



TRINITY TIDINGS



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

DECEMBER 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church

720 Lock 4 Road

Gallatin, TN 37066

615-452-3352

trinitygallatin@trinitygallatin.org

trinitygallatin.org



“The Night Will Soon Be Ending”

Lutheran Service Book #337

The night will soon be ending; The dawn cannot be far.
Let songs of praise ascending Now greet the Morning Star!
All you whom darkness frightens With guilt or grief or pain,
God’s radiant Star now brightens And bids you sing again.

The One whom angels tended Comes near, a child, to serve;
Thus God, the judge offended, Bears all our sins deserve.
The guilty need not cower, For God has reconciled
Through His redemptive power All those who trust this child.

The earth in sure rotation Will soon bring morning bright,
So run where God’s salvation Glows in a stable’s light.
As old as sin’s perversion Is mercy’s vast design:
God brings a new creation – This child its seal and sign.

Yet nights will bring their sadness And rob our hearts of peace,
And sin in all its madness Around us may increase.
But now one Star is beaming Whose rays have pierced the night:
God comes for our redeeming From sin’s oppressive might.

God dwells with us in darkness And makes the night as day;
Yet we resist the brightness And turn from God away.
But grace does not forsake us, However far we run.
God claims us still as children Through Mary’s infant Son.

Author: Jochen Klepper (1903-42)

Text: *Rom. 13:12a; Rev. 22:16-17; 1 Cor. 2:7; John 1:4-5; 3:19-21*

Advent greetings in Jesus name! The Church begins a new Church Year by observing the season of Advent – a season in which we focus upon preparing for the return of our Lord and Savior as King and Judge. Advent is not a countdown to Christmastide. If you wish to view in terms of a countdown, then do so as if counting down of the days until Christ’s return – His 2nd Advent!

Historically the Ancient Church has observed Advent as a time of penitence; a time to reflect upon your sin and God’s great love in redeeming you from that sin. The penitential aspect of this season is observed by refraining from singing the *Gloria* (Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace...) and *This is the Feast*, depending upon which Divine Service we use. I encourage you to intentionally “slow down” this Advent and come to church on Wednesdays at noon or 7:00 p.m. – November 30th, December 7th, 14th, and 21st for Matins and Vespers. God’s blessings!

+ The Lord be with you +

Pastor Shaw

ADVENT

Advent begins the Festival half of the liturgical church year, when we celebrate what God has done for us. In Advent we celebrate the fact that Jesus Christ came into the world as Son of God and Son of Man, born of the Virgin Mary. We worship Him as He comes into our lives each day. And we prepare for the fact that He will come again on that last day to claim us as His own. May the Advent Season fill you with Hope, Joy, Love, and Peace.

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath has five candles, three are blue (or purple), one is pink, and one is white. The four candles, the three blue (or purple) and one pink are placed in a wreath of Christmas greens - or an ornamented wreath. One candle is lit each Sunday in Advent, with the pink candle being lit on the third Sunday in Advent. The white candle is placed in the center of the wreath. The first candle is the Prophecy Candle. The second is the Bethlehem Candle - symbolic of the Christ Child's cradle. The third (pink) is the Shepherd's Candle - which typifies the act of sharing Christ. Pink symbolizes the Advent Rose, a time to pause in this penitent season to Rejoice in the Lord. The fourth candle is the Angel's Candle - the candle of love and final coming. The fifth candle (white) is placed in the center as the Christ Candle and is lit on Christmas Eve.



THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Dr. Martin Luther was one of the first to use the Christmas tree as a home decoration. While on a walk one Christmas Eve, Dr. Luther noticed an evergreen tree shining in the moonlight. He couldn't forget this beautiful picture. He returned home with an evergreen tree and decorated it with candles. Luther told his children that the tree should remind them of the brightness of Christmas and its message of the Savior's birth. By the beginning of the 19th century, all of Germany had

adopted the use of the green "Christmas" tree. They added stars, sweetmeats, tiny toys, and gilded nuts together with candles on the trees. The custom spread to England during the reign of Queen Victoria, who was married to the German Prince Albert. He wanted to have his children enjoy one of his childhood memories. Queen Victoria had a Christmas Tree in Windsor Castle in 1841. The custom of a Christmas Tree soon spread throughout Europe and then to the United States. Dr. Henry Schwan introduced the custom of a lighted Christmas tree in church, in Zion Lutheran Church in Cleveland Ohio, Christmas Eve 1851. In Germany and in ancient northern cultures, after the festivities, the branches were removed and the trunk was decorated on May 1st as a May Pole, celebrating a rebirth of spring. The tree was then cut up and the largest log was used the next December as the Yule Log.

THE CRECHE

A Creche is a model of the stable in which Jesus was born. It always includes Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus. Traditionally there are also angels, shepherds, sheep, wise men, camels, donkey, and other animals.



Whether called the French creche, the Italian Presepio, the Spanish Nacimiento, the German Krippe, the Irish Manger, or the British Crib, the recreation of the nativity scene is one of the oldest and most sacred Christmas traditions. It was St. Francis of Assisi who created the first creche in Italy in 1223. He used real animals and people to depict the birth of the Savior. The building of creches became popular after his unique and touching re-enactment of the Nativity. Creches have now become an important part of Christmas in America and around the world. The creche reminds us to focus our Christmas celebration on the Birth of the Savior, whose Birth is the real cause for joy at Christmas.

THE TREES OF LIFE AND DEATH

Dr. Martin Luther is credited with originating the use of lighted pine trees in the home for Christmas. However, the use of the fir tree in Germany dates back to the Middle Ages when history tells us, fir trees were set up indoors and decorated with apples and paper roses, significant of the Fall of Man and the New Life in Christ.



The Christmas Tree decorated with apples, the fruit associated with the fall of mankind. The is called **The Tree of Death**. "By one man sin entered into the world and death by sin" Romans 5: 12. Under the tree is a red cloth reminding us; "Though your sins be as scarlet" Isaiah 1:18.

The Christmas Tree decorated with 33 white roses, and is called **The Tree of Life**. Jesus says in the Song of Solomon 2:1 "I am the Rose of Sharon" Through Him the Garden of Paradise is reopened to us. During the 33 years of His life on earth He worked out our Redemption. The tree with white lights is, symbolizing our being cleansed from sin by Christ. Isaiah 1:18; "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be white as wool".



Advent devotional booklets are available in the Narthex.
Please consider paying \$2 per booklet to offset printing costs.
Please place your payment in the envelope provided on the table.



MORE ABOUT ADVENT

Why does the church year begin at Advent, what is the history of Advent, and what is the history behind the Advent candles and wreath?

The word "advent" is from the Latin word for "coming," and as such, describes the "coming" of our Lord Jesus Christ into the flesh. Advent begins the church year because the church year begins where Jesus' earthly life began--in the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation. After Advent comes Christmas, which is about his birth; then Epiphany, about his miracles and ministry; then Lent, about his Calvary-bound mission; then Easter, about his resurrection and the sending of the apostles; and then Ascension (40 days after Easter) and Pentecost, with the sending of the Holy Spirit.

The first half of the church year (approximately December through June) highlights the *life* of Christ. The second half (approximately June through November) highlights the *teachings* of Christ. The parables and miracles play a big part here. That's "the church year in a nutshell," and it should help reveal how Advent fits into "the big picture."

Advent specifically focuses on Christ's "coming," but Christ's coming manifests itself among us in three ways--past, present, and future. The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the past focus on the Old Testament prophecies of his incarnation at Bethlehem. The readings which highlight Christ's coming in the future focus on his "second coming" on the Last Day at the end of time. And the readings which highlight Christ's coming in the present focus on his ministry among us through Word and Sacrament today.

The traditional use of Advent candles (sometimes held in a wreath) originated in eastern Germany even prior to the Reformation. As this tradition came down to us by the beginning of this century, it involved three purple candles and one pink candle. The purple candles matched the purple paraments on the altar (purple for the royalty of the coming King). The pink candle was the third candle to be lit (not the fourth) on Gaudete Sunday, the Third Sunday of Advent. "Gaudete" means "Rejoice!" in Latin, which is taken from Philippians 4:4. ("Rejoice! . . . the Lord is near"). Hence a "pink" candle was used to signify "rejoicing." Some also included a white "Christ candle" in the middle to be lit during the 12 days of Christmas (December 25- January 5).

The concept of giving each candle a name, i.e., Prophecy, Bethlehem, Shepherd and Angel, etc., is a relatively novel phenomenon and probably originates with certain entrepreneurial publishers seeking to sell Advent candles and devotional booklets.

There are many beautiful customs and traditions surrounding Advent, as well as a load of history concerning its development. These matters would be better found in books such as:

- Lee A. Maxwell, *The Altar Guild Manual, Lutheran Worship Edition* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1966)
- Fred L. Precht, *Lutheran Worship: History and Practice* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1992)



ADVENT MID-WEEK SUPPERS

Before each 7 p.m. Mid-Week Advent service,
a light supper
will be served at 6:00 p.m.
Vesper Worship services begin at 7:00 p.m.

November 30 – Elders

December 7 – to be determined

December 14 - to be determined

December 21 - to be determined

OFFERING ENVELOPES



If you need a box of offering envelopes,
please contact the church office at
secretary@trinitygallatin.org. or
call 615-452-3352.



A new box of offering envelopes will be
placed in your mailbox at Trinity.

2016
Advent Mid-Week Services

Wednesday ~ November 30 ~ Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Matthew 25:1-13

“Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying”

Wednesday ~ December 7 ~ Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Isaiah 40:1-5

“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”

Wednesday ~ December 14 ~ Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Luke 3:1-15

“On Jordon’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry”

Wednesday ~ December 21 ~ Noon & 7:00 p.m.

Luke 1:31-33

“Savior of the Nations, Come”



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

DECEMBER 11 - VOTERS' MEETING

A voter's meeting will be held on December 11
following our worship service.

We will be voting on the following:

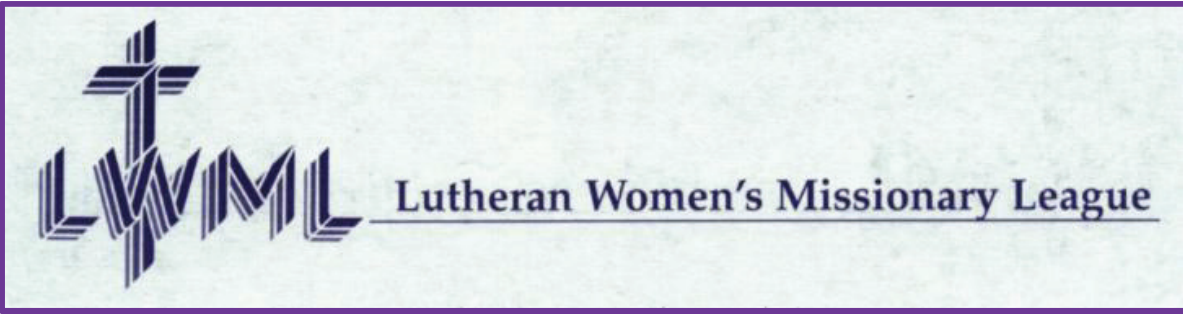
- The 2017 Church Budget
 - One Elder

Possible Vote on these Church Council Positions:

- Council President
- Council Secretary
- Church Trustee

A quorum is needed for this vote.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND



Where has the time gone? I have been telling you for months about the LWML Christmas Brunch on December 10th. The Grand Inheritance Mansion is awaiting us and are very glad to welcome us. I need 20 ladies to pull this off so, if you have not signed the list on our bulletin board or not given me your \$20, please, do so now. The money has to be in their hands a week before so they can get set up. The menu for the buffet is on the next page. I am sure that you can eat someplace else for less than \$20, but this includes everything and an awesome atmosphere. All you have to do is show up. Since we do not have many LWML functions during the year, I always like to do something special at the end of the year. We can carpool from the church, but you have a tough time following me----you pass me. I hope you will attend and enjoy some fellowship and good food. I have eaten there.

See you,
Rosalie



The Grand Inheritance

198 Hix Lane

Gallatin, Tennessee 37066

Holiday Menu

Entrees:

Turkey & Gravy

Baked Ham

Starches:

Cornbread Dressing

Mashed Potatoes with Red Skins

Vegetables:

Skillet Green Beans

Southern Sweet Corn

Salads:

Cauliflower and Broccoli Salad

Dessert:

Carrot Cake, Apple Pie with Caramel and Pecans

Beverages:

Coffee

Sweet Tea

Phone: 615-230-6699

Fax 615-230-0207



Every Christmas present that sits wrapped under your Christmas tree will wear out. It will break or go out of style. This fact was there, somewhere, in the back of your mind even as you bought them, but you bought them anyway. For you love the person you bought them for, you wanted to see that look of joy it brings to their face.

So also God gives to you. But greater. What He gives will never wear out, break down, or go out of style. For

what He gives is His eternal and only-begotten Son, wrapped in your flesh, and placed upon the tree of the Cross. He gives His Son for you. He gives that you may have everlasting joy. He gives because He loves you. This is why the Word became flesh to dwell among you.

And that is who is given to you. The Word who is God yet was with God from all eternity. The Word through whom all things were made. The Word who is the only-begotten Son of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, being of one substance with His Father. The One who called all things into existence, the One who spoke to Moses from the bush that burned yet was not consumed, the One whose glory filled the tabernacle to dwell among His people, God Himself, has taken on your flesh.

Even though the Word is made flesh, even though God became Man, His Divinity is not lessened. His Divinity is not changed. His Divinity remains, pure and unchanging, but your flesh, your human nature, is exalted. Your flesh and humanity is assumed into God. God became man so that you would become like unto God—holy and righteous, without sin, without death.

And so it is that the Son given to you wrapped in your flesh is placed upon the tree of the Cross. And no tree was ever adorned more beautifully. Its ornaments were nothing less than the Blood of God, poured out as an atoning sacrifice for your sins. Its garland the Body of God, hanged in death that you may have life. Its light the incarnate Light of the world, strung up to call you and all men unto Himself, to enlighten you, to make you His own. He gives you His life, He gives you joy and peace—peace with God in heaven and peace with one another on earth.

And from the tree of the Cross the Lord Jesus places another gift for you upon the Altar. It is the Fruit of the Cross, His crucified and risen, living Body and Blood, the Fruit of the Tree of Life, wrapped in bread and wine and given to you. He fills you with His Glory. He makes your mouths and your hearts His manger. He abides in you and you in Him.

The Word became flesh to be placed under the Cross for you. You are forgiven. This is why we give. We give because He has first given to us. And just as it was a joy for Him to give all He had to us. It is a joy for us to give to one another and His church so that this message of forgiveness, life, and salvation may be proclaimed.

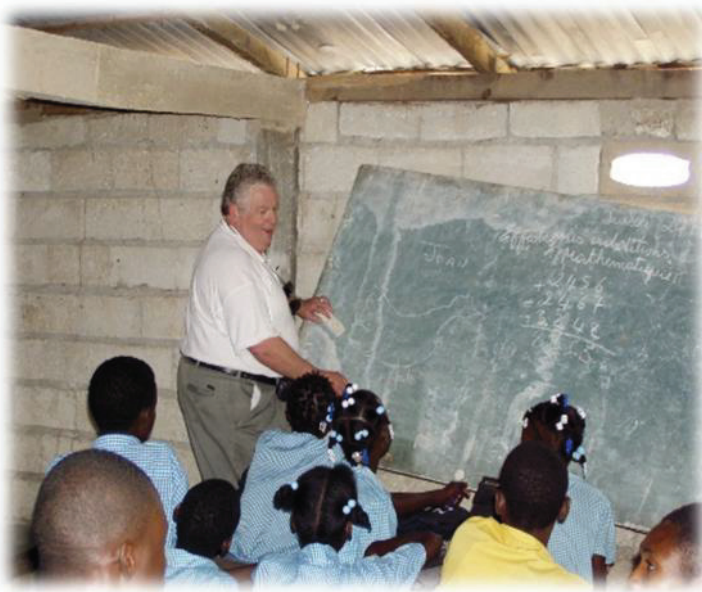
Stewardship newsletter articles are provided as a free service of LCMS Stewardship Ministry.



News from Trinity/HOPE

This is one of a series of articles which we make available each month to keep congregations informed about our activities. Trinity/HOPE, a not-for profit charitable organization, raises funds and administers feeding programs that provide a noon meal for the hungry children who attend our schools in Haiti where the Good News of Jesus is daily shared. It is blessed to have numerous supporters in this church.

2024 Hunters Place, Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 ● trinityhope.dg@gmail.com ● Web Page:
 Trinityhope.org
 Facebook: [trinityhopehaiti](https://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti)



In this season of thanks we thank God for the life of John Hall and how he answered God's calling to feed the hungry children in Haiti. We also thank God for John's dedication to Trinity/HOPE and all that he accomplished through the Holy Spirit.

Although we are terribly saddened when we think of how much we will all miss our dear friend, it gives great comfort to imagine the incredible joy he is experiencing as he celebrates the beginning of his new and eternal life in heaven.



It's that time of year that we are given the opportunity to share our God given gifts with our very own Trinity family. In the next couple of weeks, I'll be putting our angel tags on the Christmas tree in the Narthex. There are 'family angels' and 'children angels.' Please find it in your hearts to select some angels and spread our Lord's love with your generosity.

Important information:

- Please have gifts wrapped, with the angel tag firmly attached, under the tree **before our Christmas Eve service.**
- Please purchase everything listed on the tag. You can add extra items if you want.
- Green tags are 'family angels'
- White tags are 'children angels'

On behalf of our Trinity Angels, I want to thank you for your love and kindness.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Owen at 615-989-1301 or Pastor Shaw at the church office at 615-452-3352.

Merry Christmas!

Jessica Owen

RECYCLING NEWS



Thanks to everyone who continues to remember to bring in their aluminum cans for recycling.



And remember -

Please rinse your cans before bringing them in to the church recycling bin.

- if possible, pull the tabs off and put them in a separate bag. *(we give the 'pull-tabs' to the Ronald McDonald House which they greatly appreciate)*
- we can only accept aluminum drink cans -

All money collected from recycling goes to the Trinity General Fund.



FOOD FOR THE NEEDY



Trinity gives food to those who are in need. Every week we have at least one family call who calls the church asking for help to feed their family. They come by the church and take what they need from our "food pantry." Our 'food pantry' is almost empty. Please prayerfully consider donating food items that you purchase for your own family needs. Items such as: baking mixes, spaghetti and meat sauces, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, crackers, soups, chili, stew, canned meats, cereal, etc.

Thank you to those who have brought in food. *Please share with those who cannot afford to feed their families.*



The music ministry of
Grace Lutheran Church
2041 Madison Street
Clarksville, TN
Music at Grace Concert for December:

Sunday, December 4, 2016, 4 pm

"Red River Breeze"
A Celtic Musical Christmas Concert

Admission is free.





HENRIETTA CHURCH MOUSE'S PAGE

Henrietta Church Mouse Here!

December already? This year sure has flown by. Advent season is here and Christmas is upon us. Like the song says, "*It's the most wonderful time of the year!*" It also tends to be the busiest. Just remember during all the hustle and bustle to take time every day to think about why we are visiting, baking, shopping, wrapping, trimming, and celebrating. God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to save us. Jesus is the 'Reason for the Season.'

Happy Birthday Jesus and Merry Christmas to all!!

Until Next Month...

Henrietta Church Mouse in Residence!



**WE THANK GOD FOR THESE
CELEBRATIONS IN DECEMBER**

BIRTHDAY

- 6 Teara Scott (1956)
- 7 Leslie Brese (1948)
- 10 Barbara Kerr (1934)
- 10 Debra Scott (1961)
- 11 Kristina Levan (2001)
- 12 Jack Carter (1958)
- 13 Jaclyn Likens (2000)
- 20 Zachary Loftis (1999)
- 21 Hannah Brown (2006)
- 22 Heather Carlin (1989)
- 25 Debra Delp (1949)
- 25 JESUS CHRIST**
- 29 Madelyn Grace Coleman (2014)
- 30 Emily Halliburton (1995)
- 30 Andy Wrasman (1981)
- 31 Stacy Shaw (1966)



ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Jerry & Debra Delp (1986)
- 23 - Larry & Donna Meyer
- 27 - Bob & Cheri Jenkins (2008)



SERVANT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2016

PASTOR

Kenneth B. Shaw

ELDER

Tim Hartley

OFFERING COUNTERS

Loren Replogle & Tim Hartley

ALTAR STEWARD

Jennifer Smith & Betty Clinard

GREETERS

Clyde & Carolyn Schroeder

USHERS

Jer Geiger & Tom Riesterer - Center Aisle

Les Keller & Loren Replogle- Side Aisles

ACOLYTES

December 4 - Elena Alvarado

December 11 - Isadora Hygrell

December 18 - Brandon Levan

December 25 - Paige Smith

VOLUNTEER CLEANING SCHEDULE

November 27 - December 3 - Vacant

December 4 – 10 - Vacant

December 11 - 17 - Vacant

December 18 - 24 - Vacant

December 25 – 31 - Vacant