

The Trinity Trends - January 2024

Volume 24 Issue 1



Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Faith,

Most likely, you will be reading this during the "Twelve Days of Christmas", so I am safe to draw on the images and themes of this potent and life-changing season. Upon the birth of Christ depends the very presence of God's love in our world — and our hearts, indi-

vidually and collectively!

Of all the Christmas Carols, this year the one that has held my attention and commanded my reflection and I am struck by is "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear". Not often listed as part of the top ten favorites, this rather obscure carol has its origins in Boston, MA, with the text written by Edmund H. Sears. Perhaps you recognize it as the carol insistently focused on the angels' song at Jesus' birth.

From the outset, the carol weaves a majestic image of "angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold". You can see the picture in your mind's eye — dark blue sky, strewn with pin-points of starlight and punctuated with heavenly beings bowing toward earth, singing and plucking harps..."Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious king" is the message.

Oh, how that message needs a hearing in our day. It is as true in 2024 as it was in 1849, when Sears penned the text! No longer is the third stanza included in our hymnals for singing...in the Lutheran circles it was dropped with the printing of the 1978 green hymnal. Included here are the words I sang as a child in the 1952 red hymnal:

*Yet with the woes of sin and strife,
The world hath suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled,
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love song which they bring:
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
and hear the angels sing.*

So I wonder if the verse got thrown out because it is hard to bring into modern language — or was it simply denial that even two thousand years of "progress" has not shaped our world to be able to hear the "love song" of the angels?

Indeed, we need again to hear the love song of the angels, "that glorious song of old". If you didn't have the chance to stop and listen for the

angel's song yet this Christmas season, STOP NOW! Find a quiet place...take an hour of prayer time and meditate on this Christmas Carol, listening for the love song of the angels. Don't you suspect that if God's love is going to permeate God's world again, it can happen in these days, and in this moment, and through the attentiveness that we model for the world?

Dr. C. Michael Hawn, professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, writes: *It is right that we should joyfully sing "Hark! the herald angels sing" and "Joy to the world" each Christmas season. But always there are moments when we realize the message of peace has not yet been fully realized on earth. Then we sing "It came upon the midnight clear," and the power of the Incarnation and the message of the gospel touch us even more deeply.*

God has snuck into our world once again this Christmas — slipping into human skin and making a tent in our neighborhood. Will this be the year that you cradle the gift of love, not just at Christmas, but all year long? Will you intentionally join a book study to grow in faith with others? (Check out Pastor Kerri's book study on Rachel Held Evans' book: *Inspired*). Or maybe you want a unique way to start the year with a 31 day Bible reading and prayer plan. (Pick up a copy of "Bible Reading Plan: Choose Your Own Journey" in the Narthex, or email the church to have the PDF sent to your email!) Whatever intentional steps of faith empowerment you take, may you indeed hear the love song the angels bring!

Listening for the angels' love song with You,

Pastor Bobbie





Dear Friends,

Mental health! That's the local justice issue STREAM will tackle next. It makes sense that, as followers of Jesus, we should care about mental health. Jesus once met a man who was thought to be possessed by demons (Luke 8:26-39). He lived among tombs, ran around naked, and broke the chains that were used to restrain him. Today, we would describe the man as suffering from mental illness. Jesus compassionately healed him and restored him to his community.

Mental health issues can take many forms, and they vary in severity. Studies show that more than one in five adults and youth are dealing with some kind of mental health issue, which in turn can affect relationships, academic performance, job stability and productivity, and physical health. And for some folks, it's especially difficult to get treatment.

Mental health was the number one issue that was raised in Trinity's STREAM house meetings this fall. Here are some specific concerns:

Are there competent professionals and effective programs in our area to help folks across different age groups with the various difficulties they're dealing with? (For example, suicide/self-harm, anxiety, depression, PTSD, addiction, cognitive decline.)

Are the resources in our area affordable?

Are people aware of the resources that exist?

Can clients get appointments in a reasonably short time?

Are there competent counselors in our schools?

Relatedly, are LGBTQ kids safe in their schools and able to talk freely with their counselors if they want to?

Over the next few weeks, STREAM members will be doing research and identifying specific goals related to mental health that we can begin working toward.

STREAM is looking for stories about mental health care in Manatee County. Have you or someone you love struggled with mental health? If so, maybe you have a story to share about those experiences. Maybe you'd like to join a research team and help us decide how to go forward. And maybe you can add your voice to others from STREAM when we tell our elected officials that mental health is important to us. As always, let me know if you want more information.

Peace + blessings,

Pastor Kerri

S. T. R. E. A. M.

Stronger Together Reaching Equality Across Manatee



Music Notes 'tis almost the Season to Sing...again!



Thank you to all the musicians whose voices or instruments gifted our Christmas celebrations! Worship was so beautiful and meaningful from your contributions.

If you have a love of singing and aren't already participating at Trinity, please consider joining the Trinity Singers (chancel choir for the 10:45am Worship Service) or Sunday Praise Team (9:00am Contemporary Service) for the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons! New members are always welcome, and you do not have to "read music" to take part!

Lent begins Wednesday, February 14th and Easter is Sunday, March 31st. So we will begin working on special music right away!

Questions about our music programs? Feel free to see me on Sunday mornings or call me (301-524-3600).

I look forward to getting to know more TLC folks while I'm serving as your Music Co-Director through April!



Edgar J. Bower

From Tree Of Life Preschool & Daycare Director, Shawna Clark:



Wow! Just like that, 2023 is gone! There are so many things to be thankful for this past year - so many blessings that came our way. We received numerous grants to help keep us afloat here until we could reach full enrollment at TOL. Last month, we were awarded a \$4,758.00 grant to improve our "Beyond" learning centers and circle time curriculum. We should receive the materials soon. We are also waiting on approval for a grant that would give our VPK class an interactive screen. This will allow us to implement a special language development program.

Our delayed Christmas Program was a great success. Lots of family members came to support their TOL student and the cookie reception afterwards was so nice!!

We are always grateful for everything our Trinity family does with us and for us. Thank you for showing us how much you care for our staff and the little ones in our charge. Your gifts of time and financial resources are so appreciated. We at TOL send all of you heartfelt wishes for a fabulous new year.

This month's weekly themes are:

January 1st Ice/snow (through pictures!)

January 8th Hibernation

January 15th Arctic climate - Penguins

January 22nd Groundhogs

January 29th Bears

We will learn about: Color - white; Shape - star; and the Value of Fairness.

Update on Julliana and Jamerson

December was a challenging month for Jamerson! He has breathing issues when the weather changes (sharp drops in temperature especially) so he saw the doctor multiple times,



and even the Emergency Room. Thankfully, he had healthy days in there as well to visit Santa and to enjoy some Christmas fun with Grandma Pat and his parents!

Julliana successfully passed the practice test for the Language GED! She has now scheduled the "Real Thing" for early in January. Please send prayers her way. It will be such an accomplishment for her to pass the language part and move on to math, science and civics! Most of us who work with Julliana concur that we would be challenged to pass the GED test ourselves — it is a not a piece of cake!

Speaking of cake — Jamerson turns 3 on January 25th! It is hard to believe that we have been on this journey with Julliana for over three years now. The challenges of the path to asylum continue to have lots of obstacles, as our lawyer Mr. Martin explained in September at our Adult Forum. The rewards of accompaniment are also significant. Continued thanks to all for their contributions to the Advocacy fund that secures Julliana and Jamerson's housing, and for all the love and support and especially the prayers you offer!

Sunday, January 21st: Trinity's Annual Meeting (10am) and Pastor B's Celebration Luncheon (noon).

At 10am we will convene in the sanctuary - between the 9am and 10:45am worship times - to conduct the business of the church, including approving the 2024 Budget and electing members for the Church Council.

Pastor B's 40th Ordination Anniversary luncheon will take place in the fellowship hall. It's a **Chili Cook-Off!** If you prefer to bring a salad to share, please do. Or just bring yourself! If you're preparing chili - bring a pot!

Plan to attend the meeting and the meal. Please RSVP on a Blue Form that you will attend and to enter the chili contest, if you wish!



Beach Worship: Sunday, January 14th, 5pm



Bring your beach chair, family and friends to worship God with singing, scripture, prayer and Holy Communion! Look for our sign and flag just south of the Manatee Public Beach at the end of Manatee Ave. Everyone is welcome! Please check our Trinity Facebook or Instagram to see if weather cancels worship.

Confirmation Retreat, January 12th-14th, at Luther Springs. Young people in 6th, 7th and 8th grades are eligible to attend. Our Lutheran Camp is in Hawthorne, FL. We will carpool to the retreat. Please sign up on the Blue Form for more information!

"Kid's Night Out" Resumes in January!! We invite all parents/guardians to give their kids a break on Saturday, January 27th! From 6:30-7:30pm, following our 5:30pm worship, we will play games, or watch a movie or other cool activity. We'll serve tasty snacks or a light kid-friendly dinner. Parents must stay with kids under 3 years old.

Interested in this activity - to bring a child or to maybe serve as an adult host? Please note on a Blue Form: that you will bring a child and/or be a host! Or contact the church office. Thank you from the Growing Young Team!

New to Trinity? Come to Dinner! Join us for a "Welcome to Trinity" dinner, Wednesday, **January 17th** at 5:30pm. Come learn about our faith community, and explore the many opportunities to join us in our efforts to realize the Kingdom of God in our midst! Please sign up on a Blue Form.

Chef Darrell's Cooking Class: Tuesday, January 16,

5:30pm. You're invited to learn how to prepare and then enjoy a dinner of Chef's delicious Teriyaki Pepper Steak with a side! Seating is limited so sign up in the Narthex right away. \$20 per person, please. Here's the recipe to serve 4:



Ingredients:

1 lb. round of beef or flank steak cut in ½ inch strips
3 tbsp. teriyaki sauce 4 tsp. olive oil, divided
2 tsp. cornstarch 2 yellow onion cut in thin strips
1 red bell pepper, 1 green pepper cut in thin strips
1 tbsp Sriracha Sauce (optional)

Directions:

Combine teriyaki sauce, Sriracha, 2 teaspoons oil and the cornstarch in a large bowl.

Add the beef strips and marinate in refrigerator for 45 minutes. In a wok or sauté pan, stir fry bell peppers and onions in 2 teaspoons of oil for 3 minutes. Remove from pan.

Stir fry the beef strips (1/2 at a time) for 3 minutes. Return the vegetables to pan and cook until hot.

Serve over Quinoa, Garlic & Brown rice pilaf or favorite side.

2024 Giving Statements are on the sideboard in the Dining Room. If you don't find a box with your name printed on it, note on a Blue Form and pick them up the next week!

2023 Giving Statements will be prepared at the end of January for distribution and mailing.

Thank you for your generous giving to Trinity and our mission work in Manatee County and beyond!

BIBLE READING PLAN:

Choose YOUR OWN Journey



Head out on a month-long exploration through God's Word. Each day's quest comes with some options. Choose from a prayer, a parable, a gospel reading or an epistle reading. If you have more time or use this Bible Reading Plan more than once a day, read the rest of the passages too.

May God bless you
as you journey
through Scripture
& grow closer to him!

1. GRATITUDE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 17:11-19
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

2. TRUST

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 28:6-9
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 5:21-43

3. PRAISE

- ☐ Prayer: Exodus 15:1-18
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

4. LOVE

- ☐ Prayer: Philippians 1:9-11
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 12:28-33
- ☐ Epistle: 1 John 4:7-21

5. PRAYER

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:10-14
- ☐ Epistle: Ephesians 6:17-20

6. OBEDIENCE

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:28-32
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

7. PATIENCE

- ☐ Parable: James 5:7-11
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 8:22-25

8. WISDOM

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 3:3-9
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 7:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: James 3:13-18

9. CALLING

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 6:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Peter 2:9-10

10. FORGIVENESS

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:46-53
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 18:21-35
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 23:32-34

11. JOY

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 16
- ☐ Parable: Luke 15:1-10
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

12. RESTORATION

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 51:10-19
- ☐ Gospel: John 2:19-22

13. STEWARDSHIP

- ☐ Parable: Luke 12:16-21
- ☐ Gospel: Luke 21:1-4
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Timothy 6:17-19

14. HUMILITY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 14:7-14
- ☐ Epistle: Philippians 2:1-11

15. REFUGE

- ☐ Prayer: Psalm 121
- ☐ Gospel: John 17:11-19

16. MIRACLES

- ☐ Prayer: Matthew 14:13-21
- ☐ Gospel: Mark 9:14-24

17. FRUITFULNESS

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:14-30
- ☐ Gospel: John 15:1-8
- ☐ Epistle: James 2:14-24

18. UNITY

- ☐ Prayer: John 17:20-23
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-17

19. PROVISION

- ☐ Prayer: Deuteronomy 28:1-14
- ☐ Parable: John 10:1-18
- ☐ Gospel: Matthew 6:25-34

20. PEACE

- ☐ Prayer: Isaiah 26:1-13
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 13:11-14

21. JUSTICE

- ☐ Prayer: 1 Kings 8:56-61
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 20:1-16

22. PERSISTENCE

- ☐ Prayer: James 5:13-18
- ☐ Parable: Luke 18:1-8

23. EVANGELISM

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 4:23-31
- ☐ Epistle: Romans 10:9-15

24. FAITHFULNESS

- ☐ Prayer: Nehemiah 8:1-13
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 21:18-22

25. SUFFERING

- ☐ Prayer: Job 19:21-27
- ☐ Epistle: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

26. GROWTH

- ☐ Prayer: Colossians 1:9-14
- ☐ Parable: Mark 4:26-29

27. MERCY

- ☐ Parable: Luke 10:30-37
- ☐ Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16

28. SALVATION

- ☐ Prayer: Acts 2:22-36
- ☐ Parable: Luke 16:19-31
- ☐ Gospel: John 3:16-17

29. READINESS

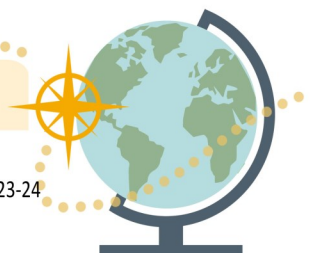
- ☐ Prayer: Luke 1:46-55
- ☐ Parable: Matthew 25:1-13

30. KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

- ☐ Parable: Matthew 13:31-33
- ☐ Gospel: John 14:1-4

31. BLESSING

- ☐ Prayer: Numbers 6:24-27
- ☐ Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24



FAITH FORMATION

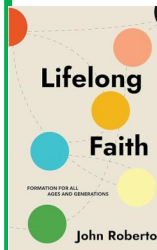
Celebrating Jesus' Birth Together

Due to flu breaking out in the preschool, our children's Christmas Program was rescheduled for Monday, December 18th. Lots of proud parents, grandparents and TLC folks enjoyed the children's performance of *The Christmas Story*.

Many thanks to Kathy Calello for her leadership of this performance by our Tree of Life students.



Faith Formation Team Reforming!



As part of our "re-entry" into being a fully-functional faith community following the de-railing experience of Covid, we are ready to re-address the faith formation aspect of our community. Our congregation spans ten decades in age groups, and each age group has different faith formation needs.

Our Faith Formation Team is charged with developing plans to provide opportunities for persons of all ages to deepen and enrich their faith. We will use John Roberto's book, "Lifelong Faith," as a guide for our planning and program development.

How is the Faith Formation Team different from our Growing Young Team? The Faith Formation Team investigates and discerns the needs of each generation to create age-specific *learning* opportunities. One responsibility of our Growing Young Team is to help develop and deepen faith *relationships* across generations in the congregation, which is, indeed, an important facet of faith formation. We will meet on **Wed., Jan. 24th at 7pm.**

Please indicate your interest in being part our Faith Formation Team on a Blue Form, or contact the church office. We will respond to you with more information.

J.O.Y! (Jesus-Others-You!)



J.O.Y. Resumes the weekend of January 6th-7th! Come share our J.O.Y.

when youth and folks of all ages gather for fun activities related to the day's Scripture or a Bible story.

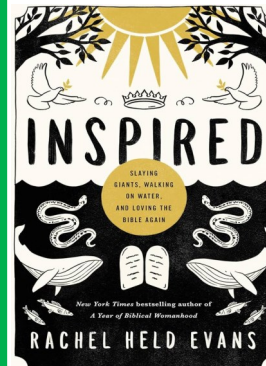
In the worship service that follows, we share what we learned during J.O.Y. Message time.



Find J.O.Y. on Saturdays, 4:30pm & Sundays, 10am.

Invite friends to come, too!

January Book Study



Join Pastor Kerri as we read and discuss Rachel Held Evans' *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* on Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30pm, starting on January 9th. Please sign up on a Blue Form.

"If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When *New York Times* bestselling author Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she embarked on a journey to better understand what the Bible is and how it's meant to be read. What she discovered changed her – and it can change you, too." (Amazon summary)

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Occasionally our activities may move dates or times. Please check our website calendar to confirm. (We try hard to keep that current.)</i>	1 New Year's Day Office Closed	2 9am-12 Office Hours 4pm Sun. Praise Team rehearse 5pm Trinity Singers 7pm Church Council	3 Office Closed 8:30pm AA	4 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise	5 9am - 12 Office Hours	6 4pm Sat. Praise Team Rehearse 4:30pm J-O-Y for all ages 5:30pm Worship
7 8am Worship 9am Contemporary Worship 10am J-O-Y for all ages 10:45am Traditional Worship	8 10am-12 Office Hours 1pm Quilters 8pm AA	9 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise 4pm Sun. Praise Team rehearse 5pm Trinity Singers 6:30pm Book Study	10 Office Closed 8:30pm AA	11 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise	12 9am - 12 Office Hours	13 Confirmation Retreat 10:30am Cont. Yoga 4pm Sat. Praise Team Rehearse 4:30pm J-O-Y for all ages 5:30pm Worship
14 Confirmation Retreat 8am Worship 9am Contemporary Worship 10am J-O-Y for all ages 10:45am Traditional Worship 12:30pm Contemplative CHAIR Yoga 5pm Beach Worship	15 10am-12 Office Hours 1pm Quilters 8pm AA	16 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise 4pm Sun. Praise Team rehearse 5pm Trinity Singers 5:30pm Chef's Dinner 6:30pm Book Study	17 Office Closed 5:30 Welcome to Trinity Dinner 8:30pm AA	18 9am-12 Office Hours 9am Serve at ODB 9:30am Exercise 3pm Contemplative CHAIR Yoga 5pm Chat & Chew	19 9am - 12 Office Hours	20 10:30am Contemplative MAT Yoga 4pm Sat. Praise Team Rehearse 4:30pm J-O-Y for all 5:30pm Celebration Worship
21 8am Worship 9am Contemporary Worship 10am ANNUAL MEETING 10:45am Traditional Worship 12pm Chili Cookoff & Pastor Bobbie's 40th Ordination Anniversary Celebration!!!	22 10am-12 Office Hours 1pm Quilters 8pm AA	23 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise 4pm Sun. Praise Team rehearse 5pm Trinity Singers 6:30pm Trinity Ringers 6:30pm Book Study	24 Office Closed 7pm Faith Formation Team 8:30pm AA	25 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise 3pm Contemplative CHAIR Yoga	26 9am - 12 Office Hours	27 10:30am Contemplative MAT Yoga 4pm Sat. Praise Team 4:30pm J-O-Y/all ages 5:30pm Celebration Worship 6:30pm Kid's Nite Out
28 8am Worship 9am Contemporary Worship 10am J-O-Y for all ages 10:45am Traditional Worship 12:30pm Contemplative Chair Yoga	29 10am-12 Office Hours 1pm Quilters 8pm AA	30 9am-12 Office Hours 9:30am Exercise 4pm Sun. Praise Team 5pm Trinity Singers 6:30pm Trinity Ringers 6:30pm Book Study	31 Office Closed 8:30pm AA	Chat & Chew: Thursday, January 18th, 5pm, Cipriano's Cucina, 3561 53rd Ave. W., Bradenton. RSVP: pattybeenutty@gmail or 941-758-4610. Serve at Our Daily Bread: we are waiting for ODB to let us know which dates we will serve in 2024. Check weekly bulletins for details.		

January Birthdays

1/1 Olivia Knisley, Logan Perez, Traci Pope
 1/2 Jo Moreno, Steve Pierce
 1/4 Charles Backoff, Amanda Arquette, Carroll Klingensmith
 1/5 Nicole Baldowski
 1/7 Chris Wolf
 1/9 Stanley Kneller, Spencer Stephens
 1/10 Robert Eikill
 1/11 Allan Glushonkov
 1/15 Bobbie Blackburn, Harriet Walters, Beverly Vasey
 1/17 Joey Tyson, Dianne VanVoorhis, Brianne Cozzette



1/20 James Scherz
 1/21 Kimberly Monroe
 1/22 Hunter Grubb
 1/23 Gonzalo Hernandez
 1/25 Sara Alkire, Jamerson Essengue, Sherry Backoff
 1/26 Candy Stanley, Deborah Miller
 1/27 Jeremy Wetzal, Pastor Patricia Johnson
 1/28 Sondra Lee, Meredith Frees
 1/31 Jacqueline Hernandez

January Anniversaries

1/9 Dale & Linda Haack
 1/19 Lee & Chelsea Richardson



A New GriefShare Support Group will begin after the New Year. Please note on a Blue Form to be contacted about dates and times. Everyone is welcome to take part.

TLC Green Team asks that you share what you do at home or work to be "green." We are compiling a list to share with everyone. The Team is also investigating a couple significant projects to implement at church with Church Council approval.

Mission Endowed Fund Impacts Future

Gifts to Trinity's Mission Endowed Fund help it grow to provide more and more investment income we can use to gift ministries in our community. You can donate to our Mission Endowed Fund any time. The gifts accrue to grow the principal in the fund, and the annual disbursements have a target of 3%. Thanks to all who have gifted this fund to make our distributions possible! Please note "Endowed Fund" on your gift.

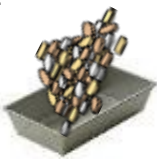
2023's disbursements are directed to:

\$3,000 to Our Daily Bread for a New Convection oven
\$2,000 for Growing Young at Trinity
\$2,630 Selah Freedom AC repair for living quarters
\$1,128 Hope Family Services – commercial washer

Total \$8,758

Because of the growth of the Mission Endowed fund since its inception in 2018, we have now disbursed over \$50,000 to critical community and church ministries! Thank you for your participation in the extraordinary outreach.

"Noisy Offering" The last weekend of each month we collect a "noisy offering" of coins and rustling paper to support our neighbors in need who are served by Our Daily Bread. You may also drop off your gifts at the Church Office. Thank you!



Contributing Stocks or Bonds

As we near the end of 2023, if you seek ways to gift 501(c)(3) organizations, please consider gifting Trinity.

We have an account for just that purpose. Please contact our Church Office for more details and the forms to do so. Thank you.

RAISE for THE ROOF!

As of **December 20th**, the giving for the shingle fundraiser is \$80,314. Shingles and bundles to sponsor are still available on the display in the Narthex. Please select any quantity.

Estimated cost of one bundle of shingles is \$203 — so doing the math, we have already funded 396 bundles! Thank you for helping us **RAISE for THE ROOF!!!**



In Our Mailbox:

As we approached the Christmas Holiday to give thanks and praise for the gift of the Christ child, Stillpoint Mission of Bradenton wrote us about the generosity of area church families who supported Stillpoint this year. TLC's donations of clothing and blankets were distributed to hundreds of grateful families and individuals who are migrants, homeless and / or marginalized. "We are blessed to have this opportunity to serve the needy. May God bless each of you now and into the new year! If you want to know more about Stillpoint, please visit our website, www.stillpointmission.org."

Jim and Marge Slepica

Ministry Team Table

Care Team: Carole Pletcher 941-448-7644

Community Ministry Coordinating Team:

Seeking coordinator

Eucharistic Ministers Team: Pastor Bobbie 941-243-9473

Faith Formation Team: *To be determined*

Finance/Stewardship Team: David Cozzette 941-755-9700

Green Team: Barbara and Cliff Michaelson
941-896-2740

Growing Young Team: Pastor Kerri 941-301-0691

Health Ministry Team: *Seeking coordinator*

Homebound Visiting Team: Jan Smith 941-448-9647

Julliana's Team: Pat Benson 941-758-4610

Mutual Ministry Team: Dale Haack 941-374-0899

Property Team: Doug Roper 941-526-9536

S.T.R.E.A.M.: Larry Helberg 941-845-4257

Teddy Bear Ministry: Barb Schamell 941-794-5708

To know more about any of these teams, please contact the Leader named above.

Do you have passion for a ministry that is not already happening at Trinity? Form a new team! For more info on "how to's", please talk to Pastor B!

When All the Angels Flew Off the Tree....

TLC folks wanted to help make Christmas special for the many underserved children in Manatee County.



When there were no angels left on the tree for Parenting Matters, Larry Helberg contacted the Marine Corps Foundation and brought us boxes to fill for their annual distribution. And did you fill them! Thanks to everyone for gifts of toys - enough to fill more than two collection boxes in two weeks!

Electronic Giving



You may support our ministries with secure, "paperless" gifts any time — through our website (www.TLCbradenton.com) by clicking on "Giving," or connecting through the E-Giving logo. Thank you!

Twelve Days of Christmas: Dec. 25th-Jan.

twelve days of **CHRISTMAS** One of the ministries Trinity folks support in our community is Our Daily Bread's Food Pantry: *Loaves and Fishes*. You are invited to collect an item each day of the Christmas season: December 25th - January 5th. Please bring the items below to church on January 6th or 7th, in a grocery bag OR a gift-wrapped **open**

- box:
- Dec. 25th - jar of peanut butter
 - Dec. 26th - jar of jelly
 - Dec. 27th - box of pasta
 - Dec. 28th - jar of spaghetti sauce
 - Dec. 29th - ramen noodles
 - Dec. 30th - condiments
 - Dec. 31st - box of Mac and Cheese
 - Jan. 1st - box of cereal
 - Jan. 2nd - 2lb. bag of rice
 - Jan. 3rd - 2 cans of soup
 - Jan. 4th - 2 cans of chicken or tuna
 - Jan. 5th - 1 roll of TP and bar of soap

The items above cost about \$40. If you prefer, you may make a monetary gift (note "12 Days") and we will shop for you. Thank you.

Thank you for the huge success!

Our Youth Christmas Cookie Sale raised \$1,056 for our High Schoolers' life changing Faith Formation event in New Orleans next

July. The 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering will combine worship and praise with mission projects and many opportunities for thousands of Lutheran teens to meet! Thanks, bakers and buyers!



Advent Ministry Projects!

Our faith community generously provided for hundreds in our community through several ministry partners! Thank you to everyone who took part!

Angel Tree for Parenting Matters' Families

Our quilting angels delivered gifts and quilts!



Diaper Drive for Families Served by Healthy Start



You overflowed the playpen with diapers and assorted baby supplies!



Blankets and Hoodies for Stillpoint Mission Migrants

Bill and Dee Kribs delivered lots of warmth - several times!



New Year - New You? We are committed to offering as many **FREE** opportunities as we can to help you shape up and stay fit! Come for one or all of these:

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Weight Training at 9:30am, led by fitness trainer extraordinaire, Christine Harte, resumes **January 4th!**

Contemplative Yoga, Saturdays, 10:30am, starting Sat. January

13th. Pastor Bobbie, combines breath, prayer, and yoga poses on the mat with scripture and devotion. No previous yoga experience required!

Contemplative CHAIR Yoga, Thursdays at 3pm and Sundays at 12:30pm, is also led by Pastor Bobbie. Can't get back up if you are exercising on the floor?

This yoga is for you! Join us weekly on Sundays starting **January 14th** and on Thursdays starting **January 18th.**



Praise and Pinch Form

As a congregation, we are committed to voicing our praises and "not sitting on our pinches"! To be a healthy, faithful community, we need to be open with one another about what we expect in all areas of our life together. If there is anything in our community life that brings you joy or causes you to be concerned, please share your feelings and questions. Thank you for taking the time to communicate about the ways we are doing well in our ministry together at Trinity, and the areas that need attention. Please mail this form to the church office.

Praise:

Pinch:

A specific question I would like answered:

Name _____

(If you would like a direct response to your Praise or Pinch)

Mutual Ministry Team Members: Dale Haack, Chair, Dave Gleeson, Lucille Hymes, and Pastor Blackburn.

We Pray for:

For the Henke Family at the death of Richard Henke
 For Pat Benson and Kathy Calello at the death of their brother, Rory McConnell
 For the Family and Friends of Bev Scheller at her death, December 7th
 Paula Abrams
 Julie Adams for Larry Adams, Ellen Crawford and Jeffrey Caputo
 Evelyn Balon, and for Jan Pearson
 Andy Bradley
 Pat Benson and Kathy Calello for their brothers, Ron, Jay and Don
 Erika Chabra for Brenda Savy, Fred & Heidi Chabra
 Ann Courter for Roger Raddatz's call process
 Kim Crawford for Susan Hobstein
 Judy D'Amico for granddaughter, Allison
 Gail Darga and for Liane, Michael & Theresa, Joyce, Gail C., Christine, Helen, Bob & Lucette, Maryann, Stephanie, Jason Siedel
 Naomi Duttarar for her daughter
 Frees family for Janet Frees
 Linda and Dale Haack for Dale's brother, Raymond Haack
 Larry & Rita Helberg for healing for son, Thomas, and for peace on earth
 Thomas Helberg for Paola Helberg
 Susan Hullett and for Ziggy, Rex, Scott, Kevin
 Lu Hymes
 Sharon Jones for son, Chris Dunaway
 Joyce Kajtaniak for granddaughter, Raelin Kajtaniak, and mom, Bernadine Ray
 Bill and Dee Kribs for Rose Parker, Marilyn Deal, Diane Urban, Marilyn Skinner, Linda Caldwell and Anita May
 Karen Kuebler for Lucille Baber

Sondra Lee for healing for Sharon Middleton, Vi Stalker, Scott Staker
 Becky Mannon
 Ginger Marcinko and for Marjorie Rowe, Gary and Lenna Phillips
 Debi Miller and John Mathey and for Gavin, Sully and Jillian York, Grayson Parker, Johnny Spadaro, Jenna Kolb and Bob Rice
 Misty Misencik
 John Moyer for Marianne Moyer
 Deanna Nelson for Piper Sobczyk
 David Pederson
 Traci Pope
 Birgit Quam for John, Ryan and Marlige
 Ilene Quick for daughter, Debbie Dutton
 Jeff Reises
 Mark & Candy Rinnert for friend, Lee Ann Hurlow
 Jean Shoemaker
 Jan & Jay Smith for friend, Bill Smotherman
 Terry Terhardt
 Ronda Thomas for Pat Walker
 Arlene Weier for Kate Gibertson
 Connie Whitsett for grandson, Brandon Silcox, and for Lola Danis and Janet Brozsky
 Jan Witte for sister, Shirley
 Chris & Barb Wolf for Rick Bogner, Leslie Rode, Landen Chandler, Kristine Wolf, Faye Zimmermann, Amalie Wolf, Ed Kelly, Susan Kelly, Maggie Finn, Andy & Riley Bradley
 Don and Kathy Wolf for Donna Stanilla and family at the death of her grandson
 Pat Zink and for Glenna, Lois & George, Helen, Mattie, Jill, Kimberly and Eileen R.

Please note: This list is edited monthly. Please add names on a Blue Form, email the church, or submit through our website. (on the homepage).

Our Homebound:

Lucy Baber BD 8/21
 Brookdale Farmington Hills North
 27950 Drake Road
 Farmington Hills MI 48331
 Bobbie Dever BD 7/25
 603 63rd Avenue West Unit R14
 Bradenton FL 34207
 Virginia Duttarar BD 8/13
 10731 Old Tampa Road
 Parrish FL 34219
 Ann Guild BD 7/14
 The Woodlands
 1055 301 Blvd. E, Apt. 1017
 Bradenton FL 34203
 Lorraine Heidelberg BD 4/25
 6104 10th Avenue West
 Bradenton FL 34209
 Lu Hymes BD 6/7
 4460 Fairways Boulevard #507
 Bradenton FL 34209
 Marvel Meister BD 7/20
 Freedom Village
 6410 21st Avenue West #324
 Bradenton FL 34209
 Lidya Taber BD 3/20
 15329 S. Lone Elm Road
 Olathe KS 66061
 Terry Terhardt BD 4/17
 Pines of Sarasota
 1501 North Orange Avenue
 Sarasota FL 34236

Corner Cottage

Girls make purchases at the Corner Cottage using points they have earned through attendance, academics, and meeting goals.
 This list is to help provide an idea of things to purchase for the cottage!

- Bath and Body Works spray & lotion
- Large hair clips
- Mascara & fake eyelashes/glue
- Coffee mugs
- Travel cups with lids and straws
- Insulated cups (stanley dupe)
- Curtain lights/string lights
- Candles
- Fuzzy blankets
- Squishmellows
- Slippers (slip-on)
- Croc charms
- Markers/paints/canvas
- Arts & craft kits
- Playdog/silly puddy
- Cute school folders
- Journals
- Uno Cards



We Pray
 for the Family and Friends of
Dick Henke
 who entered
The Church Triumphant
 Sunday, December 10th

➡ January Collection for PACE!

Please bring items from this list to church. PACE Center Girls are rewarded with points for reaching goals and specific attendance and academic achievements. They may use their points to "buy" items they need or want from the PACE Corner Cottage! We can purchase items for you, if you prefer. Please note "PACE Girls" on your gift.

Trinity Lutheran Church
2200 26th Street West
Bradenton FL 34205

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL
PLEASE DELIVER
PROMPTLY!**

January 2024

**Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MANASOTA FL
Permit #511**

**Tree of Life Preschool & Daycare
Providing Pre-Kindergarten
Instruction and Christian Childcare for
6 weeks to 5 years old 941-747-1756**

2023 TLC Council Members:

**President Gonzalo Hernandez
Vice Pres. Dave Werning
Secretary Nick Frees
Treasurer Dave Cozzette
Andy Bradley
Larry Helberg
Bruce Henke
Susan Hullett
Barbara Michaelson
Carole Pletcher
Jim Scherz
Barbara Shaner**

RESIDENT or CURRENT RESIDENT

***Trinity Trends* is a monthly publication of:
Trinity Lutheran Church**

Sunday, January 21st

**10am
Annual Meeting**

**Noon
Chili Cook-off and 40th Ordination
Anniversary Celebration for Pastor Bobbie**

Come Work, Feast and Celebrate!!!



Trinity Weekly Worship Times

Saturdays

5:30 pm Celebration Worship

Sundays

8am Traditional Worship

9am Contemporary Worship

10:45am Traditional Worship

All are invited and welcome!

Trinity Staff

The Rev. Dr. Bobbie Blackburn, Senior Pastor, 941-243-9473
The Rev. Dr. Kerri True, Associate Pastor, 941-301-0691
Ms. Sondra Lee, Communications, 941-243-7846

Mr. Edgar Bower & Mrs. Ann Hockin, Music Co-Directors
Mr. Sergei Glushonkov, Saturday Worship Music Leader
Ms. Barbara Robitaille, Parish Administrator

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Facebook: