

TRINITY BEACON

A Newsletter from Trinity Lutheran Church
to promote communication of information within the congregation.

From the Pastor ...

December 2020

Trust in God but tie your camel tight.

– Persian proverb

I like proverbs. While, yes, I like the Book of Proverbs in the Bible, I am not talking about those proverbs. I am talking about those pithy little statements from around the world that carry a load of wisdom. One of my favorites is the Persian proverb above. I like it because it tells us a lot about what faith is... and what faith isn't.

During this pandemic I have read posts on Facebook, or heard people say in Zoom gatherings, that the pandemic demonstrates the difference between fear and faith. The person who says that is inevitably trying to say that they are fed up with the pandemic; that we should focus more on trusting in God rather than fearing COVID-19. There is a lot of shaming behind that statement though. The person often states it in a self-righteous way to show that they have that kind of faith, but questions whether the rest of us do.

Behind that sentiment, however, is something else: frustration. The person is stating that if we had faith greater than a mustard seed, we should not need to be too concerned about wearing masks, or distancing ourselves, or isolating ourselves from others, or washing our hands. If we had faith, we should be able to gather with whomever we want, whenever we want to. In fact, to witness our faith, we *should* visit restaurants, bars, hair salons and churches to show others that we trust God more than the scientists. In a sense, they are saying that having faith means that God will protect you.

That is a very simplistic view of faith. Don't they think that out of the 1.5 million persons around the world who have died that not even one of them also had faith in God? Do they really think that of all the people who have died – all of the doctors, nurses, EMTs, plumbers, school teachers, retirees, carpenters, children, and people of every nationality, race, creed, social status, or occupation – that not a one of them had faith in God? Do they know that there are both pastors and parishioners who have died? Sometimes this simplistic faith leads to a fatalistic, "Well, when God says, 'Your time is up,' it is up, and there is nothing that is going to change that."

Back to the proverb. Camel drivers trust in God, but they also need to do their part in securing their camel. They cannot just pray, "God, please don't make my camel run away." They also need to use their *God-given* ability to reason and act appropriately. They need to do their part and tie up their camel if they do not want it run away. This is a deeper trust; a trust that God has given us agency to act and make a difference in our world.

There is the old joke about a large dam that broke upstream and the waters were coming toward this man's house. The sheriff came and knocked on the door and told the man to get out

immediately because the waters are coming. The man said, “No, thank you. The Lord will save me.” The waters started to rise and flooded the whole first story of the man’s house. Firefighters came in a boat to a second story window saying to the man, “Get in! We will get you to safety.” The man said, “No, thank you. The Lord will save me.” The waters kept rising so the man went onto the roof of his house. A helicopter came and dropped a harness. The rescue worker said, “Get into the harness. We will lift you to safety.” The man said, “No, thank you. The Lord will save me.” Well, the man drowned and went to heaven. He met with the Lord and angry and disgusted. The man said, “Lord, I trusted you. I trusted that you would save me from the flood.” The Lord said, “I sent you a sheriff in a squad car, some firefighters in a boat, and a whole team of people trained in helicopter rescues, but you never listened to me.”

God does not give us a fatalistic, denial-driven, blind faith. God gives wisdom, insight, gifts, skills, and abilities to people. Then, we listen. We listen to the people who are trained in infectious diseases and vaccine development. We listen to the people who have spent their whole lives studying how viruses spread and what precautions we need to take. We listen to the people who are using their God-given gifts to share with the world in order to save us all.

I mentioned this in the weekly Zoom gathering with the rostered leaders of the conference and Janet Grill pointed me toward this. (I apologize that I do not know the original source. Some versions have it as a pastor from Tennessee, others a pastor from Texas. Still, it gets at some of what I am saying too.)

I trust God...and I wear my seatbelt.
I trust God...and I wear a motorcycle helmet.
I trust God...and there are enough life jackets in my boat for everyone on board.
I trust God...and I use oven mitts with really hot dishes.
I trust God...and I lock my house at night.
I trust God...and I have smoke detectors in my house.
I trust God...and I take my prescribed medicines.
I trust God...and I will follow the best guidelines to share the task of flattening the curve. Acting with caution and wisdom does not indicate a lack of trust in God.

To that, I say, Amen. Amen. So be it.

Pastor Tim



Christmas Eve Worship... We will offer two Christmas Eve outdoor worship services in the parking lot. One will be at **11:00 am** and the other at **3:00 pm** on Thursday, December 24. Bring your lawn chairs, your masks, and your desire to worship the Nativity of Our Lord! In this year that has been nothing like we could have imagined or hoped for, we will gather (weather permitting) anyway.



Thank you for your service! We give God thanks for the faithful service of four individuals who are leaving the congregation council due to term expiration or personal reasons. They have been gifts to our community of faith here at Trinity and we will miss their leadership. They are George Cramer, Jean Haughwout, Kate Mingle, and Marie Smith. If you get a chance, thank them for their service!

Phase I Congregational Meeting

We will be holding our congregation's Phase I meeting **this coming Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 am**. For those at outdoor worship, it will take place after worship. For those who worship via Worship In The Home videos, you will be able to join the meeting via Zoom. We will elect our congregation's leaders, (Rosalie Kalman and Raeann Purcell are running again, as well as Bill Hinkle, John King, and Joyce Winterstein, for first terms). We will vote on changes to our constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions to get it in line with the Model Constitution for Congregations of the ELCA. And we will approve a 2021 Spending Plan. Whew! There is a lot to do, so we hope you will attend.

Zoom information for the Phase I meeting:

Join Zoom Meeting via computer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82721653919>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone:

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 827 2165 3919

Christmas Gifts for Staff and Pastor ... In working with the pastor and staff, the Personnel Team recommends that Trinity **not** provide a gift from the congregation to the pastor and staff (as has been done in the past). If you feel so moved and want to recognize their service to our congregation, please do so. If you do not have their home address, please send the cards/gifts to the church with the staff person's name on it and we will make sure that they get it. Thank you.

A note from the pastor and the staff to all of you:

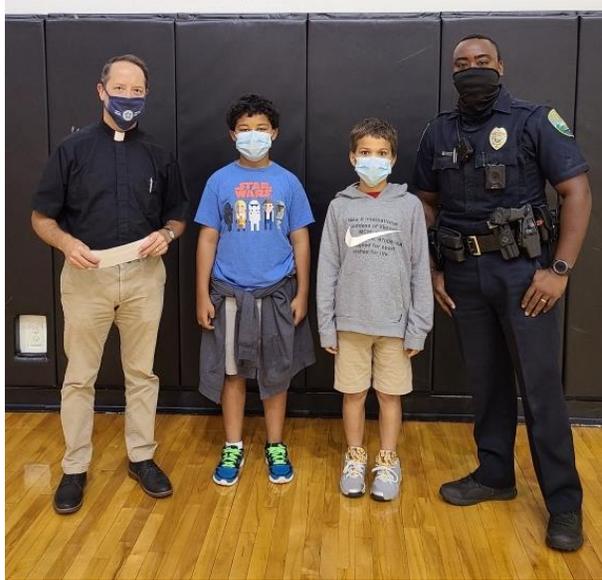
We are grateful to God for the faithfulness, compassion, understanding, and generosity you as a congregation have demonstrated to us during the pandemic. This has not been easy on us or on you. Like you, we long to be together once again. We long for a future that is brighter for us all than what this past year presented to us. It is in that light – Christ, the Light of the World – that we want to wish you and your families a blessed (and safe!) Christmas.

In Christ's name,
Phyllis D'Alessio, Office Administrator
Laura Jones, Custodian
Brian Larson, Cantor
Tim Bernard, Pastor



Police Athletic League

The New Smyrna Beach Police Athletic League is a non-profit corporation committed to making a difference in the lives of our children. The Police Athletic League's membership includes over 300 children between the ages of 7 – 17. Trinity is now one of the sponsors of this great program in our community.



Pastor Tim giving a check to Officer Washington at the Babe James Community Center in New Smyrna Beach with two neighborhood youth who were at the center early that day.



Outdoor Worship – Sundays 9:30am

Visit our website www.trinitylutheransb.org for updates

Worship in The Home (WITH) available on our Website

Many of you have responded to our Trinity Loving Care Callers how you really appreciate the videos. I have heard from our snowbirds, friends, and relatives in other states, stating how they really like the WITH videos. **Feel free to share the link or direct them to our website.** It is another way we can work together to proclaim the gospel. www.trinitylutheransb.org



Sunday School via Zoom for our youngest members is scheduled for **“SATURDAY” December 5th at 4 PM!** Activities include Bible Stories: Jesus is Born and the Shepherds’ Story plus a **special** nativity related arts & crafts!!

Join Zoom Meeting by computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85072237460>

Join Zoom Meeting by phone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 850 7223 7460



Cantor's Notes

**“We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith,
heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.”**

The guiding stance of *The Center for Congregational Song* of the Hymn Society in the
United States and Canada.

+ **Thank you for singing at home** when you are watching and participating in our online worship services. The music for the hymns, psalm, and gospel acclamation is included in the PDF file of the worship service that is emailed each week. When we record the online worship services, please know that “in our minds’ eyes” we see you in the pews and hear you singing with us! If you are attending our **outdoor worship services**, I am sure you are glad to be singing together again while wearing masks, socially distanced, and being outdoors.

+ **Hymn Story: *Unexpected and Mysterious***. The author of this hymn, Jeannette M. Lindholm (b. 1961), is associate professor of English at Salem State College in Salem, MA. It was written in 1996 for use during Advent at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church in Rockport, MA, and is based on Luke 1:26-56, the story of the Annunciation, Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, and Mary’s response in the Magnificat. She describes her hymn this way: “The hymn emphasizes God’s love, compassion, and grace made known in incarnation – God’s becoming human, Mary’s bearing the Christ, Elizabeth’s embodying God’s compassion in her affirmation of Gabriel’s words to Mary, and our living out our own call to embody God’s compassion and healing. The hymn also reflects my desire to write hymns that include women and use non-patriarchal language and imagery for God.”

The tune was written by Calvin Hampton (1938-1984) who was director of music at Calvary Church in New York City. It is an unusual melody, with some “unexpected and mysterious” phrases, but it sings “easily,” especially by the last stanza! The text was written to fit this tune, which is not the case with most hymns. Perhaps that is why it is “easily” learned.

*Unexpected and mysterious is the gentle word of grace.
Ever-loving and sustaining is the peace of God's embrace.
If we falter in our courage and we doubt what we have known,
God is faithful to console us as a mother tends her own.*

*In a momentary meeting of eternity and time,
Mary learned that she would carry both the mortal and divine.
Then she learned of God's compassion, of Elizabeth's great joy,
and she ran to greet the woman who would recognize her boy.*

*We are called to ponder mystery and await the coming Christ,
to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth.*

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This text reminds me of an anthem our choir has sung during Advent called “Pondering Mystery.”

*If everything were known, if we could quantify the “why,”
explain the “how” and name the “when,”
then nothing would remain but naming who was
rightest of the right and blaming those who got it wrong.
Know this alone: Emmanuel, the One who made us came to us. It is enough.*

Text: John Thornburg, 2010, reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722538.

December

1	Paige Proeger	3	Arisa Sherry
5	Brian Larson	8	Trevor Corina
7	Elizabeth Johnson		Ron Still
8	Cheryl Tucker	10	Raeann Purcell
	Ron Johnson	11	Jacob Still
11	Alexander Weinrich		Lew Zimmerman
12	Charles Kershaw	13	Corinne O'Brien
	Rodney Petteys	16	Karen Weinrich
14	Bill Hinkle	17	Hope Bauman
	Emille Martin		Mary Dalleska
	Sandi Wirth	22	Benjamin Weinrich
16	Mollie Martin	25	Pat Droz
18	Kaitlyn Kurfis		Don Fuller
20	Grace DeVoe	31	Chris Weinrich
	Jackie Kaufmann		
26	Judith Burt		
29	Preston Newell		
30	Julie Bockus		
	Carol Zacha		

January

Happy
Birthday!

A NEW BIRTHDAY SONG

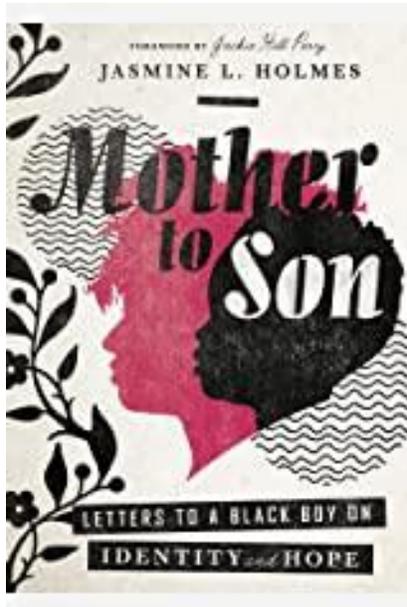
Using the tune KREMSER, *We Praise You, O God*

We celebrate with you the life that God gave you.
We thank him for letting us share in your joy.
God bless you and keep you and shine his light upon you.
With love we sing together happy birthday to you.

*If your name is missing from the Birthday Blessings,
please email the church office to let us know. Thank you.*

Book Study via Zoom – Sundays at 11 am

The Book Study will continue each Sunday from 11:00-12:00 on Zoom. The book is *Mother to Son, Letters to a Black Boy on Identity and Hope* by Jasmine L. Holmes. The book is available on Amazon Prime and Walmart.com as well as other sites.



In *Mother to Son*, Jasmine Holmes shares a series of powerful letters to her young son. These are about her journey as an African American Christian and what she wants her son to know as he grows and approaches the world as a black man. Holmes deals head-on with issues ranging from discipleship and marriage to biblical justice. She invites us to read over her shoulder as she reminds Wynn that his identity is firmly planted in the person and work of Jesus Christ, even when the topic is one as emotionally charged as race in America.

Book Study Zoom information

Join Zoom Meeting via Computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84938980183>

Join Zoom Meeting via Telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 849 3898 0183

Schedule:

12/6 No meeting due to congregational meeting

12/13 Guest Speaker- Nick Prince, Volusia County Schools

12/20 7. You Are a Brother

9. Be an Advocate

10. Be a Bridge

11. You Are a Different Story

12. You Are a New Tribe

8. Be a Good Brother to the Sisters

Interlude: The Time I Almost Unfollowed Someone on Twitter

Interlude: How to Study and How to Talk

Interlude: In Search of Mentorship

WELCA's Elizabeth Circle's Christmas Party via Zoom



Tuesday, December 8th at 11 AM

Holiday activities will include a Recipe Exchange and the opportunity to share special holiday traditions or memories.

Recipes can be sent prior to the meeting to Mary Mathews' e-mail < m.e.mathews33@gmail.com>. A short business meeting which will include the nomination and election of officers for 2021 will be held.

Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89620596492>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 896 2059 6492

Monday Morning Bible Study on Zoom at 11 am

Feel free to join us! (Zoom information is shown after the lessons)

Bible Studies for December

Feel free to join us! (Zoom information is shown after the lessons)

12/7 Advent 2

Isaiah 40:1-11 *Good news of God's coming to a people in exile*
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Righteousness shall prepare a pathway for God.*
2 Peter 3:8-15a *Waiting for and hastening the day of God*
Mark 1:1-8 *John appears from the wilderness*

12/14 Advent 3

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 *Righteousness and praise flourish like a garden*
Psalm 126 *The Lord has done great things for us.*
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 *Kept in faith until the coming of Christ*
John 1:6-8, 19-28 *A witness to the light*

12/21 Advent 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 *The Lord's promise to David*
Luke 1:46b-55 *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly.*
Romans 16:25-27 *The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ*
Luke 1:26-38 *The angel appears to Mary*

12/28 Christmas 1

Isaiah 61:10--62:3 *Clothed in garments of salvation*
Psalm 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*
Galatians 4:4-7 *Children and heirs of God*
Luke 2:22-40 *The presentation of the child*

Monday Bible Study Zoom information:

Join Zoom Meeting for the Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVlYyHhVSXBHUKh3UT09>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Password: 017896



TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
October	\$17,875	\$30,147	(\$12,272)	
Year-To-Date	\$222,799	\$262,409	(\$39,611)	(\$20,803)

OCTOBER GENERAL OFFERINGS

- During the month of October, we received \$17,875 in General Offerings. This was almost \$9,000 less than our estimated average monthly income to support the 2020 Spending Plan. Our October expenses included payment of the Annual Worker's Compensation Fee.

GENERAL FUND BALANCE

- October Year-to-Date we are running about \$40,000 behind in our General Offerings.
- The General Fund Balance is now *negative* \$20,803. Our monthly income is continuing to fall short of expenses. As we enter the season of Advent and the arrival of God's greatest gift to the world, please consider sharing any additional gifts you may have with Trinity so that we can meet our annual expenses.

ON-LINE GIVING

- On-line giving is now available thru the church website: trinitylutherannsb.org
- Please note that Trinity is assessed a fee when donations are made with a credit card. The fee varies depending up the credit card used and the amount of the donation.
- When on-line donations are made with a check or debit card, Trinity is not assessed a fee.

AMAZON SMILE

- As the holiday season approaches, if you are ordering gifts online via Amazon, please use the AmazonSmile site. On this site you can list Trinity Lutheran as your charity and 0.5% of the purchase price will come to Trinity. For more information, please email Paula Bernbaum at nsbide@aol.com

QUESTIONS? If you have questions or concerns about our budget and finances, please call or email Paula Bernbaum. 386-405-6668 or nsbide@aol.com

Important Notice: In handling the end of year contributions: The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check received in the church offering in January of 2021 cannot be deducted in 2020, even if it is backdated to 2020. One exception – checks that are mailed and postmarked 2020 are deductible in 2020 even though not received until 2021. Please feel free to contact the church office if there are any questions. Thank you.

Hebrews 13:15-16. Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

TRINITY COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

The columbarium is installed. A video of the installation will be available on Trinity's website (trinitylutheran.org) and in the "Worship In The Home" email sent weekly.

Thanks to two donations, the benches have been ordered and will be installed when delivered. Thank you to the two donors!

Landscaping of the site will progress after the installation. Any additional ideas to make this a more peaceful environment, please contact one of the team members

DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR:

- 5 ft Archway (the type of arch has not been decided but ideas are always welcomed)
- Sod/Grass - Cost: Unknown (Any help in this area, is appreciated.)

Trinity Columbarium



COLUMBARIUM NICHE'S FOR SALE					
C1-LSF (Left Side Facing*church)			C1-RSF (Right Side Facing*reserve)		
C1-LSF1	C1-LSF2	C1-LSF3	C1-RSF13	C1-RSF14	C1-RSF15
SOLD	SOLD	SOLD			
C1-LSF4	C1-LSF5	C1-LSF6	C1-RSF16	C1-RSF17	C1-RSF18
SOLD	SOLD	SOLD		SOLD	
C1-LSF7	C1-LSF8	C1-LSF9	C1-RSF19	C1-RSF20	C1-RSF21
SOLD					
C1-LSF10	C1-LSF11	C1-LSF12	C1-RSF22	C1-RSF23	C1-RSF24
	SOLD				



LSF



RSF

An application is available upon request. It will either be emailed or sent upon request.

COLUMBARIUM NICHE FEE:
MEMBER: \$2000.00;
NON-MEMBER: \$3000.00

Contact one of the following team members or the church office
 Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)
 Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650)
 Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818)

Anyone interested in joining the Columbarium team or helping with any of the preparation projects is encouraged to contact one of the Columbarium team members (names and numbers listed below).

Columbarium Team Members:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818) | Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650) |
| Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304) | Judy Driesbaugh (570-650-3478) |
| Joe Kellermeier (386-785-7101) | Gary Williams (914-582-3515) |

The video of the installation of the columbarium is available here:

Click on link below to view:

<https://youtu.be/kwMrqbd8IDE>

Annie Mouse reporting here!

Hello once again from Annie Mouse, AKA the church chatterbox!

Did you know that congratulations are in order for ...?

Bill Williams and **Pat Thibault Williams** who were married on October 26!

Karen Teehan Schlegel and **Joe Schlegel**, who were married on November 28!



Congratulations also to **Benjamin Weinrich**, the new physical education teacher at Spruce Creek Elementary School! He is now a co-worker of his mom, Karen Weinrich, who teaches second grade there. He is excited to use some of the skills he learned as a counselor at Bear Creek Camp, the Lutheran Camp in PA, where he was both a camper as a child and later a counselor for two years. Annie has heard he is doing a great job too, and the kids love him!

Paula and Peter Bernbaum will be spending Christmas in North Carolina and are looking forward to having their children join in the holiday celebration. While there Paula will also zip up to Ohio for a few days to celebrate Christmas with her mom!

On November 12 and 13, **Grace Kellermeier**, who is Coordinator of World Languages, Special Programs and Electives for Volusia County Schools was feeling a bit overwhelmed when she learned that on November 12 and 13 she would be helping out a local principal by teaching PE to K, 1st and 2nd graders! As it turned out, she had an amazing time with the kiddos and was grateful for all the teamwork provided at the school!

Grace DeVoe is enjoying life in her new assisted living apartment at Countryside Lakes in Port Orange! She will be living there for several months and hopes to return home after she completes her physical therapy. In the meantime, she is loving her spacious, new place!

Gary and Nancy Hopkins are very excited to have their daughter **Nikki Hopkins**, along with her daughter, Gary's and Nancy's first grandchild, **Isabelle Mae** (Izzy) here for Christmas! Let the spoiling that began in Colorado in October continue here now. Their two sons and daughter's in-law, who live locally, will also be joining in on the spoiling!

2020 Ordination Anniversaries

Congratulations to the Pastors we know who are celebrating an ordination anniversary in 2020:

50 years - Rev. Roger H. Prehn

40 years - Rev. Jack A. Ottoson

45 years - Rev. Donald L. Fuller

25 years - Rev. Timothy Bernard

45 years - Rev. Byron W. White Sr

Saying hello and missing you from...

Gwen & Jerry Leahy

50 Holstein Drive

Hanover PA 17331

Dave & Deb Fasanello

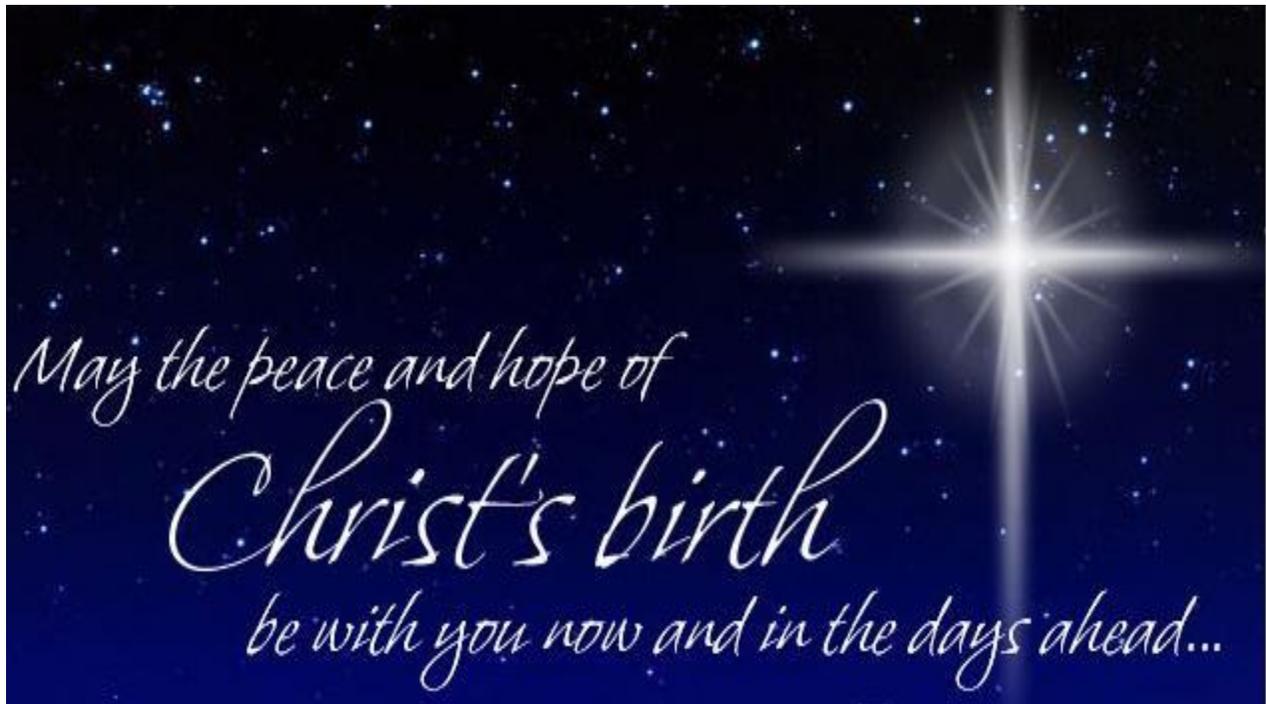
18386 Xerxes ST NW

Elk River MN 55330

I am looking forward to hearing from everyone for our next issue of Annie Mouse! And even if you don't report, the mouse is always watching and listening!

Everyone have a blessed Advent, a joyous and peaceful Christmas, and a happy new year!

Love, Annie Mouse



Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307
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Pastor Tim: revtimtlc@gmail.com
Trinity website: www.trinitylutherannsb.org
Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org
ELCA www.elca.org

Pastor:	Rev. Tim Bernard
Cantor:	Brian Larson
Office Admin:	Phyllis D'Alessio
Custodian:	Laura Jones

Council Members 2020

Larry Muchow – President
Kate Mingle – Vice President
Nancy Hopkins – Secretary
Rosalie Kalman – Treasurer
George Cramer Bob Horak
Jean Haughwout Raeann Purcell
Colleen Sumner Gary Williams
Marie Smith Doris Will

<p>Editorial Policy - In order to maintain consistency and unity of church policy and to conform to layout requirements, the pastor, editor, and office staff reserve the right to edit for space and content all material for the <i>Beacon</i>, the Annual Congregational Report, and other official publications of Trinity. (Adopted 12-14-06)</p>
