

The  
**NEWSLETTER**  
Of

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

603 North 8th Street

Atchison, KS 66002

(913) 367-2837

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Web Page - [www.trinityatchison.org](http://www.trinityatchison.org)

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Reverend Robert Ziegler and Reverend Marty Reed



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**FROM PASTOR ZIEGLER'S DESK**

**CALLS AND MEETINGS IN November**



|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Home               | 7  |
| Hospital           | 8  |
| Shut-Ins           | 3  |
| Meetings & Classes | 22 |
| Hours Counseling   | 11 |

**BAPTISM**

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, (Thanksgiving), Eli Charles Hofacker infant son of Luke and Liz Hofacker received the wonderful gift of Holy Baptism. We welcome Eli into the Trinity family and pray God's continued blessings upon him.

**WEDDING**

On November 9th, Morgan Nicole Martin and Riley Joseph Miller were united in marriage here at Trinity. We pray God's continued blessings upon Morgan and Riley.

**FUNERAL SERVICE**

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, funeral services were held at Becker-Dyer Mortuary for Deana Nadine Lyons, 89, mother of Ron Woods. We pray the Lord's comfort to her family. And always remember the words of our Lord, "Because I live, you also will live."

**SCHOOL SPONSORS**

As of this writing we have 38 School Sponsors. We are looking for two more. It is now time for 2020 KAIR Sponsors. We need 52. Cost is \$50.00 per Sunday. Simply mark your gift "KAIR Broadcasts".

**NOVEMBER 17th**

November 17<sup>th</sup> was a GREAT day at Trinity. It was Loyalty Sunday and many people walked to the altar with their 2020 giving-pledge, demonstrating their loyalty to our Lord and His work here at Trinity. It was also the day of our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. Some 250 people ate turkey along with all the extras of a wonderful meal. Again, our Fellowship Committee headed by Terry Mills did a wonderful job putting it altogether. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee and all the other people who pitched in to make this special dinner a success.

Also, during the Bible Class hour, the congregation gathered to celebrate my 60 years in ministry and my 50 years here at Trinity.



Thank you to Patty Becker, Linda Miller, Joyce Duitsman and Marcene Selberg who served the cake. Thank you to Jim Duitsman and Bart Lennington who planned and organized the program. Jim had called several people, including my children, who wrote letters, which Jim then read. They were touching with humor mixed in. He read the numbers of folks baptized, confirmed and married in my years here. To see all the hands raised for this was a moving moment for me. I was presented with a plaque which reads, "In Honor of Rev. Robert Ziegler: Recognizing His 50 years of serving Trinity Lutheran Church and 60 years of serving our Lord through continued ministry within HIS church." With Cheryl Lanter at the piano, the celebration began and ended with special hymns. The occasion was also made special with a surprise guest, Charlotte Teuscher, came from Olathe to be present. Again, thank you to Jim Duitsman, Bart Lennington and all who made this celebration a wonderful experience.

## **ANNUAL DAY OF PRAYER**

Also, thank you to the 176 who came to pray on our Annual Day of Prayer. It was great to see several of the teens from our Youth Bible Class present at 11:00 p.m.

## **ADVENT SERVICES**

During December, we will have Advent Services on Wednesday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Reed will be preaching on the Old Testament prophecies about the coming Savior. There will be suppers before each service, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

## **ADULT INQUIRERS CLASS**

The current Adult Inquirers Class will finish on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation of Adults will be at the second service on December 15<sup>th</sup>. New Member Potluck will be at noon on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The Winter/Spring Adult Inquirers class will begin on January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please be praying for the person you are going to invite and offer to bring to the class.

## **CANDLELIGHT SERVICES**

As has been our tradition for many years, we will have three candlelight services on Christmas Eve, 6:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Our service on Christmas Day (with communion) will be at 9:30 a.m. My grandson, Seminarian Tyler Arends will be the preacher for this service. Our New Year's Eve service will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Deacon Mike Carney will be the preacher at this service.

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

We have 364 members who have not been to Holy Communion this year. We are praying that many of these will be here in December. Some of these 364 are your children, your brothers, your sisters, your cousins, your friends. Please, pray for them, encourage, plead, beg, urge, show them you are worried about them, that you care and then invite them to come with you.

## **VOTER'S ASSEMBLY**

Voter's Assembly will be held Sunday evening, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:45 p.m. Business: adopting the 2020 budget and extending a Call to Pastor Marty Reed.

## **SCHOOL ENDOWMENT**

In October, our School Endowment Fund was FIFTY YEARS OLD. In December, we will be mailing a letter, a leaflet of history and a gift envelope to our graduates, former students, friends. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 in the coming year. We are praying that all will respond with a generous gift.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the following men were elected to the Board of Directors: Adam Goodpasture (Finance), Doug Fridell (Secretary), and Terry Hamilton (Properties). We thank these men for serving and pray the Lord's blessings upon them.

In December, we have many worship and service opportunities. We pray that you will be here to participate and that all will be a blessing to you.

Finally, I pray God's rich blessings upon you during this Advent and Christmas Season. May the joy and peace and wonder of our Savior's birth, indeed, be yours.

**Peace!**

**Pastor Ziegler**

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## **THE FINANCIAL PICTURE**

|          |                |               |
|----------|----------------|---------------|
| Home     | Needed in 2019 | \$ 875,288.99 |
|          | Given in 2019  | 839,580.40    |
| Missions | Needed in 2019 | 38,548.93     |
|          | Given in 2019  | 30,240.75     |
| Building | Needed in 2019 | 29,827.67     |
|          | Given in 2019  | 32,423.45     |

Our Financial Picture is much better then it was at the beginning of November. That is because of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering which we had on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and folks have given since. So, at the end of November in the HOME budget we are BEHIND \$35,708.59, in the MISSION budget BEHIND \$8,308.18 and in the BUILDING budget AHEAD \$2,595.78. We are ahead in the Building because of extra gifts being given for the debt of the Garage/Maintenance Building.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering really helped bring down our deficit. Ninety-four (94) families have gave \$19,625.00. THANK YOU to all who gave for this special effort. It is not too late to use that special envelope you received in the mail.

### **Special gifts during November were:**

|                              |        |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Bethesda Home                | 66.00  |
| Lutheran World Relief        | 454.65 |
| Emergency Fund               | 51.00  |
| KAIR Broadcasts              | 100.00 |
| Speaker System               | 10.00  |
| Lutheran Heritage Foundation | 33.00  |
| Dream Fund III               | 16.00  |
| Food Pantry                  | 5.00   |
| Playground Fund              | 50.00  |
| Loaves and Fishes            | 60.00  |
| Lutheran Hour                | 5.00   |
| Flower Fund                  | 6.00   |
| Technology (current) Fund    | 49.00  |
| Organ Fund                   | 50.00  |
| Trinity Place Endowment Fund | 21.00  |

**With these gifts this is how our  
BENEVOLENCE PICTURE looks:**

| <b><u>BENEVOLENCE</u></b> | <b><u>GOAL</u></b> | <b><u>GIVEN</u></b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Bethesda Home             | \$ 1,100.00        | 827.00              |
| Luth. Heritage Found.     | 600.00             | 472.00              |
| Lutheran Hour             | 900.00             | 1,133.00            |
| Luth. World Relief        | 3,500.00           | 2,985.65            |

As you can see, we have made our Lutheran Hour goal. If you have not used these special envelopes, please do so in December. We can still make the above goals and each gift will be a blessing.

All the above figures do not include the offerings brought in the Thanksgiving Services. The offerings received in the Advent services will go to our home budget. Offerings received in the New Year's Eve envelope will go to the Memorial Scholarship Fund.

2020 offering envelopes are on the table in the Narthex. Please stop to pick up your packet. Please do not use any of these envelopes until 2020.

It is not too late to make your pledge for 2020. The Finance Committee is now in the process of putting together the 2020 budget.

As we come to the end of the year, think about these words from Thom Rainer in a book, "I Will". First, he (Paul) tells the church (in Corinth) that their spiritual growth will be in direct relation to their generous giving. "Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will reap generously."

**BUILDING AND GROUNDS FOUNDATION**

It has been many months since we reported on this Foundation. Since the beginning of the year this Foundation has received \$1,260.00 in gifts and memorials. It has now grown to have \$274,379.35 in given-assets. In 2018 dividend and interest income from this invested amount was \$17,682.16. \$15,000 of this went into our home budget to help take care of property needs (utilities, insurance, repairs, etc.).

So far this year 34 families have made gifts to this Foundation. Gifts of \$450.00 were received in memory of Elizabeth Kuhnert. A gift of \$100.00 was received from a couple who was married here.

As our buildings age (and we have several), this foundation becomes increasingly important. We started this fund so that we would never have to decrease staff in order to keep up our buildings and properties.

There is an envelope for this foundation in the front of your packet. Let me encourage you to use it, whatever the size of your gift. Also, please remember this need with your memorials and when you make your will or trust.

**SCHOOL SPONSOR PROGRAM**

Our School Sponsor Program is a program of tremendous importance to our Trinity School. Forty students each year receive a gift of \$200.00 to help with their tuition payment. Some of our sponsors gave gifts large enough to sponsor two or more children. Thank you to the following folks who are our 2019-20 sponsors:

|                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Stan and LaNeta Snyder     | Memorial for Sam Nelson |
| Dennis & Carol Niemann     | Frank & Loretta Lassen  |
| Amelia Cawthorn            | Kelly & Karen Persinger |
| Charles & Barbara Neill    | Pastor Robert Ziegler   |
| Eileen Peterson            | Priscilla Guild         |
| Karrie Harrington          | Bill Bewley             |
| Memorial for Bob Voight    | Ruth Niemann            |
| Gary & Kathy Long          | Ron & Allison Arends    |
| Adam & Rachel Goodpasture  | Jim & Joyce Duitsman    |
| Bill & Carolyn Hubble      | Pam Lutz                |
| John & Roschelle Bisping   | Merrell & Vonda Young   |
| Charlotte Teuscher         | Memorial for Clarence   |
| Pastor's Adult Bible Class | and Rosemary Miles      |
| Les & Grace Burchett       | Phil & Lenora Cairo     |
| Charlie & Cindy Perdue     | Glen & Peggy Buckley    |

**UPCOMING  
Events**

**ADVENT SERVICES**

**Advent Services** will be Wednesday evenings:  
December 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.

**Advent Dinners** will be Wednesday evenings:  
5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

**Christmas Caroling**

5:15 p.m. – December 15th

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**

6:00 – 8:00 – 11:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service**

9:30 a.m.

**New Year's Eve Service**

7:00 p.m.

## **CALLING ALL CROSS STITCHERS**

A small group of ladies have been making baptism cross stitches for all the baptisms at Trinity for the last few years! We need more help! Please contact Rachel Goodpasture if you are interested in helping with this ministry. Talk to her at church or call/text: 913-426-4007.

## **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SUMMARY**

We have been collecting items all year and our collections did not go to waste. We had a packing party on November 10th where a lot of youth came to pack up boxes. the Youth in attendance: Ethan Piper, Evan Piper, Michael Lemons, Rachel Lemons, Jackie Gonzalez, Gessa Gonzalez, Micah Leonardi, Katelyn Brincefield, Emma Handke, and Marin Moore packed 100 boxes. Special thanks to Neil Wieland and Kelly Dressler for helping with the party and Jessi Oswald for helping collect items.

As a church and school, we also collected another 60 boxes bringing our grand total to 160. Thank you to anyone who donated a box.

We also were a Drop Off Location for other church's, groups, or families to donate boxes. We collected 435 boxes as a drop off location. Special thanks to Jeremy Lee, Lotti Lee, Tom Brincefield, Sherri Smith, Sarah Sinclair, Jill Lowe, Jim Duitsman, Joyce Duitsman, Katelyn Brincefield, and Micah Leonardi for being present while we were open.

As a Drop Off Location we are a part of the St. Joseph Region, after getting to St. Joe they go to Colorado where they are inspected at the Processing Plant. As a region we collected 8,988 boxes.



## **LOOKING BACK**

### **Ten Years - December 2009**

.....Funeral services were held for Gary Lanter, 57.  
.....Jeff Hale and Tiffany Vanderweide were married on November 14.  
.....160 people came for the Thanksgiving Dinner, 207 came for the Day of Prayer, and 364 came for Thanksgiving services.  
.....Ron Graham, John Hornbostel and Bob Weatherford were elected to the Board of Directors.  
.....Montica Minard was taking care of the childcare center.  
.....Mike Farrell and Steve Barnett were new Kennedy Trainees.  
.....Jayme Lowe, Katie Kistler, Chance Reams, RJ VanHoozer, Chase Grippin, Jacob Keimig and Grace Siard were on the Trinity School 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Honor Roll.  
.....126 families gave \$19,028 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Mile Offering.  
.....Debt on the second parsonage was \$64,000.



### **Twenty Years Ago – 1999**

.....A new roof was put on the Fellowship House (\$5,300).  
.....New carpet was put in the church secretary's office.  
.....A bequest was received from the estate of Helen Walton, \$11,000 to the Church Endowment Fund, \$1,000 to the Building and Grounds Foundation and \$500 to the Memorial Scholarship Fund.  
.....Debt on the new building was \$354,517.58.

### **Thirty Years Ago – 1989**

.....Christina Collins and Chuck Reams were married on November 4.  
.....Funeral Services were held for Carl VanLiew and Barry Sullivan.  
.....Mike Stapleton accepted Trinity's Call to be Director of Christian Education.  
.....Darrel Sowers and Phillip Sinclair were Youth Evangelists, going out with Esther Ziegler and Norma Dame.

### **Forty Years Ago – 1979**

.....Loren Bareiss, Francis Burchett, George Kenney and Bill Smith were elected to the Board of Directors.  
.....The School Endowment Fund had grown to \$115,647.91.  
.....Funeral services were held for Henry Hagen.



**Pastor Reed's Newsletter Article**  
**December 2019**

Happy New Year! God has brought us into a new Church year! And each new Church year begins with the Season of Advent.

Advent means coming, or arrival, or appearance. Advent focuses our attention on our Lord's coming to us.

Still, you might find it strange that the thought emphasized on the Last Sunday of the Church Year is carried over into Advent. Just like the Last Sunday of the Church Year Advent also directs our attention forward in time to our Lord's Second Coming. But I think there's a subtle difference in this in Advent.

I see the Last Sunday of the Church Year pointing us forward to this event, this actual, future return of our Lord in power and great glory. But in Advent, I think the emphasis is on the promise of the Coming of Christ.

Yes, I know, this is a subtle difference. Still, the idea of promise flows into two other aspects that come into focus during the Season of Advent.

The first is obvious. The Season of Advent offers time to prepare to celebrate Christmas. And our preparation isn't putting up Christmas decorations and buying Christmas presents. We prepare for Christmas by recalling all the many Old Testament promises— prophecies— God made about His Son's First Advent. Through His Word (God's prophecies and promises), He makes us ready to rightly rejoice in our Lord's Nativity (birth).

The second truth is not as obvious. The Season of Advent highlights how God fulfills His promises to us in the here and now. Because Jesus was born as God promised, we can be certain of the promises God fulfills, but our eyes can't see. For example,

every time two or three gather in Jesus' name, as God promised, Jesus is present with them (Matthew 18:20). So too, each time the Gospel and Sacraments are used, God is keeping His promises. We can see this with our eyes, but as promised God is creating and strengthening faith. God granting forgiveness. And God is sending His Spirit and His Spirit's gifts of hope, joy, and peace; life so we live for Him in this world, as we will live with Him eternally.

And that brings us back to the third aspect of Advent. Through the Gospel and Sacraments, God is making us ready for the Day Jesus returns and all His promises stand fulfilled!

The Season of Advent is followed not by just by Christmas, but the Season of Christmas. In the Bible, important events— like weddings— lasted many days. This fact is reflected in the calendar Christians have used for more than a thousand years. Christmas is the first of twelve days that make up the Season of Christmas. Christmas is far too significant an event to celebrate for one day only. We celebrate it for nearly two weeks! Then, thirteen days after Christmas a new season begins, the Season of Epiphany. And the Season of Epiphany begins on January 6.

But I get ahead of myself (I'll write about Epiphany in my January newsletter article). Back to Advent. Throughout history, Christians have observed Advent with a number of traditions. Below are some suggestions for you.

1. Make use of Advent wreath. This is a great way to connect your home devotions to the worship life of our congregation. On the First Sunday in Advent you will see an

Advent wreath up front in the chancel. Use one at home. Gather as a family, perhaps after dinner, and take turns lighting the candles on the outside ring. Follow what we do in Church. And finally, on Christmas Eve you get to light the inside candle. And around the wreath read a devotion and say a prayer (I've included a prayer for each week in Advent and for Christmas at the end of this article).

2. Sing or speak the words of the great Advent hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel". Our hymnbook also offers prayers that follow the theme presented in each verse.

3. If your family has small children, make use of a Nativity Set. This can be a great way to keep your focus on Christ. Read and teach your children the Christmas narrative and help build up their anticipation for the celebration of Christ's birth. Put the stable and the manger on one side of the room and the Holy Family on the other side. Each Sunday in Advent move Mary and Joseph little closer to the stable and talk about all that happened before and after Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem.

4. Attend the Wednesday Advent dinners and services at Trinity. Dinner is 5:00-6:30 p.m. and the service is at 7 p.m. The Lord bless you with strong confidence fixed in all God's promises in Christ,

*Pastor Reed*



## **Prayers**

**Advent 1**— Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come, that by Your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by Your mighty deliverance; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Advent 2**— Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Advent 3**— Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Advent 4**— Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Christmas**— O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### **TRINITY CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS**

Come and join us in celebration of our Lord's birth at our student Christmas programs!

On December 17 at 6:30 p.m., PK- 2 will present "Angel, Angel" and on December 19 at 7:00 p.m., the students in grades 3-8 will present "Words of Christmas". Bring your friends, neighbors, grandparents, and any others to share the talents of our students and Christmas spirit! A free-will offering will be taken at the program. The offering will go to the School Grant Fund. This fund enables more students to be able to attend TLS.

### **Christmas Break is December 23-January 3, 2020**

**WALKATHON RESULTS: WOW!** - The Walkathon was a SUCCESS! We have over \$5000 in donations!! Thank you to all the families and students that supported our fundraiser!!

### **BIG THANKS!**

The 7/8<sup>th</sup> graders at Trinity would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who brought clothing, shoes, purses, etc. for our Saver's Fundrive Fundraiser earlier this month! We collected 6500 pounds of goods and profited \$1384.20!!! This money will be divided between the 14 students going on our Educational Experience to Washington, DC, May 6-9, 2020. Thank you again for your donations and support!

### **CHILI-SOUP SUPPER-MORE THANKS!**

Thank you to all of those who donated items for the Silent Auction, those who prepared and served food, and to Jennie Fuhrman and students who provided beautiful artwork! What a wonderful evening! Team Falcon was able to collect over \$4000 which will be used for the materials and support they provide for our classrooms, trips for student success, plus all the teacher and staff appreciation. We are so blessed to have a great group of parents that support our school. THANK YOU!

### **FIRST QUARTER ACCELERATED READER PARTY FOR GRADES 1-4**



Lisa Brookover, principal

# Kindergarten News

A big hello from Kindergarten! We have done awesome things here in Kindergarten! Every single one is working so hard. We have two readers already and have a few more that are so close! We must finish our sight word lists before we can start reading. They are all very excited about sight words and I love seeing them point out words they know in a story during read aloud time.



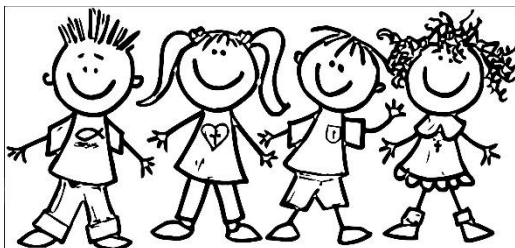
We have been writing and practicing using descriptive words and are doing very well there also. In math we have been practicing counting to one hundred and by twos. Currently math is our favorite thing to do in class and we love to practice our sight words. We love to do P.E, science, and social studies.



Our favorite way to play in Kindergarten is to have use our imaginations. Magnets become rocket ships, big blocks become tall forts, and any loose computer chair is a “teacher chair”. When you sit in a “teacher chair” you are a teacher anyone around you is a student. It becomes interesting when you have three teachers in one room! They are all good problem solvers and the can work out a schedule on who gets to be who when.

Thank you so much for taking time to read this. Keep all sixteen students, the teacher, and the aide in your prayers!

**Blessings,  
Miss Lennington and Mrs. Fuhrman**



## FROM THE LOFT

### Choir Members Needed

We are in need of many more choir members. It is our prayer that YOU would consider joining choir! Your voice is needed! We meet every Thursday evening from 7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. You are welcome to come sing with us any time! We will soon begin looking at music for 2020!



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad  
You Did!**

### Handbell Choir

You do NOT have to read music to be in the handbell choir. Rhonda Gierstorf does an excellent job choosing notes for people to play (starting each person out with one bell that doesn't play very much), highlighting and marking their music for new ringers, and walking through each song with us so we are confident when it is time to play. If you have questions, please contact Rhonda! The handbell choir meets on Thursdays from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### Christmas Caroling

It's time to think about Christmas caroling once again! We have scheduled Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> as the date to go caroling in Atchison. **Signup sheets are currently in the church bulletin!**

### "How does caroling work?"



**Before:** Carolers show up at 5:15 p.m. in the church sanctuary. One of the choir directors leads a prayer, gives the group leaders a list of places to visit and song sheets, and does a quick head count. Then, carolers get into groups of 4 or 5 with the group leaders. We leave the sanctuary by 5:30 p.m. so we can sing before the shut ins get ready for bed.

**During:** You go to the nursing homes first. You sing a few songs at each place. The group leader helps choose the songs. Then, you go to homes. If a person is home, you sing a few songs for them. (Sometimes the shut-ins have requests! 😊 ) It usually takes about an hour to carol to everyone.

**After:** When you are finished caroling to everyone on your list, you return to the church basement to enjoy a light meal and fellowship!

**Singing His Praises,  
Lottie Lee  
Co-Choir Director**



## Health Note for December 2019: Decluttering for Christmas (reprinted from Lutheran Parish Nurse International, lpni.org, with permission)

When our children were young, for me to be able to work part time as a registered nurse in a local nursing home, I had to work one holiday. I chose to work 3-11 on Christmas Day. By this time of day, our children would be getting tired of the toy excitement of Christmas, and we didn't have family near us to have a big traditional dinner. So, I was content to work this shift. What I didn't know was that after I had left for work that Christmas Day, my husband had our children clean out their closets! On Christmas Day, really?!? They thought they were being punished and "celebrating" Christmas in a "work camp" environment!!! Bo, my husband, said that after the initial shock of having to do this onerous chore, the children actually enjoyed it because they found past favorites and "treasures" that they had long forgotten.

Thinking about cleaning the clutter out of closets, makes me think that we should declutter our lives during this spiritually eventful time and concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas, the Birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus! We need to relax some on the traditional hectic festivities of buying gifts, planning and attending parties, and preparing for the several course traditional dinner. All of this can be fun, but it also can be so very stressful. We can become so engrossed with the trimmings of Christmas that we almost forget that this is the time when a young woman from Nazareth, almost at the end of her pregnancy and her husband are walking and riding an uncomfortable donkey to Bethlehem to be counted in the census which would probably increase their taxes. At last they arrive to find there are no rooms available to them in the local inns, so they find a barn in which she will deliver her son, our Lord Jesus Christ. They weren't thinking about the census-taking clutter in their lives. They were following God's plan and trying handle the birth of the very special baby which they knew would change the world forever.

Can clutter impact our lives for the better? No, especially at this time of year we need to declutter from the holiday trappings so that we can fully concentrate on the true meaning of Christmas, which is the Birth of our Lord Jesus.

In Luke 2: 6-7 we read, ***And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.***

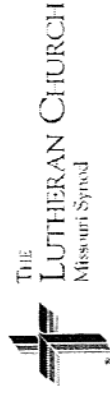
With decluttered Christmas blessings to all,  
Lana B. Wingate, MSN, RN  
Parish Nurse at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Williamsburg, Virginia  
Parish Nurse Representative for the 35<sup>th</sup> District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

The above article made me smile. Around our house, decluttering has been an ongoing mission. After living in the same space for 34 years we have accumulated a lot of "stuff"! How much more important though, to declutter ourselves from all the "hype" surrounding the Christmas season. We may love the traditions and trappings of the Christmas season, but it is too easy in today's world to get caught up in trying to find the perfect present, or host the perfect party, or prepare the perfect meal. Help us Lord to enjoy those traditions that are meaningful to us and as Lana Wingate said in her article, focus on the true meaning of Christmas, the coming of our Savior.

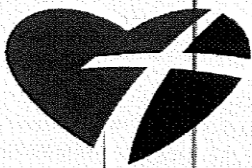
Blessings,  
Marcene Selberg RN, parish nurse

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

603 N. 8<sup>th</sup> Street  
Atchison, Kansas 66002  
913-367-2837



| December 2019  |   |  |   |  |  |   | Jan 2020 ▶ |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|---|------------|
| ◀ Nov 2019   | Sun   | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri   | Sat        |
| <b>1</b> Worship<br>8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm<br>9:15 am Family Bible Hour<br>9:30 am KAIR Broadcast<br>2:00 pm Sunday School Program<br>4:00 pm Inquirer's Class<br>7:00 pm NA                               | <b>2</b><br>1:15 pm Staff Meeting<br>6:25 pm Kennedy Calling<br>7:00 pm NA  | <b>3</b><br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>6:25 pm Elder's Calling<br>7:00 pm NA  | <b>4</b><br>8:30 am School Chapel<br>9:00 am Morning Break<br>5:00-6:30 pm Advent Dinner<br>5:30 pm Wednesday School<br>7:00 pm Advent Service<br>7:00 pm NA<br>8:00 pm Finance Committee | <b>5</b><br>6:30 am Men's Prayer Breakfast<br>6:30 pm Bell Choir<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir<br>8:30 pm Chamber Choir                                   | <b>6</b><br>6:30 pm 55+ Potluck<br>7:00 pm High School Lock-in<br>7:00 pm NA | <b>7</b><br>7:00 pm NA                                    |            |
| <b>8</b> Worship w/Communion<br>8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm<br>9:15 am Family Bible Hour<br>9:30 am KAIR Broadcast<br>4:00 pm Inquirer's Class<br>7:00 pm NA  | <b>9</b><br>1:15 pm Staff Meeting<br>6:00 pm Theodora Circle<br>6:25 pm Kennedy Calling<br>6:30 pm Priscilla Guild<br>7:00 pm NA                                  | <b>10</b><br>9:00 am Pastoral Conf: -<br>Nortonville<br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>6:30 pm Altar Guild Dinner<br>6:30 pm Building Committee<br>7:00 pm NA | <b>11</b><br>8:30 am School Chapel<br>9:00 Morning Break<br>5:00-6:30 pm Advent Dinner<br>5:30 pm Wednesday School<br>7:00 pm Advent Service<br>7:00 pm NA<br>8:00 pm Board of Directors  | <b>12</b><br>6:30 pm Confirmation Rehearsal<br>6:30 pm Bell Choir<br>7:00 pm Baptismal Instruction<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir<br>8:30 pm Chamber Choir | <b>13</b><br>7:00 pm NA  | <b>14</b><br>9:00 am Fleece Blanket Project<br>7:00 pm NA |            |
| <b>15</b> Worship<br>8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm<br>9:15 am Family Bible Hour<br>9:30 am KAIR Broadcast<br>10:30 am Adult Confirmations<br>5:15 pm Christmas Caroling<br>7:00 pm NA<br>7:45 pm Voter's Assembly | <b>16</b><br>1:15 pm Staff Meeting<br>5:45 pm Evangelism Comm.<br>6:00 pm W.I.P. Craft Night<br>6:25 pm Kennedy Calling<br>7:00 pm Day School Comm.<br>7:00 pm NA | <b>17</b><br>1:00 pm Quilting<br>6:25 pm Elder's Calling<br>6:30 pm PK-grade 2 Christmas Program<br>7:00 pm NA                                     | <b>18</b><br>8:30 am School Chapel<br>9:00 am Morning Break<br>5:00-6:30 pm Advent Dinner<br>5:30 pm Wednesday School<br>7:00 pm Advent Service<br>7:00 pm NA                             | <b>19</b><br>7:00 pm grade 3-8 Christmas Program<br>7:30 pm Adult Choir<br>8:30 pm Chamber Choir   | <b>20</b><br>7:00 pm NA  | <b>21</b><br>7:00 pm NA                                   |            |
| <b>22</b> Worship w/Communion<br>8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm<br>9:15 am Family Bible Hour<br>9:30 am KAIR Broadcast<br>7:00 pm NA   | <b>23</b><br>1:15 pm Staff Meeting<br>6:25 pm Kennedy Calling<br>7:00 pm NA   | <b>24</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS EVE<br/>CANDLELIGHT SERVICES</b><br>6:00 p.m.<br>8:00 p.m.<br>11:00 p.m.   | <b>25</b><br><b>CHRISTMAS SERVICE</b><br>9:30 a.m.  | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br>7:00 p.m. NA  | <b>28</b><br>9:00 am Novel Ideas<br>7:00 pm NA            |            |
| <b>29</b> Worship w/Communion<br>8:00 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm<br>9:15 am Family Bible Hour<br>9:30 am KAIR Broadcast<br>7:00 pm NA   | <b>30</b><br>1:15 pm Staff Meeting<br>4:00 pm Public Relations Com.<br>6:00 pm Chain of Hearts<br>6:25 pm Kennedy Calling<br>7:00 pm NA                           | <b>31</b><br><b>NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE</b><br>7:00 p.m.<br>7:00 pm NA   | <b>Trinity School Christmas Break<br/>December 23-January 3, 2020</b>   |  |  |   |            |



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**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

**4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

- Refreshments
- Door Prizes
- New toys, food items and winter gear will be collected for area agencies

























722 Commercial St. Atchison, KS 66002

**913-367-0700**

# 25 Days of Christmas Kindness

Every day is an opportunity to celebrate the gifts God's given us—whether it's time, talents or treasures. If you're looking for ways to spread generosity and joy this Christmas, here are 25 daily activities you can do with your family. Track your impact by coloring in the icon for each one you complete!

## DECEMBER

|   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>1</b><br><br>Write letters to past and present military members through a service like <b>AMillionThanks.org</b> or <b>OperationGratitude.com</b> . | <b>2</b><br><br>Buy extra dog or cat food to drop off at your local animal shelter.                    | <b>3</b><br><br>Pick up litter at your favorite park.  | <b>5</b><br><br>St. Nick comes tonight! Stay in the spirit by donating a pair of shoes to a local shelter or nonprofit like <b>Soles4Souls</b> . |
| <b>10</b><br><br>Donate to a toy drive. <b>ToysForTots.org</b> can help you find a campaign nearby.  | <b>8</b><br><br>Volunteer to sing, greet or usher at church.   | <b>7</b><br><br>Bake cookies for your local police or fire department.   | <b>4</b><br><br>Pray for someone you haven't seen in a while.  |
| <b>11</b><br><br>Support a small business.   | <b>9</b><br><br>Put out birdseed for aviary friends.  | <b>6</b><br><br>Sing a carol, play a board game, or simply visit with residents at a nearby nursing home.                      |   |
| <b>12</b><br><br>Send a Christmas card to someone you haven't talked to recently.  | <b>13</b><br><br>Invite a friend or neighbor over for dinner.  | <b>14</b><br><br>Make a fleece tie blanket. Donate to a homeless shelter or children's hospital.                             | <b>15</b><br><br>Volunteer to ring bells for <b>The Salvation Army</b> .   |
| <b>20</b><br><br>Watch a Christmas movie together.   | <b>19</b><br><br>Take a box of canned goods to your local food pantry.                               | <b>18</b><br><br>Shovel snow for a neighbor. (No snow? Ask if there's other yard work you can help with!)                      | <b>17</b><br><br>Leave a treat or small gift in your mailbox for your mail carrier.  |
| <b>21</b><br><br>Help with the dishes after dinner.  | <b>22</b><br><br>Offer to babysit for a friend or neighbor while they Christmas shop or run errands. | <b>23</b><br><br>Call a friend or family member.   | <b>25</b><br><br><b>Merry Christmas!</b> Rejoice in the Good News with your loved ones.  |
|   |   | <b>24</b><br><br>It's <b>Christmas Eve!</b> Take time to reflect on the wonders of this night and the reason for the season. |   |