

the Trinity Trumpet

December 2024

The Parish Newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church; Danville, Illinois

Paul Gerhardt is no stranger to anyone who loves the hymns of the Lutheran Church. Born in 1607, during the 69 years of his life that followed, he served the Lutheran Church in Germany as a pastor. However, he is best-known to us as a hymnwriter.

You have undoubtedly sung some of Gerhardt's hymns without even realizing it. "Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising," "Upon the Cross Extended," "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," "Awake My Heart with Gladness," "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadows," are just a few examples of his beloved hymns.

In his hymns, Gerhardt often, almost inevitably, writes about the suffering Christians endure. He speaks as one who understands, because he does. His words ring true because he himself knew what it is to suffer.

In the course of his life he tasted grief, losing his wife and four of his five children to death. He endured the ravages of the Thirty Years' War. He was deposed from his office as pastor for faithfully adhering to the Word of God. He knew poverty and homelessness.

Even his Christmas hymns speak in an opened-eyed way about suffering, but also about Jesus, the Savior of those who suffer.

A good example is these words of Gerhardt from his Christmas hymn, "O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is," stanza 4:

*Thou Christian heart, whoe'er thou art,
Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee!
For God's own Child, in mercy mild,
Joins thee to Him;
How greatly God must love Thee!*

Gerhardt speaks from a Christian heart to our Christian hearts. He encourages us, in

the midst of our sorrow, to be of good cheer. Why? Because in the manger lies God's own Child—the Lord Jesus. Gerhardt is saying what Jesus says, "In this world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

In mercy, Jesus joined us to Him by joining Himself to us; by becoming flesh and dwelling among us. In mercy, He came down from heaven, not only to suffer alongside us, but to suffer for us on the cross. Gerhardt draws for us the inescapable conclusion, "how greatly God must love thee!"

Gerhardt continues to address our Christian hearts made heavy by suffering in stanza 6:

*The world may hold her wealth and gold;
But thou, my heart,
Keep Christ as thy true treasure.
To Him hold fast, until at last
A crown be thine and honor in full measure.*

Though Christians may not have wealth and gold, we have a treasure, the "true treasure,"—Jesus. In Jesus the Father gives us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places—forgiveness of sins, life everlasting, the resurrection of our bodies, and more.

We hold fast to Jesus until at last, on the Last Day, having fought the good fight, having finished the race, having kept the faith, Jesus will award the crown of righteousness to us and to all who have loved His appearing, including our friend and fellow Lutheran, the great hymn writer, Paul Gerhardt.

Gerhardt is right, "O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is my paradise..." Be of good cheer and let no sorrow move you this Christmas. Hold fast to Jesus. Merry Christmas!

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Speaking of Paul Gerhardt. Here's another gift from his pen for you this Christmas:

*Softly from His lowly manger
Jesus calls one and all,
"You are safe from danger."
Children from the sin that grieves you
You are freed! All you need
I will surely give you.*

*Come, then banish all your sadness!
One and all, great and small,
Come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with Him forever
There on high in that joy
Which will vanish never.*

IN THE WORD: BIBLE STUDY AT TRINITY

<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>
-Cafeteria Class	Cafeteria	Sundays, 8:30 a.m.	Gospel of Mark
-Thursday Morning Class	Cafeteria	Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.	Book of Romans

OFFICIAL ACTS FOR NOVEMBER

Baptisms: Maverick Judd Patterson, 11/16
Funerals: Donna Marie Lake, 11/5

Affirmation of Faith: Karen Grove, 11/14

Calls: 20 (03 HC)

BULLETS FROM BOPE (Board of Parish Education)

- Don't forget, the Sunday school children are invited to sing with the TLS students for the Trinity Lutheran Children's Service of Lessons & Carols on Wednesday, December 18, at 6:30 p.m. We have been learning the hymns and songs in the Sunday school opening.
- BOPE is once again providing Christmas treat bags for the children. They will be handed out on Wednesday, December 18, after the Service of Lessons & Carols and also on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day—while supplies last. A door offering to cover the cost of the bags will be received on Sunday, December 8.

SCHOOL MUSINGS

-Thank you to the congregation members who joined our students and their grandparents for the activities, Thanksgiving service, and the meal that followed on Wednesday, November 27. Our congregation and school are one family who belong together.

-Thank you to the students who sang and played and spoke to honor our veterans. At the Veterans Chili Supper and Concert. Thanks you also to the teachers who prepared the program and the meal. It is a special event that benefits everyone who is part of it—students, veterans, and guests.

-Don't forget to attend the Trinity Lutheran Children's Service of Lessons & Carols on Wednesday, December 18. Supper is at 5:00 p.m., the service begins at 6:30 p.m.

-Be sure and welcome our school families who join us for our worship services throughout the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

THANK YOU FROM ALL US GOBBLERS

Thank you to the Board of Fellowship for organizing our annual Trinity Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you to all our members who not only prepared the food, but who attended the dinner and helped the rest of us gobble-gobble it up. Thank you to God without whom there would be nothing for which to give thanks.

ALL THINGS ADVENT!

Advent Services: Advent services will be conducted on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18. The services begin at 6:30 p.m. with supper served at 5:00 p.m. The services on December 4 and 11 will focus on the theme for this school year, "Jesus, Founder and Finisher of our Faith." The service on December 18 will be the annual Trinity Lutheran Children's Service of Lessons & Carols. Come to them all and hear about and give praise to our Savior who came, who comes, and who will come again.

Advent's Color and Theme: The color for Advent is blue, the color of hope. The O.T. saints hoped in God's promise of a Savior. We hope in that same Savior who will come again. The words of Psalm 130 are true for Old and New Testament saints alike, "O Israel hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is steadfast love and with Him is plentiful redemption. He Himself will redeem Israel from all their sins."

Advent Devotions: Hard copies of this year's Lutheran Hour Ministries' Advent devotions are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. This year's theme for the devotions is, "Come, Let Us Adore Him." You can also access them online at lhm.org/advent or access them in a variety of ways on your mobile device.

YOU ARE INVITED...

The pastors of the Champaign and Iroquois Circuits will have their monthly meeting at Trinity on Tuesday, December 10. The day begins with a Divine Service at 9:30 a.m. to which you are invited. In addition, our school students will not only be attending the service, but singing in it as well.

WELCOME CHRISTMAS ONE AND ALL

Like Easter, Christmas is not a day, it's a SEASON! Please find below the schedule for Christmas services as we, like the angels, the shepherds, and the wisemen, come into Jesus' presence, sing His praises, and hear the good news of great joy that our Savior is born, our salvation has come.

December 24, 6:30 p.m.

December 25, 10:00 a.m.

December 29, 9:30 a.m.

December, 31, 6:30 p.m.

January 5, 9:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Divine Service w/ candle lighting

Christmas Day Divine Service

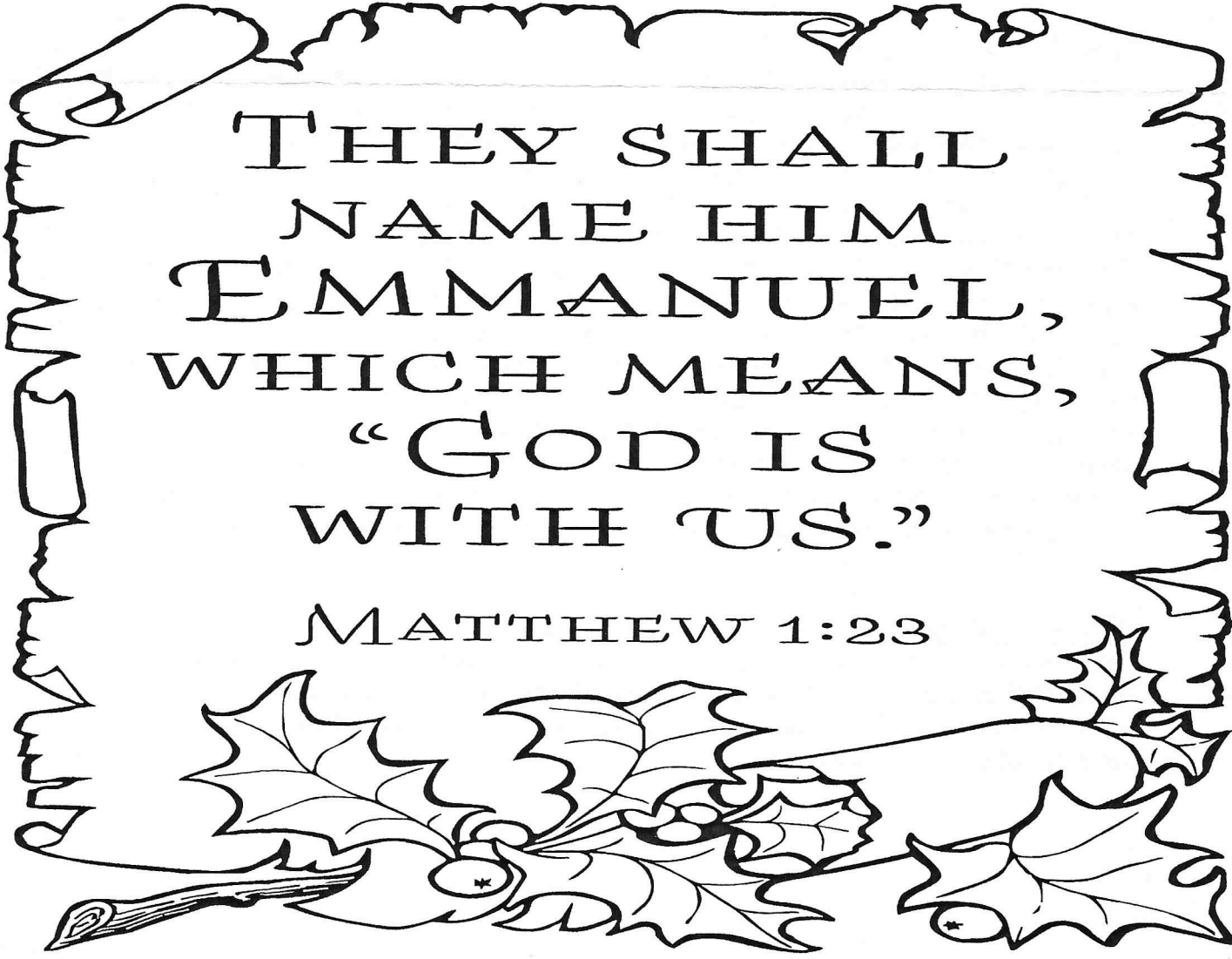
First Sunday after Christmas Divine Service

New Year's Eve Divine Service

The Epiphany of Our Lord Divine Service

ADULT INSTRUCTION

Another adult instruction class will begin shortly after the New Year. If you are interested in attending or know someone who might be, let Pastor Tibben know. You who are already members are welcome to attend and will benefit by reviewing what you were taught when you were little whippersnappers! Letters to potential class participants will go out early in December.



THEY SHALL
NAME HIM
EMMANUEL,
WHICH MEANS,
"GOD IS
WITH US."

MATTHEW 1:23

TRINITY'S MISSION STATEMENT: The purpose of Trinity Lutheran Church is to proclaim Jesus Christ to our members, our community, our world, and to the next generation.

THE VALUES OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ARE: Strong Biblical preaching and teaching of our Lutheran heritage; fellowship in faith and love toward one another; bringing Christ's mercy and Word and deed to the community; and our Lutheran day school.

TUNE INTO THE RADIO BROADCAST EVERY SUNDAY on WITY, 980 AM or 99.5 FM and listen to The Lutheran Hour at 10:00 a.m. and Trinity's church service at 10:30 a.m. You may also listen to Trinity's service again at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evening.

WORSHIP ANEW celebrates the new life all believers have in Jesus with a 30-minute broadcast service. Christ's love is shared through weekly Scripture readings, favorite hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth. View every program at www.WorshipAnew.org or tune in Sunday mornings on channel 49 WCIX Springfield at 7:30 a.m., channel 50 CW at 8:00 a.m., or channel 2 WTWO Terre Haute at 8:00 a.m. Eastern time.

ADVENT

A Season of Preparation

PRAY FOR THESE TRINITY MEMBERS: Chuck & Rose Gates; Diane Geiken; Greg Geiken; Bob & Diana Gernand & children, Callie & Joshua; James & Linda Gieseke; Paul Gritton; John & Karen Grove; Brant Hackman; Mark & Joellyn Hamm; Lori Hansgen; Linda Hartley; Harriet Haussy; Paul Haussy; Phil Haussy; Cindy Heath; Ryan Heath; Elizabeth Heidrick & sons, Jacob & Curtis; Dale & Jana Henk; Dan & Judy Henk; Judy Henk; Lili Hicks; Gary & Cathy Hix; Sue Hobick; Allen & Elizabeth Hoger; Mary Ann Howell; Denise Hubbard; Davin Huber; Cole & Katie Huber & sons; Charles & Karter; Doug & Michelle Hubner & daughters, Isabella & Audrey; Bob & Pat Hubner; Heather & Stephanie Huddleston & children, Morgan, McKenzie, Wade & Gabe

BETHANY BARKS Some doubt the value of the Comfort Dog Ministry; is it worth it? I offer this answer. Monthly, Bethany visits the Danville Correctional Center (prison) on East Main Street. A normal visit includes meeting with inmates in the Chapel. Although DCC houses 1800 men, our visits are limited to 40-60 based on chapel capacity. Everyone gets to greet (pet) Bethany and ask questions after a short briefing on the Comfort Dog Ministry. The love of Bethany is the perfect transition to speak of the love of God. Many inmates are looking for something to grab onto in their life. We offer the assurance of a loving, gracious, merciful God who sent his Son into the world to save souls, even prison inmates!

Recently, a letter from an inmate came to Trinity thanking us for allowing him to visit with Bethany. He called it a *"warm and positive experience in his life."* He also included a monetary donation to the Comfort Dog Ministry. Although most do not write letters of thanks, we hear many comments thanking us for spending time at DCC. We plant the seeds of God's love.

There will be a Comfort Dog meeting Sunday, December 8, after the Divine Service.

THE DEADLINE for submissions for the January newsletter is Friday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.

SERVING IN THE LORD'S HOUSE IN DECEMBER:

Altar Guild: Judy Henk and Sharyn Klepp

Sound Schedule:

December 1 - Laura Hutchison
December 8 - Dave Tobeck
December 15 - Teresa Parish
December 22 - Chris Kienast
December 29 - Bob Hubner

Usher Captains:

December 1 - Alex Muehl/Adam Muehl
December 8 - Eric Westfall
December 15 - Jerry Jochim
December 22 - Doug Hubner/Dave Tobeck
December 29 - Cliff Peak/Terry Mourer

Communion Assistants

December 1 - Mark Gale and David Sanders
December 8 - Mark Hamm and Cliff Peak
December 15 - Brian Parke and Sam Sanders
December 22 - Matins
December 29 - Mark Gale and Mike Westfall

LWML-EUNICE NEWS (information for ALL women in the congregation)

ALL LADIES of the congregation are cordially invited to the Eunice Society Christmas party Thursday, December 12, at 12:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Mites -

The December Prayer Calendar is included in this mailing. Mites are collected the first Sunday of each month at either entrance, then sent to LWML-Central Illinois District for distribution to the various mission grants, both for our District LWML as well as for National LWML. For more information, view these websites – www.lwml-cid.org or www.lwml.org

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE wishes to thank those who submitted a time and talent survey. We had forty-five responses and are open to adding more if you missed turning one in. This will be an ongoing process, so feel free to complete one in the future or update the one you had previously submitted. Time and talent forms will remain on the table outside the church office, in the chapel and front entrance.



DECEMBER

This is a monthly prayer guide for your daily use. Each day as you pray, please feed your Mite Box in support of district and LWML Mission Grants. As you lift up the countries and mission grants listed, pray that the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ would be heard by those who live there or are served by our mite offerings.

Each country listed has been a recipient of a mission grant from Lutheran Women in Mission at some time since 1942. What a joy it is to bring these prayers to our Father's listening ears!

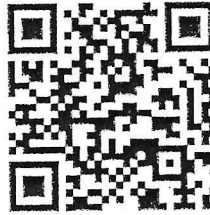


1. For the gift of Jesus, coming as a vulnerable child to open heaven to us through His sacrifice on the cross.
2. For LWML Mission Grant #28.
3. For the privilege of waking to a new day full of fresh mercy.
4. For The United Kingdom.
5. For those serving in the LWML at the local, district, and national levels.
6. For the Lutheran Women in Mission Pastoral Counselors.
7. For the country of Uruguay, one of 83 countries supported by an LWML grant.
8. For the LWML South Wisconsin District.
9. For thanksgiving of God's peace in a world of tribulation.
10. For our country, the United States of America.
11. For those who don't have enough to eat, Lord, please provide.
12. For LWML Mission Grant #29.
13. For those who need miraculous healing: spiritual and physical.
14. For our families during this Advent season.
15. For the country of Venezuela.
16. For the LWML North Illinois District.
17. For vulnerable children around the world.
18. For the tender love and mercy that the Lord shows us daily.
19. For those considering service in church vocations: pastors, deaconesses, and teachers.
20. For discernment to see the lost and hurting.
21. For LWML Mission Grant #30.
22. For those who are caregivers.
23. For the country of Vietnam.
24. For those grieving, give them hope.
25. For the birth of God's only Son.
26. For the country of Zambia.
27. For LWML Mission Grant #31.
28. For God's faithfulness to us.
29. For thanksgiving for God's amazing gift of grace in Christ Jesus.
30. For those who are persecuted because of their faith.
31. For the glory of God, may it be shown all around the world through us who profess His holy name.

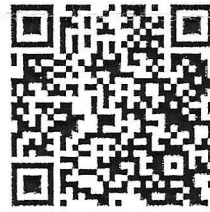
TLS Spiritwear

Trinity Lutheran School
t-shirts and hoodie sweatshirts
make great Christmas gifts!

Carts are open now, Nov. 20-Dec. 1.
Please use the QR codes or links below to order.



<https://www.imagemarket.com/2024-2025Theme>



<https://www.imagemarket.com/Back-To-SchoolT>



<https://www.imagemarket.com/EatSleepPray>

Hope Peace Love Joy

Advent Season

***Please Join Us
at***

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

for

Advent Services

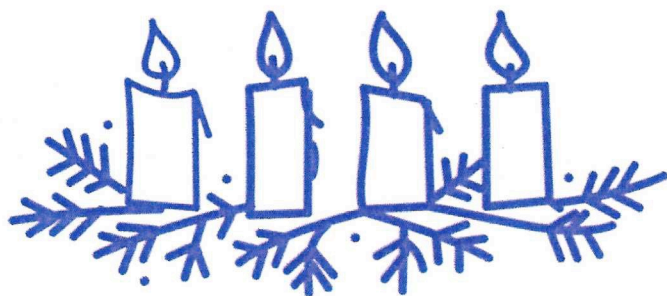
December 4 & 11

Lessons & Carols

December 18

Supper, 5:00 p.m.

Service, 6:30 p.m.



824 E Main St, Danville, IL

217. 446.4300



St. Luke

2:11

"For unto

you is

born this

day in

the city

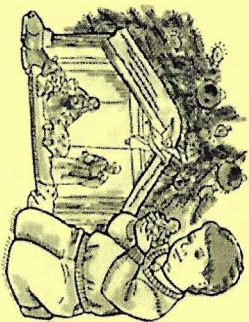
of David,

a Savior;

who is

Christ,

the Lord."



December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Advent 1 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE	2	3 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 6:00 Choir 6:15 Adult Instruction	4 8:30 Chapel 5:00 Advent Supper 6:30 Advent Service	5 9:30 Bible class	6	7
8 Advent 2 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	9	10 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 9:30 Circuit meeting & DIVINE SERVICE 6:00 Choir 6:15 Adult Instruction	11 5:00 Advent Supper 6:30 Advent Service	12 9:30 Bible class 12:30 Eunice Christmas Party	13	14
15 Advent 3 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE 11:00 Jr Confirmation	16	17 9:00 Knitting & Crocheting 6:00 Choir 6:15 Adult Instruction	18 8:30 Chapel 5:00 Advent supper 6:30 Children's Lessons & Carols	19 9:30 Bible class 5:00 TLS Board	20 12:00 TLS Dismissal	21
22 Advent 4 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 Lessons & Carols 11:00 Jr Confirmation	23	24 Christmas Eve 6:30 DIVINE SERVICE w/ candle lighting	25 Christmas Day 10:00 DIVINE SERVICE	26	27	28
29 Christmas 1 8:30 Bible Class/SS 9:30 DIVINE SERVICE	30	31 New Year's Eve 6:30 DIVINE SERVICE	the light of Christmas			
TLS CHRISTMAS BREAK		TLS	CHRISTMAS	BREAK		

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