

December

“JOY, JOY, JOY!”

Dear Friends,

OK. I'll admit it. I have already been listening to Christmas music! And have been for much of the month of November. What is even more fun, is that my grandson, Griffin's favorite song currently is "Jingle Bell Rock!" We have been singing it year around for like the past year. Whenever, he has music class at daycare, he asks if they can sing, "Jingle Bell Rock!" Granted, it's not the most reverent of Christmas songs and someday soon I suspect he will have moved on from it. But for now, Christmas in the form of "Jingle Bell Rock" is a year-round event for our family. And I must admit, while his parents have grown tired of the song, hearing him sing it brings joy to my heart.

Christmas is meant to do just that – it's meant to bring joy; Joy to our world, joy to our community and joy to our lives. It's meant to be a reminder to us that God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus.

Joy is not the same as happiness. Happiness is dependent on external circumstances; joy comes from a heart filled with the love of Christ. It is not based on external circumstances but a peace that only God can give. For me, external circumstances are rather crazy this Advent-Christmas season – with selling a house, packing, moving, searching for a new home. Perhaps things are crazy in your life this season as well. Then, let the joy of Christmas fill you up and may it overflow from your heart into the lives of others. This is the true miracle of Christmas. That we can experience the joy that only the Son of God can give us and that it is possible to share it with others.

And you don't have to sing "Jingle Bell Rock" to know the joy of Christmas, all you have to do is sing the praises of the babe who became one of us that we might become one of His. Although, I think I'm gonna miss "Jingle Bell Rock" when Griffin moves on to a new song, but the joy it has brought me will remain. That is also how I feel about my time with you at Trinity. While we may have moved on, the joy you have brought me will forever remain in my heart.

It has indeed been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Senior Pastor. Thanks for the joy!

**In Christ's service,
Pastor Stan Combs**





OWLS

(Older, Wiser, Lutheran, Seniors)

December OWL Birthdays

- 4 – David Kroft
- 10 – Barbara Haar
- 28 – Harold Humphries

December OWL Anniversaries

John & Ann Ray Dec 12, 1999

HOOT! HOOT!

Our last gathering this year is Tuesday, December 6th, at 10:30 in the Paul George Room. We have a fun schedule planned we hope you enjoy. Bring your friends to share the fun.

Schedule

- 10:30 Sock Exchange—bring a pair of “fun” socks to swap—same rules as white elephant exchange
- 11:30 Lunch—free thanks to a Thrivent grant
- 12:30 Christmas Music with Bruce Clark

If you are attending and are not on Carol Hayde’s or Loli Allen’s list, please call or text David (512-773-0383) or Susan (512-773-0384) by Friday morning, December 2nd. We’ve had new OWLS attending whom we may have not assigned to a phone list. Hopefully this will be corrected next year.



December Birthdays

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



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
ADVENT-CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2022

Prepare the way of the Lord!

- November 27th - 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)
- November 30th - Advent Midweek Event: Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. Followed at 6:00pm with Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary.
- December 4th - The Second Sunday of Advent
- December 7th - Advent Midweek Event: Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. Followed at 6:00pm with Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary.
- December 10th - St. Nicholas Wrapping Party. We will meet in the chapel at 10:00 am to wrap presents for the St. Nicholas Party.
- December 11th - The Third Sunday of Advent – Bishop Kevin Strickland to preach. *Children's Christmas Pageant at 11:15 am service.*
- December 14th - Advent Midweek Event: Soup and Salad Supper from 5:00-6:00 pm. Followed at 6:00pm with Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary.
- December 15th - St Nicholas Party. Join us as we bring Christmas to the children of Alpine Crest Elementary. Party is from 5:30-7:00 pm.
- December 18th - The Fourth Sunday of Advent
- December 24th - CHRISTMAS EVE
4:30 p.m. - Family Oriented Christmas Candlelight Service
7:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- December 25th - 10:30 am – Carols and Lessons Service (Sanctuary & Facebook Live)

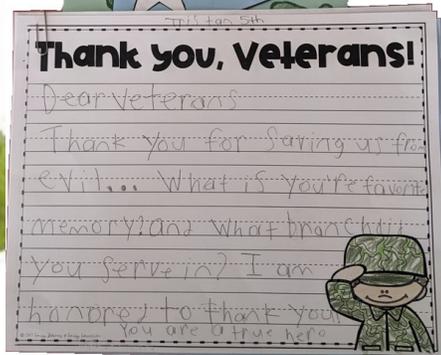
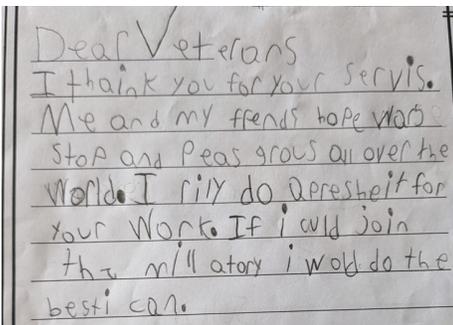
Ask Pastor Clay

“Pastor, why don’t we celebrate Christmas during the Sunday’s leading up to Christmas in December?”

This question or some form of this question is very common within our church membership and among many who visit with us in worship during the Advent Season. The simplest answer is that the Lutheran church has a developmental history and relationship to the earliest Christian worship practices, especially that of the early Roman Catholic Church of Martin Luther’s day. We Lutherans value our long church tradition history. We recognize the church season of Advent as a season of preparation for the Nativity that originated in France, and that its observance was general by 567 A.D.. Various locations there were some difference in the manner the season was observed, with additional Sundays being included. Rome then limited the Advent season to four Sundays. It took another 500 or 600 years, to around the thirteenth century that Advent was universally recognized as the beginning of the Christian year. Advent never attained the severely penitential character of the season of Lent, it has always been regarded as a season of solemn anticipation and spiritual preparation and purification. The music within our worship typically reflects the solemn nature of the Readings assigned during these four Sundays.

Admittedly the solemnity of our Advent services can frustrate those who wish to dive into the coming Christmas season. We must remember that Christmas in worship doesn’t end the day after Christmas but involves additional Sundays. Our church observes the seasons and festivals of the church year, out of tradition, and attempts to follow a well worn route to assist the worshipper into a greater understanding of God’s Good News. Listen closely to the readings during this Advent Season And know that they speak to you and me directly as each of us are led into a more close relationship with Jesus. - Pastor Clay Seneker, retired

Thank You Veterans!



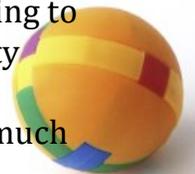


St. Nick Party



Our annual **St. Nicholas Party** at Alpine Crest Elementary will take place Thursday, **December 15th** from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Here is how you can help brighten a child's life at Christmas: Starting November 20th select a ticket from the tree in the narthex. Cut and take your portion of the ticket while writing your name and phone number on the part still attached to the tree. (Or Call into the office and ask for a child to be assigned to you.) Next shop for the requested gifts on the back of your ticket, and return them to the church by Wednesday, December 7th. In order to maintain fairness, we ask that you purchase 5 gifts per child, no more and no less. If you rather not do the shopping, you can also make a monetary donation and volunteers will do the shopping and wrapping for you! Just note that your donation is for St. Nicholas party.

We will have a **Wrapping Party** on Saturday, **December 10th** from 10:00am – noon. If you have a Thrivent Action Team yet to be used in 2022 and you are willing to use it for St. Nicholas, please let Pastor Stan know. You can also help with the party itself as we need folks to stage the party, help with the party itself and clean-up following. Let's share the spirit of Christmas in a year when Christmas is so very much needed!



In recognition of his military service, **Gene Herrin** was chosen by Trinity's pastors to receive a patriotic themed quilt made by the Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilters, John Ray, Ann Ray and Veda Moore.

Gene holds the distinction of currently being the most elderly surviving veteran at Trinity.

Born in Huntsville, Alabama, Gene was raised in rural Georgia. After graduating from high school in 1952, he was hired by a local textile mill because of his baseball skills. He was a catcher on their Textile League team.

When two of his best friends got drafted into the US Army, Gene decided to enlist and join them. Ironically, they went separate directions and he never saw them again.

Gene was trained to become a cryptologist. He spent 1954-1956, decoding military top secret messages at a base in Anchorage, Alaska.

The members of Trinity are pleased to express gratitude to Gene and all veterans for their willingness to serve our country.



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

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

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



Prayer Lists



Shawn & Mark (Marlene Hiltunen)
 Lynn Ayers (Cree Giesel)
 Scott Baily (Fran Balsis)
 Alice Barnett
 Colin Bakse (Sondra Hart)
 Bill Balsis
 Susan Bolinger (Ginny Minninger)
 Amy Bradshaw (Joyce Davis)
 Gene & Laura Cline
 Tommy Dixon (Dale Elmlade)
 Linda Draeger
 Paul Giesel (David Giesel)
 Doris Harsman
 Jeanie Hilburn (Zelma Pack)
 Marlene Hiltunen

David Hopkins (Fran Balsis)
 June Hoover (Fran Balsis)
 Rebecca Krause
 Joshua Lewis (Laura Dahlke)
 Buck Mayfield
 Sherry McKinney (Fran Balsis)
 Britt McPherson
 David Miller (Dale Elmlade)
 Art Minninger
 Elfie Owen
 Beth Painter
 Bill & Michael Pell (Joyce Davis)
 Gigi Penticuff
 Klaus & Laura Peucker
 Apryl Reno (Carol Bell)
 Michael Schmank (Loli Allen)

Elaine & Judy Schoeller (Anne Cain)
 Ida Seneker
 Karen Smith
 Rae Snyder
 Leon Stonecipher (Joyce Davis)
 Maureen Turner (Carol Bell)
 Hedy Vincent (Ingrid Fortuna)
 Eleonore Williams

Please, update the office with changes.

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.

Ideas for Advent

MAKE ORNAMENTS FOR THE TREE	DANCE TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC	HAVE HOT COCOA
DO A CHRISTMAS CRAFT	MAKE A CARD FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL	PAY SOMEONE A COMPLIMENT
HAVE WAFFLES AND ICE CREAM FOR DINNER	DRIVE AROUND TO SEE THE LIGHTS	BAKE A HOLIDAY TREAT
MAKE A PAPER GARLAND	MAKE A TREAT FOR THE NEIGHBORS	SLUMBER PARTY BY THE TREE
WRITE DOWN GOALS FOR THE NEW YEAR	SKYPE OR FACETIME A RELATIVE	MAKE PAPER SNOWFLAKES
ATTEND A CHRISTMAS CONCERT	WATCH A CHRISTMAS MOVIE	DONATE FOOD TO THE FOOD BANK
EAT DINNER BY CANDLELIGHT	RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS	PREPARE A FAMILY RECIPE
DECORATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE	BAKE & DECORATE COOKIES	READ TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Memorial gifts...

Gifts have been received in honor of Dave Klepper & Janet Hope:

Carol Bell Dave & Bev Bergevin Mary Carlson-Waddell Alan & Marcia Crews
Sal & Judy DiStasio Dale Elmlblade Jim & Joy Faller Annette Fanning Susan Gilbert
Debra Greiner Fred & Kim Hencke Kitty Hilliard Dennis & Frances Luker
Dean & Cathy Muncy Richard & Kathleen Reno Rex & Mary Smith

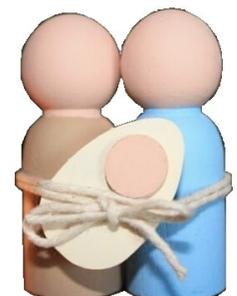
Gifts have been received in memory of Randy Roark:

Fred & Kim Hencke

Trinity's basic **FOOD PANTRY** is a way that members of our church serve the community. Families that find themselves in **EMERGENCY** need of food are provided with a box of dry goods to hold them over until they can find other resources.

Other FOOD PANTRY items are:

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti Noodles
- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Powdered Milk
- Cereal
- Cans of Tuna
- Boxes of Tuna Helper
- Instant Potatoes
- Jelly
- Canned Soup
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Saltine Crackers
- Ramen Noodle
- PB Crackers
- Fruit Bars
- Plastic Utensils (saved from restaurants)
- Gallon Jugs of Water
- Most Canned food with Pop Tops
- Fabric Shopping Bags (from home)
- NO CLOTHES FOR NOW
- 6 packs of crackers, assorted flavors
- Canned/ packaged meat
- Gatorade powder
- Camping meals/ MREs
- Peanut Butter Pretzels
- Dried fruit
- Cookies
- Instant coffee/ tea/ hot chocolate
- Blankets/ sleeping bags
- Feminine products
- Can openers
- Tarps
- Utensils/ plates/ bowls/ cups (reusable is best)
- Socks
- Brushes
- Hand warmers
- Dog food
- Travel size Shampoo
- Toilet paper
- Conditioner
- Garbage bags
- Lotion
- Baby wipes
- Soap/ body wash
- Laundry detergent



December Servers

Those	who serve in	December
Ushers		
<i>December 4th</i>	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	Karen Smith, Ann Ray	Susan Gilbert, Claudia Bargiel
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Mary Jenkins	Alan Crews
Greeters		
Counters	XX	Bobbie Iles, Dean Lanternier
<i>December 11th</i>	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	Karen Smith, Ann Ray	Bev Bergevin, Phyllis Sims
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Herb Burhenn	
Greeters		
Counters	XX	Bobbie Iles, Dean Lanternier
<i>December 18th</i>	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	Karen Smith, Ann Ray	Marg Petersen, Fran Balsis, Kim White
Asst. Minister		
Lector	Mary Jenkins	Alan Crews
Greeters		Fran Balsis & Kim White
Counters	XX	Bobbie Iles, Dean Lanternier
<i>December 25th</i>	8:15	11:15
Altar Guild	Frances Luker	Vicki McGuire
Asst. Minister		
Lector		Janet Hope
Greeters		
Counters	XX	Bobbie Iles, Dean Lanternier



DECEMBER 2022



				1	2	3
4	5	6	5:30 Advent Dinner	7	8	9
10	11	12	5:30 Advent Dinner	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



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

Your 2022 Council Members & Staff are:

Gloria Rawlston, President

Alan Crews, VP

Mary Jenkins, Secretary

Beth Painter, Treasurer, Allen Cain, Cathy Dahlman, Ingrid Fortuna, Jessica Hackathorne, Molly Iles, Dean Lanternier, Dennis Luker, Vicki McGuire, Danielle Nichols

Staff: Pastor Anderson, Pastor Combs, Laura Dahlke, Carol Doucette, & Jim Faller

Treasurer's Report

October 2022 Financial Report

TLC monthly budget is \$25,376; \$29,390 was received. An additional \$1,252 was given to dedicated accounts (ie Neighbors in Need, Waddell Scholarship, Youth Fundraisers, Memorials etc) . Year to date receipts were \$273,278 with an additional \$41,468 was given to dedicated accounts.

Monthly loss (General Fund Income less Ordinary Expenses) for October is \$6,057. YTD loss is \$11,348.

A full set of Financial Statements are available upon request, or are available in the 2021 Annual Report outside of the church 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 19th!

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, **10:30 - 2:30**, 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: tleadmin@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.*