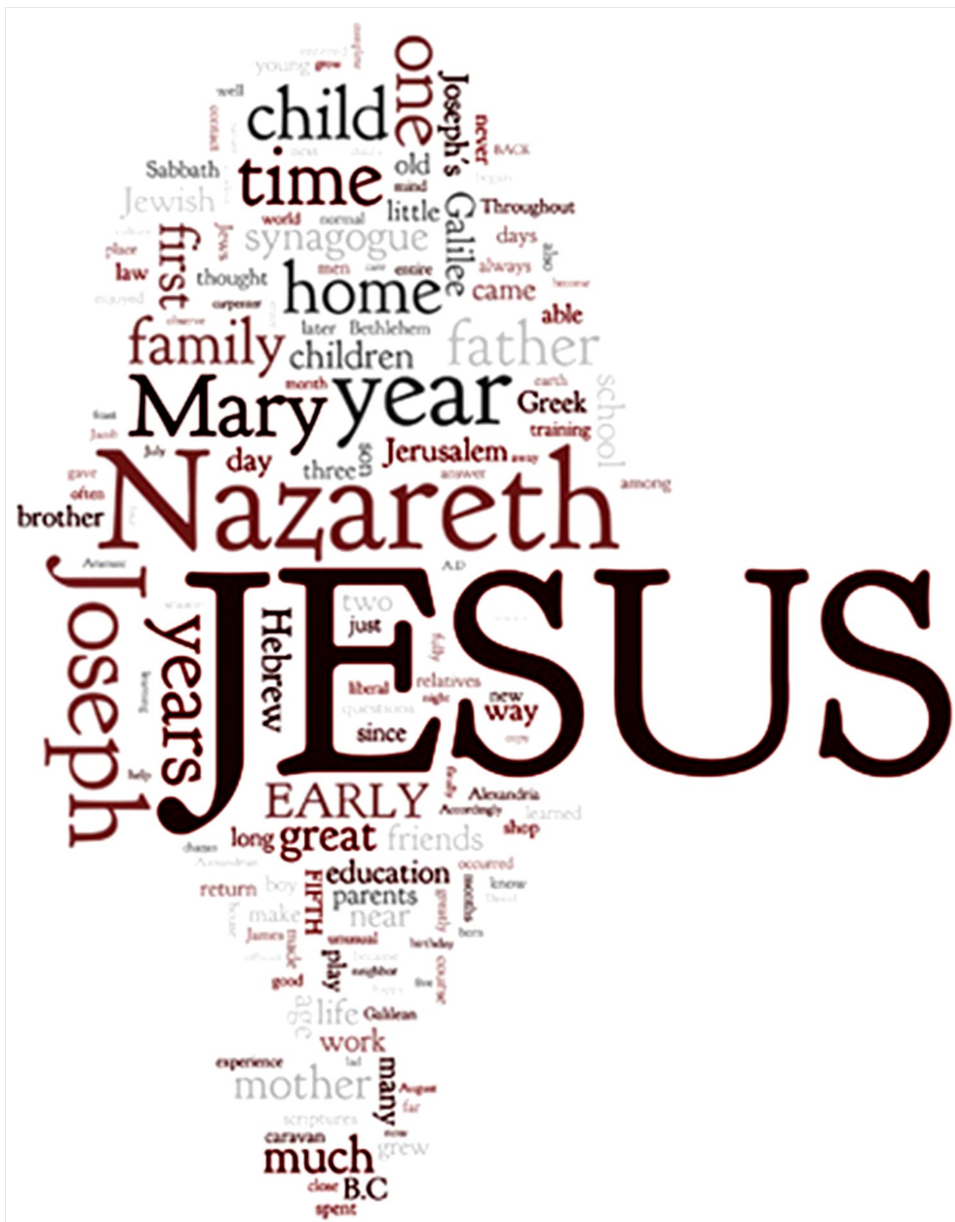


**HOLY TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

2023 Vol 31. Issue 12

*To Be and To Make
Disciples of
Jesus Christ*

DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Families were decorating for Christmas in my neighborhood as soon as Halloween was over. No recognition of Thanksgiving. They went straight to Christmas. This behavior shows me that people are longing for something better than they are experiencing now. They want joy. But do they know what will bring them true joy? Or will they move right to Valentine's Day on December 26th? This is why we need the Advent season before we celebrate Christmas.

The word Advent means "coming." It is the season of the Church year where we are reminded of the reality of Christ's coming into our world. It is a season of preparation and anticipation, not simply for the celebration of Christmas, but to recognize that hope and expectation are a part of our daily life of faith.

When writing on the subject of Advent, Martin Luther spoke of three different "comings" of Christ: The first coming was indeed when Christ was born as a child in Bethlehem – his coming in the past. The first advent was when the eternal Son of God took on human flesh and became a living part of our world.

As Christians, we also believe in the second coming of Christ – his coming in the future. At the end of all time, Christ will return to bring his kingdom to fulfillment. On that day he will raise us up to appear before his throne of judgment.

The third coming of Christ of which Luther spoke has no single particular time attached to it, so it is perhaps better
cont'd next pg

to put no number to it at all. This other coming of Christ does not occur with portents in the heavens, no choirs of angels on high. It is an advent that is hard to see at all, because it happens through the Spirit of God. This is Christ's coming into the present, when our Lord enters into the hearts of everyday people in the here and now, through his Word, in faith.

Of the three, this may be the single most important Advent of Christ, at least as far as our salvation is concerned. Because it is only through the advent of faith that the first and second comings of Christ take on meaning for us as individuals. It is when Christ enters our hearts that his presence becomes a reality for each of us in our lives, and we recognize all the many ways that God is truly with us.

We are reminded in Romans 8:24-25 – *Hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.* May we use the four weeks of the Advent season to prepare our hearts to receive the coming Messiah so that when we celebrate His arrival during the twelve days of Christmas we all may join in saying, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Kathy





Hanging
of the
Greens

Hanging of the
Greens
Saturday,
December 2
9:00am

Special
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

Sunday 12/3— 10am Worship

Sunday 12/10—10am Worship

Sunday, 12/17—10am Worship

Sunday, 12/24—10am Worship

**Christmas Eve—7pm Candlelight Service
with Holy Communion**

**Sunday, 12/31—10am Christmas
Lessons & Carols**

This year we are adopting two (2) families from Boy Scout Troop 152. One is a family of 5; the other is a family of 4, a grandmother raising 3 grandchildren.



The Christmas tree is up in the Narthex. Take an ornament tag, buy the gift requested, and return the gift (wrapped or unwrapped) by Saturday, December 16th.

Please drop off your gifts to the Lounge or the Church Office!

Thank you for your participation!



Get your Christmas Poinsettia orders & payment into the office by Thursday, December 7. Poinsettias will be displayed on Sunday, December 17, and can be taken home after the December 24 morning worship service.

December Birthdays

1st—Jeanell Dooley
Kaley Bowman
8th—Jolene Sandor
9th—Margaret McKown
11th—Miriam Myers
Bryan Smith
Paul Yoha
21st—Jerry Fraifogl



A Heartfelt Thank You

from Ethel Lemert for remembering her 105th birthday! All the cards, wishes and prayers brought her pleasure.

Upcoming DEADLINES

Committee Chairs: Annual Reports will be due to the Office Administrator by Friday, January 19. *Emailed copies are preferred.*



Endowment Fund Note

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund is in place to help Holy Trinity ensure that its mission of being an instrument in outreaching to those in need through the work of the church and seeing that its vision is met. Contributing to the fund through charitable gifts like designating IRAs or transfer of life insurance upon death is a way you can give back to God for his many gifts.

Your Family and Generosity

Rev. Dona Johnson

How does one become a generous person? Are people born generous? Or is it learned? A Barna Group study of generosity among Christians found two types of people: givers, those who are generous and give freely; and keepers, people who guard and take their time, talents and money for themselves.

For many of us, generosity is a way of life. how we give to God and to others was modeled for us by parents, extended family members and mentors in the faith.

One way to be more reflective about giving is to look at the emotional processes within our own families. Money can easily become a focus for anxiety—a chronic, ongoing preoccupation with survival and security. Research shows that financial hardships produce added anxiety and fear in families and can have negative effects on children and interparental relationships. Who in your family of origin expresses generosity to you? What was the general attitude towards philanthropy and stewardship? How was gift-giving expressed in your family? Was generosity reciprocated, or was it one-sided, leading to animosity? Perhaps giving became strictly a duty and obligation with little joy. How did the faith of your parents play out in your understanding of generosity?

Another area to look at in our families is the overfunctioning of those who take on too much of the responsibility of giving and those who underfunction by not taking on enough responsibility. You see this play out in many congregations—there are people who give more, worry more and spend more time thinking about money than others. If you find yourself staying awake at night about money matters, you are overfunctioning.* Remember the financial stability of every congregation is every member's responsibility, not solely that of the

pastors or the leadership.

Pastors often underfunction in the area of generosity and giving. Many don't like to deal with money matters and often feel inadequate when preaching about giving and/or reading financials and spreadsheets. But underfunctioning, like overfunctioning, is a result of anxiety, and both can cause problems that affect stability.

A well-functioning family helps its members develop into financially independent adults—not codependents. Likewise, an effective church leader enables the financial team to develop autonomy and provide meaningful, objective information for clear decision making.

In more than half of Jesus' 38 parables, he addressed money and our relationship with money. You see, we all have a unique money backstory, and our families greatly influence how we relate emotionally and spiritually to giving.

But God wants us to find our true self and understand and be increasingly aware of our weaknesses, strengths, and motivations. God urges us to take a deeper and longer look at how, through the generations, we have been influenced and shaped in our response to money and material things. God calls us to question our giving patterns and our behaviors so we will be set free from the fears, worries and anxieties that keep us away from living a life that is fully free, fully alive and fully dependent on His boundless and inexhaustible love for us!



from North American Lutheran Church Loving and Giving Ministry. ©2023 North American Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER OUTREACH MINISTRY

Monthly meetings have been changed to 1pm on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.

Church members signed up to ring bells for Salvation Army on Wednesday, November 29 at Kroger on Lexington Ave.

A Christmas gift tree is in the Narthex, decorated with tags. The tags list Christmas list items for 2 families with a total of 6 kids. Please take a tag, buy the requested item, and return it to the church (wrapped or unwrapped) by Saturday, December 16.

celebrate the
Reason
for the season



Scouts Troop 152
Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
& Cake Auction
Sunday, November 12



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<h1>December 2023</h1>			
3 ADVENT 1	4	5	6
9a Parish Ed Mtg			
10a Worship Svc			
Budget Meeting / Elections for Council & Endowment		5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Dance Lessons	
1p Confirmation		6p Property Mtg	
10 ADVENT 2	11	12	13
			10a ComfortMal
10a Worship Svc			
11:15a Youth/Adult		5:15p HT Bells	
		6p Dance Lessons	
3p-6p Squares Dance		5:30p Council Potluck	
17 ADVENT 3	18	19	20
10a Worship Svc	9:30a PEO - L		
11:15a Youth/Adult Ed		1p Outreach Ministry	2p Finance
1p Confirmation	6p Scouts		
24 ADVENT 4	25	26	27
10a Worship Svc	<i>Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ - Immanuel - God With Us</i>		
		Office Closed	
7p Candlelight Svc			
31	<h2>Looking Forward -</h2>		
10a Worship Svc			

SDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3		1	2
			9a Hanging of the Greens
		6p Scouts Overnight	Scouts Overnight 10a
	7	8	9
	10a Bible Study		
	12:30p HT Singers		
	1:30p Books Coffee & Dessert Book Club	2:00P Movie Matinee – doors open at 1:40pm	
	6p Dance Lessons		
	7p Appleseed Squares		
	14	15	16
tMakers	10a Bible Study		
	11:30a Worship & Music		
	12:30p HT Singers		Christmas Dance 7-10:30p
	6p Dance Lessons		
	7p Appleseed Squares		
	21	22	23
		Office Closed	
	12:30p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		
	28	29	30
		Office Closed	
	12:30p HT Singers		
	6p Dance Lessons		

- A Culture of Generosity - 2024

IN CHRIST

	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17	
Head Usher	JIM FLEMING			
Greeter	Karen Ticknor			
Lectors	Kathy Glessner	Barney Musselman	Ruth Schindler	
Ushers	CHUCK & SHIRLEY ROBINSO			
Communion Assistants	Mary Steude & Jerry Unruh	Mary Steude & Doug Rhodes	Mary Steude & Doug Rhodes	
Altar Guild	KATHY GLESSNER AND			
Counters	DON & RO			
Snow Removal	KARL THEM	JONATHAN BUTZ	DOUG RHODES	

F'S SERVICE

7	SUNDAY A.M. DECEMBER 24	CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24	SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
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JIM FLEMING

Karen Ticknor

	Cindy Shasky	TBA	TBA
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SON AND TOM & NANCY PASHEILICH

& ;	Mary Steude & Doug Rhodes	N/A	Mary Steude & Doug Rhodes
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ND JERRY & BARBARA FRAIFOGL

ROBERTA KARGER

;	JERRY UNRUH		DON KARGER
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Large Catechism Class

Interested in digging deeper into Luther's Catechism? Pastor Kathy will be leading a class starting the week of January 1st through the week of February 5th. Exact days and times have not been confirmed yet, and there may be an evening class, too, based on interest. **Please sign-up on the Welcome table to let Pastor Kathy know your interest.** Pastor Kathy will provide all study materials for you.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERING

Salvation Army

Please Make Checks Payable to HTLC

The December Special Offering envelope supports the Salvation Army. Monies received will be matched by our Tithes on the Bequest and Memorial Fund.

The Christmas Offering envelope supports the General Fund.



BUDGET

Annual Budget Meeting is schedule for Sunday, December 3, following the morning Worship service. Finance Chair will provide the proposed budget for 2024 which will be voted upon.



OUR TRADITIONAL CANDLELIGHT SERVICE ON CHRISTMAS EVE WILL BEGIN AT 7PM ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24. PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US IN THIS CELEBRATION OF GODS GIFT TO US

JESUS - THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.



SUNDAY FOOD COLLECTION

Your non-perishable donations are a gift to those in need!

Every month we deliver your food donations to a local agency: Salvation Army, Domestic Violence Shelter or Wayfinders (formerly Harmony house).

Bring in your



LAST FRIDAY MOVIE MATINEE



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

2:00pm

Doors Open at 1:40pm

Join us for Fellowship, Fun, and
Free Popcorn!

BOOKS, COFFEE AND DESSERT BOOK CLUB

The book club will meet at 1:30pm on Thursday, December 7, at the home of Linda Fleming to discuss the book *Christmas By The Book* by Anne Marie Ryan. We will be voting on books for February—June 2024.

Join us for discussion, fellowship and
dessert.

The book club does not meet in January.

If you have questions, contact Linda
Fleming @ 419-756-4929.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday

9:30am—12:30pm

Pastor Kathy is Out of Office on Mondays.

2023 St Luke's Hot Meals

The final 2023 St. Luke's Hot Meal was served on Nov. 25. Food was prepared for 100 guests and we served 71 meals, in addition to several to-go meals and a few second helpings.

This was the first meal since Feb.2023 that the kitchen crew was able to eat a bite after their hard work. Pastor Paul Lintern passed along compliments to our team from Church Requel. They had a meal on November 26 after their church service and commented on our effectiveness and efficiency in taking on this project as our own.

Thanks so much for all that provided cookies and helped with the meal. Your willingness to assist has made our 2023 meals a success!! More to come on the 2024 meal schedule as we get closer to that time. ~Elaine Bishop

Sanctuary or Altar Candle dedications can still be made on a monthly basis. Sign up on the forms in the Narthex.

You will receive a reminder card prior to your commitment. Your payment of \$10 for each dedication can be returned in the envelope which will be provided to you. Your dedication will be included in the weekly bulletins for your chosen month.

Flower dedications can still be made. You may choose to purchase a bouquet to be placed on Sunday mornings before service. If you would like to include a dedication for the flowers, please notify the office by 10AM WEDNESDAY MORNING before the flowers will be placed.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF HOLY TRINITY, PLEASE LET PASTOR KATHY KNOW.

If you have missed a service or you want to review notes you made during a service, we have started posting Pastor's sermons on our website. Visit us at HolyTrinityMansfield.org and scroll down on the homepage where you will find the most recent service posted for your listening convenience.

In the SoundCloud box, click on the church's name, you will be directed to her previous sermons, as well.



MY TIMES ARE
IN YOUR
hands
PSALM 31:15

*The heart of man
plans his way, but
the Lord establishes
his steps. ~Prove 16:9*



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

525 WEST COOK ROAD
MANSFIELD, OHIO 44907

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

CONTACT INFORMATION
525 West Cook Road
Mansfield, Ohio 44907
Phone: 419-756-7547
www.holytrinitymansfield.org

BUSINESS HOURS:
9:30am-12:30pm Mon-Thu

VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a Christ-centered Bible-based Church, equipping disciples with Scripture to share the good news of God's reconciling love with conviction, courage and compassion while responding to the needs of others in our community and the world.