we can and will change the world – and thus participate in the Kingdom of God!

May God's Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, continue to bless and keep you on this day and always.

Pastor Ruth Jensen



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
**4:00 and 8:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day Worship**  
**10:00 a.m.**

## MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

### MEMBERS REMOVED BY DEATH:

October 4, 2022 Shirley Jean (Kochendarfer) Wilson  
October 13, 2022 Betty June (Alumbaugh) Hunter

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM:

October 30, 2022 Stephanie Carroll  
October 30, 2022 Renee Zimmerman

### MEMBERS RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER:

April 3, 2022 Shelby Renee Jensen received by  
Letter of Transfer from Good  
Shepherd Lutheran Church; Windber,  
Pennsylvania  
  
October 30, 2022 Gary and Shari Ziegler received by  
Letter of Transfer from Laurel Trinity  
Lutheran Church; Boswell,  
Pennsylvania

### WEDDING:

October 15, 2022 Ally Marie Adams\*  
Andrew Scott Gracie\*

\*Not a member

## ADVENT STAR 2022

The Advent Star 2022 with scripture readings and prayers written by staff and students at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg are available in the Narthex. You are invited to use this standing "star" as a liturgy at home for your daily Advent prayers and devotions.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SOMERSET MINISTERIUM** would like to invite you to the Advent Services. Music begins at 11:30 a.m. Service begins at noon. There will be a light lunch after worship. Service also will be streamed LIVE on Somerset First United Methodist Facebook.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Music</u>
December 7	Rev. Brent Williams	Diane Vandersure
December 14	Rev. Eric Raygor	Carolann Young
December 21	Christmas Story Skit	Nicholas Carroll

**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT at the 10:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 18:** Trinity's Sunday School children will present the Christmas Gospel in a retelling of the Nativity story. Come all!

**TRINITY BRASS REPLICA ORNAMENTS** are available for purchase in Trinity's Narthex for \$5 each. Proceeds benefit Trinity's youth.



**THE MEALS ON WHEELS PROGRAM** sends sincere thanks for your generosity in baking desserts and providing funds to purchase desserts as needed, for their ministry to provide meals for those in our county that have difficulty making their own. Your faithful support for this project each year is very much appreciated. —Becky Minnich



**TRINITY'S CHILD CARE** is selling O'Shea's Candy Bars in six different flavors for \$1.00 per bar. Each wrapper also has a \$1.00 off coupon for one pound of O'Shea's chocolates. You may get yours at Trinity's Office weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

## A VIEW FROM THE LOFT

### The Oldest Christmas Hymn

Recently a student posed me the question, "What is the oldest Christmas song?" I told her that I would do some research, but my guess would be "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (which I told her knowing that my real choice would be "Creator of the Stars of Night" knowing she wouldn't know that song). Of the songs she is familiar with, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" likely is the oldest. It is difficult to date the true age of a hymn because most truly ancient hymn texts are written separately from the musical notes that go with them. For me it is hard to count the date of the poetry as the date a hymn was "written" since it is only half of the equation required to create a complete song. I did some digging and here are the contenders:



"Jesus Refulsit Omnium" (Jesus, Light of All the Nations), which is believed to have been written after the first recorded Christmas celebration took place in 336 AD. The hymn was originally performed most likely without any instrumental music or specified vocal notes and was likely chanted in an improvisational manner. Christmas was not celebrated in church yet at the time so, because of the lack of set musical notes this choice doesn't fit my criteria of being oldest in both text and music.

"Of the Father's Love Begotten" based on the Latin poem "Corde natus" by the Roman poet Aurelius Prudentius. We don't know the exact date it appears in text, but Prudentius, being born in 348 AD tells us the general time frame. The musical notes used with the text, "Divinum Mysterium" first appear in print in 1582, although it is assumed that the tune was written before that verifiable publication date. All things considered 1582 is the fairest date to go by.

My personal guess, “Conditor alme siderum” (Creator of the Stars of Night) was likely written by Ambrose of Milan (339 – 397), venerated as Saint Ambrose, he was a theologian and statesman who served as Bishop of Milan from 374 to 397. The musical notes to accompany it were written in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, which makes this a good contender. However before I get too proud of my first guess being correct, I discover that the hymn was rewritten by Pope Urban VIII in 1632, changing it so extensively that only the second line of the original hymn remained unchanged. The revision is thus so extensive that it is in effect a different composition. This 1632 version is the one we find in our hymnal. In conclusion, we must use the 1632 date to be fair in our debate.

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” is a case in which the musical notes predate the text. The musical notes were written in 15<sup>th</sup> century France, with the text being written in 1710.

Using my criteria that leads me to believe that our very own Martin Luther’s Christmas hymn, “From Heaven Above to Earth I Come” written in 1539 is a true contender, since the text and the music were written at the same time and that date is verifiably documented unlike most of the others.

Regardless of which hymn takes the prize as the oldest Christmas song based on historical evidence, I think we can all agree the first Christmas hymn would have to be the song the angels sing to the shepherds on Christmas Eve or perhaps even a lullaby that Mary sang to her baby.

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Nicholas Carroll  
Director of Music



## For All the Saints November 6, 2022

### Members of Trinity who have died this past year:

<i>Sara Elizabeth Triebe</i>	<i>November 11, 2021</i>
<i>Catharine L. (Foust) VanGilder</i>	<i>November 20, 2021</i>
<i>Irvin Frederick Brubaker</i>	<i>January 7, 2022</i>
<i>W. Jean Walker</i>	<i>January 7, 2022</i>
<i>Lois Mae (Lape) Brougher</i>	<i>January 24, 2022</i>
<i>Ruth E. (Ash) Coleman</i>	<i>February 1, 2022</i>
<i>Dorothy Mae (Walker) Bennett</i>	<i>February 13, 2022</i>
<i>James Gilmour Knepper, Sr.</i>	<i>February 13, 2022</i>
<i>Virginia Rue (Walker) Lloyd</i>	<i>April 10, 2022</i>
<i>Craig Custer</i>	<i>April 19, 2022</i>
<i>Dorothy Jean (Speicher) Stahl</i>	<i>May 2, 2022</i>
<i>Alan Luther Miller</i>	<i>June 12, 2022</i>
<i>Rev. William E. Deist</i>	<i>June 23, 2022</i>
<i>Darrell Eugene Yutzy</i>	<i>July 7, 2022</i>
<i>William Howard Kuhlman</i>	<i>September 3, 2022</i>
<i>Shirley J. (Kochendarfer) Wilson</i>	<i>October 4, 2022</i>
<i>Betty June (Alumbaugh) Hunter</i>	<i>October 13, 2022</i>

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.  
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven. (Matthew 5:3-4, 12)

### OTHERS WHO ARE REMEMBERED:

<i>Tom Anderson</i>	<i>Albert and Martha Reed</i>
<i>Lenora E. Crowe</i>	<i>Wayne Miller</i>
<i>Patricia M. Crowe</i>	<i>Nellie Stahl</i>
<i>Lloyd Fait</i>	<i>Howard and Libby Trexel</i>
<i>Ronald Fait</i>	<i>Don Voytish</i>
<i>Esther Fischer</i>	

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RESULTS

**TRINITY'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** was held on **Sunday, November 13, 2022**. A quorum was declared with twenty-seven confirmed, communing and contributing members present (refer to Chapter 8, Section C8.02c, Constitution of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church).

The minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting of November 14, 2021 were approved.

The 2021 Annual Report of Trinity Lutheran Church was approved. This report includes committee reports for the period of September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021 (which were approved at the November 14, 2021 Annual Meeting) and the year-end financial reports for 2021.

2021 Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses	Budgeted Income	Actual Income	Positive Ending Balance
\$699,244	\$756,101	\$699,244	\$765,823	\$9,722

Congregational Leaders for 2023 elected at the November 13, 2022 meeting include:

**Church Council, 2023-2025 (4 persons needed)**

John Centi, Sandy Harvey, Kathy Mitchell,  
Renee Zimmerman

**Endowment Fund Committee (1 person needed)**

Ann Persun

**Voting Members to 2023 Allegheny Synod Assembly  
(3 persons needed)**

Jack Illar, Kathy Mitchell, Nicholas Carroll;  
Alternate: Peter Jacobson

**Laurel Highlands Conference Representatives**

*(3 persons needed)*

Twenty-two persons received votes. It was decided to refer this election to church Council for a final determination.

The total 2023 Expense Budget was adopted in the amount of \$924,339. This budget reflects a major wage realignment for Trinity's staff and Child Care Workers. The pastor's salary was set according to Synod guidelines. The Child Care Program and Trinity's portion of Vicar Holliday's salary are both funded by separate (non-offering) sources. By subtracting them out of the total budget, the congregation's giving goal through offerings and donations is \$507,919.

Reports for the period of September 1, 2021 through August 31, 2022 were received and approved for the following: Pastor Ruth Jensen; the Congregational Council; Director of Music Nicholas Carroll; Child Care Director Jody Jurgeovich; and the Committees of the Congregation and Council.

Retiring members of the Church Council were thanked and the meeting was adjourned.

Pick up copies of the 2022 Congregational Meeting Reports and 2021 Annual Reports in the Narthex or Chapel if you were unable to attend the meeting.

Pastor Ruth Jensen



**Congregational Meeting**



# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022

### October Meeting

- ✓ **Approved** report of Nominations Committee: 4 persons willing to serve 3-year terms are: Kathy Mitchell, John Centi, Sandy Harvey, and Renee Zimmerman (who will be received into confirmed membership on October 30, 2022).
- ✓ **Voted to recommend** the 2023 Income and Expense Budget to the congregation for approval on November 13, 2022.
- ✓ **Approved** persons to be received into membership on October 30, 2022.
- ✓ **Re: Annual Meeting on November 13, 2022**

Approved agenda as prepared by Ann Voytish with the following deletions and additions:

- Added election of 3 Synod Assembly 2023 voting representatives for 2023
- Added election of 3 Laurel Highlands Conference voting representatives for 2023
- Approved ecclesiastical balloting for elections
- Added Tabled changes to our congregation Constitution which were approved at 2022 Churchwide Assembly until our 2023 Congregational Meeting
- ✓ **Agreed** to revise/update all committee descriptions in our congregation Bylaws, including the Mutual Ministry Committee, and submit them for congregational approval in the near future.

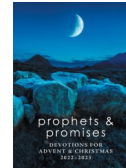
### November Meeting

- ✓ **Met** with a representative of Tri-State Security and Fire who walked us through bids relating to safety, security, and fire prevention for our facilities.

- ✓ **Affirmed** the work of the Safety and Property Committees regarding building safety and security. Voted to follow up on questions raised during the meeting and make appropriate decisions at the December meeting.
- ✓ **Voted** to consult with an architect regarding feasibility and grandfathering status pending installation of new security and safety systems.
- ✓ **Approved** Eugene Fike to serve as member-at-large appointed by the church Council on the Endowment Fund Committee.
- ✓ **Expressed** thanks to outgoing Council members for their dedication and service: Doug Hoehn, Joseph Kennick, Melanie Miller, and Deb Stewart.

Pastor Ruth Jensen

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**ELCA ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS** are available in the Narthex or Chapel for you.

**SECURITY UPDATE:** Trinity's doors are opened at 7:15 a.m. in the Nave on Sundays. Once the service starts at 8:00 a.m., the Narthex and all other outside doors are locked during worship. At 8:30 a.m. the Educational Building is opened. During 10:00 a.m. worship, the front door is left open during the service as there are ushers present. All other outside doors are locked during the 10:00 service.

**FREE BOOKS** are located on the wooden benches in the Narthex as you enter Trinity on both sides. Please take as many as you can use.

## CHILD CARE NEWS

Trinity Child Care would like to welcome Vicar Regina Holliday. The children and families have gotten a chance to meet her and are starting to form connections. All the kids have enjoyed having Vicar Regina at Chapel time and listening to her messages. Vicar Regina has plans to do many activities here with our children and help build a relationship with them. We are grateful to have her as part of our Trinity family.



Our program is excited to celebrate Christmas with the kids. We will have our 'elf on the shelf,' come back and watch over our kids during the month of December. This is our way of giving the children small gifts each day to help them celebrate this season. We work with the kids sharing the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of God's son given to us all. We all enjoy sharing stories, songs, and many different activities during the Christmas season. We will be able to have a visit from Santa and allow everyone to take pictures with him. We will continue to play and build up our children in the spirit of love and compassion this holiday season.

I appreciate all of the support the congregation has given our program. We are able to continue to operate as the best Child Care program in our county because of your support. I am able to tell every family that calls to be added to our ever-growing waiting list, that we are supported by the congregational members and the church looks at our program as part of their community outreach. I continue to run our program with high standards as we work with our children. So from your donations, to supporting our fundraisers, and many of you donating items, time, and goods, I appreciate it all.

Thank you for making Trinity Child Care what it is. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Jody Jurgeвич, Director

## 2021 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

### Alexander Boose

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(814) 279-2474 (C) 443-3844 (W)  
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alexander.c.boose@gmail.com  
Endowment Fund

### John Centi

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### Sandy Harvey

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### Jack Illar

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### Kathy Mitchell

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Education

### Peter Jacobson

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### Vicar Regina Holliday

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### Mark Persun

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### Linda Phillips

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Care and Share

### Roger Bailey

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### Renee Zimmerman

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(Term expires 12/31/25)

### Larry Stahl

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Property/Safety

### Christopher Lloyd

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(Term expires 12/31/24)  
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Finance

### Pastor Ruth Kocha Jensen

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pastorjensen.trinity@gmail.com

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES/DATES

*Christmas Poinsettia Orders*  
Thursday, December 15, 2022



*Special Gifts for Vicar Regina Holliday's  
Seminary-Related Expenses*  
Thursday, December 15, 2022

### *Poinsettia Pick-up:*

*After the 8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship  
Service or Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to  
4:30 p.m. on the Working Sacristy side*

*Trinity's Office and Child Care Closed:*  
Monday, December 26, 2022  
Monday, January 2, 2023



*No Adult or Children's Sunday School:*  
Sunday, December 25, 2022  
Sunday, January 1, 2023

*Year-End Gifts/Contributions:*  
Friday, December 30, 2022

*February Newsletter Deadline:*  
Tuesday, January 17, 2023

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FOOD PANTRY TOY DRIVE** will be **Wednesday, December 7** from 8:00-11:00 a.m. for Food Pantry children. This year will be our only year for the parents to come inside to choose toys for their children ages infant to 18 years old. Each child will receive a stuffed animal, book, a small toy, and a \$10 toy. You may donate by writing your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church and mark on your envelope "Food Pantry Toy Drive." Thanks so much!  
- Ann Voytish



**NICHOLAS CARROLL PIANO STUDIO**  
**CHRISTMAS RECITAL** will be held in the Nave on **December 11** at 1:30 p.m. Many students will perform including some of Trinity's members and so will Nicholas at the end of the recital. Approximately 60-80 minutes in length. Free and open to the public.



**OUR GRATEFUL THANKS** to our Sunday School and Child Care children who made cards and colored pictures for Trinity's Veterans. The cards were very much appreciated on November 13 when they were handed out at all of the services.





## CHILDREN'S PAGEANT



**CHILDREN'S PAGEANT at the 10:00 a.m. Service on Sunday, December 18:** Trinity's Sunday School children and all children who would like to participate will present the Christmas Gospel in a retelling of the Nativity story. Practices will be held during the Sunday School hour.

## BIRTHRIGHT TREE

**BIRTHRIGHT OF SOMERSET, INC.** has a handmade poster-sized Christmas tree adorned with paper ornaments in the Fellowship Hall in December through the holiday season for their annual 2022 Giving Tree Drive. The ornaments have the names of inexpensive baby items such as tee shirts and sleepers that they place in their layette boxes for women and babies in need. Please consider purchasing one of the ornament items to brighten a new mother's life. Please place your **unwrapped** gifts in the bin under the tree.



## ONLINE GIVING

**ONLINE GIVING DONATIONS** can be made by going to our website at [www.trinitysomerst.org](http://www.trinitysomerst.org) and clicking on "Give" to make a donation. It is really easy and convenient. You can still get a giving statement at the end of the year for your giving!

## 2022 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



### REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS:

Give to Shut-Ins: ( ) Yes ( ) No

I Will Pick Up My Plant(s): ( ) Yes ( ) No

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of plants at \$10.00 each \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: *Trinity Lutheran Church*

**DEADLINE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**

*(Please do not forget to pick up your flowers after the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24.)*

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## 2022 SPECIAL GIFTS

*This year, in addition to or in lieu of Poinsettias,  
our special gifts will go for support of:*

*\_\_\_\_\_ Vicar Regina Holliday's  
Seminary-Related Expenses*

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Envelope # \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**DEADLINE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15**

*In Memory of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*In Honor of* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Presented by* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
December 2022			
<b>4</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8am Worship (Nave) 8:45am Sunday School Fellowship Hall/ Ed. Building 10am Worship (Nave) 11:15am - TLC Choir/Bells Rehearsals (Nave) 5pm Worship/Prayers for Healing (Chapel)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9am Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 6:30pm Grief Sharing Group (Adult III) <b>Deadline for            cookie forms</b>	<b>7</b> 8-10:45am Pantry <b>8-11am</b> <b>Toy Drive</b> <b>(Snow Day)</b> 1-2:30pm (Conference)
<b>11</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 8am Worship (Nave) 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship (Nave) Installation of Vicar Regina 11:15am - TLC Choir/Bells Rehearsals (Nave) 5pm Worship/Prayers for Healing (Chapel)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9am Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) 6:30pm Grief Sharing Group (Adult III) 7pm Intern Committee Meeting	<b>14</b> 8-11am Drive Thru 1-2:30pm (Conference) 5:30pm in Fellowship with Pi 6pm Pr (Conference)
<b>18</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 8am Worship (Nave) 8:45am Sunday School Fellowship Hall/ Ed. Building <b>10am Worship (Nave)</b> <b>Children's Christmas Pageant</b> 11:15am - TLC Choir/Bells Rehearsals (Nave) 5pm Worship/Prayers for Healing (Chapel)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 9am Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike) <b>11:00 Treasured            Traditions in            Nave; Noon meal            in Fellowship Hall</b>	<b>21</b> 8-11am Drive Thru 1-2:30pm (Conference)
<b>25</b>  <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>10am Worship (Nave)</b>	<b>26</b> Office and Child Care Closed	<b>27</b> 9am Men's Group (McDonald's Turnpike)	<b>28</b> No (No Bible)

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
8am Food Drive Thru <b>Food Pantry</b> <b>Drive Inside</b> <b>Day 12/14)</b> 9am Bible Study (Conference Room)	<b>8</b> 1:30pm Worship Committee (Conference Rm) 6pm Finance Committee (Conference Rm) (No Book group in Dec)	<b>9</b> Drop off cookies to the Trinity's Kitchen	<b>10</b> 9 am Volunteers to pack cookies in Trinity's Kitchen for homebound
10:45am Food Pantry Thru 1pm Bible Study (Conference Room) Camp Style Worship in the Fellowship Hall followed by Pizza Meal Property Committee (Conference Room)	<b>15</b> 6pm Council (Conference Room) <b>Deadline for            Poinsettia/            Special Gifts</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
10:45am Food Pantry Thru 1pm Bible Study (Conference Room)	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 3:40pm Prelude music <b>4:00pm Worship</b> <b>(Nave)</b> 7:30 Prelude music <b>8:00pm</b> <b>Candlelight</b> <b>worship (Nave)</b>
10:45am Food Pantry (Bible Study)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>Deadline</b> <b>for Year-</b> <b>End Gifts</b>	<b>31</b>

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday, December 4 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

8:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
5:00 p.m.	Informal, spoken liturgy of Holy Communion-Chapel
5:45 p.m.	Prayers for healing and laying on of hands-Chapel

### Sunday, December 11 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

8:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
5:00 p.m.	Informal, spoken liturgy of Holy Communion-Chapel
5:45 p.m.	Prayers for healing and laying on of hands-Chapel

### Sunday, December 18 (4th Sunday of Advent)

8:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion
8:45 a.m.	Sunday School for All Ages
10:00 a.m.	Worship with Communion with Children's Christmas Pageant
5:00 p.m.	Informal, spoken liturgy of Holy Communion-Chapel
5:45 p.m.	Prayers for healing and laying on of hands-Chapel

### Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion Worship Service (Prelude Music begins at 3:40 p.m.)
8:00 p.m.	A Festival Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy Communion Service (Prelude Music begins at 7:30 p.m.)

**Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day)**

10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
No Sunday School for Adults or Children

**Sunday, January 1 (Name of Jesus)**

10:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols  
No Sunday School for Adults or Children

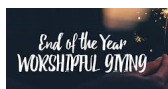
**Sunday, January 8 (Baptism of Our Lord)**

8:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
8:45 a.m. Sunday School for All Ages  
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion  
5:00 p.m. Informal, spoken liturgy of Holy Communion-Chapel  
5:45 p.m. Prayers for healing and laying on of hands-Chapel

*(Post this at home or give to a friend and invite them to come.)*

## YEAR-END DONATIONS

**THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS SET Friday, December 30** as the deadline for donations to be credited to your Personal Giving Statement for 2022. We so appreciate your year-end gifts and gifts throughout the year!



## PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS

**PERSONAL GIVING STATEMENTS** will be available in Trinity's Narthex to pick up on **Sunday, January 22**. If you can take statements to your family members and neighbors, that would be appreciated to save postage.

### The Advent of our Lord and Sunday Worship

<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> December 4 Worship at 8am, 10am, 5pm  Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12 A voice cries: Prepare the way of the Lord	
<b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> December 11 Worship at 8am, 10am, 5pm  Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55 Matthew 11:2-11 The forerunner of Christ	
<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> December 18 Worship at 8am, 10am, 5pm  Isaiah 7:10-16; Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25 A God near at hand	
<b>Nativity of our Lord</b> December 25 Worship at 10am Service of Holy Communion  Isaiah 62:6-12; Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:1-20 The birth of the Messiah	
<b>Name of Jesus</b> January 1 Worship at 10am Lessons and Carols Service <b>No Communion</b>  Luke 2:15-21 His name is Jesus	

## A FEW WORDS FROM OUR VICAR

“Be still, and know that I am God” Psalm 46:10a NIV

Still is a very special word. It is a noun, a verb, an adjective, and an adverb.

Where I grew up in Oklahoma, a *still* was the place you could get moonshine. It was also the quiet lake when winter had come, and the cicadas stopped their summer song. We can *still* the rocking of our chair when a babe is soothed to sleep. We can *still* believe that God walks with us in our sorrow no matter how dark seems the night. We can be *still* and listen to his voice.

As a child I had trouble being still. I would sit beside my mother in church and draw on my children's bulletin in order to channel my energy in a positive direction. I know it is important to pay attention in church, but I thought God would not mind if I drew pictures from the Bible. Even though my mother often wondered why I couldn't keep quiet like my little sister, she treasured these church drawings.

When he was small my son Freddie also had trouble being still and took up my habit of drawing in church. During one service, I looked down to see a peculiar picture on his drawing pad. The picture consisted of a series of small houses lined up along the bottom of the paper. Above the houses stood stick people and fish in the sky. Along the very top of the page was an elongated oval. I was stumped trying to figure out the meaning of this drawing. In my best church whisper I asked, “What are you drawing?” He looked at me as though I was being particularly dull and said, “Noah's ark...from below.” In all my years of teaching art, I have seen many versions of Noah's ark. But for the most part each picture contains a boat and animals and a sunny blue sky. I never saw a picture of what lies beneath until Freddie's drawing.

**STILL**

As we enter a new liturgical year and a new calendar year, it is important to listen to the guidance of Psalm 46. Perhaps when we are still, we can ponder the view from above and the view from below. Perhaps in a time of feasting and rejoicing, we can watch for those that suffer and feel left out. Perhaps we can watch for the stranger among us and invite them to church and to celebrate with us.

As the winter descends and all is so very quiet, let's listen for the voice of God and then act upon his counsel.

Blessings to you on your Advent Journey,

Vicar Regina Holliday

## DO INTERNS TITHE?

“Honor the LORD with your possessions,  
and with the first fruits of all your increase”

Proverbs 3:9 New King James Version

As a new intern at Trinity, I have been reading through my intern manual and doing my best to comply in all areas. It can be challenging at times as I am part of the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) certificate program of the ELCA. Our guidance is a bit different on many protocols than a traditional intern, but when it comes to tithing, we are aligned.

So, within days of my arrival to Trinity, I asked for envelopes. I have spent the last nine years as a member of a church in a rural setting where envelopes were the only way to give. I was encouraged to try out the Tithe.ly app as Trinity can accept online donations. I had never used that app before, so I was happy to learn a new way of giving. I downloaded the app and began giving on Friday, November 18. On Sundays, I get text reminders to give, but I find it



is best that I tithe my portion to Trinity right after I receive my check. Isn't that what a first fruit is all about? Before I pay for my electric, my housing, my car payment, or buy groceries, I send my tithe back to the church.

I also serve at Horner Lutheran Church as an Intern Vicar. They do not use Tithe.ly so I give them envelopes. Sunday when I got my text reminder, I looked up my home church Christ Lutheran in Grantsville, Maryland, and they now have a tithe.ly account! I also sent them an offering via the app. (As a Vicar/Seminarian, we maintain our membership at our home church until we are called by a church after candidacy approval and prior to ordination. Then we become members at the church where we are called.)

So right now, I give a tithe at Trinity and Horner. I also give an offering at Christ Lutheran. Giving to the church goes beyond tithing though; there is also the giving of our time. I work 30 hours a week at Trinity and 15 hours a week at Horner, but I also do my best to volunteer in the community. I am one of the helpers at the free Clothes Closet at St. Mark in Shanksville. I also help other nonprofit organizations in providing for the needs of the poor and the suffering.

Thank you, Trinity staff and Trinity members, for teaching about a new way to give. I look forward to learning so much from you in the eleven months to come.

Vicar Regina Holliday



Come to the  
**Drop-In Supper,**  
**Hands-on Messy Christmas Crafts,**  
 and **Campfire Worship**  
**Wednesday, December 14**  
 at 5:30 p.m.  
 in the Fellowship Hall

**MENU:** Pizza and some other stuff!



**CHRISTMAS CRAFTS:**

Painted Ornaments  
 Stenciled Mug Rugs  
 Bead Candy Cane Ornaments  
 Ribbon and Felt Wreaths

**CANDLELIGHT and CAMPFIRE**

Yes! Battery operated, of course.  
 Be ready to sing some favorite  
 Christmas Carols!

**WARNING:** We may squeeze a 15-minute Sunday School rehearsal for the December 18 worship service, too. Talk about crazy!

# Celebrate the Christ Child!

## TREASURED TRADITIONS WORSHIP

AN "OLD FASHIONED" LITURGY WITH HOLY COMMUNION

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 11 AM**

CHRISTMAS CAROLS, SCRIPTURE READINGS,  
MEDITATION BY VICAR REGINA HOLLIDAY AND HOLY COMMUNION

**MEAL TO FOLLOW IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**  
**PLEASE BRING A COVERED DISH TO SHARE.**  
**HAM AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED.**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
WITH HOLY COMMUNION AND  
**HOLY GOSPEL PRESENTED**  
BY SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**  
**AT THE 10 AM SERVICE**



## CHRISTMAS EVE

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**4 PM "FAMILY SERVICE"**

DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN  
AND THEIR GROWN-UPS. MUSIC BY  
TLC BAND

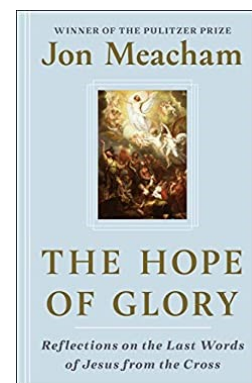
**8 PM TRADITIONAL SERVICE WITH**  
CANDLES, CAROLS, CHOIRS, ORGAN,  
AND HOLY COMMUNION



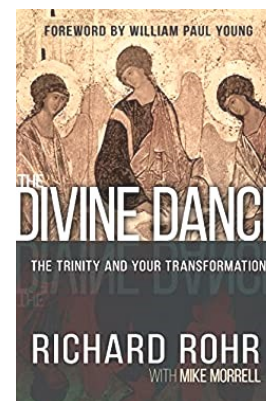
## TWO NEW BOOKS FOR 2023

The Book Group has chosen two new titles to start the new year. Copies are available online or at your favorite book dealer. Call Trinity's Office if you would like us to order a book for you (445-5446). **DROP IN AND JOIN US!**

The first book to be discussed on **Thursday, January 12** at 11:30 a.m. is Jon Meacham's book, The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.



Beginning with "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" and ending with "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," Meacham captures for the reader how these words epitomize Jesus' message of love, not hate; grace, not rage; and rather than vengeance, extraordinary mercy. Readers will discover how Jesus' final words upended the very order of the world.



Richard Rohr and Mike Morrell's book The Divine Dance will be shared on **Thursday, February 9** at 11:30 a.m. Brian McLaren describes it best:

More and more people are struggling with conventional understandings of God, like the big white guy on a throne with a long beard and a fistful of swords and lightning bolts by which you (or your enemies) might be smitten at any moment if you don't think or act correctly. For many, the concept of Trinity

simply triples their God-problems. But in The Divine Dance, the authors explore the Trinity as a pathway beyond problematic understandings of God. This beautifully-written book can do far more than change your troubled thoughts about God: it can change your way of thinking about God entirely.

# VICAR'S INSTALLATION

*You Are Cordially Invited  
to a*

## **SERVICE OF INSTALLATION**

*for*

**Vicar Regina Holliday**

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Somerset, Pennsylvania

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 11, 2022 at the  
10:00 a.m. Service**

*The Nave of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, ELCA  
918 Tayman Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501*

## **VICAR REGINA HOLLIDAY'S**

address and phone number are below:

139 Railroad Avenue  
P. O. Box 477  
Jerome, PA 15937  
(202) 441-9664 (cell)  
(814) 445-5446 (Trinity's Office)  
reggieart123@yahoo.com

**A VOLUNTEER IS NEEDED** to schedule  
lectors for Trinity's worship services. Call  
Trinity's Office if you would be willing to do  
this quarterly (814) 445-5446.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**TRINITY'S MEN'S GROUP** meets **every Tuesday** at the  
Turnpike McDonald's at 9:00 a.m. All men are welcome to  
join us.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP** continues every **Tuesday**  
through **December 13** in Adult III from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. led  
by Vicar Regina Holliday and Jo Balsley. For further info, talk  
to Jo Balsley (814) 443-1871 or simply drop in! There is no  
cost for this group.

COME JOIN OUR  
**BIBLE** **WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** meets on  
**Wednesday afternoon** from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.  
in the new Conference Room. All are welcome.



**COOKIES FOR THE HOMEBOUND ARE NEEDED!** By  
dropping the form below in the offering plate or calling Trini-  
ty's Office (445-5446), please let us know how many dozen  
homemade cookies you can provide for our homebound this  
Christmas. We need approximately 70 dozen. Please pack  
the cookies 4 per plastic bag. Cookies may be brought to  
Trinity's Kitchen preferably by **Friday, December 9** from  
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **Cookies will be packed the morning of**  
**Saturday, December 10** at 9:00 a.m. Thanks!

## **COOKIE DONATIONS FOR HOMEBOUND**

I will provide \_\_\_\_\_ dozen homemade cookies for the  
homebound boxes for Saturday, December 10.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(Cookie Form Only Deadline: Tuesday, December 6)

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM  
TRINITY'S STAFF AND  
CHILD CARE**



Ruth Kocha Jensen, *Pastor*  
Regina Holliday, *Vicar*  
Nicholas Carroll, *Director of Music*  
Ann Voytish, *Office Manager*  
Douglas Fanale, *Full-Time Sexton*  
Frank Kyle, *Part-Time Sexton*  
Jody Jurgevich, *Child Care Director*  
Angela Younkin, *Preschool Teacher*

***CHILD CARE WORKERS:***

Nicole Bowker	Danielle Leslie
Stephanie Burk	Stacey Law
Karen Cole	Michelle Lensbouer
Rulinda Dickey	Tonya Mills
Arica Domer	Mary Platt
Becky Holt	Meghan Pletcher
Ella Jano	Amber Snyder
Cheryl Karns	Sherry Yutzy
Krystal Knupp	Patricia Zimmerman



**CHILDRE**







## CONGRATULATIONS!

TRINITY MEMBERS HAVING SIGNIFICANT  
BIRTHDAYS (80 YEARS AND OLDER)

Betty Gorman - January 2

Betty Sloan - January 10

David Nicholson, Sr. - January 17

Sara Jane Smith - January 24

Joan Wheeler - February 8

Tomalee Holt - February 21



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- |                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Ricky DeWitt      |                         |
| 2 Betty Gorman      |                         |
| 3 Nathan Barndt     |                         |
| 5 Sally Hoffman     |                         |
| Kathleen Triebe     |                         |
| 6 Deborah Keller    | 15 Lauren Oehling       |
| 7 Laura Minnich     | Cyndi Pryce             |
| 8 Douglas Fanale    | 17 David Nicholson, Sr. |
| 10 Betty Sloan      | Sally Urban             |
| Dale Kriner         | 19 Brittany Bence       |
| 11 Dennis Zimmerman | Chad Mosholder          |
| 12 Andrew Baker     | 20 Drew Miller          |
| Michael Baker       | 22 Linda McElroy Thomas |
| Peter Jacobson      | 24 Sara Jane Smith      |
| Jack Hollingshead   | 26 Cody Leslie          |
| 13 Caitlin Barkman  |                         |
| William Snyder, Sr. |                         |



# BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- |                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| 1 Kayla Carroll      |  |
| 3 William J. McNelly |  |
| 7 Randy Hoover       |  |
| Joseph Kennick, Jr.  |  |
| Glenn E. Miller, Jr. |  |
| Henry Wheeler        |  |
| 8 Joan Wheeler       |  |
| 9 Derek McDonald     |  |
| 14 Linda Gould       |  |
| 15 Lori Bence        |  |
| 19 Julie Mitchell    |  |
| Madisyn Mostoller    |  |
| 20 Eriksen Echtler   |  |
| Danielle Yeago       |  |
| 21 Senda Harvey      |  |
| Tomalee Holt         |  |
| 22 Sally Maranowski  |  |
| 25 Rebecca Hoffman   |  |



## CAMP SEQUANOTA NOTES

**BREAKFAST WITH SANTA:** Camp Sequanota is sponsoring its family continental breakfast treats and an opportunity to talk with Santa. While waiting for their turn, kids can ice cookies, listen to a story, or create a craft. Parents may bring a camera to take pictures on **Saturday, December 10** from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Freewill donations accepted at the door.



## HORNER LUTHERAN CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY:** Horner Lutheran Church, 415 Horner Church Road, one mile off 219 at the Stoystown exit, offers a Celebrate Recovery meeting on **Saturdays** from 4:30-5:30 p.m. This meeting provides an environment for adults affected by hurts, hang-ups, and habits. At Celebrate Recovery, people will hear about the healing power of Jesus Christ through eight recovery principles. These biblical principles centered on Christ help us to grow and free us from our addictive, dysfunctional, and compulsive behaviors, drawing us together into a stronger relationship with God and others.

**KIDS' CLUB** at Horner Lutheran Church is held **Tuesdays** 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. with Games, Crafts, Bible Study, and Snacks. Pre-K to 6th grade are welcome to join us. There is no charge to participate in the program.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Somerset, Pennsylvania  
Permit No. 149

# ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2022



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
918 Tayman Avenue  
Somerset, PA 15501  
(Address Service Requested)

### CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24:

Holy Communion Service at 4:00 p.m.  
(Music begins at 3:40 p.m.)

A Festival Christmas Eve Candlelight Holy  
Communion Service at 8:00 p.m.  
(Music begins at 7:30 p.m.)