



**A Newsletter for members of Trinity Lutheran Church
to promote communication of information in the congregation.**

December 2023

The church retreat led by Pastor Jeannine Sweet reminds me of Advent. I know this is probably not quite what you expected, but I promise there is a connection! The goal of our retreat was geared towards opening the minds and hearts of attendees to ponder what the search for a new pastor is like. We embarked on a journey together to pick the most important qualities in a pastor. That exercise left the group reeling because there was not any one quality that could be determined. Each person had a different quality that was most important to them based on past experiences or perspective. As Pastor Sweet went around the room asking how people responded, I found that my perspective changed numerous times. As we continued to expand on this concept, Pastor Sweet explained that she wanted us to struggle with answering this question. The question of what we want in a pastor is a rather complicated answer. This entire process is not quick, nor easy, nor “cut and dry.” We learned that the Call Process is more than a mere job placement program. God already knows who our next pastor will be and is in the process of leading that person to Trinity. We all know that God’s timing, while perfect, is never in line with our own wants and desires.

The retreat gave attendees a glimpse of what it feels like to be a member of the Call Committee. This group will be responsible for putting together a profile of Trinity, selecting candidates, interviewing, and so many more crucial pieces in between. They will meet regularly to make important decisions on behalf of our Trinity family. They will give up their free time and make space within their busy schedules to accomplish this. In today’s world, it is difficult to find people willing to volunteer. We have seen that within our congregation, and of course, around us in other facets of life, too. We must consider the commitment that this group has made and hold each member in prayer and trust that God is guiding them.

Advent is a liturgical season that is encompassed by waiting in preparation. Isn’t that a succinct description of the call process? We wait and prepare for the next step of the process. We have an official Call Committee, and they will begin their work. We approach the season of Advent, which marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. Waiting and new beginnings- those seem to be the common denominators between our church season and the process currently unfolding within Trinity.

Waiting and change are two of the least favorable things that we as humans must endure in life. Both are necessary to life. Growth does not happen overnight, so we wait for life to teach us, humble us, and improve us. Change is crucial for improvement- if action is not taken, then a stagnant cycle will fall into place. A vibrant life cannot be built within a stagnant cycle.

As we embrace the beginning of a new season, new church year and new step in the call process, let us also embrace the waiting and preparation with enthusiasm. We must embrace change and become more flexible in our perspective of the future Trinity. God is working to change US to prepare US for the pastor He is bringing to Trinity. While we ponder what qualities are most important in a new pastor, let us also spend time pondering the small ways that we can create our own spiritual ‘renovations’ within so that we are the best versions of ourselves when our pastor arrives.

Transition Questions?



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Do you have questions about the Call process? The Florida Bahama Synod has an incredibly detailed guide that provides information about every step of the process to finding a new pastor. You can read more at the Florida-Bahamas Synod’s website:

<https://fbsynod.com/resources/transitions/>. *We have a Call Committee!*

December 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3 Worship- 9:30 am Wrapping Party- after worship
4 Call Committee/Council Meeting- 4 pm	5 Mission Workshop- 9 am	6 Evy's Art Class- 1 pm Handbells- 6 pm Choir- 7 pm	7 Praise Team Meeting- 9:15 am	8 Carols by Candlelight- 2 pm	9	10 Worship- 9:30 am P1 Congregational Meeting- after worship
11	12 NO Mission Workshop Caregiver Support Group- 10 am	13 Evy's Art Class- 1 pm Handbells- 6 pm Choir- 7 pm	14	15	16 Christmas Caroling	17 Worship- 9:30 am
18 Stewardship Meeting- 6 pm	19 Mission Workshop- 9 am Executive Council Meeting- 10 am	20 Evy's Art Class- 1 pm Handbells- 6pm Choir- 7 pm	21	22	23	24 Worship- 9:30 am Worship- 4 pm Worship- 7 pm
25 Christmas Day Church Closed	26 Mission Workshop- 9 am Council Meeting- 6 pm Office Closed	27 Evy's Art Class- 1 pm Office Closed	28 Office Closed	29	30	31 Worship- 9:30 am

Carols and Dessert by Candlelight

Do you have a favorite family dessert recipe you would like to share with your Trinity family plus sing Christmas Carols and Holiday tunes? We will be accepting those desserts on Thursday, 12/7/23 between 11:30 a.m. and 1pm in the Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendar for Dec. 8, 2023, at 2 p.m. to join us to enjoy a favorite Christmas dessert and sing along with Brian Larson. Hope to see you there. HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

Phase I Congregation Meeting

The Phase I Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday December 10th after worship. You are welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. An invitation to attend via Zoom will be sent out during the first week of December via email. Please contact the office with any questions.

Holiday Worship Schedule

Trinity will offer three services on Sunday December 24th. The 4th week of Advent service will be held at 9:30 am. There will be two Christmas Eve services at 4 pm and 7 pm.

The Hospitality Committee needs YOUR help.

Those who attend fellowship and partake of snacks following worship are increasing each week however- those who are willing to set up the food and drinks are slim.

This is a wonderful time for newcomers to meet our congregation and members to introduce themselves to someone new. Call Mary Mathews at 386-690-4987 for more info.

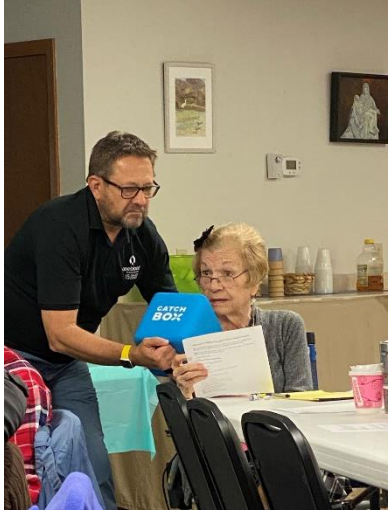
Mission of the Month

For the month of November/December, WELCA is sponsoring a project to help maintain the Spirit of Christmas for children and families in need. Trinity will accomplish this by asking members and friends to donate money or gift cards. Those funds will be used to buy gifts for children in need from Chisholm Elementary and given in the form of gift cards to families in need to cover the cost of holiday dinners for Christmas 2023, Easter 2024 and Thanksgiving 2024.

Quilts for Sale

There are quilts available for sale in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go towards the cost of shipping quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Consider purchasing a handcrafted, one-of-a-kind gift for someone special this holiday season! Please contact a member of the Mission Workshop for more details!

Recent Memories



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.

No Wind at the Window, ACS 906. With clarity and simplicity, this hymn offers a new perspective of the annunciation, the conversation between the angel Gabriel and Mary about the birth of Jesus. The scene is simple and spare: "just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear." Hymnwriter John Bell uses subsequent stanzas to describe the improbable premise of the incarnation, which comes with no guarantees of safety or security. Mary's courageous consent has the final word. This hymn is appropriate for Advent but may also be useful to worshipping communities discerning God's call in any season.

*No wind at the window, no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand, no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness, no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman and a voice in her ear.*

*"O Mary, O Mary, don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming the world has begun,
and you are requested to mother God's Son."*

*This child must be born that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many, destruction for some;
both end and beginning, both message and sign;
both victor and victim, both yours and divine.*

*No payment was promised, no promises made;
no wedding was dated, no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting to what none could guess,
replied with conviction, "Tell God I say yes."*

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson



December Birthdays

1	Paige Proeger	16	Mollie Martin
5	Brian Larson	16	Kerri Mowrey
8	Cheryl Tucker	20	Jackie Kaufmann
11	Alexander Weinrich	21	Kristina Mangiafico
12	Charles Kershaw	23	Alejandro Parada
14	Bill Hinkle	29	Preston Newell
14	Emillie Martin	30	Carol Zacha

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 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



Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307
 Office E-mail: trinitylutheran485@gmail.com
 Trinity website: www.trinitylutheran485.org
 Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org
 ELCA www.elca.org

COLUMBARIUM NICHE SUBSCRIPTION FEE

MEMBER: \$2000.00
 NON-MEMBER \$3000.00

Includes one niche which will hold two urns, a faceplate (to cover 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)

Interim Pastor: Rev. Mark Winkler
Cantor: Brian Larson
Office Administrator: Mary Parada
Custodian: Laura Jones