



# HOLY TRINITY NEWS

DECEMBER 2024



## Happy New Year! – From the Rector

No...the title of this article is not off by a month! December 1, 2024 is the first day of the new church year AND the first Sunday of Advent. These days do not always, or even often, fall on the same day which makes this exciting. At least for me!

The calendar of the church year is different from the ones we use daily. Instead of being a straight line it is a circle. Within that circle we celebrate some of the same things over and over again each year. The problem with doing this is that if we don't pay attention to these celebrations we may miss the beauty and mystery present throughout the year. In order to help us pay attention the church designated that each season would have a special color.

There are six separate seasons within our church year calendar and there is a color associated with each. The colors are: blue, white, green (which is used twice), purple, and red. When the color changes it means that items that I wear (specifically my stole and chasuble) change color as do that paraments (items that adorn our altar) change as well.

We start with Advent 1 – and our liturgical colors change to blue. There are four Sundays in Advent allowing us to prepare for and make room in our hearts for the arrival (again!) of the Christ Child. During this time we also have the Advent wreath where we light a candle for each Sunday of the season. There are several other seasons of the year – and we'll move through each of them until we wind our way back to Advent again. I am looking forward to being with you throughout this year.

And guess what? This coming Sunday we'll have available for you a calendar of the church year of your own for you to take home and color and use to mark each season and its color. My hope is that this will help you pay attention to the beauty and mystery of each season of the year.

*Kathleen+*

## Advent Formation Opportunities

Advent is one of the seasons of the year when we plan for some intentional formation opportunities. There are three specific things happening this year.

One: Color your own Advent Calendar! On the table in the narthex at church there are some large copies of an Advent Calendar that you can color. It also gives you a task you can do each day throughout the season to help you open yourself and make room in your heart for the coming of the Christ Child. This is a fun activity for everyone!

Two: Book Study! Anyone who wants to is welcome to join Rev. Kathleen as we make our way through “The Light of the World” written by Amy-Jill Levine. It is a small book and a relatively easy read. On our own we will read and then meet to discuss the chapters of the book together. Chapters 1 and 2 will be discussed on December 8. Chapters 3 and 4 will be discussed on December 15. Both meetings will take place in the Upper Room between 11:30 and 11:45 – depending on how long church takes. Grab a cup of coffee and some snacks and join us in the Upper Room for 30-40 minutes of conversation. 10 copies of the books have been ordered and we are waiting on delivery. Let Rev. Kathleen know if you would like a copy. There are options to listen to it as an audiobook as well as digital copies as well. It appears that it is even available in different formats at some of the local libraries.

Three: “From the Manager” Advent Devotional from Illustrated Ministry. This is a booklet that has a scripture passage for each week of Advent and one for Christmas. There is a commentary for each passage and a few questions for your consideration. It is a “choose your own adventure” devotional in that it can happen whenever it fits in your individual schedule. There will be booklets available at church for anyone who wants one and Rev. Kathleen will be making a video and posting it to Facebook each Wednesday (and it will go out in the weekly email) with the Scripture passage and a few questions to consider.

## Walk in Love – Stewardship 2025

Along with Advent it is also Stewardship season. A letter with a pledge card was mailed to every house in the directory. There are opportunities for financial pledging and for serving in worship, on a commission, or even as a vestry member. How might you help us continue to Walk in Love with one another and the wider community of Swanton and surrounding areas? Please give prayerful consideration to how you and your family are being called to “Walk in Love” with Holy Trinity Church in 2025. Pledge forms should be turned in by Sunday December 15. They can be mailed back to the church, put in the collection plate, or handed to Rev. Kathleen.

## Vestry Update

We collected a total of \$1,278 for Episcopal Relief and Development and Outreach matched that for a total amount being sent of \$2,564.

\*Discussed the 2025 budget and want to give a shout out to the Finance committee for their work.

\*Discussed a proposal regarding St. John's and working to make it a sustaining ministry.

\*Approved a policy for the rector's discretionary fund

\*Little Sparks daycare is moving in and doing work to get ready to open their doors.



## Christmas Flowers

There will be envelopes on the buffet in the Narthex for donations for Christmas poinsettias and greens. If you would like to have flowers in memory of or thanksgiving for someone, Please fill out an envelope & place it in the plate. Kiley needs these sooner rather than later for the Christmas bulletins.

## St. John's Church

As St. John's begins to get a new face lift, new roof this past summer, plans to renew the beautiful windows. Please see bookmarks on the buffet in conjunction with the Franklin Library & jar for donations for the restoration of our beautiful St. John's- wonderful designs as STOCKING STUFFERS.



Martha's Kitchen's needs for December: Margarine, Heads of lettuce, Cheese slices, Tomatoes, Cucumbers. Please put items in chest in the narthex.

## Rector's Office Hours

Tues: 2 - 7pm    Weds: 2 - 4:30pm

Thursdays: 8:30 - Noon; 2 - 4pm

Friday is a Sabbath day away from work, including emails.

If there is a pastoral emergency, please call my cell phone 301 848-6069

## Upcoming Events

Sun Dec 1 – Pastoral Care mtg, 9:15

St. Nicholas Display on the Art Wall

Mon Dec 2- Outreach mtg, 9:00am

Tues Dec 3- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sat Dec 7- Youth Cookie Baking, 10am-12

Sun Dec 8- Book Study 11:30

Buildings & Grounds meeting, 11:30am

Christmas Around the World, 1p-3p

Mon Dec 9- Vestry meeting, 5:30p

Tues Dec 10- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sun Dec 15- Book Study 11:30

Ecumenical Christmas Caroling, 2-3:30

Tues Dec 17- Choir Rehearsal, 7pm

Sun Dec 22 – Greening of the Church

Tue Dec 24- Christmas Eve services, 4 & 9pm

Wed Dec 25- Office Closed

Sun Dec 29 – 10 am Lessons & Carols



All Are Welcome!!

Come join us on

Sun, Dec 8th from 1:00-3:00.

Fun Activities for everyone!



Grab your hat and mittens and join in the annual ecumenical caroling activity on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:30. We will gather at the Church of the Nativity parking lot to catch a ride on the Big Blue Party Bus, and Party Wagon, tour around the town singing carols and end at Holy Trinity Church for cookies and hat drinks.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there to welcome and take pictures with everyone!

### Congratulation Holy Trinity Family

Over the last few months, we have collected \$1,282. The amount covered was matched by Holy Trinity Outreach. Which means a total gift of \$2,564 will be send to ERD from Holy Trinity to support recovery from the lasted flooding in Florida and North Carolina.



### Support For Swanton Teachers

Special thanks to Holy Trinity Outreach Members for making a wonderful soup dinner for Swanton teachers during their long day of conferences. Thanks to Helen Short, Natalie and Wally Good , Deanna Edwards and Mary Wood for delivering the wonders offerings. Thanks to Deanna Edwards, Helen Short, Natalie Good, Kathleen Schotto, Laura Simon, Shelley Robtoy, Mary Wood for your gifts of soup, bread, cheese, and desserts

We have heard comments of great appreciation from the members of the school staff!



### Pies for Bonnie a Great Success!

Life's wonderful blessings were certainly present in the Holy Trinity Kitchen on Nov 14 & 15. Special thanks to everyone who purchased a pie from our annual sale. We raise \$1843 to split between Age Well and Diapers & Wipes – our two selected nonprofits. This year's pies were brought to you by...Shelley Robtoy, Adam Fournier, Deanna Edwards, Mary Wood, Meghan Fournier, Natalie Good, Jessica Dittmar, Martha Casavant, Laura Simon, John Simon, Linda Wirts, John Edwards, Linda Bruyette, Sheri Moore, Judy Ayer, Mary Hartman, Marie Speer, Betty Finelli, Carrie Klinefelter, Kathy Giroux, Kiley Boutah, Madeline Martin...Together we made 128 pies!



### Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Community Advent Tree Project for 2024

Please join us during Advent to collect diapers and wipes for our new outreach project that will begin in 2025. Each week when you shop or find a coupon for diapers and wipes, you can add a box of diapers or wipes to your shopping list and donate to our project. With appreciation, HTC Outreach Team

### ART WALL

We will find St. Nicholas designed in a variety of ways in December by Rev. Kathleen on the art wall in the parish hall. Thank you ahead of time Kathleen for the creation.

### COFFEE HOUR

It is time to thank this year's coffee hour planners for their weekly contributions in cooking, shopping, setting up and cleaning up for fun, delicious and the nutritious time for gathering after church. YUMMY.

### CHRISTMAS EVE RECEPTIONS

Thank you ahead of time to Paule and Leanne for setting up refreshments for the 4:00 pm reception and to Helen & Natalie for the reception following the 9 pm service.

**Everyone is invited to bring a special little something for the later reception.**

### WELCOME HOME

A Huge thank you for all the HTC contributors to those folks who have never had a home and now not only have one but have it furnished with our help. The wait has been long and arduous and their Thanksgiving is joyful.

### THANKSGIVING

The 30 some years of HTC offering Thanksgiving to HTC members and to the community at large has been a blast. Everyone participating always brought the best of something to eat and the meal included people from many villages and towns in Franklin County. And somehow everyone stayed to clean up! Thanks to and from everyone.

December's Here by Linda B.

Appreciate the little joys with the Angels

- 1) Sharing a long savory meal with a loved one on a crisp and almost winter evening
- 2) Sharing your morning tea or coffee with someone special and watch the sun rise with your angel & that makes it wonderful
- 3) Snuggling with your dog or cat on the sofa
- 4) Hearing a child's giggle when they play
- 5) Welcoming winter's first snow fall and making angel wings
- 6) Celebrating spring's first flowers
- 7) Enjoying a gentle breeze on a warm summer day
- 8) Loving to look at autumn's brilliant colors
- 9) Experience the comfort of holding a loved one's hand
- 10) Open your eyes today to all the simple joys that you and your angel can bring

Listen to your angel

- 1) one person can make a difference
- 2) you are more important than you realize
- 3) Storms never last; clear skies are ahead
- 4) blessings multiply when you start counting
- 5) your angel knows that something wonderful will happen today
- 6) smile & someone else will too
- 7) supersize your dreams. Hope big!

Angel of God, my guardian dear

To whom the Love commits me here

Ever today be at my side

To light and guard, to rule and guide

Enjoy the ride with your angel. Life is like a roller coaster; you can either scream every time there is a bump, or you can throw up your hands and enjoy the ride.

Word from your angel – you cannot fall behind when you are following Jesus.

Your angel will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness. Your unfailing love will last forever, enduring as the heavens.

Believers look up – take courage. The angels are nearer than you think.

In a moment of quiet, dark stillness, or even in the bustling of daily life, you may feel that you are in the company of an angel, revel in the divine presence!

Angels are the unseen hands that applaud you and send the heavenly voices that cheer you on. All you have to do is listen, and look with your heart.



Do not be afraid, I bring good news of Great Joy that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men & women on whom His favor rests."



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Tyler Robtoy
- 5 Harry Moulton
- 8 Zachary Ries
- 9 Cody Shand
- 10 Marguerite LaFlam
- 12 Sarah LaFlam-Longe
- 16 Beverly Montiel
- 18 Lynda Bruyette
- 22 Amy Giroux
- 24 Ryan LaFlam
- 26 Sandi Kenyon
- 31 Eamon Murphy



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Charlie & Sheri Moore
- 18 Sandi & Chuck Kenyon
- 28 Kay & Chaunce Benedict