

## December 2022 Newsletter

### We Are Church Together

### The Incarnation: A Problem or A Gift?

The Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds are both broken up into three sections each. Article 1 deals with God as the Creator (Father). Article 2 deals with God as Redeemer (Son). And Article 3 deals with God as Sanctifier (Holy Spirit). But have you ever noticed how long Article 2 is in either creed? Article 2 is longer than both Articles 1 and 3 combined.

Why?

Most other religions around the world have no problem believing that there is a God who created us and all things. And they have no problem believing that there is a divine Spirit giving energy or life to all things, giving us a spiritual dimension to our lives. But other world religions have a huge problem with believing that God became human and lived among us.

When the creeds were written, they were written with two objectives: One, to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth was indeed a living, human being. Two, to proclaim that he is divine. The early Church had no problem believing Jesus was human. They had a problem believing this rabbi from Nazareth could also be divine.

Today, the tables are turned. More people believe Jesus is divine, but they cannot believe that he did things just like you and me. As one of my former parishioners, a professor of world religions, said about his students, "They believe Jesus is Lord. They just don't believe Jesus pooped and peed, got sick and vomited, just like they do."

And that gets us to the heart of the human-divine conundrum. If Jesus was only human, then he has no godly power to save. If Jesus was only divine, then he does not know the human condition. As the early Church leaders discussed the human-divine conundrum, they wrestled with how much of Jesus was human and how much of Jesus was divine. Was he 50% human and 50% divine? 70%-30%? 40%-60%? The result they came back with that you cannot divide Christ like that. Jesus was fully human and fully divine, indivisible.

For me, the great gift of the incarnation means that God, the Creator of all things from subatomic particles to the furthest reaches of space, chose to allow life to grow on this one



planet, in this one galaxy; chose to allow us to develop with many different languages, cultures, ethnicities, genders, and religions; and then, God chose to enter into the messy-ness of life on this planet in order to help them (us!) grow in their love for God and grow in their love for their neighbors. And how did God enter in? As a newborn baby.

I suppose God could have come as a fully-grown person, but that is not entering into the fullness of the human experience. We all started out as babies and so did Jesus. And if you have



(Credit: NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI)

ever been around babies, you will know that they can be noisy at the most inopportune times, they spit up and can fill a diaper in no time flat. They are demanding: they want what they want and they want it NOW! The difference between a terrorist and a baby is that you can negotiate with a terrorist. God chose to enter into the messiness of our lives as the messiest of us all, a baby.

It is easy to explain God as the Creator of all things. It is easy to explain God as a Spirit that gives life and energy to all things. It is much harder to explain the messy world in which we live and the great lengths our God went to in order to be with us. While other faiths see the incarnation as a problem, we see it as just another gift from an already gracious God.

May you all have a very ~~Merry~~ **Messy** Christmas!

Pastor Tim

## We are Church Together Dates to Put on Your Calendar

**Friday December 2<sup>nd</sup>**- Dessert by Candlelight- begins at 7 pm. Please drop desserts by 11 am.

**Sunday December 11-** Lydia Circle Potluck- hosted by Raeann Purcell. Begins at 1 pm. Address is 504 Nowell Loop, DeLand, 32724. The subdivision is called Huntington Downs which is on Orange Camp Road, near Victoria Hills. Please bring a dish to share. Please bring socks for God's Bathhouse or towels and blankets for Halifax Humane society. New is not needed. If you have any frayed or tattered towels or blankets, they can be used to help with the animals. All are welcome to attend!

**Thursday December 15-** Please join the women of Trinity Lutheran Church at the annual Christmas Party hosted by Jean Haughwout at 200 N. Riverside Drive, Edgewater, FL 32132 (1 block North of Park Avenue) at 6pm. Please bring a jar of peanut butter or other non-perishable food item to be donated to Gifts of Love.

**Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>**- Christmas Eve Services will be held at 4 pm and 7 pm.

**Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>**- Christmas Day Service will be held at 9:30 am.

## We are Church Together Acknowledging Achievements

We would like to recognize Alexander Wenrich on his upcoming graduation! He will graduate with a bachelors degree from Florida State University on December 9th. His major is "Environment and Society." Congratulations and may God bless you on your new journey!



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## We Are Church Together 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.

***Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*** is a hymn included in the new worship resource *All Creation Sings*. This traditional tune from Wales pairs elegantly with a contemporary text by Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953). While a new tune to Lutheran hymnals, its form with three lines being identical makes it easy to learn. The contrasting third line holds both the highest note and the high point of the melody. Both text and tune have a quietness about them. Notice the words "whisper," "slumber," "stirring, faint within," "drift away"—reminders that Christ comes in the quiet so that our hearts grow "soft" and "warm."

On weekdays, author "Lou" Bringle can be found in a classroom at Brevard College in Brevard, NC, where she is Professor of Philosophy, Religion, and French, and chair of the Humanities Division. On Sunday mornings, she lectures to an adult education class at her local Presbyterian Church. After being asked by her publisher to write an Advent or Christmas text with a Celtic flavor, she began by reading resources on Celtic spirituality. One concept she found intriguing and appealing was the theme of "thin places" – places where two ordinary separate realms of existence (such as heaven and earth, sacred and secular) seem to come closer to each other than usual. It seemed to her that Advent was such a time, and references to intimations of things barely heard ("whisper") or seen ("the veil is growing thin") weave through this text. But while the senses may provide vital information, they do not bring understanding or acceptance. Those gifts and graces come from the ancient seat of wisdom and compassion, the heart, the goal and climax of every stanza.

*Now the heavens start to whisper, as the veil is growing thin.  
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:  
seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!  
Like the soil beneath the frostline, hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.  
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.  
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.  
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts grow warm to welcome him.*

*Christ, eternal Sun of Justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,  
come to bless with fire and fragrance hours of yearning, hurt, and need.  
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast, hid from view;  
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.*

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson

## We Are Church Together: Phase I Congregational Meeting

We will have one of our two annual congregational meetings this coming Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> following worship. All of our members are encouraged to attend. This will be held in-person in the sanctuary and via Zoom.

The agenda for the Phase I meeting is the election of new council members and to (hopefully!) approve the Spending Plan for 2023.

The Phase II meeting, scheduled for January 29, 2023, is where we receive the Annual Report and discuss other items of ministry.

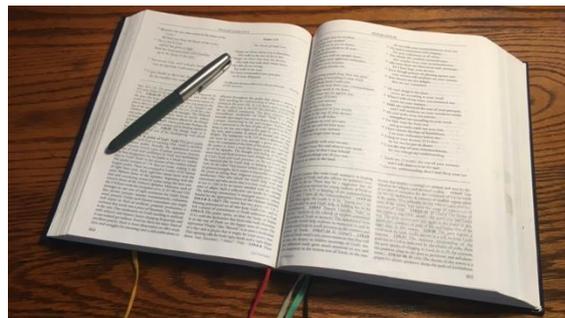
## We Are Church Together: Monday Bible Study

We meet via Zoom at 11 am (Eastern Time) on Mondays to study the lessons that will be used in worship the following Sunday. It is a good way to dwell in the word and reflect more deeply on the lessons. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUUpUUGJPRkNlVVlyYHhVSXBHUkh3UT09>

or you can go to our website

([www.trinitylutherannsb.org](http://www.trinitylutherannsb.org)) and use the link provided.



### **Date of Bible Study – Readings we will be studying**

#### **Monday, December 5 – 3 Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10 *The desert blooms as God's people return from exile*

Psalm 146:5-10 *The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down. (Ps. 146:8)*

James 5:7-10 *Patience until the coming of the Lord*

Matthew 11:2-11 *The forerunner of Christ*

#### **Monday, December 12 – 4 Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16 *The sign of Immanuel*

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

Romans 1:1-7 *Paul's greeting to the church at Rome*

Matthew 1:18-25 *A God near at hand*

#### **Monday December 19 – Christmas Day**

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

Psalm 98 *All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. (Ps. 98:3)*

Titus 3:4-7 *Saved through water and the Spirit*

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

#### **Monday, December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas – NO Monday Bible Study**

Isaiah 63:7-9 *Israel saved by God's own presence*

Psalm 148 The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)  
Hebrews 2:10-18 Christ shares flesh and blood to free humankind  
Matthew 2:13-23 The slaughter of innocent children

### **Monday, January 2 – Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9 *The servant of the Lord brings justice*  
Psalm 29 *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*  
Acts 10:34-43 *Jesus' ministry after his baptism*  
Matthew 3:13-17 *Revelation of Christ as God's servant*

## **We Are Church Together: Time and Talent**

During the month of October and into November we heard a “Mission Moment” from each of our ministry team leaders. The team leaders were trying to communicate who is serving on their team and what their team does. All of this work was preparation for the coming Time and Talent forms. We will be sending out Time and Talent forms in early December. We invite you to prayerfully consider taking some time to fill it out.

Time and Talent forms help us understand each person's gifts and skills, whether you are a member, an associate member, or a snowbird. If there are ministries we could be involved in, let us know. There is no end to what we can do with the help God.

When you get them, please fill them out and return them to the church. We will collate the information and get the information to the ministry team leaders so that all of our teams will be ready when 2023 rolls around.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can participate in Christ's ministry and mission through Trinity.

## **We Are Church Together: Mission of the Month – Christmas Gifts for Chisholm (WELCA)**

During the Christmas season we enjoy giving back to children in need. We accomplish this in two ways: financial donations and gift donations. Beginning on December 4<sup>th</sup> you will find a Christmas tree located in the narthex with various ornaments. Each ornament will have either a numbered gift that a child has requested OR a gift card. If you wish to participate, please take an ornament and use our sign up sheet. If taking an ornament with a gift request, please bring your gift back wrapped with the ornament attached. The giftcards will be given to families in need of food at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you would like to participate, but are unable to shop, you are welcome to make a financial contribution and someone will shop for you. Please note Christmas gifts to Chisholm on your donation envelope or check memo. **All gifts, gift cards and financial donations must be made before Monday December 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## We Are Church Together: QR Code Cards

You may have noticed our new pew cards! They have a QR code printed on them, which allows you to visit our website to pay an online offering payment with ease.



Support Christ's ministry through Trinity!



Directions:

With your cell phone, use the camera app as though you are going to take a picture of the QR code above. Your phone will ask if you want to open the "flowcode." Tap on that and it will link you to Trinity's giving page on our website. Then you can give a secure electronic donation. Thank you!



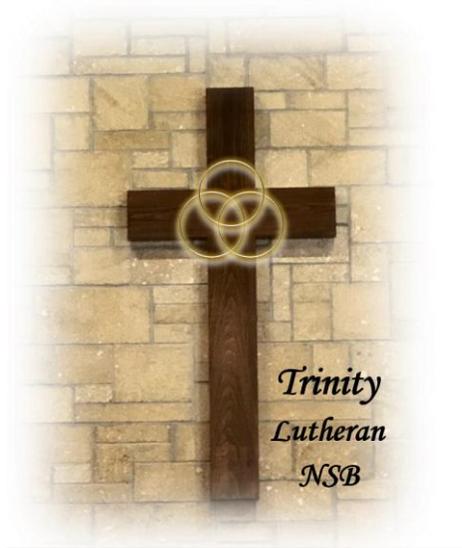
## We are Church Together: Mission Workshop

Please check out your linen closet for any material that isn't being used and bring to Trinity. Our Tuesday Mission Workshop will be happy to recycle your unused material into quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you in advance from the TLC Workshop Volunteers!



## We are Church Together: Giving Thanks

On November 20<sup>th</sup> we welcomed Diana Knapp, Jeanine Ohlson, Reverend Jack and Kathy Ottoson and Millie Patterson as members and Reverend Paul and Debbie Summer as associate members. We welcome you to our Trinity Family and are so very happy to have you here! We celebrated our new members with a Potluck after the service.



## December Birthdays



1	Paige Proeger	16	Mollie Martin
5	Brian Larson		Keri Mowrey
8	Bev Knost	20	Jackie Kaufmann
	Cheryl Tucker	21	Kristina Mangiafico
11	Alexander Weinrich	23	Alejandro Parada
12	Charles Kershaw	26	Judith Burt
	Rodney Pettys	29	Preston Newell
14	Emilie Martin	30	Carol Zacha

## A NEW BIRTHDAY SONG

Using the tune KREMSER, *We Praise You, O God*  
written by Gretchen Marz

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

## TRINITY COLUMBARIUM



### **COLUMBARIUM NICHE SUBSCRIPTION FEE**

MEMBER: \$2000.00

NON-MEMBER \$3000.00

Includes one niche which will hold two urns, a faceplate (to covers the niche) that is engraved with name of deceased, plus year of birth and death.

### **APPLICATION AVAILABLE**

Contact one of the following:

- Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)
- Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650)
- Church Office (386-428-4307)

### **Administrative Information**

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307  
Office E-mail: [trinitylutheran485@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheran485@gmail.com)  
Pastor Tim: [revtimtlc@gmail.com](mailto:revtimtlc@gmail.com)  
Trinity website: [www.trinitylutheransb.org](http://www.trinitylutheransb.org)  
Florida-Bahamas Synod [www.fbsynod.org](http://www.fbsynod.org)  
ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Tim Bernard
<b>Cantor:</b>	Brian Larson
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	Mary Parada
<b>Custodian:</b>	Laura Jones