

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
December 2018

Address:

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Office Hours:

Monday & Wednesday, 10AM – 1PM

Worship Schedule:

Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)

Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People

Pastor.....Brad Ross

Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac

Organist.....Edith Schatt

Council President.....Dale Kirk

Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac

Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman

Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

This is always an awkward time of the year, in a sense, for the church. As a pastor, I’m under the impression I’m supposed to be all-in on Advent for the first few weeks: no mention of that whole Christmas thing until December 24 (maybe we’ll let it slip in on the Sunday before). Until then, it’s all about the Second Coming of Christ, nothing else. It’s not just awkward because the rest of the world isn’t exactly all-in on Advent, but, well...we don’t know exactly when it’s going to happen. And we have differing takes in Scripture as to exactly *how* it’s going to happen. And then we’re supposed to...recognize it for the first few weeks of December, but Jesus doesn’t want us to obsess over it, either.

Then, us pastors have to be careful with our Advent-preaching word-choice, because we’re supposed to *wait* for Christ’s coming again, but make sure it’s not of the passive sort; more like an eager-anticipation kind of waiting. Like you’re almost anticipating it enough that you get drawn into doing Kingdom-of-God-like activity in this world, in this life: like a child who cannot wait for Christmas morning; that they’re gonna just ever-so slightly open the wrapping or shake the box just enough to find out their next round of annual present-ry. It won’t just stop there; but once they figure out what’s inside even before the wrapping comes off, they’re gonna start making plans on Christmas Eve night when/how/where they’re going to play with that very toy/game/whatever. They’re gonna shape their life around it.

I guess that’s what Advent is getting at. I guess that’s what Christ’s birth is getting at too. Those moments of the most insistent emergence of Christ: that we want to have a glimpse of those precious moments throughout our life. We’re not gonna wait for the Second Coming. We’re not even gonna wait for our heavenly entrance. We want it now. We want it for us, our families, our communities, our world...well, God’s world, of course. No matter what the church calendar says, Christ was already born. Christ already came among us. He’s already here. So all that’s left to do? A lifetime celebration. – Pastor Brad



Find us on Facebook at:
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Request

We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Jenny Bennett
Bev Deitrick
Joanne Loede
Cathy Gallagher
Richard Jakubcin
Mary Phillips
Hazel Schwab

George Tomaselli
Ed Uhler
Trudy Weidman
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

1 Bill Deitrick
14 Nathan Schatt
23 Sarah Bailey



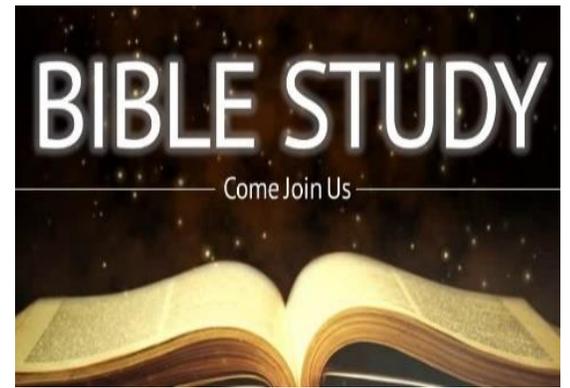
29 Brad & Becky Murphy

Our mitten tree will be up until Christmas, which gives all of us a special opportunity to provide mittens, hats, scarves, socks and other small winter clothing items to the community in need surrounding the West Side Catholic Center. So bring in any such items in new condition during office hours, or before or after worship on the weekends, as we do our part to help our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Mitten Tree



The Monday afternoon discussion group is taking a break over the holidays. We will resume on Monday, January 14, at 1:00 pm. We will continue to broaden our concepts of God's greatness as we work our way through *Your God is Too Small*. Who will make a New Year's resolution to join in?



Come join in the thoughtful and lively discussions!
For a book, contact the Church
Triune948@sbcglobal.net
440-526-3676

Hoping to see you then...bring a friend!
We're always welcoming visitors and new participants!



From your entire Triune Lutheran Church family, we wish you and yours a wonderful Christmas and a great start to 2019! May you experience the comfort and joy of Christ not only during this Christmas season, but through all the days of your life!

THANK YOU!



A special thank you to everyone who took part in helping us adopt two families from Broadview Heights by supplying over \$600 worth of gift cards for the families to have an even more special Christmas! We also extend our appreciation to the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Human Services Department for taking the lead in this Adopt-a-Family program. Thank you, again, for your tremendous help in this important ministry!



We invite you to join us on Christmas Eve at **4PM** (note the schedule change from the previously-stated council meeting notes), as we worship Christ, our Lord, giving thanks to God for becoming one in our humanity.

The service will be of Lessons & Carols, telling the story of God's love coming to life all the more in the birth of our Savior, through Scripture and some of the beloved songs passed down through the centuries. We will also celebrate Holy Communion, as well as sing Silent Night by candlelight.

“O Come, let us adore him: Christ, the Lord!”

We hope to see you Christmas Eve at 4PM!

A Letter to My Children this Christmas

Hi there.

I know this letter won't mean much to you now, because words are not as meaningful as they used to be, but maybe in 30 years or so when you have kids of your own and I am even more of a doddering old fool, you will find this tucked in a book or stored in a file on your phone, and then it will mean more. I want you to know how much I appreciate being your father. I really mean that. I know there are times when I rant and rave and frighten you in my anger, but it isn't about you, please believe me. My anger comes from the things I am scared of, just like when you get scared—like the Darth Vader doll you used to put in your closet so you could sleep, Seth, or the way you still come to our bedroom in the middle of the night because you heard a noise, Chelsea.

Anyway, you are getting lots of *stuff* for Christmas, most of it from Santa, some from us, and lots from your grandpa. These things will eventually break and get thrown away, or you will outgrow them and we will pass them along to other children (a lot of your toys already ended up in a church nursery, just like mine did when I was a kid). But please remember that the love behind these gifts will never, ever, ever wear out. Even when your mom and I are gone from this life, we will still love you as fiercely as the day you were born. It is not a perfect love, but it is the best we can do.

You know the stories about Jesus and the stable in Bethlehem, and how angels and shepherds sang hymns of praise in a winter sky. Today, Bethlehem is a much more complicated place, with walls and guns and people who suffer. You remember when we were in Bethlehem on Christmas Eve in 2013, right? That moment in Manger Square when I held on to you and your mother and said, "Please don't ever forget this moment—we are in the place where love came to earth." I know you were cold and tired and eager to get back to our house on the Mount of Olives, but I still cherish that moment. The world we live in is capable of doing so many wonderful moments, but this capability also comes with a dark legacy of pain, oppression and injustice, sometimes enacted in the name of Jesus whose birth we celebrate every year.

I would spare you the world, but I can't, and I shouldn't. I believe God will give you gifts to change the world. This isn't just some daydream of your dad's, but a real, honest-to-goodness prophecy. I think if you are brave, and pray every day of your life, and use the brains in your noggins, God might do something wonderful through you. I hope this is so. I know of at least two wonderful things that God has done through me: They are the two of you. Since your dad is a pastor, there are lots of people whom he considers sons and daughters in a spiritual sense. I love them very much, but you—you are flesh of my flesh, and bone of my bone, and I am completely astonished and exultant that I could play a part in creating such wonderful people (OK, your mom gets much of the credit because I was still eating breakfast when she was weak with morning sickness carrying you).

I guess what I am trying to say (without sounding needy) is that I need you both in my life to help me keep things in perspective. I am grateful to you for the lessons you continue to teach me from day to day, and I hope someday you will be blessed with children who are as wonderful as you are. Merry Christmas and blessings for a new year, my children. I am blessed because you exist.

Love,
Dad

The Rev. Dr. Martin Otto Zimmann is an adjunct professor of church and society at United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg campus. He holds a Ph.D. in American culture studies.

This article, and other resources for the journey of faith, are available at LivingLutheran.org.

DECEMBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE W.H. RENTED 4:30-10:30 PM
2 WORSHIP @11 AM W.H. RENTED 11:00-5:00pm	3 Council Mtg. @ 6pm	4 AA @ 7pm	5	6 AA @ 8 pm	7	8 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD W.H. RENTED 6:00 - 12:00
9 WORSHIP @11 AM	10	11 AA @ 7pm	12	13 AA @ 8 pm	14	15 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
16 WORSHIP @11 AM	17	18 AA @ 7pm	19	20 AA @ 8 pm	21	22 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD W.H. RENTED 5-11:30 PM
23 WORSHIP @11 AM	24 CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP @ 4PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 AA @ 8 pm	28	29 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE W.H. RENTED 12-5 PM
30 WORSHIP @11 AM	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE					
<p>If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.</p>						