

Tidings

Gretchen Luebbe, Newsletter Coordinator
gmluebbe@verizon.net



Special Points of Interest:

- Parents' Day Out - Dec 2
- Four services scheduled for December 24
- Instrumentalists needed for Christmas Eve
- Youth Group Christmas Party planned for Dec 21
- Coat Drive continues through December
- Classics and Preschool celebrate Thanksgiving
- Congregation Meeting set for February 4



Inside This Issue:

Poinsettia Order Form	2
Pipe Organ Anniversary	3
Christmas Pageant - Dec 17	4
December Music Schedules	5,6 17,19
Angel Tree Gift Collection	9
Advent Angels for Children	16

Message from Our Pastor

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" to "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Greetings to you as we begin this season of Advent, a season filled with hope and expectation. This year at Holy Trinity our Advent will look and feel a little different as we jump right into the Christmas story.

On December 3, Advent 1, we will hear the Christmas story from Matthew. (Matthew 1:18 – 2:15)

On December 10, Advent 2, we will hear the Christmas story from Luke. (Luke 2:1-20 with some reflections on Luke 1)

On December 17, Advent 3, our message for the day will be our children and youth performing a Christmas pageant called "Double Take" which looks again at the Matthew and Luke Christmas story and how they compare and contrast with one another and includes some comedy as well.

And this year Advent 4 falls on Christmas Eve so on Sunday, December 24 we

are jumping right into Christmas Eve! Join us as we sing and celebrate the newborn king!

Christmas Eve Worship: 10:00am, 4:00pm, 7:30pm

Christmas Fire Pit – 10:30pm –

(Weather Permitting) The Christmas story and carols around the firepit! Bring your outdoor chairs and bundle up!



Join us at Holy Trinity for this holy season from "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" to my favorite Christmas carol "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

May you and your family and friends have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God's Peace,

Pastor Kristin Hoyer

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church





POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Please place this order form with your payment attached in the offering plate. Checks can be made out to HTLC and indicate "Christmas Decorations" in the Memo field. Thank You!

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias for church display may be taken home anytime after the 7:30pm Christmas Eve service, or following the 10am service on December 31.

I/we would like to order _____ poinsettias (\$15 each or 2 for \$28)

\$_____ (total for poinsettias)

OR

Flower Fund Donations

I/we would like to make a donation to decorations/flower fund:

\$_____

Please Print:

In honor/celebration of _____ OR

In memory of _____

Print Your Name _____

Contact info (email/phone) _____



Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia plants are now available to decorate the sanctuary. You may purchase a poinsettia for \$15 each or 2 for \$28. They will be available to bring home after the 7:30 PM Christmas Eve service or after the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, December 31. You may also opt to contribute only to the flower/decorations fund. Order forms are available above, at the church, or from *On Your Door*.

Holy Trinity Staff

Kristin Hoyer,
Pastor

Andrea Barron,
Office Administrator

Marcia Merry,
Organist Emeritus

Bruce Buzzell
Treasurer

Nancy Fox,
Director of Music
& Family Ministries

Terry Sisk,
Organist/Choir Director

Debbie Harned, Interim
Preschool Director

Nursery Attendant (Vacant)
Rita Sims,
Congregation President

From Our President

Each month I have been focusing on various committees to bring awareness to the congregation of not only all of the activities we do at HTLC but in hopes that you will find a committee that you would like to be a part of.

This month I am pleased to write about the Worship and Music Committee and our amazing Organist/Choirmaster Terry Sisk which falls under the Worship and Music Committee. Terry not only plays the beautiful music every Sunday, he also leads the Adult Choir and the Bell Choir.

The Worship and Music Committee consist of the following roles within the church: Assisting Minister, Lector, Usher, Altar Care, Instrumentalist, Adult Choir, Handbell Choir, Youth Singers (grades 6 to 12), Joyful Noise Singers (elementary-age children), Tellers (count offering after worship). Randy Van Epps and Gretchen Luebbe are the liaisons for this ministry. Please contact one of them if you are interested in being a part of any of these activities.

If you have never had the opportunity to have a discussion with Terry regarding his life, let me tell you that you are missing out. I wanted to share with the congregation Terry's amazing knowledge and lifelong accomplishments as well as to share that it will be our wonderful Pipe Organ's (that was donated to us) 15th birthday.

15th Anniversary of Our Pipe Organ

The weeks between October 17, 2008, and December 7 of that same year were abuzz with activity related to the delivery, installation and dedication recital of HTLC's "miracle" pipe organ. It is a "miracle" in that the instrument was donated to our church by Arthur Allen Douglas Jr., (1930-2013), a master pipe organ technician based in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Upon his retirement, he wanted to build and donate a pipe organ in gratitude to God for his life's work.

An Anglican church near Harrisonburg was the intended recipient of his generosity, but it was discovered that the building could not support the weight of the instrument, and the congregation did not have the means to supply materials and labor required to complete electrical and woodworking tasks necessary for a complete installation. Douglas conferred with Dr. Steven Cooksey, organist-choirmaster at St. James Episcopal Church in Leesburg, about finding a proper home for his nearly-completed pipe organ. Lucky for us, Cooksey recommended Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as a worthy recipient. Organ builder Douglas made an unannounced visit during a Sunday worship service and made his decision, based on the size and acoustics of our sanctuary, traditional music worship style and financial ability to complete the project. Some years prior, HTLC Charter Member Irving Gaskill had provided \$10,000 in seed money towards a future pipe organ project, so we were off and running.

Our organist Marcia Merry commandeered a volunteer staff to construct large chambers to house the pipes, wind-

chests and blowers behind our altar. Major electrical work was completed prior to and during installation. Modifications to our chancel woodwork had to be made to accommodate the oak console, which boasts two genuine ivory keyboards and a full pedalboard. Earlier, a series of six summer concerts on the church lawn raised many thousands of dollars toward the project. In all, nearly one hundred volunteers worked tirelessly to see the project to completion, and dozens of congregants made financial gifts. Larry Correll, a band director at Simpson Middle School, played the dedicatory recital on December 7, 2008. Correll was Dean of the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists at the time.



Today Leesburg native Terry Sisk is our organist-choirmaster. He marvels at the versatility of the organ for hymn singing, choir accompaniment and solo organ performance. He holds sway over the more than 900 pipes and Zimbelstern, a set of small rotating bells mounted high in the corner above the organ console. After many months of employment, Terry pressed an unmarked red button on the console and was astonished to hear the tinkling bells of a Zimbelstern, a feature of German organs dating back to the sixteenth century.

Sisk studied organ at Florida Southern prior to moving to Germany to study with Gunther Jena, a prominent Lutheran church musician and recitalist. During the ensuing years Terry has performed in Australia, South America, Canada and East and West Europe. As well, he has crafted and presented hymn festivals, produced various concert series and worked as a collaborative musician with area soloists and chamber orchestra ensembles. During the late 1990s he was Dean of the American Guild of Organists and today serves on the faculty of the Potomac Organ Institute. Terry has twice conducted the annual Messiah Singalong at the Kennedy Center, and during the past two summers has performed and served on the program committee of Middleburg's Hunt Country Music Festival.

This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of our organ's installation, and the instrument will be featured prominently during our annual Community Carol Sing on Sunday, December 10 at 4:00 p.m. Please invite family and friends to join us for an afternoon of sacred song as we begin the Christmas season. No tickets required.

Rita Sims, President

DOUBLE TAKE!

A Christmas Pageant as told by
Matthew and Luke

By Dennis Hartin

Sunday School Children and Youth
Sunday, December 17

10:00 am worship

We all know the story of Jesus birth— the angel comes to Mary, the donkey ride, the stable, the angels, the shepherds, the 3 wise men – or do we? But, that's not the way it happened in the Bible. There are Four Gospels, but only two of them tell the story of Jesus birth. During the season of Advent we will be looking at these two accounts. This pageant will tell the story from both of these Gospels with humor, mystery and awe! (In preparation, you might want to take a moment to read these two birth accounts! You just might be surprised!



Sunday school children and youth will practice during the Sunday School hour 11/26, 12/3, 12/10 & 12/17. There will also be a very important rehearsal on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00-11:30 am.

Nancy Fox



JOYFUL NOISE SING AND RING

Grades K-5

Rehearsals: Wednesdays

6:00-6:50 pm

(Rehearsal for singing and ringing!)

**Sunday, December 10
Community Carol Sing**

4:00 pm

(Report time 3:30)

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm

(Report time 3:30)

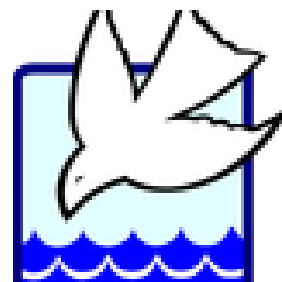


Nancy Fox

Baptismal Remembrance Day

Sunday, January 14

8:45-9:45 am



Youth Group (grades 6-12)

Sunday, December 2

PARENT'S DAY OUT

9:00 am-2:00 (Please arrive by 8:45 am for orientation)

Thursday, December 21

7:00-9:00 pm

Christmas Party

Please bring a non-perishable food item

A White Elephant Gift (not to exceed \$15)

A friend, if your wish, and Yourself!



Youth Singers (grades 6-12)

December 10

4:00 pm Community Carol Sing

3:30 report time

December 21 (Thursday)

6:15-7:00 pm Rehearsal

Right before the Youth Christmas Party

December 24 - Christmas Eve

7:30 Worship

Report Time 7:00 pm



Nancy Fox



The Jeopardy Tournament of Champions!

On Sunday, November 12, the Confirmation Sunday School class joined with the Adult Class for a rousing game of Jeopardy reviewing the material that had been studied throughout the first two months of Sunday School. Teams were intergenerational and it was clear that both adults and youth had learned a lot!! We look forward to doing this again when we come to the end of another unit. It is always wonderful to see this many adults and youth studying and learning together!!



The Youth and Little Blessings Preschool will be hosting a

PARENTS' DAY OUT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 FROM 9AM-2PM

This is open to children up to age 10. Friends are welcome too! A Freewill offering will be collected. Proceeds from this offering will be split between support for our youth traveling to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer and Little Blessings Preschool.

Please contact Debbie Harned or Nancy Fox for more information.

Thank You from Our President

Thank you to everyone who attended the Fellowship Italian Luncheon. I heard it was a huge success with nearly 40 people in attendance. It is so nice to see the committees in action and the congregation responding. Thank you to all, especially Sharon Williams and Debbie Harned, the Fellowship leads. Let's keep going in our Fellowship and all committee activities.

Thank you to all,

Rita Sims, President



Mark your calendars!

Vacation Bible School

July 8-12, 2024

Watch for more information for students and volunteers in the coming months

Angel Tree 2023

The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (HTLC) Angel Tree 2023 is up in the Gathering Area. We will be providing Christmas Joy to 65 Leesburg children (120 gifts plus 5 bicycles). Each ornament on the tree represents a wish of the child. If you take an ornament, please remember to sign it out. Each child not getting a bicycle has 2 wishes, one for clothing and another for toy (s). The gift wishes are almost entirely on the tree. There are a few on Sign-Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D44ADAD2CA75-45951488-angel>

Please fulfill the gift wish and return the wrapped gift to the Angel Tree no later than 11:00 AM on Sunday, December 10th. The wrapped gift needs a tag with the gift number or the ornament from the tree, securely attached to the package. Please include a gift receipt inside the wrapped package, if at all possible, particularly for clothing that may need a size exchange.

Gifts can be dropped off at Holy Trinity during the week. The church office hours are normally 9:30AM-2:00PM, Tuesday-Friday (may need to ring doorbell for entry). In addition, special gift drop-off hours will be on Saturday, December 9 from 10:00AM-2:00PM (when we will also begin sorting gifts).

We are also accepting monetary donations towards larger items requested, or to fill gift requests that may not be selected. Monetary donations should be made out to "Holy Trinity Lutheran Church" with "Angel Tree" clearly in the memo line, and can be mailed or dropped off at the church office no later than Sunday, December 3.

The gifts will be finished being sorted at 11:00AM, Sunday, December 10th and delivered to Frederick Douglass in the morning on Monday, December 11th. We need about seven trucks, vans, cars to deliver the gifts in one trip. If you can volunteer to help with the gift sorting on December 9th or 10th, and/or the gift delivery on December 11th, please contact this year's Angel Tree Coordinator, **Effie DeGroot**, at call/text 703-431-4738 or edgroot058@gmail.com.

Thanks to our Girl Scout Troop for making and decorating our 120 paper gift ornaments! Thank you for helping us make Christmas a day of joy for these children!

Effie DeGroot



Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting

The winter congregation meeting will be held on

Sunday, February 4, 2024

immediately following the worship service.

We will grab a cup of coffee and return to the Sanctuary for the meeting. The council is currently working on the agenda. I hope that everyone can attend so that we can have a quorum.

Thank you,

Rita Sims, President



Financial Report

October Income: \$42,420.00

September Income: \$42,833.42

October Expenses: \$46,605.00

September Expenses: \$37,296.57

Our 2023 fiscal trend remains for October. YTD income and expenses remain roughly equal for the year. I will add that while we are keeping up with our commitments, currently there are a number of members who have stepped up with additional support for unplanned and emergency expenses. This has made it possible for us to operate near a break even point.

The 2024 financial planning and budgeting continues and we look forward to sharing the plan for next year with the congregation as soon as possible.

Bruce Buzzell, Treasurer



From Our President - again...

I'd like to provide you with an update on the financial status of our Property Fund...



Currently, the Air Conditioner Fund stands at \$7,789.49, and we aim to reach \$15,750.00. This leaves us with a remaining amount of \$7,960.51, but we are making progress.

The Roof Fund currently holds \$950.00, and we still require well over \$100,000.

Our primary focus at the moment is the Air Conditioner Fund, as we aim to ensure the pastor and staff have air conditioning by spring.

While we are committed to continuing our contributions to the General Fund to cover our essential expenses, if you have any additional funds to allocate, directing them towards the AC Fund would greatly support our current priority.

I'd like to express my personal gratitude to Matt Shultz and Jerry Harned for their unwavering efforts in maintaining our building's upkeep. Their dedication has resulted in a notable achievement recently. During a visit from the Fire Marshall, our storage rooms off the Commons Area received praise for being the most well-organized spaces he had ever encountered in his career. This recognition is rare, especially considering my experience working for the Fire Department and with Fire Marshalls, and it serves as a testament to the exceptional work Matt and Jerry consistently deliver. If you come across them, please take a moment to convey your appreciation.

Thank you,

Rita Sims, President

**Sunday, February 4: Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting
2024 Budget Review and other items TBD**

Happy Winter Birthday to . . .

December:

- 2 Molly Struckmann
- 5 Jonathan Bell
Turner Truiett
- 6 Gerry Johnson
- 8 Jennifer Feeney
- 10 Valerie Gloger
- 11 Emily Fish
Johannes Stracener
- 13 Clara Brill
Mia Fleming
- 14 Sandy Yancy
- 15 Chris Dooley
- 16 Jarrett DeFalco
Gretchen Fish
- 17 Mark Kapsiak
- 18 William Just
Jennifer Ward
Magdalene Yancy

- 19 John Dunn
Elizabeth Just
- 21 Max Nau
- 22 Marlana Wilson
- 23 Mary Covell
Kate DeVault
- 24 Madeleine Blackwell
Jon Everhart
- 25 MaryLu Belote
- 29 Tessa Shepherd
- 31 Brian Everhart
Leah Graham

January:

- 2 Madeleine Adams
- 3 Judy Keller
- 4 Karen Ilge
Analyn Murgia
Daniel Scharpf
Cheryl Williams

- 9 Pat Gibbs
- 11 Jordan Shanahan
Alison Waters
- 12 Alex Miller
- 13 James Burke
Abby Lamb
Bryan Mill
Ty Shultz
- 14 Mason Beebe
Taylor Meebe
Kamrin Shultz
- 15 Dowell Muse
- 16 Harper Graham
Doug Lord
Teresa Scott
- 19 Julie Graham
Tyler Lamb
- 20 Carl Gerber
- 21 Dan Miller



Celebrating a

- 23 Karl Jacobson
Ryan Kearney
- 25 Gretchen Albers
Brian Fish
Krista Kearney
Stephanie Russotto
- 27 Lauren Fox Emerson
Lauren Kerr
- 28 Evan Bollinger
- 29 Carly Baldersom
Gwen Scharpf
- 31 Ieva Paul

Celebrating *An Anniversary This Month*



- 12/01/1990 Cindy & Leigh Johanneck
- 12/12/1999 Rosann & Roy Dudak
- 12/17/2002 Adrian & Dan Mattina
- 12/27/1986 Elizabeth & Ken Bland

December / January Baptism Anniversaries

December:

- 1 Kiernan Byrne
Sean Byrne
Elizabeth
Marcheschi
Curtis Sieber Jr.
- 2 Bernice Harvey
- 7 Rachel Dooley
Ella Nau
- 9 Scarlett Petterson

- 20 Clara Brill
- 21 Amanda Whitney
- 24 Elizabeth Bell
Kirsten Covell
Jane Keigher
- 25 Alicia Scharpf
- 26 Allyson Bell
Russ Gheen
Emma Sieber
Jessica Taylor

- 28 Nathan Johanneck
- 30 Chris Dooley
Luke Willeke
Sharon Williams
- 31 Teresa Scott
- January:**
- 1 Betsy Blackwell
Stacey Byrne
Mia Fleming
- 11 Madeleine Adams

- 12 Kira Whitacre
- 15 Jon Everhart
- 18 Kirsten Nau
- 20 Avery Dunn
- 29 Jake Feeney
- 21 Seth Lord
Helen Santos
- 23 Cheryl Williams
- 24 Grayson Albers
- 27 William Nau



Coat Drive - extended through December

The Social Ministry Committee has scheduled a Coat Drive that will now run from

November 5, 2023 - December 31, 2023

We kindly welcome donations of new or gently used coats for both children and women. All coats will be donated to LAWS (Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter). Should you choose to donate a new coat, kindly ensure that the tags remain attached. The gently used coats will be professionally dry cleaned at no cost to LAWS. All collected coats will be distributed to the Leesburg community.



We greatly appreciate your support.

Rita Sims

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Worship Volunteers - December 2023

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24	Dec 31
Acolytes / Crucifers	Chloe & James Landas	Jane Keigher (A) Chloe Landas (C)	Hope & Joy Mattina	TBD	TBD
Asst Min / Prayers	Laurie Dieffenbach	Laurie Dieffenbach	Laurie Dieffenbach	TBD	TBD
Lectors	Samantha Waters	Ann Keigher	Tammy Brende	Lynnette Mergler	TBD
Ushers	Barrett Everhart Fritz Scholz	TBD TBD	Barrett Everhart Fritz Scholz	TBD TBD	TBD TBD
Coffee Host	TBD	Keigher Family	Mattina Family	TBD	TBD
Altar Care	Debbie Wenk Debbie Harned	Sharon Williams Effie DeGroot	Peggy Everhart Karen Blodgett	Judy Willeke Tammy Brende	TBD TBD
Tellers	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	Laurie Dieffenbach Kristina Landas	Laurie Dieffenbach Gretchen Luebbe	TBD TBD	TBD TBD

**Christmas Eve evening and January schedules available in weekly "On Your Door."
 Please find a substitute if you are not able to serve on an assigned day. Thank you.**

Holy Trinity's Women of the ELCA met at church on Tuesday, November 14, with 10 members present. Thank you to Verena Albertin, Pat Bailey, Barb Dellinger, Peggy Everhart, Debbie Harned, Lynnette Mergler, Kim Mill, Cathy Root, Margaret Seymour, and Debbie Wenk for your attendance.



Following an opening prayer, bag lunches, along with bottles of water, were quickly assembled and packed for delivery to the Loudoun County Homeless Shelter that afternoon. Thanks to Kim Mill for making that delivery. A book study followed, with Pat Bailey leading the group through the first chapter (A Different Kind of Retirement) of Alice Fryling's *Aging Faithfully: The Holy Invitation of Growing Older*. At the core of the book is facing the reality of aging and our responses so that we might grow closer to God, become mentors to other generations, and grow in peace and grace. A warm, accepting, and prayerful discussion and time of fellowship followed our study.

Cathy Root will lead the discussion in December as Chapter Two (Experiencing New Birth as We Age) is read and discussed. The WELCA members also agreed to sponsor four children of the Angel Tree with Christmas gifts next month.



The next WELCA meeting will be held at church at 10:00 AM on December 12th. Bag lunches will again be prepared for the homeless shelter as well as the continuation of our book study. Looking ahead to our January 9, 2024, meeting, bag lunches, book study, a decision on a donation to the ELCA Good Gifts program, and a lunch out are planned.

We welcome any women of Holy Trinity that would like to join us!

Pat Bailey, President



Holidays for Little Blessings

The preschool had a beautiful thanksgiving feast/lunch. Sixty-eight school and church families and Classics members joined to share in thanks for our sweet little school, Little Blessings (pictures on page 14).



In the short month of December, we will be busy making ornaments, crafts, and celebrating everything Christmas at our December 14 program! We will also have a Parents' Day Out on December 2nd. All that we do "downstairs" is with love and we are so grateful for the support as we continue to grow the school.

Debbie Harned

Large-print Devotionals

We have large-print copies of the devotionals "Christ in Our Home" available. If you would like a copy, please contact the church office to have one reserved for you. The devotionals are published on a quarterly basis.



Classics / Preschool Thanksgiving Celebration

The Classics enjoyed a delightful Thanksgiving lunch with the preschool students and families on November 16th. The students entertained us with songs they have been learning before we sat down for a delicious meal prepared by Debbie Harned and staff.

If you have not yet joined us for an outing, please consider it. We will be gathering again in January and staying close to home until spring. Do you have some place you would like to suggest we go for lunch? Is there an event coming up in the spring that you think others would like to attend with you? Reach out to Kim Mill, Judy Willeke or me for any and all suggestions.

Peggy Everhart



November 15, 2023 Council Meeting Highlights

MEETING HELD IN THE GATHERING AREA

Ann Keigher

DEVOTIONS:

In Pastor Kristin's absence, Rita Sims offered a prayer.

STEWARDSHIP DISCUSSION / COMMITTEE REPORT:

Ask, Thank, Tell (Stewardship book) Chapters 5 and 6.

- Stewardship Committee members (all members of Council) were present and shared several ideas and recommendations on how to proceed on the stewardship campaign.
- Pastor Kristin provided suggestions via text messages that included new budget ideas and the stewardship campaign.
- Discussion items included:
 - ✓ Would like to add non-Council member(s) to Stewardship Committee to get a different perspective.
 - ✓ Committee is gathering stewardship information using the book as a guide, looking at the ELCA website, Vanco resources, and what other congregations have done.
 - ✓ Working on finding methods to communicate how funds are to be used and making sure that the congregation is aware. People tend to step up when needs are out of the norm and projects come up.
 - ✓ Recommend trying to build an emergency fund.
 - ✓ Encourage members to think of the budget as a plan instead of a budget, it makes more sense and makes it easier to talk about.
 - ✓ Other suggestions/ideas are found in the full council minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

- Financial Update
 - ✓ Current expenses have been paid; should not change in the next few weeks unless there is a big unplanned expense.
 - ✓ Continuing to work on transition and consolidating of accounts to make things simpler.
- All liaisons should contact their assigned committees with their proposed budget needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Finance: Working on preparations for the 2024 budget.
- Property
 - ✓ Light bulbs are being installed.
 - ✓ Plans are in progress to reduce the cost of our phone and Internet bill.
- Fellowship
 - ✓ Forty attended the Italian Potluck Luncheon on November 12.

- ✓ A December planning meeting for future events in 2024 will be scheduled soon.

• Social Ministry

- ✓ Thanksgiving Baskets for ten families delivered the week of November 19 to Frederick Douglass Elementary School.

- ✓ Angel Tree Christmas gifts to benefit Frederick Douglass will be collected and delivered before Christmas break.



Council Notes

- ✓ The Coat Drive to collect new and/or gently used coats for women and children for the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter (LAWS) will be extended through December.

NEW BUSINESS:

- December 20th Council Meeting: Christmas potluck dinner with families with shortened council meeting.
- Winter Congregation Meeting: February 4, 2024, following worship.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Strategic Planning Meeting: Rita will send an email to discuss agenda and look at dates.
- Grant writer – Alison is working on this project.
- Security Process
 - ✓ Jon Everhart reported his findings, including:
 - Building Access and Security
 - Exploring a keyless entry system (Matt Shultz)
 - Plans for communicating with law enforcement and EMS
 - Plan for emergencies within the building
 - Possibility of medical training for several HTLC members
 - ✓ Discussion included maintaining balance between security measures and being a welcoming church.
- Randy VanEpps reported that Saturday morning (11/18), the Boy Scouts are helping with leaf-raking and cleaning of the church property.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: December 13, 2023

Next Council Meeting: December 20, 2023

ADVENT ANGELS!

It's that time of year when our thoughts turn to angels and the important role they played in the story of Jesus' birth. Angels are messengers. You too can be an angel and spread the Good News of Jesus' birth and His love for all by participating in our Advent Angel program. Interested adults can sign up starting Sunday, November 12 to be an "Advent Angel" to one or more of our Sunday School children, Preschool through Grade 8. Your identity as an "Angel" will remain a secret until you reveal yourself to your child(ren) during the reception following the worship on Sunday, December 17.



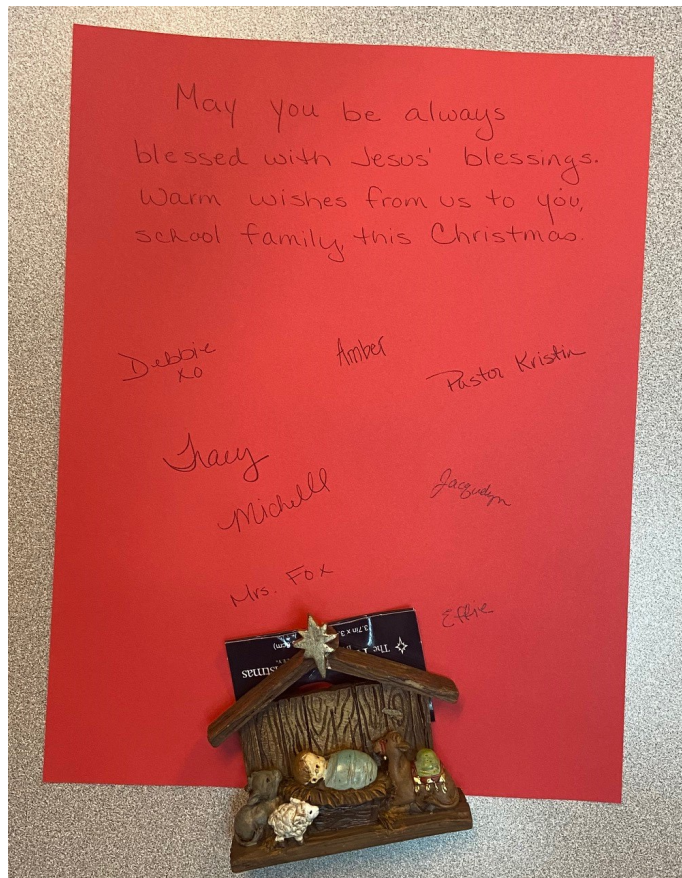
What does it take to be an Advent Angel?

- * Look for the Advent Angel sign on the table in the Commons.
- * Pick up as many envelopes as you want. Inside each envelope you will find the name of one of our Sunday School students. You can be an angel to more than one child.
- * Send a card to your assigned child(ren) sometime during the Advent season.
- * Place an "Angel" ornament on the Christmas Tree in the Commons by Sunday, December 10. You should place the tag with the hole with the ornament. Do NOT write your name on the tag!
- * Plan to meet in the Sanctuary on December 10 following Worship to reveal your identity and greet your "angel" child.

Our long heritage of Advent Angels has shown that the effects of your "angel" ministry will extend far beyond this season! Thank you for participating in this beloved tradition.

Nancy Fox

Merry Christmas from the Preschool Staff!



*May you be always blessed
with Jesus' blessings.
Warm wishes from us to
you, from your school
family this Christmas*

(signed by the Preschool / HTLC staff)

The preschool sends Christmas blessings to everyone at Holy Trinity. We have a new tradition of giving an ornament to each family. Please know that even if you don't have a preschool child, you are a part of our family. Merry Christmas.

Debbie Harned

Calling all instrumentalists!

Once again we will be having instrumentalists joining us to play for our **7:30 pm Christmas Eve** service. Please contact Nancy Fox, Terry Sisk or Marcia Merry if you are interested. A rehearsal will be held on **Saturday, December 23** from 4:00-5:00 pm. **All instrumentalists are asked to attend!**

Nancy Fox



December at Holy Trinity

Saturday, December 2 9 am-2 pm Parents' Day Out

Parents are invited to bring their children to the church and enjoy a gift of time during this busy season. Please watch for more information and an opportunity to register your children. A freewill offering will be collected.

Sunday, December 3 ADVENT 1 Sunday School & Worship

Sunday, December 10 ADVENT 2 Sunday School & Worship

4:00 pm Community Carol Sing!

Come bring your family, your neighbors, and your friends to an hour of carols led by our choirs and organist!

Sunday, December 17 ADVENT 3 Sunday School & Worship

Sunday School Christmas Pageant during 10:00 am worship!

Sunday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

All worship services will be festive Christmas Eve services with Holy Communion, Carols and Candlelight!

10:00 am

4:00 pm

7:30 pm

Carols around the Fire Pit 10:30 pm



Come and join us outside for Carols around the Fire Pit (weather permitting!)

Sunday, December 31 10:00 am Lessons and Carols

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Nancy Fox



Community Carol Sing

Sunday, December 10

4:00 pm

Once again we invite the congregation and community to join us at the **Community Christmas Carol Sing!** This event celebrates the gift of our Pipe Organ and includes not only the organ but choirs, instrumentalists and the audience! Bring your family and bring a friend! **A freewill offering will be collected to benefit Loudoun Hunger Relief!**

**HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
(ELCA)**

**605 West Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176-2506**

**Sunday School: 8:45 AM
Sunday Worship: 10:00 AM
Coffee Hour: Following worship**

Open Office Hours:

**Tuesday - Friday 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Emailing or calling ahead is recommended to
make sure someone is available to help you.**

Phone: (703) 777-4912

Email: office@HolyTrinityLeesburg.org



www.HolyTrinityLeesburg.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Volume 44 Issue 11

Inclement Weather Policy

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church will follow the lead of Loudoun County Public Schools regarding closures due to inclement weather. If the schools are closed, all church activities will be cancelled: Wednesday Night, *LIVE!*, Choir Rehearsals, Confirmation activities, Little Blessings Preschool, Team/Committee meetings, and outside group meetings will all be cancelled. The church office will also follow the Loudoun County school closures.



**On Sundays, if it snows and it is dangerous -- stay home!
Please remember that our first concern is everyone's safety.**

