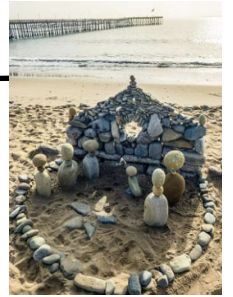




Trinity Lutheran Church

2221 North Oak Lane
State College, PA 16803

814-238-2024 www.trinitystatecollege.org
<https://www.youtube.com/user/TrinityLutheranSC/>



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

Noon

Worship Service with Communion

3:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Family Worship with Communion

7:00 pm

Candlelight Worship with
Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am

Celebration of the Nativity

SUNDAY - DECEMBER 26TH

8:15 am & 10:45 am

Worship Service with Communion

TRINITY EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

12:00 Noon Worship w/Communion

3:00 pm Worship w/Communion

5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

7:00 pm Worship w/Communion

YouTube Worship Service Recorded

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26

8:15 am Worship w/Communion

10:45 am Worship w/Communion

YouTube Worship Service Recorded

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

5:00 pm Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 2

8:15 am Worship w/Communion

10:45 am Worship w/Communion

YouTube Worship Service Recorded

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

5:30 Executive Team

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00 am Faith & Fitness in Church

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

7:00 pm Zoom Bible Study

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

10:00 am Worship w/Communion

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

8:15 am Worship w/Communion

10:45 am Worship w/Communion

YouTube Worship Service Recorded

12:00 pm Deeper Waters Zoom



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Christmas 2021

Dearly Beloved of God,



For weeks now I have listened to Christmas music on the radio. They have played all the old and new songs. In light of the current pandemic, listening to this much Christmas music has been enriching and comforting. Still Christmas seems to have come quickly again this year.

As I write this, these words by Frankie Lymon come to mind:

Merry voices raised in singing
Carols through the streets are ringing
All because it's Christmas once again

Lovers kiss in public shyly
Mistletoe was hung there slyly

All because it's Christmas once again

Little kiddies' noses flattened
On the window pane

Peeking at the dollys

And the shiny choo-choo trains

Santa's hitching up his reindeer
Has his bag packed tight
Everything is ready for the sleigh ride
Trough the night

Christmas trees with lights are twinkling
Glasses filled with snowflakes sprinkling
All because it's Christmas once again

So here's a wish we keep repeating
Please accept the season's greetings
All because it's Christmas once again

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

The song is called, “It's Christmas Once Again.” Somehow, it doesn't really feel like Christmas this year. There is far too much bad, sad news; too much doubt and fear; too much tension and stress—in so many dimensions of our lives.

Then again, hasn't that always been the case with Christmas. According to St. Matthew, Joseph plans to divorce Mary when he learns of her pregnancy and knows it is not his child. St. Luke reminds us that Mary willingly accepted her assignment from God surely not knowing what a burden she was taking on. Together they had to travel an arduous journey when Mary was in her ninth month only to find the only shelter available, a stable. There amidst the animals, and straw and barn smells, she gave birth with no one to help but Joseph. Smelly shepherds surprise the family with news about the child Mary names Jesus.

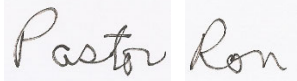
As hard as the journey was to that point, their lives would not get any easier. Though Mary and Joseph did have other children, Mary would find herself a single parent far too soon. She would not understand Jesus' ministry and calling. She would suffer fears for her Firstborn's health and well-being. She would grieve in pain as she would watch her beloved Jesus die a miserable death on a cross. This Gospel story made possible, “All because it's Christmas once again.”

So, once again we celebrate the Christmas, the birth of the Messiah, Christ the Lord. We will gather to celebrate the coming of light and life to us and all the world. This Good News may not make life easier, but it certainly makes life possible, giving us hope to dream new dreams about how the world could be. It gives us strength do what we can to make a difference in the lives of those we love and those we meet. It empowers us for the living of these days, “All because it's Christmas once again.”

May this Christmas season bring us renewed joy, hope, peace and love as we celebrate the coming of Christ the Lord, rejoicing in this Good News, “All because it's Christmas once again!”

God’s richest blessings to you and yours this Holy Season and throughout the New Year!

Peace, joy and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Ron". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor Ron

SAFETY REMINDERS

Given the continued spread and threat of COVID-19, especially the omicron variant, please exercise good judgment to keep you, your family and others here at Trinity safe.

1. If you have not been fully vaccinated, including getting a booster, it would be best if you did not attend worship.
2. We strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask throughout the worship service you attend.
3. We will sing at some of the services, but we will only sing one verse of each of the hymns for safety’s sake.
4. We will include the traditional candle lighting and have metal thimbles available to snuff out the candles rather than blowing them out.
5. Practice social distancing of six feet or more. If you are seated and you are not comfortable with how close others are to you, feel free to move to a more appropriate place.
6. The pews have been roped off to support social distancing. Additional chairs will be placed in the back of the worship space.

We realize these are trying times, but as always, we here at Trinity do not want to be part of the problem. Instead, we want to support behaviors that help minimize the spread of the virus. Your support and understanding are greatly appreciated!



PRAYER LIST

TLC DISCIPLES

Jerry Wion, Carol Bernlohr, Dee Kiel,
Linda Leslie, Roger Glad, the Brownson Family

TLC FRIENDS

Rita Shetler, Laurel, Micki Smith, Audre, Mark,
Betsy, Ed Petersen, Carla Proby, Ruth Rhodes

All TLC friends names will be removed next week.

Readings 12/26

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm 148
Colossians 3:12-17
Luke 2:41-52

Readings 1/2/22

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:[1-9]10-18



Happy Birthday!

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Angela Garritano	1
Melissa Phillips	1
Eric Fedorko	5
Laurie Smith	5
Elowen Kendall	9
Rick Whitmer	9
Dolores Kiel	10
Alexa Oselinsky	11
David Oselinsky	12
Dee Frisque	13
Sean Grubbs	15
William Adams	16
Barbara Roberts	16
Noelie Garritano	17
Bette Larson	18
Kevin Trostle	19
Dennis Weidel	23
Jane Weller	24
Gina Motter	25
Liam Merritt	29
Scott Crain	30
Nancy Owens	31

Memoir Club



Do you have a story to tell? A cherished memory to recapture? Of course you do. EVERYONE does. Now you have an opportunity to not only share your story but also hear others tell THEIRS.

A Memoir club is forming at Trinity. At least the first few meetings will be via Zoom, starting Thursday, January 13th, at 7 PM. Carol Smith will be facilitating.

Everyone from ages 16 to infinity are welcome to attend this initial INFORMATION meeting where we will discuss exactly what a memoir group is, what the format is like, etc..

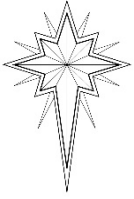
It's a wonderful way to shake off the post holiday blues, get to know others, and spend some winter evenings reminiscing.

If you are interested in learning more, please email Beth at tlcoffice2@comcast.net so she can make sure you receive the Zoom invitation via email.

Any questions? Feel free to contact Carol Smith at



From the Office of the Bishop



As I was leaving the Synod office late one evening early in Advent, I got caught up in a parade of about 20 cars on 12th Avenue in Altoona. Each of the cars had on its roof a lighted menorah. They were clearly following a route as they carefully changed lanes together to get to their destination. I treated it like a funeral procession so as not to get in the middle of what seemed like a carefully planned event but followed closely behind.

I had all kinds of questions about what they were doing and where they were going. As we traveled along 12th Avenue, my questions diminished as I realized of course, these Jewish drivers were in the midst of celebrating Hanukkah, the Festival of Light. Each of their cars was carrying light. As I followed the cars through town, I realized I was following that light and that meant something to me on that cold, dark night after a long day.

Aren't we, too, called to follow the light? We call that light Jesus who came into the world in the form of baby and a light in the sky led the shepherds to see "this thing that had happened." While I did not turn off my route to home to see where the cars were going, the sense of being part of the trail of light those drivers were leaving has stayed with me.

The little child in the manger, who we celebrate at Christmas, came to be light in a dark world. The light of His love is in each of us and we have the ability to leave a trail of light wherever we go so that those who are traveling on a cold, dark night will see it and want to follow. And we don't get to do that just at Christmas; this Light is the Light of the World, the Light that overcomes the darkness, the Light that heals, restores and renews. Friends, you have been given this Light as a gift. I invite you to share that gift with as many as you can as often as you can throughout this season and all through the new year. My prayer for you in this season of Christmas is that you will embrace the light of Christ that is in you and be empowered to shine that Light in dark places.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a safe and hope-filled New Year.

+Bishop Paula

