



Every year I remind myself that our gospel readings during Advent have apocalyptic themes, and every year I find myself surprised that our gospel readings during Advent have apocalyptic themes. It doesn't really seem to fit does it? Outside of the church are strings of Christmas lights, cheerful singing and wrapping presents, and then on Sundays we hear about the judgmental second coming of Jesus and the end of the world. Kind of confusing isn't it? The way I try to re-center myself when faced with scripture that seems to clash so harshly with the social climate is to look for the small similarities. The most obvious similarity and theme of the Advent season is that of waiting. This year, more than ever, we have been doing a lot of waiting, haven't we? Waiting for things to open, waiting for news on vaccines and statistics, waiting for things to feel normal again...

While I don't think we will ever get back to what we considered normal before COVID hit I do believe that we will adjust and we will grow. If we think back to that time when Mary was carrying Jesus in her womb and patiently (or not so patiently) waiting for the birth of her divine baby, we remember that she really didn't know how much or how little her life might change. And as we sit through this pregnant pause that the pandemic has provided we also don't know what changes will or will not come our way. But we can confidant in one thing, God will be with us always. God walks with us through times of change and times of stillness. God is giving us an opportunity to take stock of what our lives have become and evaluate how we will change and grow into this new future; in terms of ourselves, our families, our church and our community.

So, a blessed Advent to you all, and a Merry Christmas, AND a happy New Year! So much to celebrate and so many changes to look forward to.

Blessings, Pr. Elise

OWLS

(Older, Wiser, Lutheran, Seniors)

10:30 Bible Study
with Herb Burhenn

11:30 Lunch

(Ginny is working on this)

12:00 White elephant gift exchange

December OWL Birthdays

4 – David Kroft

10 – Barbara Haar

28 – Harold Humphries

Dec. OWL Anniversaries

John & Ann Ray

Dec 12, 1999

Calling all OWLS and anyone else who would like to join us for our December meeting.

Dust off anything you wish to gift to another OWLS or purchase something (less than \$10.00) for our “white elephant” gift exchange. We will be on our best behavior and not steal too often from each other, but no promises. gift exchange

We will also be collecting ideas for programs, speakers, outings, projects, etc. for next year. We appreciate any and all suggestions.



If you are not on a reservation call list from Carol or Loli and would like to join us, please call or text David (512-773-0383) or Susan (512-773-0384) Kroft before Friday, December 3rd.

Enjoy your holiday,
Susan

December Birthdays

David Kroft	12/4	Tim Ortega	12/18	Chelsea Karpinko	12/26
John Odom	12/4	Lori Weisner	12/19	Gannon Veale	12/26
Sam Wilburn	12/4	Bryinna Karpinko	12/20	Ryan Abens	12/27
Marcia Crews	12/5	Cayce Grall	12/21	Audrey Plank	12/27
Bobbie Iles	12/6	Chris Hansen	12/21	David Hart	12/28
Barbara Haar	12/10	Rebecca Krause	12/23	Harold Humphries	12/29
Benjamin Doss	12/15	Jodi Doss	12/24	Timothy Brown	12/29
Ray Painter	12/15	Alexander Keith	12/24	Mary Carlson	12/30
David Giesel	12/16	James Hart	12/25		
Karen Utt	12/17	Alan Crews	12/26		

Reminder

Our **ONLINE CALENDAR**
and **ONLINE MEMBER DIRECTORY**
can be found on our website @ chattanooga.lutheran.org.

No need to find your newsletter
or carry around the bulky pages of member addresses.
Simply go to our website.

The **CALENDAR** is located on the **CALENDAR** page.
The **DIRECTORY** can be found on the **LINKS WE LIKE** page.
Please e-mail or call the office for the **DIRECTORY CODE**. It only needs to be entered once.

Ask Pastor Clay

“Pastor, why don’t we simply celebrate Christmas in December. Some of our visitors seem put off by our Advent emphasis, saying it should be more joyful.”

I suspect many of our neighboring congregations are already focusing their worship services on Christ’s birthday. But obviously we are not them. In the Lutheran Church our goal is to offer a distinctive worship experience with historical continuity and simplicity. Our services should offer doctrinal clarity and consistency, along with encouragement of congregational participation and complete liturgical texts. Our Sunday Scripture Readings are from the three-year cycle of readings to assist participants in a regular consistent review of the Gospel story. Advent worship has a long history, beginning in France in A.D. 567, and our liturgy is shaped from many historical developments of past centuries.

Our relationship with God is not all joy, love and peace, it calls for study, a looking inward, a truly seeking attitude, an ability to recognize our own faults and failures. And its true that some people are not willing to find value with this. Keep in mind though that this offers each one of us an opportunity to share a positive word of God’s love to His children everywhere.

Thanksgiving is over and the Christmas celebration is well under way. And we in the Lutheran Church step forward with scripture readings focused upon, not the birth of a beautiful baby boy, but upon waiting patiently for the coming Christ. During the four Sundays of Advent you and I must resist the temptation to rush prematurely over to Bethlehem. Only on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day can we join the wise men and shepherds to bow before the babe in the manger.

We all know that something is coming and we hope it will be something good. The media seems to constantly remind us of the problems of society, the high cost of living, even the danger of togetherness. Well, Isaiah and the prophets often sound the same, but then as we hear these Advent Readings tell us a more positive experience lies ahead: There will come a time when the nations “shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks” (Isaiah 2:2b).

Isn’t it interesting how doom and gloom has traveled around the world twice while Hope is getting out of bed. Advent worship may seem to some to be all doom and gloom, but hope and joy are right there along with it. At times the Gospel, the Good News, can be difficult to hear. Yet as we worship together during Advent, if we listen closely, we will hear that the Gospel’s good news declares that God joins us in the struggle, refusing to prevent us from facing the troubles of life. Advent’s gospel is not an attempt to escape the hard realities, nor is it some hope for an other-worldly rescue. Advent deliverance comes in the mix of good and bad, joy and suffering, hope and anguish. Every Advent is a time to face up to the Word that comes from the hearts of the Prophets.

**Happy New Year
Pastor Clay Seneker**

Pray for me ...

Shawn & Mark (Marlene Hiltunen)
Katy Allison
Bruce & Amy Annear (Fran Balsis)
Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel)
Scott Baily (Fran Balsis)
Alice Barnett
Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart)
Bill Balsis
Eileen Bither (Debbie Greiner)
Theresa Bowman
Robert Burns (Carol Hayde)
Martha Caldwell
Gene & Laura Cline
Kathleen & Jamie Craven (Fran Balsis)
Joyce Davis

Tommy Dixon (Dale Elmlade)
Linda Draeger
Betsy Fryar (Julie Sosebee)
Paul & Phyllis Giesel (David Giesel)
Barbara Haar
Doris Harsman
Gary Hayde
June Hoover (Fran Balsis)
Steve Jackson
Rebecca Krause
Andy Kunz (Sharon Will)
Joshua Lewis (Laura Dahlke)
Sandy Maddox (Joyce Davis)
Sherry McKinney (Fran Balsis)
Britt McPherson
David Miller (Dale Elmlade)
Art Minninger

Barbara Montgomery
Elfie Owen
Sandy & Michael Pell (Joyce Davis)
Gigi Penticuff
Laura Peucker
Apyrl Reno (Carol Bell)
Elaine Schoeller (Anne Cain)
Ida Seneker
Karen Smith
Leon & Pat Stonecipher (Joyce Davis)
Perry Sullivan (Jackson family)
Maureen Turner (Carol Bell)
Troy Varner (Jodi Doss)
Eleonore Williams

Please, update the office.

Military Prayers

PV2 Barrett Brown - Iowa Nat'l Guard—Tacy Gorton's grandson

T/Sgt. Dillon O. Cole, Marines, son of James M. Cole and Grandson of Jim

Airman Nicholas A. Cyr, USAF—grandson of Art & Ginny Minninger

Pfc Owen Dobbins, Army—Great-nephew of Mary Jenkins

John Matthew Gray, Master Chief Petty Officer John Gray, U.S. Navy – son of John & Diane Gray

Harris Looney, US Navy, friend of Diana Kreider

Matthew K. Lynch, USMC Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

Ryan Lynch, USAF Reserve - grandson of Carol Bell

Ryan Morgan, Marines - great nephew of Carol & Herb Burhenn

Tonya Morgan Le & husband Viet Le, Army & Air Force—niece of Carol & Herb Burhenn

Sam Thompson, USMC - nephew of Diana Kreider





TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2021

Prepare the way of the Lord!

- November 28th -** **The First Sunday in Advent - The 8:15, 9:30 & 11:15 a.m. services will all include the Hanging of the Greens;**
(Come and learn why we decorate the way we do)
- December 1st -** **Advent Midweek Event: "Room for the Past." We will explore making room for the past, to grow and for God's future during our midweek Advent events. Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. 6:00-7:00 we will have a time together to worship and participate in a creative activity.**
- December 5th -** **The Second Sunday of Advent**
- December 8th -** **Advent Midweek Event 2: "Room to Grow." Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. 6:00-7:00 we will have a time together to worship and participate in a creative activity.**
- December 11th -** **St. Nicholas Wrapping Party. We will meet in the gym at 10:00 am to wrap presents for the St. Nicholas Party.**
Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal and Taping starting at 10:00 am. (Lunch will be provided)
- December 12th -** **The Third Sunday of Advent**
- December 14th -** **St Nicholas Party. Join us as we bring Christmas to the children of Alpine Crest Elementary. Party is from 6:00-8:00 pm.**
- December 15th -** **Advent Midweek Event: "Room for God's Future." Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. 6:00-7:00 we will have a time together to worship and participate in a creative activity.**
- December 19th -** **The Fourth Sunday of Advent**
(Children's Christmas Pageant at all services)
- December 24th -** **CHRISTMAS EVE**
4:30 p.m. - Family Oriented Christmas Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 26th -** **10:00 am - Carols and Lessons Service (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)**



Gifts in memory of Nancy Gubish...
Cathy & Dean Muncy

Gifts in memory of Rae Logan...
Kolleda Hebert
Dean & Cathy Muncy
Scott Logan
Dean & Cathy Muncy



New Addresses: (please note in your
directory for future use:

Shirley Nettleton
Morning Pointe
5501 Old Hixson Pike #405
Hixson TN 37343
423.994.7539

The Karpinko Family
2214 Chimney Hills Drive
Soddy-Daisy TN 37379

Bobbie House
10405 Card Road #233
Soddy-Daisy TN 37379

Eucharistic Ministry

Eucharistic Ministry Visitor opportunity will resume in the new year. Please consider participating in this blessing to members of Trinity. Contact Carol Burhenn for more information.



What does the word Eucharist mean?

The word Eucharist is Greek for “thanksgiving”. It is a term for Holy Communion. This title for the celebration of the Lord’s Supper has been used by the Church since the first century.

What is Trinity’s Eucharistic Ministry?

The Eucharistic Ministry brings the comfort and promise of Christ in the form of the bread and wine to those who cannot physically share in Holy Communion at church.

Why is the Eucharistic Ministry important?

It is important that members who cannot attend church have the opportunity to be united to the Body of Christ present in the Trinity community.

How will I know what to do?

The pastors will provide an instructional class and give each visitor a Communion kit which is resupplied on a regular basis by the Altar Guild.

How will I know what to say? I haven’t been to seminary.

At the pastors’ training you will be given a printed bulletin that walks you through the service. You will find that the service is very familiar to you.

What is the time commitment?

A Eucharistic Minister commits to visiting a member at least once a month at a time convenient to the visitor and the member.

What else do I need to know?

Being a Eucharistic Ministry visitor will be a blessing not only to the person you visit but also to you. The very act of personally sharing the Eucharist with another child of God can be an over-whelming personal blessing to you.

Social Missions

Many city-wide programs have been changing how they serve our community and the food voucher program through the Chattanooga Food Bank is one of them. **The biggest change is that they have decided not to hand out vouchers at churches anymore** but to do so at the food bank. This change started as a COVID precaution, but it seems like this change will continue.

Trinity has been supporting those food vouchers over the last year and a half (we even increased the amount we sponsored by 100%!) and **will continue to sponsor food vouchers for people to use at the food bank.**

FOOD PANTRY

Our food pantry has been an important part of our voucher program for years. It has been a great way to provide those in need with a box of food to tide them over in times of emergency. With our food voucher program changing to being donation based we had to decide what to do with our pantry.

We will continue stocking our pantry to serve those who come to our doors in need of food, but we will also start taking the food directly to those in need! **Pastor Elise will start taking volunteers out on Wednesdays to distribute food boxes to the homeless of our city.** We'll be calling this ministry "Food Box Wednesdays"! This will change what kinds of items we collect from month to month as well. We will put a list together and publish it in the announcements as well as share a link to an amazon wish list on our Facebook pages.

If you are interested in helping with social missions' projects, including Food Box Wednesday please contact **Pastor Elise @803-730-2466** or email her at pastoreliseanderson@gmail.com.

She will be serving as the interim head of social missions while we restructure and rebuild our mission and interaction with our community! New ideas and volunteers are welcomed and encouraged!



Those	who serve in	December
USHERS	Ray Painter, Pat Conard	Alan & Marcia Crews
December 5th	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Herb Burhenn	May Ann Shuey
Greeters		Jeff & Vicki McGuire
Counters	XX	
December 12th	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector		Alan Crews
Greeters		
Counters	XX	
December 19th	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector		Janey Hope
Greeters		Fran Balsis & Kim White
Counters	XX	
December 26th	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	XX	XX
Asst. Minister		
Lector		
Greeters		
Counters	XX	

December 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
EVERY Sunday 8:15 Service 9:30 Contemporary Service 10:15 Bible Study 10:30 Handbells 11:15 Service	EVERY Monday	EVERY Tuesday 6:00 Scouts	EVERY Wed. 2nd & 4th Food Vouchers (10-1) 5:30—Handbells & Choir Practice	EVERY Thurs-day	EVERY Friday	EVERY Saturday
			1 10:00 Pastors' Mtg 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Advent Supper/Service	2 10:00 Quilters	3	4 Ntl. Cookie Day 
5	6 St Nicholas Day 	7 10:30 OWLS 6:00 Cub Scouts	8 10:00 Pastors' Mtg 5:00 Advent Supper/Service	9 10:00 Quilters 6:00 Exec Committee	10	11 10:00 St Nick Wrapping 10:00 Youth Pageant Taping 12:00 Ladies' Lunch 2:00 Private Party Laura's Granddaughter
12 12:15 Evangelism	13	14 6:00 St Nick Party 6:00 Cub Scouts	15 10:00 Pastors' Mtg 12:00 Staff Meeting 5:00 Advent Supper/Service	16 10:00 Quilters 12:00 Staff Christmas Luncheon	17 8:00 Alpine Teacher's Breakfast	18
19 2:00 German Club	20	21 6:00 Cub Scouts	22 10:00 Pastors' Mtg	23 10:00 Quilters 5:30 Rose Society	24 Christmas Eve 	25 Christmas Day
26	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 6:00 Cub Scouts	29 10:00 Pastors' Mtg	30 10:00 Quilters	31	

Copies of the full, council minutes are available to the congregation upon request and are kept in the church office.

Your 2021 Council Members & Staff are:

Gloria Rawlston, President **Ingrid Fortuna, VP** **Jessica Hackathorne, Secretary**
Beth Painter, Treasurer, Allen Cain, Cathy Dahlman, Gary Hart, Molly Iles, Dean Lanternier,
Dennis Luker, Danielle Nichols, Vicki McGuire **Staff:** Pastor Anderson, Pastor Combs, Laura
Dahlke, Carol Doucette, & Jim Faller

Committee Liaisons:

Stewardship: Allen Cain	Finance: Molly Iles
BMRG: Dean Lanternier	Hospitality: Dennis Luker
Children and Youth: Gary Hart	LRPC: Gloria Rawlston
Columbarium: Cathy Dahlman	Social Missions: Pastor Elise
Endowment/Waddell Scholarship: Ingrid Fortuna	Worship and Music: Danielle Nichols
Evangelism: Vicki McGuire	

Treasurer's Report

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A full set of Financial Statements are available upon request, or are available in the 2020 Annual Report outside of the office.

If you have an announcement you would like in the bulletin, newsletter, or on the Trinity Website, please fill out an announcement form OR E-mail the office.

tlcadmin@lutherantrinity.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE is:

December 20th

**Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
Monday through Thursday.**

If you need to come in at another time, you may make an appointment by calling the church office, 870-1236.

Pastor Anderson will be in the office
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 - 1:30,
and any other time by appointment.

Pastor Combs will be in the office
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 - 1:30,
and any other time by appointment.

If you missed church on Sunday,
Sermon videos are now available
on our Website and Facebook!

Welcoming people to Christ for over 60 years...

8:15 Traditional Service w/ Communion
& Facebook Live @ Trinity Lutheran—Worship Central

9:30 Contemporary Service (Gym) w/Communion

10:15 Sunday School

11:15 Traditional Service w/ Communion

Pastor Stanley Combs

E-mail: revstan@comcast.net **Phone:** 717-578-6851

Pastor Elise Anderson

E-mail: pastoreliseanderson@gmail.com

Phone: 803-730-2466

Laura Dahlke—Administrative Assistant

E-mail: tladmin@lutherantrinity.com **Text:** 423-834-4337

Jim Faller, A.I.M.—Organist and Choir Master

music@lutherantrinity.com

Congregational Council

council@lutherantrinity.com



Visit our website at
www.chattanooga.lutheran.org

~ Through the Love of Christ ~
*We are an exciting, welcoming, and growing community of
Christians sharing in God's love with one another,
the Chattanooga area, & the world.*