

# December 12, & 13 2020 Weekly Bulletin

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Principal/Associate Pastor: Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Church Administrative Assistant: Beth Wohlrabe

Church (920) 722-2662, School (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am-3:00pm



## ✝ This Week at Trinity ✝

### Sunday, December 13

9:00AM Worship in Church & Online

10:30AM Education Hour - Online & In Person

### Monday, December 14

Pastor's Day Off

5:30PM K5 & 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Christmas Service in Church & Online

6:00PM At Home Prayer Time

6:30PM Women's Bible Study Online

### Tuesday, December 15

6:30AM Ladies Bible Study

5:30PM 3 & 4 year old Christmas Service in Church & Online

### Wednesday, December 16

10:30AM 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service in Church & Online

5:00PM Catechism

6:30PM 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service in Church & Online

### Thursday, December 17

6:00AM Men's Bible Study

8:30AM Day School Caroling Online

Noon School Dismissal

### Friday, December 18

No School

### Saturday, December 19

9:00AM-9:30AM Food Pantry Drive Up

5:00PM Worship in Church & Online

### Sunday, December 20

9:00AM Worship in Church & Online

10:30AM Education Hour - Online & In Person

## ✝ We Pray For... ✝

The family of Bill Dull, Sandy Rammer, Mike Godwin, Barbara Thomas, Rick Stanford, Mona Bahrke, Scott Henrickson, Jason Seals, Lee Weinig, Barbara Kester, Merry Voigt, Karen Beard, Rose Kosloski, Alyce and James Thurber, Kari Lindner, Joan Reinke, Tom Drum, Merle Webber, Joyce Virchow, Wendy Kondzela, Oliver Siegel, Roy Mehl, Jeff Dionne, Laurel Wirth, Donna Mies, Roman Brockman, Kathy Rigotti, Dianne Olsen, Norb Pomerence, Alan Manteufel, Shirley Fleischer, Don Mader, Ann Keller, Mark Becker, Roman & Flora Turenko, Scott Dontje, Scott Steenepoorte, Tom Howden and family, and Lynn Olson.

## ✝ Stewardship Lesson ✝

**1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”** Christians express their thanks to God in many ways: in prayer, in giving to the Lord's work, in acts of service to others, and in faithful living in their daily callings. Everything we do to honor God in our lives is a means of returning thanks for the Lord's many gifts to us.

## News, Events, Requests, Etc.

Visit us at: [www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com) or

“Like” Us on Facebook.

## \$ Current Finances \$

Monthly Income Needed: **\$75,637**

Income as of December 6: \$14,608

**This Weekend's Banners- The Pulpit Banner** - "Advent Candles & Holly." **The Lectern Banner** – "You are My Witnesses." **Banner in Narthex-** "Scripture Alone, Faith Alone, Grace Alone."

**A Memorial gift-** was given to the Day School Tuition Assistance Fund in memory of Bill Buksyk

**Church Office-** The church office hours are Monday-Friday 8AM-3PM.

**Teaching the Faith Bible Study-** with Pastor GeRue. We meet Sundays from 10:30–11:30 AM in the meeting room. Some topics will be Holy Scriptures, God's Law, Creation, Salvation, The Trinity, God, Confession, Sacraments; things you were afraid to ask & more. The study is open to all. It is a review of the Lutheran Christian Faith and serves as an Adult Information / Confirmation Class.

**Prayer Chain-** Barbara Kester is head of the Prayer Chain. If you desire prayers for yourself or someone else, please call Barbara at (920) 722-3228.

**Church Mailbox-** Please look for your name on your church mailbox.

**Ushers-** We are looking for more ushers to help on Wednesday night, Saturday, and Sunday. If you would like to help, please contact Beth at the office and she can get you on the schedule.

**Portals of Prayer-** Devotional books are \$.75 each. Please let the office know if you wish to purchase one.

**Women's Bible Study-** If you wish to join the online Women's Bible Study contact Connie Henkel by email at [sonshine\\_54952@yahoo.com](mailto:sonshine_54952@yahoo.com) or call (920) 725-0694.

**Altar Flowers-** If you wish to donate flowers please contact the office. The cost of providing Altar flowers is \$25.00.

**Volunteers-** To help with temperature taking on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Howden (920) 730-9521.

**From Board of Properties-** Hello everyone, Cold and snowy weather is upon us. Which means it's time to dust off the shovels! Please prayerfully consider signing up for one-month, multiple months, or the entire season! If you are interested, there are two ways to sign-up: contact Eric Voigt ([property@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:property@trinitymenasha.com)) or contact Beth through the Church Office.

We are also looking for help with shoveling before school starts in the morning and before school is released in the afternoon. Please contact Eric Voigt or Lee Colby with any questions or for more information.

Thank you.

**New 2021 Church Directory-** Please look for your new 2021 Church Directory in your church mailbox. If you did not get one, please contact Beth in the office and she will give you one.

**Shelter Blanket Sewers Wanted!** If you can sew a straight seam, or close to it, we have a need for you. We have a lot of squares and strips ready to be sewn together into quilt tops. This is a project you can do at home. Contact LaVerne Werth @ 740-0381. Machines are also available for your use.

**Thank you-** to all who participated in the Taste of Trinity Fundraiser. Approximately \$200 was raised for the Organ fund. Anyone looking for a sweet treat for a Christmas present, or themselves, can contact Rosemary Collingwood for Jams.

Thank you everyone! Elaine & Rosemary

**Thank you-** Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML extends a heartfelt "thank you" to the many members of our Trinity Family who supported our "Call to Order Bake Sale." It was a joy to do something for you and we pray it brought you joy. We are also thankful for the numerous donations. Our final proceeds are \$1992.00. The money will be used in its entirety for missions and Trinity Church and School projects and will be disbursed in January 2021. To God be the Glory!

## **Christmas Blessings from Your Board of Worship**

The year 2020 has put us through a lot of changes since March. Many of the decorating participants from the past have been asking about the plans for this year. Let's just say – it's going to be a different look and feel. We have decided to build the anticipation for Christ's birth in our decorating format this year. No large, massive explosion of decorations all done in one day, but a more subtle increase to point the way to His birth. If you wish to be involved in the plans you can contact Sally Bolan @ 920-422-2054. Sally will be contacting past workers to assist with some aspects of the process that they are familiar with. Our prayer is to have us all return to the true meaning of Christmas and not be fixated on how elaborate our decorations are.

A blessed Christmas to All,

Elaine, Sally, Beth, Chantay, Val & Kari

## **Trinity's Food Pantry**

Thank you to all who continue to support Trinity's Food Pantry through food & monetary donations. We have truly been blessed by your generosity! You are providing for many who are in need at this time. We are in need of the following non-perishables: Cereal, Canned Pasta, Mac & Cheese, and Pudding/Jello. If you or someone you know would benefit from the pantry, call Steve Reinke at 920-540-5090.

## **\$ SCRIP News \$**

**SCRIP** is sold in the Church Office Mon-Friday from 8:00AM-3:00PM.

How to Order Scrip? You can call the office Monday-Friday 8:00AM-3:00PM, Or email Beth with your order -- [bwohlrabe@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:bwohlrabe@trinitymenasha.com). She will put it together and you can receive your order at door #7 when the office is open.

Kwik Trip Scrip is back to a 10% rebate, limited time only. Get yours today!

Pick up your Tom's Drive In Scrip - at a 10% rebate now through the end of the year. Get yours today!

**Luther and the Christmas Tree-** According to tradition, Luther may have popularized the tradition of the Christmas tree to express and teach theology to his family. On his way home one evening, he became overwhelmed by the incredible beauty of a fir tree positioned against the backdrop of the brilliant starlit sky. He so desperately wanted to describe what he had seen to his family, that he brought home a fir tree and even decorated the tree with candle tapers, mimicking the stars that hung over the manger where the newborn Messiah lay.

## **✠ School News ✠ "Sent to Serve"**



### **School Christmas Services**

Sign up with Mr. Dahms for any of these services. They will fill up quickly because of limited seating. All of them will be live streamed on the Trinity Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-and-School-137682064805>.

Mon. Dec. 14 5:30PM K5, 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders

Tues. Dec. 15 5:30PM 3 & 4 year old

Wed. Dec. 16 10:30AM & 6:30PM 5<sup>th</sup>– 8<sup>th</sup> Graders

† **School News** †  
**“Sent to Serve”**  
**Upcoming Events**

Dec 14: K5—2nd Grade Christmas Service  
Dec 14: Final order deadline for SCRIP  
Dec 15: 3 & 4 year old Christmas Service  
Dec 16: 5th—8th grade Christmas Service  
Dec 17: Facebook Caroling / Noon Dismissal  
Dec 18-Jan 3: Christmas Break

**Angel Tree**

This year instead of an Angel Tree for a school wish list, we are asking for gift cards to be donated directly to teachers and staff. There are many in stock and available through Scrip. This is a great way to help your teacher's classroom or the school through your donation.

Our School Staff includes:

3PS: Mrs. Caitlin Vanden Bloomer

4K: Miss Nina Johnson

5K: Mrs. Heather Andreshak

1st-2nd: Miss Kirsten Johnston

3rd-4th: Mrs. Valerie GeRue

5th-6th: Miss Elizabeth Bahrns

7th-8th: Mrs. Rachel Maloney

Aide: Miss Desiree Wittmann

Custodian: Mr. Lee Colby

Cook: Mrs. Anne Dahms

Admin. Assistant: Nathan Dahms

Principal: Rev. Keith GeRue

**This week's theme: “Joy in Serving”**

Isaiah 61:8–11

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation” **(Is. 61:10)**.

Have you ever lost joy? Sometimes joy gets lost even as we prepare for Christmas. Some may look for joy in presents, but they don't find it there. Some may look for joy in decorations, but they don't find it there. Some may look for joy in family celebrations, but they don't find it there.

Advent is a season of repentance. We are sorry for the sins that caused Jesus to leave the glory of heaven to come to earth to be our Savior. However, in the time of sorrow

for our sins, we also consider the joy that we have in Jesus as our Savior. The pink candle that we light this third week of the Advent season is a reminder of our joy.

The prophet Isaiah often shared God's messages of judgment with the people of Israel. Because of their sins of unfaithfulness to God, God would allow their enemies to come and take away their earthly kingdom. Defeated, some of them would ultimately be taken prisoners. Some examples of God's messages of judgment are found in the chapters before our text. Isaiah 59 shares, “Your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you” **(v. 2)**. “For our transgressions are multiplied before you, and our sins testify against us; ... and we know our iniquities” **(v. 12)**.

God would be faithful to His promise to send the Savior through His chosen people. The Savior would be faithful to all God's promises and would pay the price for their and our sins. Throughout the Book of Isaiah, the prophet also shares the Good News. Isaiah is God's prophet to share that “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel” **(Is. 7:14)**. Isaiah also described the suffering of the Savior in great detail **(Isaiah 53)**.

Isaiah speaks for himself and for God's people, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord.” We are blessed with Advent joy. Jesus, the Savior, has come. God's Word will take us to find that joy in Bethlehem as we celebrate Jesus' birth. God's Word will bring that joy to us in all seasons. We don't have to look for joy. Joy has found us in Jesus!

**PRAYER:** Jesus, help us to see beyond the joy of decorations, gifts, and other trimmings of the season. True joy is found in You as our Savior from sin. Give us joy in our lives and help us to bring Your joy to others. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS UNMASKED

First, a disclaimer - this is not a ranting for or against masks during a pandemic. This is, however, a message to show how masks give us a new angle to understand Christmas and Jesus. Let me explain...

In every religion, in every century, there's a deep longing to see God. To know "What does God look like?" And ever since man has made art, we've made art of god or gods to be worshiped.

And while Judaism forbade making graven images of God, the Jewish Scriptures do recognize humanity's deep need to see God's face. In fact, worship is sometimes called "seeking God's face", and the most-famous blessing in Jewish Scripture includes this line that the "LORD make his face shine upon you." And Moses – you know, the ten commandments guy? – he has this encounter with God, and he asks to see God's face; but the Lord responds that he must cover Moses' eyes as he passes by because "no one can see God and live".

So, it's not just that we want to see God's face, but also that God masks his face. Which is why Christmas is so mind-boggling.

Because there, in a dingy cave in a forgotten village, humanity got its first glimpse of God's face. With the birth of Jesus, God took the mask off. Christmas unmasked God. And we could look into God's eyes. God's smile. God's...face.

Even more outrageous? God invited illiterate shepherds, a rejected teenage girl, and cattle to be the first to behold the face of God. One of first-century biographer of

Jesus said it like this, "The Word – as in the God we only knew and heard about through what was spoken – suddenly, this Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Later, one of Jesus' closest followers begged Jesus to see the face of God and said, "Show us the Father". And I love Jesus' response when he says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." So how does this change the way you and I celebrate Christmas?

Well, I know you want this pandemic to be over and done. So do I. And you might be feeling a little lonely. So am I. However, you can use that frustration, that longing, to give you a deeper appreciation of what you have in Jesus this Christmas. You are no longer separated from God. There is no longer a barrier between you and the Divine. You can celebrate this season because of what – or Who – Christmas unmasked.