

Trinity News

Volume MMXXIV No. 12 ❖ DECEMBER 2023

Christmas at Trinity



Sunday, December 24

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. * / Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist 4:00 p.m. * / Nativity of our Lord Family Eucharist

Christmas Dinner 5:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall / RSVP required

Holy Eucharist 7:30 p.m. / Nativity of our Lord Candlelight Eucharist
(Prelude starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Monday, December 25

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. / Nativity of our Lord

Wednesday, December 27

Christmas Carol Sing 6:00 p.m. led by the Trinity Choir (Nave)

Sunday, December 31

Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. * / First Sunday of Christmas

*Livestreamed online at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

A Carol for Our Time

Cantor Mark Mummert

Each year during Advent and Christmas I am eager to find a new carol to celebrate the season. I love the traditional carols, but a new carol helps me to sing the truth about our longing for God to come to us today.

This year a friend pointed me to this Christmas carol, with words fashioned by Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. in 1995. Dr. Stuempfle was for many years the president of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. In his retirement he composed some 600 hymns, some of which are in our latest hymnals.

This carol, *Where Nights Are Torn by Siren's Wail*, seems to me to be full of the reality of our present time. The carol can be sung to the tune of *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*. I hope this carol can be for you a downpayment on the promise of God, that, even when it appears the darkest and most dire, Christ comes bringing peace, love, and light.

Where nights are torn by siren's wail
and din of blaring horn,
on streets where threats of violence lurk,
the Child again is born.
No cattle bend before his crib;
no shepherds crowd his stall;
yet here, where life is harsh and hard,
he comes with love for all.

In homes unlit by laughter bright,
where hearts are sad, forlorn,
where want and worry darken hope
the Child of Light is born.
No kings bow down to worship him;
no star with splendor shine;
yet still, where deepest darkness lies,
he makes a holy shrine.

Where bombs of death are raining down
on homes by terror torn,
where sounds of battle never cease,
the holy Child is born.
No angel choirs wing the sky
to fill the night with song;
yet still appears the Prince of Peace
to whom all worlds belong.

Where streams of people flee in fear,
of home and kindred shorn,
where hungry children waste and die,
the homeless Child is born.
The Christ whose parents sped him far
from threat of Herod's hand,
comes near and with compassion shares
the pain of every land.

Sing praise that God, for love of us,
descended in the night
and, in the shadowed stable stall,
touched earth with heaven's light.
Sing praise to God who came in flesh
to bear all sin and scorn.
Sing praise that still, where all is dark,
a Child for us is born.

[Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. 1995 ©1997, GIA Publications, Inc.]

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT – KAREN COUTURIER

Sharing some brief highlights of the November 6, 2023 Council meeting.
Council focused our attention on three major areas.

Staffing Plan Discernment

Council discussed staffing needs in light of the vacant Youth, Family and Outreach Minister position. Pastor Nathan met with Sunday School families and reported parents expressed strong appreciation and support for continuing current Sunday programming. Families and children are excited and engaged in the weekly Sunday morning Children's Message, followed by Chapel time and music with Cantor Mark. Parents are willing to help with Sunday morning time as long as support is provided for activities or curriculum. Families want to continue monthly Family Sunday school. Beth Getman will facilitate the December 3rd session. With regard to staffing decisions, we will include parents in decision making, planning and implementation. Addressing faith formation education needs and keeping our young families engaged in the life of the church is a top priority.

We are taking time to discern staffing needs, trying to fully evaluate what we need to carry out Trinity's mission. Council discussed the option of multiple part time positions to cover needed roles. Staff shared ideas based on areas of greatest need including communication and use of social media, a building attendant for Saturday events and a volunteer coordinator as examples. We will consider use of part time positions, volunteers and student interns to help fill needed roles. We discussed ways to identify skills, gifts and talents of our people and matching them to areas reflecting their strengths. We affirmed the value of personally inviting others to share in ministry service.

Preliminary Budget 2024

Nancy Fontneau reviewed the Preliminary 2024 budget prepared by the Finance Committee for presentation to the congregation for discussion November 19, 2023. Council recommended the preliminary budget be presented to the congregation for review and discussion. Some highlights new for 2024 include:

- Total projected income \$ 724,500.
- Total projected expenses \$750,350.

- Budget projections for the Mission Endowment Fund are based on the for 20-quarter lookback average.
- 3.5% raises for professional staff, 10% raises for hourly staff.
- Addition of a line item for a part time staff position for \$25,000.00
- The Final 2024 budget will be voted on during the January 28 annual meeting.

Nancy noted pledge income has been above budget consistently in 2023. We are grateful for the generosity of the people of Trinity!

Other updates

T.E.C. school building use update – The negotiating team met November 8, 2023 to discuss plan for 2024-2025. We are preparing the transition to a standardized lease. We hope to have decision for 2024 -2025 school year by the Annual meeting January 28,2024.

Nominating committee is looking for Council candidates for the 2024 council year. Eligible for another term are Jim Drackley, Rick Lagueux, Dale Mattice, Suzanne Whitmarsh and Matthew Whitmarsh. Mary Tarquinio will finish her term in January 2024. Many thanks to all council members who have served in 2023. When someone from the Nominating committee reaches out to you, please consider sharing your gifts and talents in serving on council.

Many thanks to all our Council members for their faith, dedication and perseverance in our work together. A reminder that Council meetings are open to all members of the congregation. Please speak with a Council member if you have questions. Next regular Council meeting is December 11, 2023 @ 6:45 pm.

NEWS & UPDATES

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER / Pastor Nathan and Cantor Mark invite you to join them on Christmas Eve at 5:15 p.m. for a catered Christmas Eve Dinner in the Fellowship Hall between the liturgies. Cost per person for the meal of four courses is \$15. Please RSVP by Wednesday, December 20 to either Pastor Nathan or Cantor Mark and watch for more details about the menu.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS / If you wish to make a donation *in memory or in honor of a loved one*, please list the name of the individual and/or family on the Christmas flower envelope in your packet or on another envelope and place in the offering plate or mail to the church office. If you wish to make your donation *online*, please be sure to include the names of those you wish to remember *in the comments column*. Names of those being remembered will appear in the Christmas bulletins and in the January Trinity News. The offering per plant this year will be \$20. Please be sure to **submit your names no later than Sunday, December 17.**

LUTHERAN HEALTHCARE CENTER CHRISTMAS GIFTS / Each Christmas, Trinity blesses the 151 residents of the Lutheran Healthcare Center with a Christmas gift. This year, the Center has requested specific items that the staff believe will bring joy to the residents. To help with this project, please fill a holiday gift bag with the following items: a large print word search or large print crossword puzzle book, an adult coloring book, colored pencils or crayons and either body lotion or liquid bath soap. Please bring the gift bags to church by December 10th and place on the table in the hallway outside of Jeppson Hall. If you have any questions, please speak with Bev Dumas or Merrie Gerber. Thanks for your help!

“LIFE TRANSITIONS SERIES” / The TLC Care Team invites all members of the congregation to a series entitled "Life Transitions." This series is designed to encourage, and provide resources, for individuals and families in making decisions about end-of-life care and funeral planning. All sessions are open to the public and will be held in Jeppson Hall.

- **Sunday, December 3 at 11:30 a.m. - Funeral Planning.** Katherine Lehman from Nordgren Funeral Home will share information, and lead discussion, about funeral planning and the importance of making these decisions.
- **Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. - Family Conversation.** Trinity members Roz Horn, Nancy Fontneau, and Beth Getman will speak about the necessity of family conversations in regards to life choices and palliative/hospice care.

Advent Vespers

Sunday, December 10

4:00 p.m.

An evening service of prayer, hymns, choral music,
and silence for reflection and centering.

Trinity Choir

Cantor Mark Mummert

Free; an offering
will be received

Trinity Lutheran Church
73 Lancaster Street
Worcester, MA 01608



MEMORIAL GIFTS TO TRINITY AT CHRISTMAS / Christmas is a season of sharing, of gift giving in memory and celebration of the gift of salvation in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of this season of hope and love, consider memorializing departed family and friends with a gift to Trinity. Gifts in honor of loved ones can be made in any amount to the Mission Endowment, House of the Lord, Altar and Organ, or Good Samaritan funds, or to more specific ministries such as Music at Trinity, Television Ministry, and Lutheran Home Christmas, among others. Just want to give a cheery reminder of someone? Donate a poinsettia plant (\$20/plant) to decorate our worship space! The entire list of giving opportunities can be found via the Give link on Trinity's webpage (www.trinityworc.org) and on the Vanco Giving mobile app. For more information on electronic giving, contact the Treasurer at treasurer@trinityworc.org or through the church office at (508) 753-2989.

SUNDAY SERVANTS TRAINING / On Sunday, January 7 at 11:30 a.m. we will train all new and continuing worship assistants.... all of our "Sunday Servants." All assisting ministers, lectors, communion assistants, bread bakers, crucifers, and acolytes should plan to attend. This is also a good time for anyone who wants to be added to this group of volunteers to join. We expect the training to last no longer than an hour. If you have any questions, contact Bess Sproul, Worship and Music Ministry Team Chair, or Cantor Mark Mummert. (mmummert@trinityworc.org or 713-256-5980)

ELCA WORLD HUNGER & LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

RESPONDS TO MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN CRISIS / The Rev. Daniel Rift, Executive Director of the ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response Fund invites you to make a donation in response to the humanitarian crisis in the middle east. The humanitarian crisis continues to worsen – almost 70% of Gazan residents are displaced, and resources such as food, water and medical supplies are in short supply.

Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for "Middle East Crisis" will be restricted to and used in full (100%) for those affected by this crisis and others in the region. Lutheran Disaster Response supports:

- **Augusta Victoria Hospital.** The hospital procures medical supplies and provides accommodations for patients and staff unable to return to their homes in Gaza.
- **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.** The church provides emergency education support for families who have lost income due to the war and are unable to pay school fees.
- **ACT Alliance.** Through implementing partners Lutheran World Federation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, ACT Alliance responds to immediate needs for psychosocial support, shelter, household items, public health centers and direct cash assistance, focusing on the Palestinian communities in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank.

HOST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COFFEE HOUR / We need your help!

Hospitality, Fellowship and Welcoming (HFW) needs volunteers to host coffee hour. Hosts are responsible for set up and clean up, and providing food. All paper goods and coffee necessities are provided by the church. The sign-up sheets for October through December are posted on the Trinity bulletin board outside the copy room. HFW Co-Chairs Thom Tarquinio and Amanda Cummings are happy to answer any questions.

MAKE A PRAYER SHAWL / The Care Team is hoping to have a supply of prayer shawls available for individuals who are in need of comfort for any reason.

Completing a prayer shawl is a spiritual practice and you are invited to create one as you are able. You can knit, crochet or sew the prayer shawls but the finished size of the shawls should be 60 inches long and at least 18 inches wide. For more information about the origins of prayer shawls, prayers and a variety of instructions and patterns, please visit <http://www.shawlministry.com>. Completed prayer shawls can be left at the Parish Office.

TRINITY BOOK CLUB / The Trinity Book Club will meet on Mondays (listed below) in the Library at 1:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Brown sbrown5453@gmail.com.

- December 4: *Mad Money* by Jody Picoult (F). This session was postponed from Monday, November 20.
- January TBD: *Bruno* by Martin Walker (F) – The first in a series of current day detective stories set in France with an intriguing protagonist.
- February TBD: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks (F) – The story of a magnificent horse, how slavery supported the achievements of the past in unexpected ways, broken promises and delayed recognition.
- March 18: *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell (F) – The imagined story of Shakespeare's only son a twin.
- April 15: *Four Seasons in Rome* by Anthony Doerr (NF) – Before *All the Light We Cannot see*, Anthony Doerr spent a year in Rome with his wife and newborn twins. Beautifully written contemporary memoir.
- May 20: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus (F) – the world of the sixties, free thinking women of science and how chemistry works between people and experiments.

TRINITY 75TH ANNIVERSARY

THANK YOU! 75th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs Paul Foster and Charlie Labonte, along with Pastor Nathan, thank the congregation for a joyous 75th Anniversary Banquet held in Jeppson Hall on Sunday, November 5th. Over 150 people attended the banquet, including the Rev. James Hazelwood, Bishop of the New England Synod Worcester Mayor Joseph Petty who presented Trinity a “Key to the City.”



Thank you to all members of the 75th Anniversary Committee who worked so diligently and faithfully during the past year to host the many activities of the year-long anniversary celebration. Thank you to former Trinity Pastors Christopher Hoyer and Susan Nachtigal, and Pastors Ruth Popkin and Stephanie Pope, former members, for returning to preach. Thank you to all Trinity members who participated in the events. Thank you to all who made financial donations in support of the efforts. Thank you to the congregation for pulling together to celebrate the past, the present and future saints of Trinity during the past year.

Finally, special thanks to member Dick Liberty who won the Trinity quilt and donated it back to the congregation.

The 75th Anniversary Committee will meet next on Sunday, December 10 at 11:30 a.m. in the Library for a wrap-up meeting. Again, thank you to everyone who pitched in to celebrate Christ's work at Trinity Church for 75 years!

75th ANNIVERSARY ORNAMENTS



Trinity ornaments are still available for purchase, with funds collected going to cover the cost of the 75th Anniversary Banquet and the restoration of the King Gustav Altar Cloth. This lovely two-sided ornament is printed on porcelain and depicts the majestic Trinity Steeple on the front. Ornaments are for sale at \$20 each or 2 for \$30. Committee can help you with this purchase at coffee-hour or during the remaining special 75th Anniversary Events.



IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear People of Trinity,

Congratulations on this wonderful milestone!

For 75 years, you've done God's work in serving the city of Worcester.

You've proclaimed God's love, worked for justice, and served your neighbors. You've affirmed your LGBTQ+ neighbors, prioritized family, youth, and campus ministries, and shared your gifts and resources with those in need.

Your worship space is beautiful and welcoming. The large, central baptismal font and the circular altar rail proclaim God's abundant welcome and a place for all at God's table. The way that sacred music fills the sanctuary is just heavenly!

We're so glad that you're our neighbors. We are thankful for opportunities to join with you in shared worship, in support of our joint mission partners, and at community events. We look forward to many more of these opportunities in the years ahead.

Blessings on your 75th Anniversary! May it be just the beginning!

Your co-workers in Christ,

Pastor Sarah

Pastor Sarah Barnes

Pastor Josh

Pastor Josh Ferris



Dear friends in Christ,

What a joy it is to see the many ways that God's love has moved through your community of faith over the last seventy-five years; and even more, to see the ways you continue your faithful ministry today and into the future! While I am unable to join you in person for your 75th anniversary celebration, I am with you in spirit.

As dean of the Central Massachusetts conference, I am grateful for Trinity's consistent leadership and partnership within the conference and the wider New England Synod. Many of our Central Massachusetts congregations have worked together with you over the years to provide a vibrant witness to the power of God at work in Jesus Christ. That work continues today through ministry amongst our youth, ministry to refugee and migrant families, ministry at the Lutheran Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center, and many more.

In particular, I give thanks for your leadership in strengthening the worship life of our conference and of our Synod. Many synod assemblies and other special events have included worship services held at Trinity where the sacraments have drawn us deeper into the heart of God. Personally, I remember being ordained at a synod assembly worship service at Trinity in May 2009. The memory of hearing so many voices sing out "And I will raise him up" (*I Am the Bread of Life, ELW 485*) while receiving God's grace through bread and wine has stayed with me throughout my ministry!

This fall we have been hearing some Scripture readings from Paul's letter to the Philippians. His words seem fitting for this day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ... Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ... Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you" (*Philippians 4:4, 6, 9*).

With gratitude for you and all the saints of Trinity,

Rev. Jeffrey Goodrich
Dean, Central Massachusetts Conference
New England Synod, ELCA
Senior Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Westborough, MA

TRINITY CAT'S MEOW COLLECTABLE FOR SALE / Trinity Cat's Meow remain available to purchase in celebration Trinity's 75th Anniversary. The cost is \$25.00. Thank you for your support!

SPECIAL YEAR-LONG COLLECTION FOR CARTY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY / As a way to celebrate Trinity's 75 years of ministry in the city of Worcester, the 75th Anniversary Committee is encouraging specific donations for the Carty Cupboard Food Pantry. On the first Sunday for each month in 2023, our goal has been to collect 75 (or more) of a specific and identified item. During the **month of December, our goal is to collect 75 meals in a can (e.g. tuna, soup, Chef Boyardee).** Donations may be placed in the shopping cart in the hallway. Please speak with Merrie Gerber for more information. Thanks for your generosity!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE – KEVIN ERKKILA, CHAIR

The response to this year's pledge appeal has been encouraging! As of this writing, three weeks after Commitment Sunday, over \$336,000 has been pledged in support of ministry for 2024. This is about 94% of the total pledged within the first month after Commitment Sunday in 2022, with more responses still coming in. This is also despite a glitch in the mailing of the Commitment Cards.

Thank you to all those who have pledged, to those who have increased their pledge for 2024, and especially to those who took the Step Up challenge and increased their pledge for 2024 by at least 1% of their household income! Your commitment is a greatly appreciated expression of faith in the work done in God's name throughout Trinity's 75 year history and in our professional staff who have led and guided that work and continue to do so.

If you have not yet made a pledge of financial support for ministry in 2024, please consider doing so. Pledges may be made by contacting the church office by phone at (508)753-2989 or by mail, by emailing the Financial Secretary at finance@trinityworc.org, online through the Trinity website at www.trinityworc.org, or via the Vanco Mobile Faith app for smartphones and tablets.

FAITH FORMATION

CHILDREN'S TIME / During the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, following the Children's message with Pastor Nathan on the Chancel steps, children are invited to go to Christ Chapel with Cantor Mark for the Children's Time. Children return to the Nave at the Sign of Peace in time for the Lord's Supper.

FAMILY SUNDAY SCHOOL / The whole family is invited to attend Family Sunday School normally held the first Sunday of each month in the Multipurpose Room from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. Please speak with Pastor Nathan for more information.

BIBLE STUDIES / We invite you to join us as we study God's word and the assigned scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Bible Studies meet in the Trinity Library and are also offered on Zoom. If interested, you may contact any of the leaders listed for more information.

- **Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. led by Cantor Mark**
- **Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. led by Dave Horn**
- **Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. led by Pastor Nathan**

CELEBRATIONS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Alice Lindberg – December 8

Henry Holmgren – December 11

Diane McKean – December 13

Albert Ostlund, Jr. – December 13

Ann Burgdorf – December 15

Barbara LeBlanc – December 18

Raymond Anderson – December 21

Martha Hagberg – December 21

Margareta Berg – December 23

Carol Sundquist-McCarthy – December 27

Douglas Behm – December 30

Carol Peura – December 31

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize anniversaries beginning with 25 years

Susan & Stephen Nawn – December 3

Nancy & Ronald Aucoin – December 15

Diane & Ronald McKean – December 16

Andre & Debra Rovin – December 20

Beverly & David Hobbs – December 30

Cheryl & Kenneth DeWolfe – December 31

TRINITY TOWER LIGHTING / A gift has been received and dedicated to Trinity's tower lighting for upcoming seasons of Advent and Christmas. This gift is given to the glory of God in celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Roger M. Peel, husband of Nancy Bergdahl Peel and son-in-law of + Marjorie Clark.

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, December 3 First Sunday of Advent (Year B begins)

Isaiah 64:1-9 *God will come with power and compassion*

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 *Gifts of grace sustain us*

Mark 13:24-37 *The coming of the Son of Man*

Psalmody: Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 *Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.*

Hymn of the Day: ACS Hymn 904, *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*, JESUS NOSSA ESPERANCA

This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. Christ is "advancing" towards us. In the past, God came to us in the life of Jesus. In the present, God comes especially in word and sacrament. In the future, even if there is disaster, God will come to gather us into life. This Sunday we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, and we begin a year-long reading from Mark.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, December 10 Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11 *God's coming to the exiles*

2 Peter 3:8-15a *Waiting for the day of God*

Mark 1:1-8 *John appears from the wilderness*

Psalmody: 85:1-2, 8-13 *Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 256, *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*, FREU DICH SEHR

On the second Sunday of Advent, we light two candles on the wreath and we listen to John the Baptist, preaching, baptizing, and urging also us to prepare for the coming of Christ. The first reading from Isaiah is familiar to anyone who knows Handel's Messiah, and the psalm includes the beloved line, "righteousness and peace have kissed each other."

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, December 17 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *Kept in faith until the coming of Christ*

John 1:6-8, 19-28 *A witness to the light*

Psalmody: Psalm 126 *The LORD has done great things for us*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 241, *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*, WIE SOLL ICH DICH EMPFANGEN

This coming Sunday we light three candles on the Advent wreath. While our society goes crazy with Christmas preparations and the northern hemisphere grows darker each day, we gather to wait for God to bring us into peace and light. In the gospel reading, John the Baptist calls us to make a pathway for Christ. The poem from Isaiah likens us to a bride or bridegroom dressing for our wedding day.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *God's promise to David*

Romans 16:25-27 *The mystery revealed in Jesus Christ*

Luke 1:26-38 *The angel appears to Mary*

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 *The angel appears to Mary*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 258, *Unexpected and Mysterious*, ST. HELENA

This Sunday, we light all four candles of the Advent wreath, and we read the story from Luke about the angel Gabriel coming to Mary. Christians believe that in baptism we too are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit so that Christ will dwell in us. Despite what the shopping malls suggest to us, Christmas is not yet here: we still anticipate what Romans calls "the revelation of the mystery."

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

Sunday, December 24 Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 *A child is born for us*

Titus 2:11-14 *The grace of God has arrived*

Luke 2:1-20 *God with us*

Psalmody: Psalm 96 *Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 279, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, ST. LOUIS

On Christmas Eve we celebrate God being born on earth as a poor Jewish child, whom we call Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. The darkness of the night recalls Calvary, and the candles we light anticipate the candles of Easter, for this infant was born to die and rise for us. With the angels we sing, "Glory to God!"

4:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at

www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

7:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (Nave)

Monday, December 25 Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10 *Heralds announce God's salvation*

Hebrews 1:1-4 *God has spoken by a son*

John 1:1-14 *The Word became flesh*

Psalmody: Psalm 98 *All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 295, *Of the Father's Love Begotten*, DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
On Christmas Day, when the church celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, we hear the great poem in John 1. John pushes the existence of Christ far back before Bethlehem: Jesus Christ, the Word of God, is God from before the creation of the world. In the dark of winter in the northern hemisphere, we break forth into singing, for Christ is the light of the world.

10:00 a.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (Nave)

Sunday, December 31 First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10—62:3 *Clothed in garments of salvation*

Galatians 4:4-7 *Children and heirs of God*

Luke 2:22-40 *The presentation of the child*

Psalmody: Psalm 148 *The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven*

Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 417, *In His Temple Now Behold Him*, REGENT SQUARE
This Sunday we hear Luke's story of the ritual at which the infant Jesus is presented in the temple and his mother Mary is "purified" after childbirth. Yet receiving them in the temple are Simeon and Anna, two old people who speak about the redemption that will come through Jesus' death.

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworchester

2023 ALTAR CANDLES, FLOWERS, TOWER LIGHTING, TRINITY NEWS, TV MINISTRY and TV EQUIPMENT

In this coming year, the Parish Office encourages donors for the Altar Candles, Flowers, Tower Lighting, Trinity News and TV Ministry to sign up early by using this form.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

- **Altar Candles:** \$20 per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration circle one**) of: _____ by _____.

- **Altar Flowers:** As sponsor, you will order the flowers from the florist of your choice. You may have the florist pick up the floral inserts from the Parish Office if you are ordering the double bouquet for the stands or you may order an arrangement in a vase that the florist supplies. The cost is paid directly to the chosen florist and the donation is noted in the bulletin for the chosen Sunday. Please call the Parish Office if you have any questions about this process. I would like to give the flowers on Sunday, _____, 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Tower Lighting:** \$20 per half month to sponsor the Tower Lighting for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **Trinity News:** \$50 per month to sponsor *Trinity News* for the month of _____ 2023. The dedication is to read given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

- **TV Ministry:** \$100/month or \$50 for the **first half/last half (circle one)** of the month of _____ 2023 to sponsor live streaming of Sunday services. Dedication can be given to the glory of God in **honor/memory/celebration (circle one)** of: _____ by _____.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ Form and check can be mailed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, Parish Office, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester MA 01609

Trinity Worship Services on TV and the Internet

Live Stream Webcasts – www.trinityworc.org or www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

TV – Worcester: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on Channel 194 (one-week delay)

TV- Same Day Broadcasts: Shrewsbury – Channel 28, Sunday 8 p.m., Monday 12:30 a.m.

TV- Delayed Broadcasts: Auburn – Tuesday 11 p.m., Thursday 10 p.m., Sunday Noon & 11:30 p.m.; **Holden** – Channel 191, Sunday 8:00 a.m.; **Hudson** – Sunday 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m., Wednesday 3 p.m.; **Leicester** – Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday 8 a.m., Sunday 10 a.m.; **Millbury** – Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 3 p.m. & Saturday 7:30 p.m.; **Oxford** – Sunday 1:15 a.m. and 9:15 a.m.; **Spencer** – Saturday & Sunday 8:30 a.m.;

Sterling/Lancaster – Monday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. **Sutton** – Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday 9 a.m.; **Uxbridge** – Tuesday & Thursday at 10:00 a.m.

Westborough – Sunday at 1:30 p.m. **Briarwood** (closed circuit) – Channel 900 at 11:00 a.m. Sunday

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