Trinity News Volume MMXXIV No. 12 Section December 2024

Advent & Christmas at Trinity Church

The Four Sundays of Advent December 1, 8, 15, 22 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Chapel) 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) * 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Adult Forum: The Gospel of Luke

Sunday, December 15 4:00 p.m. Advent Vespers with the Trinity Choir (Nave)

Tuesday, December 24, Nativity of Our Lord / Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. / Family Holy Eucharist (Nave) *
5:30 p.m. / Christmas Dinner / RSVP required (Fellowship Hall) 7:30 p.m. / Festival Candlelight Eucharist (Nave) (Musical Prelude starts at 7:00 p.m.)

Wednesday, December 25, Nativity of Our Lord/ Christmas Day Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. (Nave)

Sunday, December 29 / First Sunday of Christmas Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. (Christ Chapel) Christmas Carol Sing 9:30 a.m. led by the Trinity Choir (Nave) * Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. (Nave) *

Sunday, January 5 / Epiphany of Our Lord

Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m. (Christ Chapel) Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. (Nave) *

*Livestreamed online at <u>www.vimeo.com/trinitywo</u>

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER / All are invited to Christmas Eve Dinner in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. The suggested donation of \$15 includes a four-course festive meal for adults. New this year is a kid's meal of chicken nuggets and mac'n cheese for only \$5. RSVP by Friday, December 20 to Cantor Mark or the church office. Watch for more details closer to Christmas regarding the detailed menu.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS / If you wish to make a donation *in memory or in honor of a loved one,* please list the name(s) of the individual and/or family on the Christmas flower envelope in your packet. If you wish to make your donation *online,* please be sure to include the name(s) of those you wish to remember *in the <u>comments</u> <u>column.</u> Names of those being remembered will appear in the Christmas Bulletins and in the January Trinity News. Please be sure to submit your names no later than Thursday, December 19. Due to the cost increase in flowers, the offering <i>per plant* this year will be \$25.

Here are some highlights from the regular monthly <u>Congregational Council Meeting of</u> <u>Nov. 11, 2024.</u> If you wish to read the complete, detailed reports, they are available in the church office.

REPORTS:

<u>Pastor Mark Perry</u> submitted a comprehensive report on his activities in worship, pastoral care, faith formation and administration. A Transition Team has been formed and is planning a congregation-wide "History Sharing Event" for Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. This is an important step for Trinity before looking ahead to explore our current mission as a church.

<u>Cantor Mark</u> had reported last month that Trinity will offer an Advent Vespers Service on Sunday, Dec. 15th at 4 p.m. Other musical events will be the Children's Chorus at 4 p.m. on Dec. 8th, and the Women's Chorus at 4 p.m. on Dec. 22nd.

<u>Treasurer Nancy Fontneau</u> reported on Finances for October. As a result of the Stewardship Campaign, the total pledge amount for 2025 received so far comes to a total of approximately \$330,000. After presenting the financial report, the first draft of the proposed budget for 2025 was presented and described to the Council. Various changes were discussed and will be submitted to the Finance Committee. It was pointed out that it will be necessary to consider whether there will be additional expenses in the coming year for the Transition Team and the Call Committee.

<u>The Building Manager</u>'s report noted the recent recruitment of active Trinity members for the Property Committee.

The three rooms on the second floor of the Education Wing recently leased to Summit Academy are in the process of being prepared.

The Building Manager suggested that the current lease for the Clemente School be changed from a one-year to a two-year lease, pending the amended fee amount regarding the new space allocation. The consensus of the Council was that there was no objection to this proposal. <u>The Finance Committee</u> reported that the pledged income for 2025 so far totals about \$330,000 but the first draft of the 2025 proposed budget calls for \$400,000. This may lead to a shortfall in 2025 income. Updated projections will continue throughout the fall. On the positive side, 2024 pledged income remains at 104% of projections for this year.

Ministry Teams:

The Faith Formation Ministry Team and the Worship Ministry Team both submitted reports outlining upcoming events. These appear in the Church Calendar on our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

Summit Academy info session: an opportunity for the congregation to learn more about Summit Academy was postponed from the original date of 11/3/24. This session will be re-scheduled in 2025.

A proposal by the Artwork Committee has created more interest in the process of evaluation, selection and placement of artwork in the church. Some recommendations for that process have been sent to the Committee by the Executive Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

A proposal by the Artwork Team to hang the framed image of Black children (currently in the Library) in the basement classroom where monthly Family Sunday School is currently held, was approved. This proposal was considered as a communication between the team and the Council. Council appreciates all efforts to improve communication between all groups at Trinity as they carry out their ministries.

The Care Team requested \$300 from the Hartz Fund to provide Christmas gifts to Trinity's "shut-in" members. This request was approved.

This report by the President of the Church Council is an informal summary of the business conducted by the Council each month. It is offered in order to facilitate open communication between Trinity's church leadership and the general membership. A detailed report of each Council meeting is recorded by the Council Secretary and reported to the Council at the next monthly meeting. Once those Minutes have been approved by the Council, they are available to anyone who requests a copy.

UPDATE FROM PASTOR MARK

Trinity History Sharing Event: A Day to Honor our Past and Envision Our Future January 11, 2025

All older youth and adults are invited to join us for a very special morning on Saturday, January 11, 2025, from 9 am to Noon, in Jeppson Hall, for a "History Sharing Event". We will review, reflect upon and celebrate Trinity Lutheran Church's history with its various trends and chapters with the goal of seeing what that suggests about who we are as a church and what should be focused on, strengthened or released for moving into our next chapter. This is intended to help us develop a more focused sense of our Mission and Purpose. The input from such events will be gathered up and included in the "Ministry Site Profile" (MSP), a kind of "resume" of the congregation that the (yet-to-be formed) Call Committee will use to help us find the next pastor.

We'll start by fellowshipping together with a potluck breakfast before moving into our discussion session. If you can bring some food to share, please sign up on the sheet found on the bulletin board outside the Parish Office or go online to Trinity History Sharing Event to sign up on the Google document found there. Coffee, tea, water and juice will be provided, as well as plates and eating utensils. (Please do come even if you can't bring food). Please also let us know if child care is needed. Please also wear name tags.

As we prepare for this event, we invite you to think about and bring some notes describing some of the major events and trends that were happening in the world, in this city/neighborhood, in religion and in the congregation during the decade in which you first joined or became active at Trinity. (If you joined as a child, think about the decade when your first clear memories began).

This event is being planned and hosted by your TLC Transition Team: Jennifer D'Amico O'Connor, Mark Lin, Dale Mattice, Bess Sproul, Maureen Stake, Jessica Sutherland, and Pastor Perry. For more information, contact Pastor Perry at the church office or mperry@trinityworc.org or talk to any of the team members. Please mark your calendars and join us for what promises to be a joyful and energizing morning! Invite your church friends and offer a ride, if you can! (Snow date if needed: January 18, 2025)

ARTWORK COMMITTEE UPDATE

On Sunday, November 17, Trinity unveiled its newest artwork acquisition, *The Trinity* by artist Kelly Latimore. This icon is a modern interpretation of Andrei Rublev's work of the same name, which is currently on display outside the church office. The recommendation to purchase *The Trinity* was made after several discussions within the Artwork Committee and round table discussion with members before being approved by the Congregational Council.

Based on these earlier discussions with members, Ben and Charlie Labonte graciously offered to provide an informational session about iconography to help members understand the history of icons as a part of the greater Orthodox church.

By adding this artwork to our collection, we are providing a tangible representation of our work, to be an inclusive body of Christ. As a "Reconciling in Christ congregation" Trinity's welcome statement says "we are committed to work for racial equity and justice." Latimore states on his website that "My hope is that these icons can do what all art can potentially do, which is to create more dialogue." With this in mind, we invite you to contribute your thoughts about the artwork and its permanent location during forthcoming feedback sessions. We are overjoyed to welcome this stunning depiction of *The Trinity* to our space.

SPECIAL REQUEST FOR A PARISHIONER / One of Trinity's long-time members, Marion Grundberg (who just turned 95 this month), has had some health issues and is currently at Oakdale Nursing Home in West Boylston. The family is preparing to now bring Marion home, but in order to do so, they are in need of a wheelchair ramp. They need two (2) 12-foot ramps. If you have one or know of someone who might have one, please contact the Parish Office. Thanks in advance for any help you can provide to Marion and her family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRIST'S BIRTH AROUND THE WORLD / The Artwork Committee invites you to loan a nativity scene to create an "around the world" display. Our hope is that members and visitors to Trinity will be able to view the birth of Christ through a variety of cultures, expanding our appreciation and respect for different perspectives and traditions. The display will be set up for viewing until December 16. If you would like to contribute, please bring your nativity scene or other nativity-related pieces to church on December 1.

LUTHERAN HOME CHRISTMAS / We will again be providing Christmas gift bags for residents of the Lutheran Home. If you would like to provide a small Christmas gift bag stuffed with puzzle books, (word search, cross word puzzles, Sudoku or coloring books with colored pencils), hand cream, no-sugar candy, or any small gifts you can think of. We will provide the bags, just give any of the above mentioned gifts if you prefer. We would like the items at the church no later than Sunday, December 15. Thank you from the Faith in Action team.

SUNDAY SERVANTS TRAINING / On Sunday, January 5 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). **THE COMPLETE BACH PROJECT AND TRINITY CHURCH** / In 11 years, during 12 concerts each year, ALL of the works of J. S. Bach will be presented live in various venues around Worcester, including Trinity Lutheran Church. Dr. Chris Shepard explains this project in a video recorded in the nave of Trinity Church to help spread the news about the project. We invite you to watch the film for more information about the project and to stay tuned for more details about each performance. www.thecompletebach.org.

MEAL PACKING EVENT / Trinity is planning a meal-packing event on April 5, 2025. We plan to put together 20,000 meals for the local food pantries. The meals we will pack are either rice, pasta or oatmeal with a protein supplement and flavor packet. They taste good and provide 6-12 grams of protein, include real fruits and vegetables and are vitamin fortified. This is truly a community! We need your financial help and your help on April 5th. A sign-up sheet will be coming in March. Right now, we need you to think about how much this is helping God's children, our neighbors, and how much you can help. The cost for the products is \$7,400. We have solicited financial institutions, but we need your financial help. Please consider a monthly donation to this worthy project.

STEWARDSHIP

A CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE YOU'LL LIKE! This Christmas, consider a gift to Trinity's Mission Endowment Fund, the MEF. Gifts to the MEF are invested responsibly for the support of Trinity's ministry programs. Earnings from the MEF provide around 10% of annual operating income and are readily available, allowing us to respond quickly to emergent needs and to take advantage of opportunities to expand or create ministry programs.

However, the MEF's ability to keep up with rising costs is dependent upon continued gifts. The end of the year is a particularly good time to make a gift to the MEF, as it can also reduce your Federal and Massachusetts income tax burden for 2024. (Since 2023, Massachusetts residents can deduct gifts to charity on their state income tax form without itemizing.)

Consider the following options:

- Write a check. Simply writing a check to Trinity's MEF provides immediate support and reduces your taxable income. Even easier: make a cash gift electronically via the Trinity website or the Vanco Mobile app!
- **Donate appreciated securities.** Giving from investments that have increased in value not only generates the same income tax deduction as a gift of cash but also avoids tax on the gain in value (capital gains tax).
- Make a gift from an IRA. Gifts made directly from an independent retirement account (IRA) do not count as income, and may be counted toward any required minimum distribution for the year. Ask your IRA administrator about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution. But don't wait! To be credited for tax year 2024, *your gift must reach Trinity by December 31*. If you are mailing a check, the envelope must be postmarked no later than December 31.

ONGOING EVENTS

COLLECTION FOR CARTY CUPBOARD / Items we will be collecting for the Carty Cupboard during the month of November are: Instant cereal (hot or cold), jelly in plastic containers, hearty canned soup, baked beans, beef stew and Chef Boyardee. They also need reusable plastic bags. Thank you to all for your contributions over the past year!

CHILDREN'S TIME / At the time of the sermon, the children are invited to Christ Chapel for a time of singing led by Cantor Mark and age-appropriate activities led by Youth & Family Leader Christy Fyfe. Children are invited to 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 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. on the first Sunday of each month. We will meet in CC LL 10 and CC LL 11 (downstairs classrooms). We will meet the **second Sunday of the month in December only.**

SENIOR LUNCHEON / Please note: there will be **NO** Senior Luncheon held in the month of December. We hope to see everyone back in the New Year.

LITTLE FREE PANTRY / Thanks to all who have continued to stock the LFP. Currently, we could use toothbrushes and small soaps. We can also Ramen soups, nuts, water and tuna snacks. Feel free to put the items in the pantry at any time you are walking by.

FAITH FORMATION REPORT – BETH GETMAN

Faith Formation team:

- Professional member—Mark Mummert
- Ministry Team Chairman—Beth Getman
- Council Representative Rick Lagueux
- Adult Forum 2024-25 Classes held at both 9 am and 11:30 am
 - Books of Faith Series Luke: Advent 2024: 11/24/24, 12/01, 12/08, 12/15, 12/22, 1/05/25
 - Transition activities: Being planned by the Transition Team
 - Making Sense of the Cross by David Lose: Lent 2025: 3/02---4/06/25
 - Animate Series: Faith Sparkhouse: Spring 2025
 - Christian Worship, 100,000 Sundays of Symbols and Rituals, by Gail Ramshaw: Led by Cantor Mark—Summer 2025
 - Christian Education; Re-presenting education on our liturgy format -- TBD
 - Considering studying Luther's Large Catechism TBD

Please contact the Faith Formation team with suggestions, questions and comments

Current Trinity Faith Formation Activities:

- **1.** Current Family Ministry Faith Formation activities:
 - "Time with Children" Sunday during 10:00 am worship
 - Children's Sermon and Children's education time
 - Time with Pastor during worship
 - Time with Christy Fyfe, Interim Youth and Family Lay Leader position and Cantor Mark during sermon
 - "First Sunday Family Sunday School"
 - Meeting monthly with Christy and parent volunteers

2. Current Adult Faith Formation activities:

- Bible Studies: 2 active groups (Wednesday evening paused)
- Sunday Adult Forums: as described above
- o Seasonal Video Devotionals: Advent and Lent
- 3. Trinity Book Club Meeting on Mondays monthly at 4 pm:

•	Non	fiction		
	0	Born a Crime	Trevor Noah	2/10/25
•	Fictio	on		
	0	<u>The Borrower</u>	Rebecca Makkai	1/13/25
	0	<u>The Sweet Life in Paris</u>	David Lebovitz	3/17/25
	0	Remarkably Bright Creatures	Shelby Van Pelt	4/21/25
	0	<u>James</u>	Percival Everett	5/19/25
	0	<u>Princess Spider Lady</u>	David Horn	6/16/25
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FAITH FORMATION

BIBLE STUDIES / Bible studies will continue Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. The appointed bible readings for the next Sunday are reviewed and discussed, preparing us to hear the Word read and preached the following week. Come join the group and hear (or hear again) how you can serve in a variety of ways for Sunday morning worship. For more information contact the Bible Study leader.

- •Tuesdays at 10:45 a.m. in the Library & Zoom led by Cantor Mark
- •Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Library & Zoom led by Dave Horn

WORLD HUNGER UPDATE – BESS SPROUL

Thank you to all who donated to the ELCA World Hunger campaign. Trinity raised \$5,982.61! We have just learned that it will be **matched by a national grant**, so it will become **\$11,965.28!** This matching grant (up to \$100,000) is available until December 31, so if you would still like to contribute, make your check payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with ELCA World Hunger in the memo line. **Thank you** again for your generosity in a time when hunger is all too real in the world and our country.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

We recognize the birthdays of our members age 75 and older

Diane McKean – December 13 Ann Burgdorf – December 15 Raymond Anderson – December 21 Martha Hagberg – December 21 Margareta Berg – December 23 Carol Sundquist-McCarthy – December 27 Carol Peura – December 31

ANNIVERSARIES

We recognize the anniversaries of couples celebrating 25+ years

Ronald & Nancy Aucoin – December 15 David & Beverly Hobbs – December 30

+ DEATHS +

Judith M. Aubin – November 3

2025 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.

elephone:	E-mail:	
-	per month to sponsor the altar candles for the month of	
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Total amount enclosed: \$______Form and check can be mailed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, ParishOffice, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester MA 01609

+ Worship at Trinity Lutheran Church +

Sunday, December 1 First Sunday of Advent, Year C begins

Jeremiah 33:14-16 A righteous branch springs from David 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Strengthen hearts of holiness Luke 21:25-36 Watch for the coming of the Son of Man Psalmody: Psalm 25:1-10 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 436, Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying, WACHET AUF This coming Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. God is "advancing" towards us: in the past in the life of Jesus; in the present in word and sacrament; and in the future, even if there is disaster, in everlasting life. This Sunday we light the first candle on our Advent wreath, and we begin a year-long reading from the gospel of Luke. 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel) 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Sunday, December 8 Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 The messenger refines and purifies
Philippians 1:3-11 A harvest of righteousness
Luke 3:1-6 Prepare the way of the Lord
Psalmody: Luke 1:68-79 In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us
Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 249, On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry, PUER NOBIS
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. Come to worship, to see "the salvation of our God."
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester

Sunday, December 15 Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *Rejoice in God* Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice, the Lord is near* Luke 3:7-18 *One more powerful is coming* Psalmody: Isaiah 12:2-6 *In your midst is the Holy One of Israel* Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 241, *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You 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 hear John the Baptist urging us to accept God's good news.*

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Christ Chapel*) 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave*) livestreamed at <u>www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester</u>

Sunday, December 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a From Bethlehem comes a ruler Hebrews 10:5-10 I have come to do your will Luke 1:39-45 Blessed are you among women Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly 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 Mary visiting Elizabeth. Christians believe that in baptism we too are filled with the Holy Spirit so that Christ will dwell in us. Come to worship: the mystery approaches.

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Christ Chapel*) 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (*Nave*) livestreamed at <u>www.vimeo.com/trinityworcester</u>

Tuesday, 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 appeared
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
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. Family Holy Eucharist (Nave)
7:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist (Nave)

Wednesday, 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
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 29 First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Samuel grew in favor with all
Colossians 3:12-17 Clothe yourselves in love
Luke 2:41-52 Jesus increased in favor with all
Psalmody: Psalm 148 The splendor of the LORD is over earth and heaven
Hymn of the Day: ELW Hymn 718, In a Lowly Manger Born, MABUNE
This Sunday we hear Luke's story of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the temple, which the boy Jesus refers to as his Father's house. Come to worship with us, where we meet Jesus in his Father's house.
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Christ Chapel)
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Nave) livestreamed at www.

TRINITY CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2024-2025 Council Members

President – Roz Horn president@trinityworc.org Vice-President – Nathan Cummings vice-president@trinityworc.org Secretary – Beth Getman secretary@trinityworc.org Treasurer – Nancy Fontneau treasurer@trinityworc.org

Karen Couturier Jim Drackley Kevin Erkkila Rich Grusell Rick Lagueux Brad Lehman Dale Mattice Cantor Mark Mummert Judy Willoughby

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