

TRINITY TIDINGS~DECEMBER '24

Official publication of Trinity Lutheran Church
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Church Office ~ 719-544-3016

"MERRY CHRISTMAS"

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"COME, LORD JESUS!"

Dear Friends In Christ,

Revelation 22:17, 20 ¹⁷The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come, and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come Lord Jesus."

The words above come in the last chapter of the last book of our Holy Scriptures, Revelation.

As I was thinking about the season of Advent and Christmas, and the coming celebration of His coming in the flesh, and His coming again, I want to reflect on some of my favorite holiday movies.

My all-time favorite is Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*. There are three versions that I love best:

- The 1962 Mr. Magoo's *Christmas Carol*, the 12year old still in me loves this one.
- The 1938 version of *A Christmas Carol* that my family saw every year on the TV Show Family Classics when I was growing up.
- And my favorite version of the movie, the 1951 version with the actor Alistar Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge.

A Christmas Carol is a good story of what the terror of sin can do to us if we refuse to see it as it really is, it separates us from God. And then there is the other side of the story, the power of God's second chance in the forgiveness won for us by our Lord Jesus on the cross. Ebenezer turns from being a horrible sinner to a good man. A faithful man who was grateful for the forgiveness won for him by His Lord.

I also like the movie, *A Christmas Story*. A story written by Jean Shepherd about his own childhood. Ralphie wishes to get for Christmas the Red Ryder BB Gun. He tries asking his mom,



his teacher, and then Santa Claus to get the gun for Christmas only to hear the words, "You'll shoot your eye out." In the end his father gets him the gun for Christmas. I look at this as the persistence of prayer to our Holy Father, (Ralphie's father knew the gift he wanted), who wants what is best for us. Maybe not a Red Ryder BB Gun but our salvation for sure.

The final movie I will mention is *A Miracle on 34th Street*. The version with Maureen O'Hara and John Payne. In this one I remember the line that Doris Walker (Maureen O'Hara's character) speaks, "Faith is believing in something when common sense tells you not to."

And this may seem odd to you, but faith is not natural for us. If we let common sense rule it would tell us it is crazy to believe in a man who came from heaven and is God, who dies, who rises from the dead, and lives forever. And by His death we are forgiven and by His life we get eternal life. But ta is what our God for us I Jesus.

As you get ready to celebrate our Lord's first coming in the flesh, also remember what He did for you on the cross. And take it to the final thought that *He will come again to you to bring you to Himself. Amen, come Lord Jesus.*

Becky, Mitch, and I pray all of you have a safe and blessed Christmas this year.

God's blessings to all of you this season,

Pr Bob

OUR ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES BEGIN AT 7:00PM.

Advent I is hosted by Trinity

Advent II is hosted by Bethany

Advent III is hosted by Our Savior

Prior to worship each week, there will be a light supper.

Season of Advent

DATE	SERVICE	THEME
12/04/2024	Advent Midweek I	Light of the World
12/11/2024	Advent Midweek II	Bread of Life
12/18/2024	Advent Midweek III	Rock of Ages
12/24/2024	Christmas Eve	Lessons & Carols
12/25/2024	Christmas Day	

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PLEASE NOTE: In the event of an emergency, and you cannot reach the church office, you may call Pastor Bob on his cell phone at 219-510-7288.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, with Pastor Bob, continues each week at 10:40am. All are invited to join him as completes "Let My People Go," a new class begins Dec, 8, on *Hosea*.

TUESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY meets each Tuesday evening at 6:30pm. The new Bible Study—"The Chosen" began October 15th. All are invited to join us! For more information contact Jon Bush at ophiclidge.tuba@gmail.com

YOUTH CONFIRMATION meets Saturday morning at 10:30am in the Fellowship area with Pastor Bob. Sixth thru Eighth graders are welcome to attend.

COTTAGE MEETINGS Pastor is looking for people to host a Cottage Meeting in their home with about 10-12 people per group. These meetings will be to discuss what you are looking for in your future pastor. It will also be a chance to make suggestions on what service you are interested in doing for Trinity and the Pueblo Community. Pastor Bob will be at most if not all these meeting. Please let Pastor Bob know that

you are willing to host a meeting and the date(s) that work for you. After we get the hosts, we will move on to filling the group up with the remaining 8-10 participants. Please note that the more of you that participate the closer we will get to calling the right pastor for Trinity Lutheran Church, School & ELA.

trinitychurchoffice24@gmail.com

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Saturday Evening 5:30pm

Sunday Morning 9:00am

A time of fellowship follows each service.

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NEWS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

Our prayers have been with the following members and friends who have been ill and/or hospitalized: Kathryn Taylor Tony Romero, Laurel Allen, Marsha McDaniel Alice LaRose, Rick Arguto, Cash Blanchfield, David & Connie Boden, Norma Larson, Linda Fenwick, Faralyn Koncilia, Shirleen Pape, Mindy, Stephanie Lowell, Roxann, Stephanie Fisher, Brad Ritter, Amy Coulson, Connie Elson, Cathy, Rich Graves, Jacob Freeman, Cindy Schmidt, Pat Sanley, Rose Sears, Rick & Anita Lawrenz, Marcie Wright, Victor Voss, Henrietta Voss, Ty Butcher, Melanie Trujillo, Joyce Michelli, Lucille Cochran, Adela Schmidt, Sophia DeSalvo, , Shirley Ranus, Marlene Graves, Randy Wilke May God continue to strengthen and heal them. Our prayers continue for Christopher and Iona as they welcome a teenager to their family.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1---Kristeen Bruun | 17---Breckyn Gray |
| 2---Jaxon Hefty | Shania McKissick |
| 3---Addison Gallegos | 19---Susan Giebel |
| 4---Emily Brunner | 20---Shana Vail Passarelli |
| 5----Heaher DiSalvo | 21---Katie Schepmann |
| Kathyrn Jones | 22---Kayleigh Gibson |
| 8----Isabella Gallegos | 30---Emma Foxhoven |
| 14---Debbie Dilka | Mia Harberts |
| 16 ---Rachel Gaide | 31---John Coffey |
| 17---Emily Doria | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

27—Randy & Jeanine Bolt
31—Gary & Kendra Zefras

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS!

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The one who kneels before God can stand before anyone. Anonymous

TRINITY SCHOOL/EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY NEWS

"ENDURE"

Heb. 12:1-3, "...we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ...and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and prefecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him **endured** the cross...Consider him who **endured** from sinners such hostility...so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."

EXCITING UPDATES FROM OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

GREETINGS TRINITY FAMILY!

As we step into November, we reflect on the blessings of community, fellowship, and faith. This month has been a testament to the incredible spirit that makes our school special.

First, we are thrilled to share the success of our "**Treasures at Trinity**" Craft Fair! Thanks to the creativity of our vendors, the hard work of our volunteers and the support of our community, this event was a resounding triumph. From handcrafted goods to homemade treats, every table showcased the talents and treasures of our Trinity Family. We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to making this day a day to remember. Proceeds will go toward enriching our programs and supporting our mission.

Another highlight of the month was our beloved **Thanksgiving Feast**, a cherished tradition where students, families, and staff gathered to share a meal and give thanks. It was heartwarming to see our gym filled with laughter, conversation, and gratitude as we celebrated the blessings God has given us. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped with setup, serving, and cleanup—it wouldn't have been possible without you!

As the holiday season draws near, may we continue to grow in faith and love, remembering to give thanks in ALL circumstances.

Blessings to you, Chelsea Wendorf

GOOD MORNING TRINITY FAMILIES!!

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving weekend! Over the holiday, I was reflecting on the goodness of our God in the many ways He has poured out His kindness on our families through this school. I thank Him for each family represented at this school and that you have chosen Trinity.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Double God fundraiser! God blessed our school greatly with total earnings at \$5,813.50 CAPTAINS will be tithing 10% towards this month's chapel fund. The remainder will be used for upcoming school events and put in savings for an additional laptop and smartboard.

We will be announcing the top sellers for each grade later this week during the rewards ceremony! Thank you to everyone for all the hard work to promote our school!

We have CAPTAINS meeting this coming Thursday after school. As always, we would love to have the gable packed with parents. Please join us if you are able! If you are not able but would like to submit ideas or questions, please reach out to me or any other of the officers (Tracy Kite, Mike and Morgan Marion).

Thank you again and many blessings to you as we enter this Christmas season!

In Christ,

Shirley

MORE GREAT NEWS!!! ELA won the **PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD** for approximately the 5th year in a row! What an accomplishment! For **MOST INTERACTIVE** Dr. Ibarra won first and was very closely followed by Mrs. Montez in second place! CONGRATULATIONS!

CAPTAINS Meeting-December 5th at 3:30pm in Fellowship Hall. These meetings are for all Trinity adults, (Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Aunts, Uncles and Friends.) Goal is to support the school and staff through volunteering, fund raising, and organizing events.

BOARD OF EDUCATION will meet on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00pm. Our meeting is December 5th, 2024.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoeboxes were packed by the students on Wednesday, Nov. 6th.

Finally, Colder Temperatures Are Coming. Just a reminder that with the cold temperatures we will still be taking the students outside. Coats, gloves, scarves, and hats are recommended to keep your child warm while a recess.

TREASURES AT TRINITY was November 16th. Many crafts, homemade foods, and unique gift ideas were available, just waiting for someone to pick them up and take them home. We thank Terry and Debby Daberkow for all the time and energy they spent in preparing, planning, and executing the set-up and take down of this event. Thank you and God bless you for your dedication.

THANK YOU!!!

- **"...GREATER LOVE HAS NO ONE THAN THIS,** that he lay down his life for his friends."
John 13:12-13
- **THANK YOU** to our veterans for their love and sacrifice to God, country, and us.
- **A VERY SPECIAL HEART FELT THANK YOU** to all my brothers and sisters in Christ for your prayers well wishes, comfort, concern, and fine food. You are greatly appreciated and Earl and I thank God for each and every one of you. My surgery on Monday, October 28th will hopefully be the final one taking care of the issue.

OTHER HAPPENINGS AND EVENTS:

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE Christmas performance will be December 17th at 6:30pm. All students including Enrichment students will be bringing the Christmas message to us.

Mrs. Kacia Vigil, Trinity's own Kindergarten teacher, will be in the musical production of **WHITE CHRISTMAS** this Thursday-Friday- and Saturday at Memorial Hall.

MEALS ON WHEELS is looking for volunteer drivers to help deliver over 350 meals to Homebound Seniors Tuesday-Thursday. Please call Dorothy Tracey at 719-533-3425 if you are interested in volunteering.

START YOU DAY with the January -March **PORTALS OF PRAYER** ready for pick-up. Get your free copy by the mailboxes now!

CHURCH UP DATE

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21, 2024

President Tom Gaide called the meeting to order and Pastor Hauter began the meeting with prayer. Members in attendance were Janelle Sheppard, Pastor Hauter, Tom Gaide, Jo Ann Russ, Derion Ibarra, Evelyn Daberkow, and John Aggson. The minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Janelle Sheppard for JoAnn Collins, Director, Board of Early Childhood Education – The Toddler Room is going well and they are able to use the toddler assistant in the preschool room. JoAnn is looking to hire someone to help out as they have a pregnant worker who is absent frequently.

Jo Ann Russ for Derion Ibarra, Principal, Board of Education – We currently have 47 students and continue to receive inquiries from parents interested in sending their children to Trinity. The school Thanksgiving feast will be tomorrow, Nov. 22. Derion analyzed our student performance and shared the following statistics with the board:

Trinity Reading Proficiency: 87.5%

- District 60: 25.8%
- District 70: 42.2%
- Colorado Average: 44.1%

Trinity Math Proficiency: 90%

- District 60: 17.8%
- District 70: 28.6%
- Colorado Average: 34.2%

He stated this is a testament to the hard work of our teachers and the supportive learning environment we have. He has visited a couple high-performing schools in Colorado Springs and Englewood to observe their best practices.

Pastor Hauter – Pastor stated his current Bible study ends this Sunday (Nov. 24). We will take one week off and then start a new study. He has visited Kathryn Taylor and she needs assistance with food and washing clothes, as well as possible plumbing issues. She is walking with the aid of a walker since her hip replacement. Advent services will be held with Bethany and Our Savior and shared the following worship service schedule:

December 4 – Advent – Trinity - dinner at 600 -p.m. / worship at 7:00 p.m.

December 11 – Advent – Bethany – dinner at 6:00 p.m. / worship at 7:00 p.m.

December 18 – Advent - Our Savior - dinner at 6:00 p.m. / worship at 7:00 p.m.

December 24 – Christmas Eve – 2 services at 7:00 and 10:00 p.m.

December 25 – Communion service at 10:00 a.m.

Tom Gaide for Board of Elders – They made elder assignments for services. Roger "Dennis" Scofield has been appointed as an elder. The elders will prepare goodie bags for the Christmas Eve service. They are planning to again offer the "passing of the peace" during worship services.

Finance / Treasurer – Kris needs additional training on QuickBooks. The elders approved spending up to \$800 on a tutor. Council voted and approved the training suggested by the elders. Brigitte Jaurez has volunteered to assist with our bookkeeping when Kris is unavailable and this training will be for both of them.

John Aggson, Board of Trustees – John has met with Jon Bush and Derion Ibarra to discuss the work that is needed. Derion was able to get a temporary fix and Derion and John are getting bids for other work. The big double doors at the school entrance also need to be replaced as they are rusting and not closing very easily. They want to refresh everything, including paint and flooring and also improve safety and security.

After the meeting adjourned, an email was sent to council members to vote on renting parking spaces in our back lot. The email included the following information:

- Mr. Schuster wants to have 10 of our parking spaces available for his renters.
- He is looking at having a military recruiting office or maybe an urgent care facility in his building.
- He does not need to have the additional parking to meet city codes.
- John would prefer to "lease" the spaces by the month so if there is an issue, we can quickly terminate the agreement.
- John asked what Mr. Schuster thought was a good rental price and was told \$30 - \$40 per month for each space.
- John thought we could offer a flat \$4000 for the year. Other rates were suggested, from \$4200 - \$4800 per year.
- This would be a rather informal agreement, with no impact on city codes for the church.

All members that had attended the meeting approved the motion.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with prayer led by Pastor Hauter.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jo Ann Russ, Secretary



A SPECIAL INTIVATION TO ALL WOMEN;

JoAnn Russ is hosting an open house on Saturday, December 14th in her home at 45 Posada Drive.

Take some time to get away from the shopping the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season to enjoy fellowship with each other. Bring a friend, if you like. Simply stop by anytime between 2:00pm and 5:00pm

COME AS YOU ARE—NO NEED TO BRING ANYTHING –ONLY YOURSELF!!!



THOUGHTFUL THINKING

"The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal."

Stuart Briscoe

