

The

Parish Perspective

Trinity Lutheran Church

449 W Broadway St, Monticello, MN 55362 | 763-295-2092 | tlcmonticello.org | December 2019

Blessed Advent

Take comfort
you and all the earth,
the Long-awaited
Comes to us again.
Let us prepare
our homes
Emmanuel—

and be joyful,
for once again
One comes.
Let us prepare.
our hearts,
to greet him,
God with us.

Worship
Sundays
9:00 am

Christmas
Eve
3:00 pm
7:00 pm



4 Kids' Christmas
Program

7 Christmas
Canata

8 TRIADS
Gathering

It's Okay Not to be Merry—perhaps be Mary instead *Pastor Amy*

The so-called “most wonderful time of the year” may not be your reality this year. And that’s okay. Let me say that again—if you are not feeling particularly jolly this season, because of illness or loss or uncertainty, it’s okay. Give yourself some slack. Give yourself permission to be happy or sad, to be giddy or angry, to laugh or to cry. And maybe both. And maybe all. Maybe to feel the opposite—or absolutely nothing—within minutes of the other emotion.

This is the truth within my household every Christmas since 2008, when my husband’s father died suddenly and accidentally exactly one week before Christmas Day.

Your story may be one, like mine, of a family member’s passing away and the grief that circles around at an anniversary—or simply at the Holy-days (holidays). Or **maybe you are struggling with your own loss of health, or a loss of a pregnancy no one knows about, or your loss of financial well-being.** Maybe you’ve lost your sense of purpose, your spouse due to divorce or separation, your sense of security or similar. Maybe you struggle with school. All these things fly right in the face of giddy celebrations and sugar-enhanced cheerfulness.

This is the real tension of Christmas!

Mary, poor and unwed, found herself pregnant and

alone. She found refuge with others who loved and cared for her, and stayed with them until she had the strength to resume her normal activities—a new normal that was filled with surprises she could not have imagined. The Gospel writer of Luke tells the story of her acceptance, “may it be to me according to your will” and her song glorifying God, but it’s

likely not a stretch to think that Mary also cried—not a stretch to consider that Mary also worried, that Mary suffered shame and pain, and grieved for a normal life she would never know and felt sorrow in this very different life she was living. God in human form came through such a person, came through Mary—the

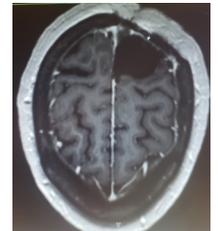
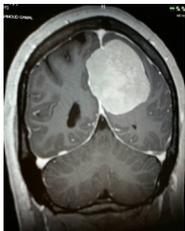
teenage Mary who had no cradle for her newborn, who pondered and treasured, who was beneath the cross years later.

Elvis was onto something when he famously recorded the song “Blue Christmas”. **If your Christmas is less rosy and more blue, I encourage you to find refuge with others who love and care for you.** Surround yourself with caring people. Maybe that is at Trinity!

Give yourself permission to not be merry. Your pastor wants you to find refuge, to find peace, to get to a place where you proclaim—like Mary—that God is mindful of you and blesses you. God’s peace, Pr Amy



If you have been in worship recently, you may have heard me reference surviving a brain tumor, and my joy after the last MRI in November which showed no tumor, no re-growth, and no likelihood of reoccurrence. (Photo bottom right) On my Facebook page, I publicly describe myself as a “brain tumor survivor”. You may be curious about this, and I do not mind sharing my story—especially if it will help someone else. My story is one of surprise, one of faith and prayer and humor; one of the successes of modern medicine and good care. In all likelihood, I had lived with a brain tumor for 10-20 years. It was found as a fluke—on an MRI ordered by my doctor as “an abundance of caution” when I complained of headaches. On May 23, 2016, I was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. (Photo on left) I had a craniotomy at Abbott Hospital on July 6, 2016 and doctors removed a 6.1 cm non-cancerous meningioma. I suffered a skull infection and some of my quick-recall skills are gone, but no other side effects. Yes, I get nervous every fall at MRI time, but my recovery still astounds and pleases doctors. I thank God for every day—for by the grace of God I am living well. Because of this experience, I am a better mother and a better pastor.



From our Council and Staff

President's Update

Greetings Members of Trinity,

I did mention this last month but in case anyone missed it I am sending another reminder. We will be **looking for 3 people to join the Church Council in February** so please keep that in mind as we come to the end of the year. The Council meets once per month, so the commitment of time is rather minimal. Do you have a passion for our congregation, and a desire to positively impact our future? Are you looking to add a new voice to the leadership conversation? The Holy Spirit is calling Trinity to great things—and if you want to be an active leader for the future of our congregation, please consider serving on Council. If you have any questions or you have prayerfully considered that you would like to join the Council; please see me at church or I can be reached at 320-266-0509.



Marc Jacobson

The seasons change with the weather and so things change at Trinity as well. It is with deep sadness that both Ellen and Ketzal have resigned from their positions with the church effective 12/31/19. They have decided to retire and although we will miss them in their roles, they will still be here as dedicated members of our congregation. Please join me in congratulating them both on their retirement and thanking them for their years of service! We are posting these positions with some modifications to duties and tasks; if anyone is interested please contact myself or stop at the office for more information. The updated job descriptions are or will also be available on our website. Resumes are being received and processed now. God Bless, Marc Jacobson

Retirement Party for Ellen Bjornlie December 15

Please come to celebrate with retiring Office Manager Ellen Bjornlie on December 15, immediately after the children's program and worship! A great brunch will be available, as well as cake and the usual coffee and juice. Let's give God thanks for Ellen and for her many years of service to Trinity! A card box will be available for any expressions of appreciation and best wishes that one may want to offer Ellen.



Staff Resignation Announcement—Posting Position



Ketzal Domke resigned his position of Custodian/Facilities Manager in late November and his last day is December 31. Come celebrate with Ketzal on December 29; as we thank him for his years of service to God and to Trinity! Plans are underway for a cake and coffee event immediately following the worship service.

Our current custodial needs are being reviewed, and job description updated. The position will be posted internally and advertised as needed.

Children, Youth, and Family

Pray for Teachers & Children

Teaching the next generation is a privilege and a responsibility. There are joyous moments and frustrating moments. Not everyone can teach, but everyone can pray!

Will you please pray for our Sunday School children and teachers each week?

Will you please pray for the parents that assist with Confirmation?

Will you please pray for Linda Elstad who dedicates her time and energy for God's Angels?

You can use your own words or you might choose to pray this prayer:

Good and gracious God,

Bless the children of Trinity Lutheran Church. Help them understand the depth of your love. Fill them with your spirit and wisdom so that they may grow to be strong men and women who trust in your grace and live out their faith.

Guide the Sunday School teachers, and all who teach the young at Trinity. Give them your wisdom and compassion that they may also share joyfully with the children. May all grow spiritually.

Lord, we thank you for the many blessings you shower upon our Sunday School program. We pray that Your Spirit may continue to work through the children and teachers as they continue explore church and the stories in your Scriptures. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Christmas Program December 15 9:00 am

Christmas-time is quickly approaching, and the Sunday School students are busy getting ready for their Christmas program! The program will be held during the worship service on December 15 (in lieu of sermon). It will tell a traditional Christmas story—with shepherds, wisemen, and baby Jesus. We will also have some handbell performances during the program. This is one Sunday morning you won't want to miss! No one tells the Christmas story like a child!

Following the program, we will be presenting our 3rd graders with Bibles.

Children will spend the remainder of the worship service downstairs with their Sunday School teachers. You can enjoy coffee hour as a family as we will not be having Sunday School on December 15.



Sunday School will resume January 5, 2020. We look forward to continuing our lessons on Jesus' life and how those stories impact our lives as Christians today.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Important Dates for Sunday School

December 14 (Saturday) - 10:30 am-noon
Christmas program dress rehearsal

December 15 (Sunday) - arrive before 8:40 am
Christmas program during worship service
Bible Presentation to our 3rd graders
No Sunday School

December 22 & 29 (Sundays) - No Sunday School

January 5 (Sunday) -
Regular Sunday School resumes

Children, Youth, and Family

Jars for Jesus—Christmas Jars Collected December 15

Throughout the month of November, Confirmation students and families have been collecting their spare change—emptying their pockets daily, and dropping the coins and crushed bills in jars of all kinds. Although each day may not be much, saving pocket change surprisingly adds up! Giving of time, talent, and energy is living into God’s call to serve the neighbor.

Club 3:16, our youth group, will sort the collected change on December 14 after coffee fellowship. Like Jesus “sent out” his disciples, Trinity young people will go out in pairs or teams—offering the “no strings attached” gift to random strangers around town. (Thanks to the parents and other adults driving for this event.)

After gifting persons, and hopefully making someone’s day a bit brighter or their family Christmas a little easier financially, Club 3:16ers will return to the church building to talk about how Christ gave without expectation and how giving makes one feel—and makes an impact.



Monticello Community Caring Tree

Trinity worshippers provided gifts for 5+ families this year

Thank you to so many at Trinity who quietly took the tags from the little tree by the office, and purchased gifts ranging from shoes or coats to movie tickets and bath products. The green tags were gone in less than two weeks! Kids (and parents) from 5 families will have 3 wrapped presents to open on Christmas morning because of you.



God’s Angels Jesus’ Birthday Party



Wednesday, December 18

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Please bring a gift for Jesus (Food Shelf)

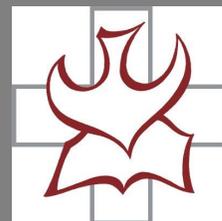
With a special Christmas story and birthday cake

Come for games, crafts and social time

Join the fun, bring a friend K-6th grade

(under Kindergarten welcome with an adult)

Please RSVP to Linda @ 612-701-7024



CONFIRMATION

Grades 7,8,9

LESSONS for DECEMBER 2019

December 4 - The Transfiguration

December 11 - Sending of the 70 into “the world”

December 18 - Special Guest Presentation

December 25 - No Class—Merry Christmas

January 1 - No Class—Happy New Year—*be safe*

December 2019

Trinity Lutheran Church - Monticello

tlcmonticello.org

763-295-2092

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Worship Holy Communion 10:00 Fellowship Sunday School 10:00 Social Ministry 2:00 Iglesia Shalom	2 5:30 Refit Class 7:00 Men's Group	3 9:00 Bible Study 2:30 Welcome/ Outreach Mtg. 5:30 Refit Class	4 9:00 Faithfully Fit 7:00 7th, 8th, 9th Confirmation	5 5:30 Refit Class 6:00 Trinity Choir 6:00-7:00 Scouts	6 Office Closed 5:00 Iglesia Shalom	7 9:00 Refit Class 5:00 Iglesia Shalom Service
8 9:00 Worship 10:00 Fellowship Sunday School 10:00 Worship/Music 2:00 Christmas Cantata w/Trinity Churches of Monticello & Princeton	9 5:00 Finance 5:30 Refit Class	10 9:00 Bible Study 5:30 Refit Class 7:00 Church Council	11 9:00 Faithfully Fit 1:30 Rebecca Circle 6:00 Brownies 7:00 7th, 8th, 9th Confirmation	12 12:00 Monticello Ministerium 5:30 Refit Class 6:00 Trinity Choir 6:00-7:00 Scouts	13 Office Closed 5:00 Iglesia Shalom	14 9:00 Refit Class 10:30 Christmas Program Rehearsal 5:00 Iglesia Shalom Service
15 9:00 Worship Holy Communion Sunday School Christmas Program 10:00 Fellowship *Ellen's Retirement Party	16 12:30 Triads Outing to Wright County Historical Society 5:30 Refit Class 7:00 Men's Group (?)	17 9:00 Bible Study 5:30 Refit Class	18 9:00 Faithfully Fit 5:30 God's Angel's Christmas Party 6:00 Brownies 7:00 7th, 8th, 9th Confirmation— Special	19 5:30 Refit Class 5:30 God's Angels Birthday for Jesus 6:00 Trinity Choir 6:00 -7:00 Scouts	20 Office Closed 5:00 Iglesia Shalom	21 9:00 Refit Class 5:00 Iglesia Shalom Service
22 9:00 Worship—Cantata Musical Worship 10:00 Fellowship No Sunday School 2:00 Iglesia Shalom	23 2:30 Christmas Service @ Care Center 5:30 Refit Class	24 Christmas Eve 3:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed "Merry Christmas"	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed 5:00 Iglesia Shalom	28 9:00 Refit Class 5:00 Iglesia Shalom Service
29 9:00 Worship Holy Communion 7:30 Confirmation Lock-in *Ketzels Retirement No Sunday School	30 Office Closed 5:30 Refit Class	31 Office Closed	January 1, 2020 "Happy New Year" Office Closed	January 2, 2020	January 3, 2020	January 4, 2020

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please keep these members, friends, family members, and community residents in your prayers this month.

Karen Wickline
 Joan Rohloff
 Rebecca Florek
 Becky Grabski
 Ki Orre
 Lance Gubrud
 Loyal Dudley
 Denny Holker

Merilee Heuchert
 Larry Peterson
 Jim Thorpe
 Barb Thorpe
 Sara Freiday
 Natalie Myrick
 James Given
 Nancy Axelson

Buddy Kalpin
 Jack Hansen
 David Grimes
 Sue Yeazle
 Mary Zieman
 Tom Merchlewicz
 Gene Decker
 June Bluhm

Brian Groff
 Amber Cruiser
 Tammi Johnson
 Debbie Hale
 Trinity Lutheran Church

Worship and Music

CHRISTMAS CANTATA 2019

A good number of our faith community elected to take a break from the rush of baking, shopping, and wrapping, to enjoy a special choral experience at Trinity in Monticello, on the afternoon of December 8.

Along with the choir from Trinity Lutheran in Princeton, our Trinity adult choir presented a musical Christmas Cantata, “Christmas Women; Christmas Hope,” written and composed by choir director Harry Walsh. This 45-minute pit of respite was open to all, and the entire Monticello community was invited. A beautiful array of Christmas cookies and treats were enjoyed afterward as attendees conversed.

As St. Paul wrote, “there are three things that last: faith, hope, and love.” With that in mind, the music and the readings this year focused on HOPE—something many of us need! A line from one of the meaningful songs offered a perspective of the grounds for Christian hope—“Jesus came from the darkness of the womb. Jesus came from the darkness of the tomb. That how we know: the desert will bloom.”

What kind of concert is a cantata? A cantata (from the Italian “cantare” which means “to sing”) is a collection of songs with instrumental support. It’s not an opera. There is no drama, no acting, no special costumes, etc. It’s simply a collection of songs and narratives that are centered on a particular aspect of the Christmas story—in this case, Christmas hope.

This was the fourth cantata offered at Trinity. The last three Cantatas were titled “Prepare Ye The Way,” “Story Time,” and “How Christmas Came To Be.” Originally the idea for a Cantata came from the church in Princeton, when the former pastor was troubled because he felt that the commercial world had “stolen” Christmas from the church. While he wasn’t against Jingle Bells or Rudolf, he just felt that the true meaning of Christmas had been hijacked and a correction was needed. The annual cantata came into being – a chance for people to be quiet and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.



Did not have a chance to witness the cantata on December 8? The cantata by Harry Walsh and our choir, with narration by Terry Hopkins, will be offered again on Sunday, December 22 during the 9:00 am worship service!

Invite a friend who needs to hear a word of hope this season to worship with you.



Trinity Tidbits

Christmas Poinsettia Garden

A Poinsettia garden is planned as part of this year's worship space/sanctuary Christmas décor. If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one(s) on Christmas Eve, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office by December 15 with whatever you wish to enclose (any amount may be given). The Christmas Eve bulletin will include a list of all persons memorialized or honored.



The amount enclosed \$ _____ is to be used for Poinsettias for Christmas Eve.

Given in memory of _____

Given in honor of _____

Name of person(s) giving the memorial (can be anonymous if you wish)

TRInity ADultS (TRIADS) Christmas Get Together

Monday, December 16

Meet at Trinity at 12:30 pm to carpool

Wright County Historical Society
Indoor Festival of Decorated Trees

followed by

Coffee and Pie back at Trinity

Sponsored by TRIADS Sunday morning coffee

Call Trinity to sign up at 763-295-2092

Or Audrey and Dave at 763-295-1960

Or Sunday with Marge at the greeters desk



CONTACT INFORMATION

Trinity Website	www.tlcmonticello.org
Trinity E-mail	office@tlcmonticello.org
Trinity Church Office	763-295-2092
Pastor Amy Chalupnik	612-282-2275 cell
Ellen Bjornlie	763-295-5653 home
<i>Office manager</i>	612-810-1697 cell
Ketzel Domke	763-295-4491 home
<i>Facilities manager</i>	612-598-0437 cell

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

Social Ministry



Fair Trade encompasses more than just coffee! Look for it at your coffee shop and grocery store as well. Or buy Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate right here at Trinity!

Buying fair trade goods allows farmers to not only feed their families but educate their children.

monticello HELP CENTER

food. help. hope.

Most Needed Items this Month

- Bar soap
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Feminine Hygiene Products

Plus, cash donations—for every \$1 you donate to the Monticello Help Center, they are able to provide over \$10 worth of food to those struggling.



Give The Gift of Warmth and Health This Advent

Trinity is collecting cold-weather gear, like hats, mittens, and socks—on the large evergreen tree in the narthex/lobby! Have a pair you don't wear? Received a hat from someone and it's not your style? Share it with someone in need. All socks, hats, mittens, and scarves will be donated to Place of Hope in St. Cloud.

One of the most requested items from local shelters and/or clothing donation charities is socks. Many who are homeless walk miles in damp socks, exposing their feet to hazards, especially in the winter. Cold weather and wet socks could lead to frostbite, which could threaten a limb or result in an amputation. If you have a few extra dollars to spend, consider purchasing a pair or two of good quality socks and hang them on the tree. **Why are socks so important?** Socks are important for the overall health of feet. Not only do socks absorb moisture, but they are also used to help prevent rubbing of shoes on the bare foot. Socks can also provide cushioning to pad the feet and help keep them warm. In the winter months, socks can help prevent cold feet and frostbite. Wearing socks also prevents conditions such as athlete's foot. Going sockless can result in blisters or sores on the foot, and for some, this can lead to infection.

Thank You—A heartfelt thank you to all our Trinity friends and their friends...

- who showed up to pack shoe boxes Sunday, November 17
- who purchased soccer balls—Trinity provided 72 game balls & air pumps
- who donated gifts for the boxes
- who wrapped boxes
- who assembled the little wooden cars
- who searched out loads of Beanie Babies
- who prayed for the children receiving the boxes

We are so grateful to have so much support.

This congregation rocks!

Because of you, 580 kids will open a Christmas box.

Every single person who touched this project makes it possible. Deepest thanks, the Social Ministry committee

Trinity Lutheran Church
449 W Broadway St
Monticello, MN 55362

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

~ Bible Verse of the Month ~

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.”

Psalm 119:105



Celebrating
THE BIRTH OF
Christ

All are invited
**Christmas Eve
Worship**
With Holy Communion
December 24
3:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Pastor Amy Chalupnik

Trinity Lutheran Church 449 W Broadway Monticello