



December 2021 Volume 24, No. 12

Trinity Lutheran Church
A welcoming faith community
living together in God's love to
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

TIDINGS

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

We are excited to be back in person for worship this Christmas season! To help with our capacity limits of 125 for worship in the sanctuary, we encourage you to spread out between the three Christmas services that Trinity is offering. If we do reach capacity, and you come in person, you will be asked to sit in the gathering area or fellowship hall as room allows. We will also have each service available via live stream, so that if it is more convenient and comfortable to worship from your home, please do so. (Additionally, you can attend services of Mary of Magdala or St. Paul's if that schedule fits yours better!)

Christmas Eve Services

- 3 pm Trinity Candlelight
- 5 pm Trinity Candlelight
- 7:30 pm St. Paul's Christmas Mass

Christmas Day Services

- 10 am Mary of Magdala Christmas Mass
- 5 pm Trinity Christmas Day Service

We look forward to you being part of the service for the Christmas celebration.

TLC book Group

The Larimer County mask mandate has put a damper on plans for a book group holiday brunch and planning session. Instead the TLC Book Group will meet via Zoom on **Monday, December 6, at 9:30 am** to select our books for at least the next six months. Send one or two recommendations to nadineamyhunt@gmail.com by December 1; include title, author, and a couple of sentences about the book. From that master list we will choose our selections for the upcoming months. Bring your favorite snack to your computer and join us <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85358221885?pwd=RWx6dTEwRzlzc0xuNmtkaWFzbzZldz09>

Questions? Call Nadine Hunt at 970-825-3730.

301 FP Turkey Round Up

The Turkey Round Ups grand total was 72 turkeys weighing in at 1,112 1/2 lbs! The Blue Ribbon turkey weighed 23 lbs!

Alternative Gift Fair has gone Digital

The Social & Eco Justice ministry team is not hosting an Alternative Gift Fair this year and instead would like to encourage people to donate individually to their favorite charities. Without further ado here is the list you have all been waiting for, click here www.marymagdalafc.org/alternativegivingfair2021 to start shopping!

Faith, Family, Hospitality Host Week

TLC (with the help of FC Friends) will host four families experiencing homelessness for the week of **December 12-18**. COVID protocols of the past year will remain in place: mask wearing; limited socialization with the families; vaccination requirements for the adults in the program. For each day we will need evening hosts, overnight hosts, and dinner preparers – as well as volunteers set-up, do laundry, and teardown on the weekends. To sign up, please click on the following link to the master Sign-up Genius, and scroll down to the week of December 12. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090449AEAA28A6FB6-faith>

Questions? Call Steph Dugger (970-223-9119) or Nadine Hunt (907-825-3730).

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



**301 E. Stuart Street
Fort Collins, CO 80525
www.trinitylutheranfc.org**

Facebook: /TLCfortcollins

Phone: (970) 482-1226
Fax: (970) 482-0817

Preschool: (970) 221-9852
After Hours Emergency:
(970)-400-7252

OFFICE HOURS

MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

WORSHIP TIMES

**SATURDAY: 5 PM
SUNDAY: 10:30 AM**

Senior Pastor

Rick Reiten
pastorrick@trinitylutheranfc.org

Education & Family Minister

Deacon Katie Kline
katie@trinitylutheranfc.org

Office Administrator

Deana Andrist
office@trinitylutheranfc.org

Financial Manager

Debbie Schwartz
dschwartz@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Communications & Volunteer Coordinator

Amanda Backsen
amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org

Director of Choirs & Saturday Worship Leader

Paul Falk
paul@trinitylutheranfc.org

Church Musician

Carrie Hansen
carrie@trinitylutheranfc.org

A/V Techician

TLC Preschool Director

Brenda Harju
bharju@comcast.net

Pastor's Pondering - O little town of Bethlehem

This is not my favorite Christmas Hymn (that would probably be *O Come All Ye Faithful*) – but it still is a top song for me and I am guessing, many of you. It is also the song on my mind, even if we aren't yet to Advent or Thanksgiving (as I write this article).

The song is on my mind...because Lindsay and I, God willing, get to travel to the little town of Bethlehem, in January. (This trip was scheduled a year ago, but was postponed twice due to Covid.) We are traveling with a group of clergy, as part of my continuing education through Trinity.

First, thank you for this opportunity – for the time and financial support to be able to make use of this opportunity. (And thank you to Deacon Katie for taking on my responsibilities for 10 days).

Second, pray for us. For the experience. For the spiritual renewal. For the learning. For safety. For Israel and for Palestine. I also will be praying for you and sharing my journey in the Holy Land, with all of you back home, hopefully through daily messages.

So, as we prepare to go to Bethlehem, I return to this song of the Christmas season. The “hopes and fear, of all the years, are met in Thee tonight” is always the line I connect with most. Knowing that all our joy and challenge of modern day, was and is wrapped up in that swaddled bundle, laying in a manger, in a deep dreamless sleep, underneath the silent stars above Bethlehem over 2000 years ago.

It gives me goosebumps. I am not sure how it is possible, because it isn’t. But God does the impossible, and with God, everything is possible. And that is what you sing every Christmas.

In a no name town, in the animal stall below the house, God became incarnate – became, flesh and bone, became human, became us. God didn’t send a proxy, God came into humanity Gods self, with little fanfare or celebration.

*“How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of God’s heaven”*

*“We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel”*

I am excited to be in Bethlehem and Jerusalem, to be present, to absorb all the Holy Land has to offer, to walk the footsteps near the ancient stones, while engaging with the Living Stones and stories of the people today. I know many of you have visited the Holy Land before, and know how powerful this experience can be, and I hope more of you will have the opportunity one day to do the same.

Whether or not you are able to ever make this trip, hopefully the songs will pull you deeper into the love and grace of this miracle child.

And when I get back, maybe I will have another song about the Holy Land to sing (though I have no idea what that will be.)

Peace, Pastor Rick



Singers/Ringers needed for Advent and Christmas:

The Bell Choir and Chancel Choir could use more members to play bells, (plus tambourine on 1 piece) or sing with the choir. PLEASE join us!! Rehearsals are **Wednesday 6:15 pm Bell Choir** (Sanctuary) and then **7 pm Chancel Choir** (Warm-up in Choir room-move to sanctuary after SPE Advent Service). Please email paul@trinitylutheranfc.org if you're able to join us!!!

2nd Annual Live Nativity

Jesus was born in a drafty room, alongside smells and sounds of barn animals, and laid in a feed trough with itchy straw....and you can have a similar experience!

Come and make the 301 Faith Partner Live Nativity, with live animals, live actors, and live music – part of your Christmas tradition. On **December 21, 22 & 23 from 4:30-6:30 pm** grab your hot chocolate, bring your friends and family, to 301 E. Stuart, and drive through the parking or walk to get a closer experience, and together we come to celebrate.



"O come let us Adore Him, O come let us Adore Him,
O come let us Adore Him, Christ the Lord!"

2021 Ministry Fund Plan for the month of October and for year-to-date as of October 2021

	October	Year-To-Date
Receipts:		
Offerings	\$ 26,281	\$ 284,376
Building Use	5,403	34,927
Total Receipts:	31,684	319,303
Expenditures:		
Operating and Support	25,482	264,260
Ministries	11,542	77,176
Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc.)	7,618	27,510
Total Expenditures:	\$ 44,641	\$ 368,946
Receipts less Expenditures:	\$ (12,957)	\$ (49,643)



Birthdays



Gerry Olsen	12/2	Jeni Makinen	12/12	Patty Heyse	12/20
Tiffany Klijewski	12/2	Margo Geppert	12/12	Scott Makinen	12/20
Jim Frye	12/4	Herb Haller	12/12	Thomas Haukebo	12/21
Merry Hulse	12/4	Nadine Hunt	12/13	Susan Schairer	12/21
Andrew Stewart	12/4	Kathryn Garman	12/13	Anya Reiten	12/22
Shirley Garvin	12/5	Jeffrey Derman	12/16	Diann Nygaard	12/24
Clint Borkowski	12/6	Eunice Samer	12/18	Jack Barron	12/24
Craig Haukebo	12/6	Ron Bend	12/19	Paul Johsnon	12/24
Gregg Hargis	12/7	Annika Zuniga	12/19	Lissa Faulkner	12/25
Sonia Nornes	12/9	Nadine Cain	12/20	Jordan Faulkner	12/25



Anniversaries

Rebecca & James Oscarson 12/20

December JET ECO Tip of the Month

From the 301 Faith Partners Joint Ecological Team (JET)

As we celebrate Jesus Christ's birthday please consider the following holiday recycling tips for curbside or the paperboard bin at the Timberline Recycling Center:

- ♦ **Wrapping Paper** except for metallic paper, ribbons, and bows
- ♦ **Tissue Paper** except for tissue with glitter or metallics
- ♦ **Cardboard** remember that disposing of cardboard in the trash is illegal in Fort Collins
- ♦ **Recyclable wrapping** options include: baskets, old maps, newspaper, childrens' art work, tins or jars, reusable fabric bag or scarves, inside out chip bags, or a clay flower pot. Be creative!

***Recycle** your **live Christmas tree** at the following drop off locations. Be sure to remove all items from the tree before dropping off, including: lights, wire, hooks, ornaments, tinsel, and fake snow. There are fees.

- Timberline Recycling Center Hard-to-Recycle Materials Yard, 1903 S. Timberline Rd
- Hageman Earth cycle, 3501 E Prospect Rd
- Larimer County Landfill Green Waste Program, 5887 S Taft Hill Rd

Our next JET meeting will be January 25, 2022 at 5:30 pm with meeting format yet to be determined. Please consider joining our meetings and activities.

DECEMBER 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
5 9 am Adult Forum 9 am Confirmation 10 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	6 9:30 am Book Group 6 pm Property	7 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:15 pm Soc/Eco Justice
12 FFH Host Week 9 am Adult Forum 9 am Confirmation 10 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship w/ Children's Pageant 11:45 am Faith Formation	13 FFH Host Week	14 FFH Host Week 4 pm Finance
19 9 am Adult Forum 9 am Confirmation 10 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship 11:45 am Worship & Music	20	21 4:30 pm Live Nativity
26 10:30 am Lessons & Carols	27	28



PULL ME OUT! HANG ME UP!!
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 5:30 pm Bell Tree Ens 6:15 pm Bells 7 pm Chancel Choir 8 pm Advent Compline	2 9:30 am Bible Study	3	4 5 pm Saturday Praise
8 6:15 pm Bells 7 pm Chancel Choir 8 pm Advent Compline	9 9:30 am Bible Study	10	11 5 pm Saturday Praise
15 FFH Host Week 6:15 pm Bells 7 pm Chancel Choir 8 pm Advent Compline	16 FFH Host Week 9:30 am Bible Study	17 FFH Host Week	18 FFH Host Week 5 pm Saturday Praise
22 4:30 pm Live Nativity 6:15 pm Bells 7 pm Chancel Choir 8 pm Advent Compline	23 9:30 am Bible Study 4:30 pm Live Nativity	24 Christmas Eve 3 pm TLC Candlelight 5 pm TLC Candlelight 7:30 pm SPE Mass	25 Christmas Day 10 am MoM Mass 5 pm Christmas Day
29	30	31 9 am–12 pm Office open for Contribution Deadline	

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

December 4/5 Bonnie Bend / Eric Jurgenson

December 11/12 Ron Bend / Shelley Aust

December 18/19 Joleen & Bob Fairbairn / Rick Aust

December 25/26 Ron & Vicky Splitgerber / Lori Schmidt

Highlights from Current Council Minutes

Finance Report

- Receipts to the end of September 2021 were \$287,619 with expenditures of \$324,304 for a negative balance of \$36,685.
- Some of the deficit will be offset through Benevity, an employer matching program.
- Many churches that did well financially through the pandemic are now facing more challenges in the uncertainty of the post-pandemic -- just as Trinity is.

MFP (Budget) for 2022

- The revised draft of the MFP was presented. The MFP for 2022 anticipates income of \$404,700, with expenses of \$452,100 for a deficit of \$47,400.
- Major revisions have included reinstating some cuts proposed by the Property Committee, and reducing the amount budgeted for guest musicians.
- If the congregation fails to approve a deficit budget in November, we still have the month of December to make adjustments before the new fiscal year begins.

Congregational Meeting

- Congregational meetings in an Open Forum format will be held October 16/17 to discuss the 301 Faith Partners and room rearrangement.
- Each topic will be introduced by a summary of some of the issues that the staff has heard relating to that topic, followed by time for questions, answers, and comments.
- Minutes will be taken, but no issues will be voted on.

Larimer County Mask Mandates

- Larimer County has instituted a mask mandate for all indoor public spaces starting October 20th. Masks will therefore be mandatory for both worship leaders and congregants, as well as for all meetings of any size in the church.
- Staff working in the offices must have masks available for use in any situation in which they cannot socially distance.
- Members will be encouraged to stay and chat after worship, but no food will be available during fellowship hour.

Special Meetings of the Council regarding the 2022 MFP (budget)

- At a subsequent email meeting on November 2-4 the Council approved unanimously the final draft of the budget to be presented to the congregation on November 20-21. This draft did not contain any changes in the income and expense figures, but did contain changes in wording of explanatory footnotes.
- At a second special meeting via Zoom on November 6th, the president informed us that there was a clerical error in the MFP. The congregational support line for payroll taxes was represented as being \$900 when in fact it should be \$8500. The Finance Committee recommends no further adjustments in the MFP, and that the Council approve the budget with the \$55,000 deficit. Council decided to schedule a Zoom meeting with members of the Finance Committee before voting on the increased deficit budget.

- At a third special meeting via Zoom on November 9, Council met with Finance to discuss the 2022 budget as described above. A motion to send the budget with the \$55,000 deficit to the congregation for their consideration on November 20/21 was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. A committee was named to prepare the presentation to the congregation .

Respectfully submitted, Nadine Hunt, Council Secretary

Complete minutes of Council meetings are available in the Church Office.

CCCC

Trinity Friends, our TLC Preschool would like to remind you about the Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit (CCCC), available to all who make a donation to our preschool. For anyone who may be interested, here is how it works: for any donation made, there is a 50% tax credit on your state taxes. So for example, if you donate \$100, your state income taxes will be reduced by \$50! A win-win for you and our TLC Preschool!

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION FORM

Colorado Child Care Tax Credit Contribution Form

To: TLC Preschool
Phone: 970-482-1226
301 E. Stuart Street
Fort Collins, CO 80525



Please accept my contribution under the Colorado Child Care Contribution Act.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

The Colorado Tax Credit Certification Form DD1317 will be sent to the above address following the current calendar year. Should you need the form earlier, please contact the office. Make checks out to TLC Preschool.

December Adult Forum

December 5 & 19: Deacon Katie will be leading on prayer and other spiritual practices. We will be discussing ways and ideas to deepen your relationship with God and how to daily ground yourself in faith.

December 12: our guest via Zoom will be Kholoud Al Ajarma who grew up in a United Nations Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. She will tell us what it's like to live in the town where Jesus was born. Spoiler alert...a lot has changed in 2,000 years!

December 26: No Adult Forum.

President's Perspectives

Dear loved members of Trinity Lutheran Church,

First of all, John and I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and may the new year be more "normal" than the past year! John and I will be spending part of our time with our oldest son in SE Colorado, and the rest of the holiday season traveling.

Maybe this is a good thing or maybe a bad thing, but I have not found time until now, after our congregational meeting, to write an article for the December Tidings, so here goes!

I want to thank you for attending the adult forums, the Saturday session and/or the Sunday session of the congregational meeting. I am so thankful for the thoughtful questions and responses to what is an unsustainable financial situation.

We have a contingency plan, 2-3 months of reserves. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we had to put into action our contingency plan and it worked, we are not closing the doors. Contingency plans are in place for this very reason. However, now we must determine how to get back on our feet and keep moving forward. Trinity has always had faithful members and this has not changed. We will figure this out.

Very high on the Finance Ministry and Council's agendas are to explore ways to increase our revenue streams with a concentrated stewardship program. Next to look at innovative ways to streamline and share internet costs, copy machine maintenance contracts, and any other duplicate expenditures among the 301 Faith Partners. Finally examine ways to leverage the talents of the members to more efficiently help our lay leaders, Pastor, Deacon, and staff conduct our ministry and day to day operation.

Please feel free to contact myself or any council member with questions or concerns and we always love to hear about the joys!

Again, I want to wish you a very blessed and joyous holiday season. Merry Christmas!!!

God Bless you, Betty Ann Petitjean-Wagner, Trinity Lutheran Church, Congregational President

Colorado Gives Day

Colorado Gives Day is **Tuesday, December 7!** Maybe you have heard of that too! Colorado Gives Day makes a lot of good happen for more than 3,000 local (Colorado) nonprofits. In 2020, the annual statewide movement raised more than \$50 million in 24 hours. This celebration of giving helps donors give where they live to the causes they care about most, including food pantries, shelters, and churches. While Trinity is not listed on the Colorado Gives Day website, there is nothing stopping you from joining the movement on December 7.

Beer and Carols (s'mores and hot toddies)

Join us for our 4th annual Beer and Carols event on **Sunday, December 19, at 4:30 pm** outside at SoJ. This year, to be COVID conscious, we will meet in Spirit of Joy's outdoor space rather than being packed into a restaurant while singing. We'll have a fire, hot cocoa, hot toddies, and (of course) Beer and Carols! Feel free to BYO appropriate beverage and be ready to safely sing your favorite carols as we gather outdoors!



The heart, hands & feet of God

Thank someone who has lived out their faith by sharing their gifts and made a difference in the church OR community, please email Amanda, amanda@trinitylutheranfc.org.



Dear **Trinity**, Your donation of \$126, is helping Karen from hardship of chasing an affordable rent to the strength, stability and self-reliance she'll have as a homeowner. ~ Mara Johnson

Dear **Trinity**, Thank you for your continue support, your gift (\$502) makes it possible for the Food Bank to serve those in our community who need it the most. ~ Amy Pezzani

Thank **you** for your generous support of the BIPOC Alliance. Your financial contribution enables us to continue our work and expand and grow! Thank you! ~ The CORE Team at the BIPOC Alliance

Dear **TLC**, thank you so much for your donation of \$209 to Crossroads Safehouse! Your contribution makes our life-saving work possible, and we deeply appreciate your partnership in supporting our community's victims of domestic violence. ~ Jacqueline Tiley

Dear **Trinity**, thank you for your gift of \$84 designated for Refugee North. Every day, Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains serves members of our community most at risk, and we area committed to caring for these groups regardless of the circumstances. ~ Jane Pope Meehan

Dear **TLC**, Thank you for welcoming us to your church and education hour so that we could share LuMin's updates with you. We hope that we awere able to show you all the amazing things happening at LuMin this semester. ~ Mykaela & Pastor Paul Judson

Dear **members of Trinity Lutheran**, Thank you for your support of our Lutherans Restoring Creation Ministry. ~ Pheobe



Year End Contributions

We are normally closed on Fridays....so we will have special office hours-from 9 am to noon-in case you prefer to bring your donation to the Office.

For those of you with internet access, you can easily make your donation through our website at trinitylutheranfc.org (until midnight 12/31/21!). Do you use the Venmo platform? We are listed as @Trinity-LutheranFC. Do you prefer mail? As long as your donation is postmarked no later then 12/31/21, that will work also. Thank you!



TRINITY LUTHERAN
301 E. Stuart St.
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College Care Packages

It's that time of year again! We are preparing to send 20-25 Care Packages to our college students from the 301 Faith Partners, as well as LuMin students.

There will be a donation box in the narthex from **November 14-December 5**. Our Confirmation students will pack them and send them so they are received in time to help our college students get through finals week.

Have fun shopping! Sam's and Costco have lots of choices. How about microwave popcorn, granola bars, highlighters, gum, quarters for laundry, breath mints, post-it notes, pens, single serving drink packets for using in bottled water, Kleenex packets, individual fruit snack bags, stress balls, coffee, gift cards (\$5) etc. Be creative!

If you have a College Student in your family, please call or email the church office to let them know the address (even if they are living at home). We don't want to miss anyone!