

***The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
December 2022***

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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.....Heidi Bailey
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab

Siblings in Christ of Triune,

Greetings! Amidst all the planning and celebrating this month, there is one observance that will be easily overlooked. On December 20, the church lifts up the beloved Katharina Von Bora. For a bit of background, from the The Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson (Tokyo Lutheran Church, Japan; and the Johannelund School of Theology, Sweden):

Katharina von Bora, the former nun who married Martin Luther and thereby became the most world-changing wife in history. But in her case, to be a wife was not simply to be attached to a famous husband. Wife was truly an office, like the office of preacher or teacher or judge: a public role with vast responsibilities demanding faultless acumen. It is hard to imagine that anyone with less resolve, grit, and personality could have pulled off the role as first lady of the Reformation and personal companion to the energetic and irascible Martin Luther...

Katharina...managed the livestock, tended the gardens, and brewed locally praised beer. The couple were always trying new plants; Katharina even grew her own subtropical saffron, the most notoriously labor-intensive and therefore expensive spice of all time. She oversaw extensions and renovations of the old Augustinian cloister where they lived, which in turn allowed a great community to gather there for short- and long-term stays—in exchange for reasonable fees, of course. She took their profits to buy more gardens and even a farm in Zülzdorf, near her hometown, a retreat so beloved by them both that they considered retiring there to get away from tiresome Wittenberg society.



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**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



You are encouraged to further reading through the website link below about this often taken for granted child of God not just with the timing of this busy month, but her influence on Martin Luther, and God only knows the Reformation as a whole. And not only that, but maybe with remembering Katharina Von Bora on December 20, we also take time to remember the so many individuals who played host in our life and still do so for us today.

Unfortunately, this meant-to-be “most wonderful time of the year,” isn’t always the case for many children of God. It’s not just the prolonged darkness. It’s not just weather conditions that may force people to stay indoors far longer than they like. It’s the endless to-do lists. It’s the cultural obligations to buy all these gifts, and trying to find *perfect* ones, at that. It’s about trying to make sure our houses are in tip-top shape for visitors. It’s about cooking and baking. It’s about trying to play host not just with our living and dining rooms, but with our hearts, too, for other people’s not always “most wonderful time of the year” feelings. Amidst all the planning and celebrating, this time of year can be rather daunting and soul-tapping and flat-out exhausting with all this hosting.

So, not just on December 20, but throughout this time of year, let us give thanks for the hosts among us: the ones who open their homes and hearts to us without asking much of anything in return. Let’s give thanks for the Katharina Von Bora’s among us, who not only do the hosting, but do so much more for the betterment of their family and friends and communities that we will never fully realize. Also, let us be sure to give the Katharina Von Bora’s among us a break. Let’s make sure the hosts among us enjoy God’s peace and tranquility. Amidst all the planning and celebrating, let us not forget to continue to extend compassion and patience and a glimpse of God’s boundless love to family and friends and complete strangers, too. It may seem to be a cultural obligation, along with the *perfect* present purchasing, to put others in their place when we go out and about this time of year, but the ultimate host for humanity in Jesus Christ insists on a different way throughout our lives. Grace came to life even more so in Bethlehem long ago, and it came to life in Katharina Von Bora, too. May we all remember that that ultimate reforming grace has been birthed into our hearts already, and it will never be taken away. Thanks be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

For the full article, please visit:

<https://www.sarahinlickywilson.com/blog/2019/12/20/lutheran-saints-9-katharina-von-bora>



On Christmas Eve (December 24), at 4pm, we gather together to celebrate our dear Savior’s birth among us. We will hear stories from Scripture of God’s love being brought to life, sing some of the beloved Christmas carols, share Communion, and conclude our time with “Silent Night” by candlelight, So, come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

We ask you to keep the following siblings in Christ in your prayers:

Niki Grigsby
Charlotte Jackson
Richard Jakubcin
John Kurtz
Dan Maldovan

Jill Maldovan
Annie Slaughter
Mardell Weiss
Clara 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.



14 NATHAN SCHATT
23 SARAH BAILEY
27 ALBERT RODERICK

29 BRAD & BECKY MURPHY



The Monday Discussion Group
We will resume our discussions of Disappointment with God on Monday, January 30, 2023. New participants are always welcome!

Worship Schedule

For late December and early January,
please be aware of our worship schedule:

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve): 4pm
Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day): NO worship
Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve): NO worship
Sunday, January 1 (New Year's Day): 11am



From all of us at Triune
Lutheran Church, we wish
you and yours a wonderful
Christmas and a year of new
life for 2023!

Observing Advent & Christmas in Increments

Despite our insistence on barreling toward Christmas, Advent unfolds in increments.

Look at the crown of green glory adorning your kitchen table or sanctuary. Candles in the Advent wreath are lit in one-week increments leading up to Christmas.

Or consider the Advent calendar, with secret doors hiding chocolates that little hands open one by one over 25 days. An eager child might jump ahead to consume multiple chocolates, but those who know delayed gratification is always sweeter take their time.

Advent: it's a no-rush job.

This is a helpful reminder for me, especially in 2021 as we experience year two of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are managing this pandemic, but we are not yet free of it. We are living into the "now-and-not-yet" of it.

My heart sings, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" Yet my mind hits the pause button on the impulse to jump back into the rituals of holidays pre-pandemic.

I need to pause, take stock of my environment and ask, "How, then, shall I observe Advent and Christmas?"

Your answer to that question likely depends on your health circumstances and home base, comfort with risk and cherished traditions.

As for me and my family, this Advent and Christmas we'll employ a hybrid approach. We'll re-create a little of our 2019 observance mixed with some 2020, all mashed into the most hybridized of years that is 2021. It's poetically appropriate though not ideal.

The home traditions near and dear to our hearts continue as before. Our Advent wreath brightens the shadows leading up to Christmas Eve. Our Advent calendars number our days, as the special treat of a little chocolate before breakfast is tolerated by parents who know better but also know a bit of joy on cold mornings does well to mark waiting for the Christ child.

There are some new traditions we started as a family in 2020 that we'll continue in 2021:

Last Advent we baked numerous batches of cookies as a family, plated them up and went around our cul-de-sac delivering to our neighbors sugar-powdered joy and some ill-rehearsed Christmas carols with our two young sons singing loudest. Tears, smiles and socially distanced Christmas greetings were so needed last year, and we need them again this year.

On Christmas Eve my son, a bit of a Christmas idealist, asked that we all join hands around the Christmas tree to sing carols. Everyone in our COVID-19 bubble, including my parents, joined hands, and we ended the evening singing "Silent Night" with tears in our eyes. We weren't in a candlelit sanctuary, undergirded by a professional choir, but surely the angels carried our tune that night.

The question of our church sanctuary rises to mind. Within a fully vaccinated family, carefully curated Christmas Eve worship might be quite desirable (needed, even!), but we're just not ready to take that step. Our young children are still vulnerable to the virus and attend school with children who are more vulnerable than they. This Christmas we'll spend another year watching Christmas Eve worship from our home. One of us might sneak out for a socially distanced midnight mass, but we're not yet ready to take that on as a whole unit. The situation isn't ideal, but it's what we need right now.

Though we'll miss the fun dress-up Christmas pageants that are sanctuary (and social media) mainstays, we'll re-create a home-grown work-around we tried last year: Christmas charades, complete with all the nativity characters in pantomime. My parents were good sports, and our children really got into it.

Seeing Advent as a season of increments might be the lens we need to thoughtfully honor the incarnation this year. Advent and Christmastide, like so much of life, are a mix of holidays and holy days, all running together into a beautiful stream of traditions and memory-making moments that tell a cosmic story of hope and great love.

However you mark time in Advent, remember that Christmas *will* come again, even amid uncertainty.

Because, well, if ambitious emperors, a confusing census, an unconventional family and a lack of adequate housing couldn't stop God from showing up on the scene two thousand years ago, nothing will. And we'll celebrate the Christ child again this year, as always.

- The Rev. Tim Brown

Originally published December 20, 2021, on LivingLutheran.org, where you will find other resources for the journey of faith.

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
4 WORSHIP @11 AM 2 nd Sunday of Advent	5	6 AA @ 7pm	7	8 AA @ 8 pm	9	10 WORSHIP @ 5 PM PASTOR BRAD
11 WORSHIP @11 AM 3 RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	12	13 AA @ 7pm	14	15 AA @ 8 pm	16	17 WORSHIP @ 5 PM TIM MIZE
18 WORSHIP @11 AM 4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	19	20 AA @ 7pm	21	22 AA @ 8 pm	23	24 WORSHIP @ 4 PM Christmas Eve
25 NO WORSHIP AT TRIUNE CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27 AA @ 7pm	28	29 AA @ 8 pm	30	31 NO WORSHIP AT TRIUNE New Year's Eve