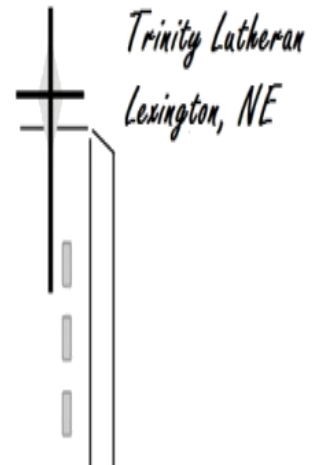


December



Servant Thoughts

Last March when this COVID-19 outbreak set our world in upheaval, we celebrated Easter online and went for some time with an online only presence, believing that it was a short term necessity that would allow our lives to get back to normal shortly after we flattened the curve. And now, as we move into December we are seeing more and more cases and being warned about a crisis in our hospitals and communities that could prove deadly to many, especially the more vulnerable and at risk who were spared from the first wave but are now being impacted on greater levels. All this is happening at a time when we are all tired of hearing about it and growing weary of the impact that it has had on our day to day lives. On the horizon are some vaccines that are proving effective but will take some time before they will be broadly available throughout the United States and world in which we live. Not surprisingly, it's hard not to be a little depressed as we approach the Christmas season.

I am wondering if this Christmas might be a time for us to return to the real Reason for the season. With such bleak news and the possibility of our celebrations being limited and diminished both in number of activities and participants, perhaps this is the perfect time to devote ourselves to remembering what Christmas is all about. In the midst of a broken and fallen world, God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world. This is still the most magical and powerful thing to have ever happened in the course of history. Maybe in the more subdued and less jammed full of gatherings and events Christmas that is upon us this year, is an opportunity to step back and return to some simpler moments of joy. Yes, we may have to have more Christmas Eve services to be safe and socially distant, but maybe these smaller gatherings will allow for a more peaceful reflection on what it all about in the first place... the birth of God's only Son.

I'm not sure how well I will be able to accomplish it, but for myself, I plan on keeping Christmas a little simpler this year, and a lot for Jesus focused!
In the service and love of Jesus,

Pastor Rob

Hebrews 13:20-21



Inside Trinity Trumpet

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Pastor Bill's Musings

As I am sitting here in my office writing some of my thoughts for this December Newsletter, we are still looking forward to Thanksgiving. As you are reading this, we celebrated that day last week. Whether we look forward to or back on Thanksgiving Day, many are wondering just what we have to be thankful for considering what we have lived through this past year, this awful year 2020. I must admit that I myself have asked that same question. The more that one dwells on the dark side of 2020, the more we sink into the depths of depression. Then, God comes to the rescue.

When I opened my e-mail this morning, there was the newsletter from our little, young missionary, Chelsea Irwin, who has been sent to the Czech Republic. I say "little" because I'm not sure that she stands 5 feet tall, but boy, oh boy, she is a giant in God's army. Chelsea and the people she works with there, half way around the world, are not immune from the effects of COVID 19 either. They have had to shut down in-person gatherings and turn to virtual communication also. In spite of that, Chelsea still was up-beat and explained her successes learning the Czech language and other advances made in the mission and ministry there. Then she went on to tell how their youth group had celebrated Reformation Day by meeting on-line and focusing on Psalm 46, especially on verse 1, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." She writes, "As we celebrated the Reformation, we were also reminded that we have a God who is our refuge and will never abandon us, even in the storms of life."

As I read those words, I thought, we really do have a lot to be thankful for. We still have our merciful God. That really should be enough, but we have much more because of Him. Yesterday, Jackie and I had the joy of holding our 1-month old great-grandson for the very first time. The feelings you have when you hold a new life in your arms are beyond expression. Thinking about that tiny baby leads to other joys we experience on a daily basis and soon we forget all those dark things that occur around us. God's love is always there. He never leaves us.

Now as I hold that little baby boy, I think of the little baby boy that Mary held so many years ago. Things were pretty grim in those days too, but in the midst of turmoil, our Father in heaven sent His Son to us. Now we can look forward to a new life with Him where there will never be anything like a plague again. Psalm 118:1 (ESV) Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

Pastor Bill

◆ COVID UPDATE-

Due to the new DHM's being imposed it is important to keep 6 feet separation between family units. With the recent surge, it is especially important that if you are sick or have symptoms that you stay home until you no longer are sick or have symptoms. In order to keep having in person worship we are asking you to wear a mask, as doing so not only protects others but also yourself and means you won't have to quarantine if you are exposed to someone who tests positive. The Board of Education and Elders have decided that it is best for the time being to not have Sunday School, Adult Bible Class or our Wednesday Christian Family night. We will be making available some virtual options for these classes and activities so check out the church web page and church Facebook page. We will have two Christmas Eve services and will have sign ups so we are within the guidelines, watch for more information on signing up.



**LUTHERAN HOUR—
KRVN(880 AM)
Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

◆ **December 6**

◆ **"Seek My Face"**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
We sometimes hear the voice before we see the face that goes with it. Seek God's face where you hear God's Word.
(Daniel)

◆ **December 13**

◆ **"The Prophet's Paradox "**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
The prophet Daniel illustrates how to face the facts while never losing faith in how the story ends.
(Daniel: 10, 11 and 12)

◆ **December 20**

◆ **"Experience God "**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler
We will never fully grasp the idea of God, but that doesn't keep us from experiencing God's love for us in Christ.
(John 1:1-18)

◆ **December 27**

◆ **"Welcome to the Family!"**

Rev. Dr. Anthony (Tony) Cook
The book of Galatians gives us a glimpse inside the family of God. It describes the Christian family as one that stands firm in Christ's freedom, walks united in the Spirit, and bears one another's burdens in love.
(Galatians 4:4-7)



**Christian Family Night Menu's
is canceled for the Month of
December.**



◆ **LWML HAS SOME BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR SALE. BOXES ARE \$4.00.** Remember if you are paying by check , make it out to Trinity Lutheran and in the memo write LWML

◆ **As a reminder LWML will not be meeting the month of December.**



◆ **The Christmas Poinsettia sign up sheet is available in the fellowship hall. Poinsettias are \$20 for a 10 inch pot. Make checks payable to Trinity Lutheran Church. Envelopes are available. Please give your money to the church secretary, Maria or Barb Graham. Deadline to sign up is December 7, 2020. Thank you**



Prayers

In order to keep our prayer requests up to date, those prayers that are short term in nature, will be listed for two weeks. If, after that time, you would like your request to remain, please resubmit your request to the church office. Members will be in bold.

Health Concerns

Sharon Jeffery, Cindy Hendricks, Erik Rowan, Norm Hoveling, Neoma Hilton, Del Tucker

Chronic or Long Term Health Conditions

Barb Horn, Jackie Rowan, Jon Buhlmann, Berlene Kinslow, Jenna Smallfoot, Rod Carlson.

Mission & Ministry

Ferry Family, Chelsea Irwin, Trinity's ministry through our online opportunities, Kearney Circuit Pastors and Congregations

Special Prayers

For continued concerns for all in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic



THOSE SERVING OUR COUNTRY

Lucas Horn, Randy Kwiatkowski, Jason Murray, Dylan Samway, Jennifer Coryell, Perry Pierce, Andy Howard, John C. Moore, Ben Wichelt, Devin Hueftle, Nic Van Cura, Tyler Schukar.



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Makenna Wilkinson,, 12-02

Terry Gullion, 12-04

Nancy Gullion, 12-04

Jeremy Underwood, 12-04

Sydni Ringenberg, 12-04

Joyce Wolfe, 12-06

Tom Phillips, 12-07

Pat Samway, 12-07

Alan Gierhan, 12-11

Doris Hoveling, 12-12

Mathew Zarate, 12-12

Sandra Anderson, 12-13

Cinda Hladky, 12-13

Lexi Barnes, 12-14

Jan Lau, 12-16

Joseph Alvarado, 12-18

Brianna Zarate, 12-18

Allison Marie Dailey, 12-19

Dorothy Phillippi, 12-22

James Callahan, 12-23

Mason Ramos, 12-23

Gary Petersen, 12-25

Ivy Alvarado, 12-27

Tyson Atwood, 12-27

Anthony Fisher, 12-28

Marilynn Hersh, 12-29

William Stauffer, 12-29

Cynthia Hendricks, 12-30

Daniel Fees, 12-30

Tyler Hetz, 12-30

Mike Thome, 12-31

Rob and Katie Sattler, 12-07

Norman and Doris Hoveling, 12-12

Marvin and Dana Thornburg, 12-12

Jack and Betty Hinds, 12-15

Michael and Katy Schulte, 12-21

Barbara Graham and Dick Hollinger, 12-27

Larry and Janell Rossen, 12-30

**A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
and Happy New Year!**

- ◆ Our Anniversary and Birthday list is generated by information in the computer. If there is a mistake or we missed something, please let us know in the office. Thank you!