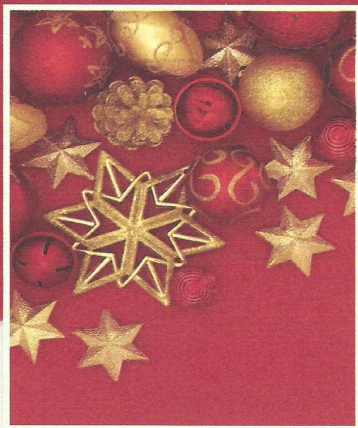




Trinity Episcopal Church

218 East Benton Street

Serving Aurora's Faithful
since 1849
Volume 20: Issue 7
December, 2020



CHRISTMAS BEGINS WITH *Christ.*

December 6, 2020

Dear Friends

Every Christmas we travel. No, I'm not promoting travel this year. Our health officials tell us physical travel isn't safe for us or those we love this year. Yet, we can safely journey this Christmas with these folks. The Spirit of God came upon Mary and set in motion a journey into the world. Mary journeys to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is joyfully expecting her own child. Mary and Joseph journey to Bethlehem. Angels visit the shepherds in their fields and call them to journey to the manger to see God's greatest gift to humankind. Magi follow a bright star and journey from afar to see a new King. We too are on a journey. And this year, the journey for most of us will be unlike any before. It will be different as we struggle with the continuing impact of a world-wide pandemic.

During this difficult time, our relationships have changed; for some they have deepened, grown, while others are struggling. Our worship has taken on a much different, but very significant new form. With the addition of 8 weekday services online, the journey has brought many together from across the country. Our time together is an expression of our relationship, not only with one another, but with God as we celebrate the gift of Love. Even those who feel the darkness of loneliness and loss are surrounded by Love. The great light of God's Love burns for each of us. The true meaning of Emmanuel, *God with Us*, finds expression. We are never truly alone.

Perhaps some of us will feel there is no room in our heart as memories and grief well up from within us. But recall that Mary and Joseph, weary from their journey, still found shelter even when there was no room in the inn. God cherishes each of us, has great hopes and plans for us, surrounds us with his love, and provides what we need to continue our journey, no matter how difficult it may be.

What will your journey to the manger be like this year? What will you find in the remembrance of God's coming in the flesh as the Baby Jesus that brings you hope? How will you share that hope? Please join your Trinity Church family as we journey together seeking the peace of God which passes all understanding. May your travels be filled by bright stars and warm with love, bringing comfort and God's extravagant grace!

In Christ,

Denzil J. Luckritz, *Rector*

**THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP ONLINE @ ZOOM
PLEASE CONTACT FR. DENZIL
FOR THE ROOM AND PASSWORD
OR JOIN US ON FACEBOOK @ TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AURORA, IL GROUP**

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th
4 pm Christmas Lessons and Carols
11 pm Christmas Lessons and Carols

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th
9am Morning Prayer with Carols

First Sunday after Christmas, December 27th
9am Morning Prayer with Carols

Please note that we will be decorating the Chancel around the altar; pictures of which will be featured in our worship service. In addition, we have a special music with harp. For your convenience Christmas Offering envelopes and Christmas Flower/Music offering envelopes have been enclosed. Please be certain to have your Flower requests turned in no later than Monday, December 21st. Thank you!



Financial Snapshot YTD (Month ending November 30th, 2020)

Income:

Pledge and Plate \$63,733
 (Year to date budgeted pledge and Plate Budget) \$56,349
 Endowment Income \$41,803
 Year to date budgeted Endowment Income) \$42,602
 Total Income \$169,849
 (Includes \$25,412 PPP Grant)
 Budgeted Income \$156,450
 Net Income - \$131,104 (W/O) PPP funds

Expense

Building and Grounds \$18,379*
 Year to Date Building and Grounds Budget) \$ 18,897
 Office & Admin \$6,676
 Year to date Office and Administration Budget \$4,273
 Total Expense \$162,783
 Budgeted YTD Exp. \$159,975
 Excess of Income over expense YTD. - \$7,069 vs -\$525 Budgeted

Funds (As of 11/30/2020)

Endowment Balance \$788,353**
 Memorial Balance \$220,443
 Mission Fund Balance \$15,515
 Operating Account Balance \$22,684
 * \$5,938 of the Building and Graounds Expense was for Boiler related repairs
 ** We added \$50,000 to the Endowment fund from a bequest.
 \$



Prayer List

Janet, Giridhar, Sharon, Al, Marion, Allyssa, Zachary, Andrew, Petros, Drew, Jackie, Karen, Nancy, Joe, Bill, Mother Debra, Tammy, Fr. Tom, Eileen, Marilou, Steve, Darlene, Susie, Robert, Sr., Carol, Bob, Kevin, Val, Chireen, Rick, Nick, Sr. Jean, Andrew David, Richard, Doug, Mary, Kenneth, Maryann, Bella, Gary, Mark, Michael, Eleanor, Cecil, Elizabeth, William (in Afghanistan), Danielle, Rob L., Betty, Jane, Kathy, Denise, Lynn, Karen, Edelma, Sandy, Carol, Diana, Virg, Don, Tom, Maidell, Dick, Nan, Rosie, Alvin, nieces, ages 17 & 21, of a friend of Trinity, Fr. Jim, Sheila, Maria, Susan, Georgia, Griffin, Sally Anne, Bobbie, Jason, Diane, Thomas, Joyce, Wanda, Cathie, Irene, Millie, Cecilia, Andrea, Robert, Dan, Joseph, Wally, Robin, Christie, Lisa, Jeanette, Tanya, James, Dolores, Roberta, Bryan, Brianna, John, Talon, Taylor, Ty, Linda J, Malcolm, Rodney, Leo, Ted, Greg, and all those suffering from Covid-19.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

December

Amanda Gutierrez Dec. 6 th
 John Heath Dec. 16th
 Bill Dumont Dec. 19th
 Garrett Rubis Dec. 27th
 Hannah Rubis Dec. 30th

Anniversaries

December

Janet & Guy Stephens Dec. 28th



THOMAS BECKET Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170



Thomas Becket was born in London in 1118, of a wealthy Norman family, and educated in England and in France. He then became an administrator for Theobald, Archbishop of Canterbury. Later, he was sent to study law in Italy and France and, after being ordained deacon, he was appointed Archdeacon of Canterbury. His administrative skills eventually brought him to the notice of King Henry II, who, to Thomas's surprise, appointed him Chancellor of England. He and the King became intimate friends, and because of Becket's unquestioning loyalty and support of the King's interests in both church and state, Henry secured Thomas's election as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1162. Becket, foreseeing a break with his Royal Master, was reluctant to accept. As Archbishop he changed, as he tells us, "from a patron of play actors and a follower of hounds, to being a shepherd of souls." He also defended the interests of the church against those of his former friend and patron, the King. The struggle between the two became so bitter that Thomas sought exile at an abbey in France. When he returned to England six years later, the fragile reconciliation between Henry and the Archbishop broke down. In a fit of rage, the King is alleged to have asked his courtiers, "Who will rid me of

this meddlesome priest?" Four barons, taking Henry's words as an order, made their way to Canterbury, and, upon finding the archbishop in the cathedral on December 29th, 1170, struck him down with their swords. Later, when the monks of Canterbury undressed Thomas's body to wash it and prepare it for burial, they discovered that under his episcopal robes their worldly and determined archbishop was wearing a hair shirt. While such a garment hardly proves that a person is a saint, it clearly indicates that Thomas was motivated in the exercise of his office by far more than political considerations. His final words to the four barons before receiving the fatal blow were, "Willingly I die for the name of Jesus and in the defense of the church.

"O God, our strength and our salvation, you called your servant Thomas Becket to be a shepherd of your people and a defender of your church; Keep your household from all evil and raise up faithful pastors and leaders who are wise in the ways of the gospel; through Jesus Christ, the shepherd of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Christmas at Trinity 2020





Notes from the Director of Music -

I love the stories that surround hymns. Especially, the ones that come at Christmastime. While choosing carols for one of our services, I came upon this story about Hark! The Herald-angels sing.



Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing” reached its holiday prominence by a circuitous route. The tune, which originally had nothing to do with Christmas, was composed in 1840 by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), as the second movement of his *Festgesang or Gutenberg Cantata*. Mendelssohn composed this work for the Leipzig Gutenberg Festival, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the invention of the printing press. Mendelssohn’s cantata, for male chorus and brass ensemble, was sung at the unveiling of Leipzig’s new statue of Johannes Gutenberg.

I suspect you can hear the music in your head as you read the tune’s original refrain:

“Gutenberg, du wackrer Mann, du stehst glorreich auf dem Plan!” *“Gutenberg, you valiant man, you stand glorious on the square!”*

Mendelssohn hoped to publish his Gutenberg tune with English words, but he couldn’t find a text to suit him. In a 1843 letter to Edward Buxton, one of his English music publishers, he explained: *“If the right [words] are hit at, I am sure that the piece will be liked very much by singers and hearers, but it will never do to sacred words...”*

In 1847, Mendelssohn directed the London premiere of his oratorio *Elijah*, and one of the alto choirboys was one William Cummings. Little did Mendelssohn know that in the 1850s, Cummings would be the one to attach his Gutenberg tune to a decidedly sacred poem entitled “Hymn for Christmas-Day,” from *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739) by Methodist writer Charles Wesley (1707-1788), the first line of which is, of course, “Hark! The herald angels sing...”

Gregory Gyllsdorff





ONE-TO-GROW-ON PROJECT 2020



Is Finished! Pictures don't do it justice! Thank you for your Support!

Ritual, Reason and Why - Advent

Happy New Year seems a strange salutation at the beginning of December. But for Christians, the beginning of Advent is also the beginning of our year in the church. It is indeed the New Year.

There are two major holy days that we as Christians celebrate: Easter and Christmas. Both of these days have predetermined moments in our church calendar. Easter is determined by a system controlled by the moon and the spring solstice, echoing our ties to ancient Jewish traditions.

Christmas, however, is determined by a specific date: December 25th. That date in turn determines when our church year begins. We must count backward four Sundays from December , and that Sunday, four away from December 25, is the beginning of our church year.

On the Sunday before we begin our new church year, the last Sunday of the old year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. But our King is no ordinary king. The readings on that Sunday are not what a person would expect to hear. We have been given a choice for the gospel readings for this Sunday. We can read about Jesus and his confrontation with Pilate, who asks him 'Are you a King?' Or we can hear again the story of Jesus coming into Jerusalem; he comes on the back of a young donkey.

Either story reminds us that Jesus never does the ordinary or expected action. And with those stories in our hearts, we move into the season of Advent. The season of Advent has come to be celebrated more in terms of expectation or anticipation. The vestment colors might be the same colors worn during Lent: purple and rose. But if we are celebrating this season with a sense of joyful anticipation, perhaps the better choice of colors are those of royal blue and rose.

Historically, the primary sanctuary color of Advent is Purple. The purple of Advent is also the color of suffering used during Lent and Holy Week. This points to an important connection between Jesus' birth and death. The nativity, the Incarnation, cannot be separated from the crucifixion, the Atonement.

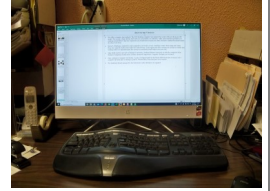
The purpose of Jesus' coming into the world, of the "Word made flesh" and dwelling among us, is to reveal God and His grace to the world through Jesus' life and teaching, but also through his suffering, death, and resurrection.

However, many churches now use blue to distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. Royal Blue is sometimes used as a symbol of royalty. Some churches use Bright Blue to symbolize the night sky, the anticipation of the impending announcement of the King's coming, or to symbolize the waters of Genesis 1, the beginning of a new creation. Red and Green are more secular colors of Christmas, although they derive from older European practices of using evergreens and holly to symbolize ongoing life and hope that Christ's birth brings into a cold world.



AROUND THE CHURCH

- The office computer was replaced. The 2012 desktop computer was replaced by a state of the art all-in-one HP model. The screen is huge and my tired old eyes can actually see stuff now. After some transition problems it is working wonderfully! I kept my ergonomic key board that everyone else hates but kept a standard keyboard handy for when I am away.



- Michel's Plumbing completed a major upgrade to our boiler system, installing a water basin pump and return. They also repaired another leak under the Guiled Room. I truly appreciate their viewing our system as a whole and working with us to upgrade/repair the system in a methodical and budget conscious way.

- John Heath started a new job at Elmhurst University, Northern Illinois University as both the conductor of the Elmhurst Symphonic Band and as a Music Instructor Supervisor. Congrats! Thought you'd retired?



- Gary continues to upgrade our facility. A piece of chipped paint in the Parish Hall turned into a bit more. He's scraped it all down and is waiting to paint it. The Kitchen is the next place to be waxed!

- The Sandwich Board arranged for the dishwasher in the Kitchen to be repaired.

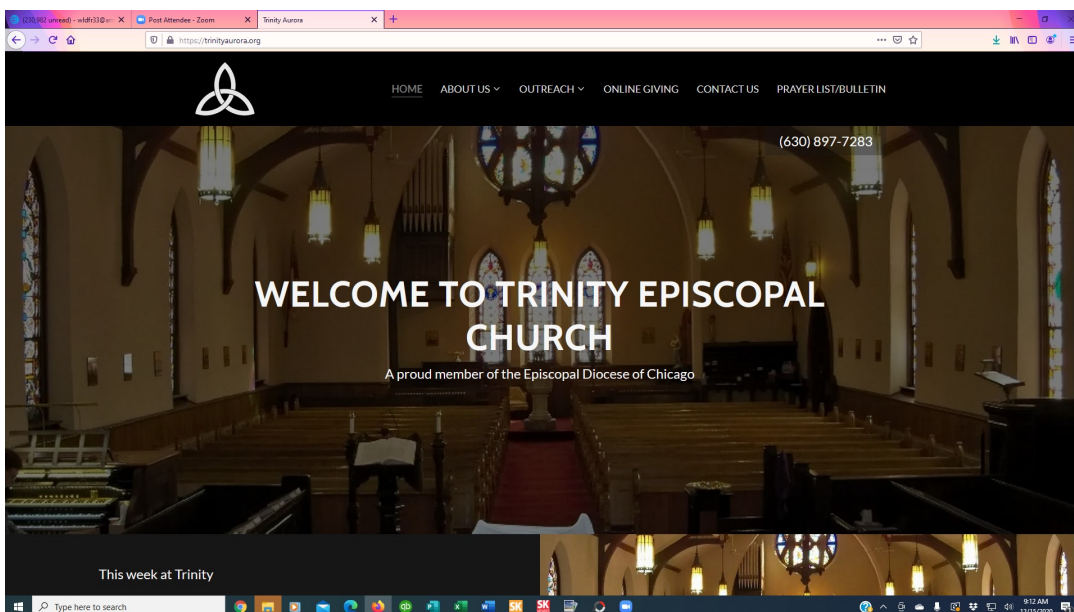
• Trinity Received a \$150,000 bequest from the Estate of Dan Hanna. \$50,000 went to our Endowment fund and \$100,000 to the Memorial Fund! May our memory of Father Hanna's contributions to Trinity be remembered for the ages. Bless his soul!

- The Outreach Committee re-focused our Thanksgiving and Christmas Angel Tree Program to the provision of gift cards to 15 families. \$65 Aldi Gift Certificates so they can purchase a Christmas Meal and \$30 gift cards for every child so every kid can get at least one gift! We sent them in cute little gift bags that had candy, gifts and a note. Thank you for your generosity!



- I updated our on-line-giving account so that any donations made there to the Sandwich Board are directly deposited in their account.

- We also completely revised our website. My thanks to Dale Schirmer, a former Senior Warden here at Trinity who designing and moving our content to the new site. It looks terrific! Check it out at www.trinityaurora.org!





December 2020

Trinity Episcopal Church



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January 2021 Trinity Episcopal Church



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Trinity Episcopal Church

218 East Benton Street
Aurora, Il. 60505

Phone: (630) 897-7283
trin29@trinityaurora.org

Web Site:
www.trinityaurora.org

*Serving God and God's People
Since 1849*



Trinity is a congregation that strives to be a thriving, vibrant, open and affirming, diverse community of hope that, with God's help, heartily welcomes the stranger, joyously worships the Lord in the beauty of holiness, and lovingly serves 'the least of these,' a church that changes people's lives for the better.



Have a Blessed Christmas

Trinity Vestry

Senior Warden:
Marilou Clohessy
Junior Warden:
Ken Adam
Members
Rob Borchert
Karen Dolan
Mary Jacobsen
Cathie Patterson
Guy Stephens
Trish Tousignant