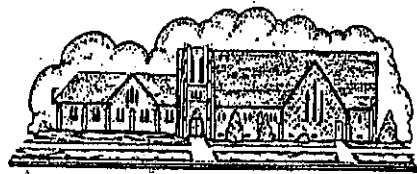


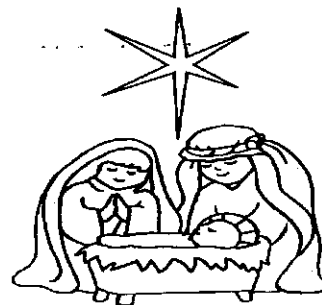
May you enjoy Peace, Love, and Happiness this Christmas!



TRINITY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

No. 319



Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA—Jim Rach, Lay Minister
225 Cty Hwy 6—PO Box 374—Clinton, MN 56225

And on into the holiday season...

The Christmas season brings to us a time of activity. We can find many things to enjoy and participate in, which makes this season such a special one for many of us.

My hope in this time of gathering of families and loved ones, and in our celebrations, is that we do not forget the message that our God has given to us – how much more important it is to be with each other than to simply try to do things for each other.

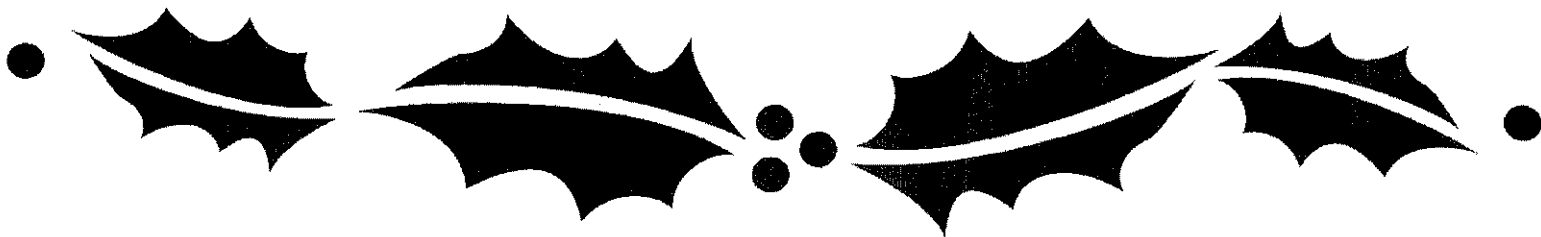
Giving gifts and hosting parties are good things, but do not miss the chance in this season to connect and to reconnect with the people we care so much about. Do not let your desire to please and to do for your loved ones get in the way of your sharing the time to truly be with them, and leave you at the end feeling you missed out on all the meaning.

Your friends and family want you to be with them. Follow the message that God sent to us in this season, his desire to come and live with us.

And may you all have a blessed Christmas season.

Jim





Christmas at Holden & Trinity

Holden Christmas Program ~ Sunday, Dec. 15th
during 10:30 worship followed by a potluck dinner

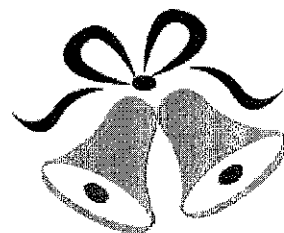
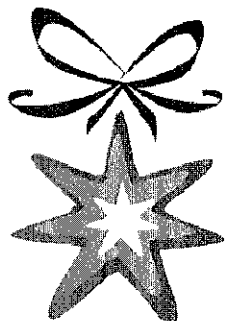
Trinity Sunday School Christmas Program ~ Sunday, Dec. 15th
at 4:00 followed by Youth Supper

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th

Holden ~ Communion Worship at 3:00

Trinity ~ Communion Worship at 5:00



Trinity Women of the ELCA Christmas Pot Luck
Wednesday, December 4th at 5:30



Holden & Trinity Councils

The Joint Meeting of the Holden & Trinity Church Councils
will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 7:00 at Trinity.

The regular December Trinity Council meeting will be
held that evening at 6:00.



O, Heavenly
O, Heavenly
Tree



A
Christmas
tree, with
colored lights
and shiny decorations,
can teach me how
to worship God
and show my adoration.

The branches of the Christmas tree
all point to heaven above. That's where I look
to Jesus. He's my Savior, whom I love.

The lights shine like the angels on the night
of Jesus' birth. I thank God for
that greatest gift: a Light for all the earth.

The Christmas tree is evergreen.
Its color never fades. I'll praise the Lord forever
for God's never-ending grace. I'm glad to
share the happy news that Jesus came for me.
I'll point the way
to him each day
just like my Christmas tree.

Trinity Women...our annual appeal letter will be coming soon to seek donations so we can continue our tradition of giving to many organizations and missions: locally, statewide, nationwide, and internationally. A Christmas stocking will be hung in the narthex for your envelope. It can also be mailed to Trinity: PO Box 374, Clinton, MN, 56225.

Collections will continue through December with distribution of the funds in early 2020.



Who Started Christmas ?!?

This morning I heard a story on the radio of a woman who was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable, and after hours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids. She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year – overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, get that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, make sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

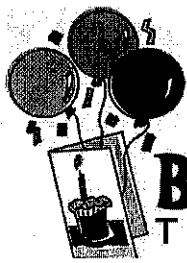
The elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff.

When the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore and stated,
"Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up, and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet, calm voice respond,

"Don't worry. We already crucified him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator
it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

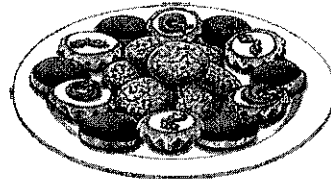
December

- 2 Greg Ward
- 4 Bette Weinman
- 5 Chris Hauschild, Nathan Moberg
- 6 Shirl Botker
- 7 Jodi Morrill
- 8 Lucas VanHoorn
- 11 Riley Nelson, Charles Stattelmann
- 12 Donna Arndt, Jay Thorson
- 14 Keith Anderson, Chalmer Combellick
- 15 Benjamin Athey, Ashley McLain
- 16 Shawn Arndt
- 17 Renee Schwagerl
- 18 Jackie Hauschild, Kelsey Nelson
Ernie Tharaldson
- 19 Lori Hynnek, Xavier Popplar
- 20 Candy Arndt
- 22 Diana Basta
- 23 Sara Fuhrman, Ryan Stattelmann
- 24 Meri Custard
- 25 Greg Basta
- 27 Kerri Herberg
- 30 Marissa Roscoe
- 31 Jim Haukos, Kayla Moberg

These birthdates come from the computer membership program, *Revelations*. Please give your information to the office if your name has been missed.

Holden Christmas Giving...

Holden women are making Christmas cookies for shut-ins, etc. Please bring them to church on **December 8th**.



NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,
read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.

LUKE

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus' life
and wake up Christmas morning
knowing WHO and WHY
we celebrate!!!



ChrisTmAs TonguE TwistErS

Paul's presents present particular problems placed parallel to pink poinsettias.

Hollie hangs holly here hopping happy holidays hurry.

Tree trimmers try to trim trees while Tracy tastes treats.

Wrapping warped wreaths risks ruining weather wilted wood.

Youthful yeoman yodel yule yarns while yatching.

Santa seems seriously sick since Sally served sour salmon soup.

Santa sat slowly on a soft chair with his sack on his back.

Silly snowmen slide with slick scarfs down the slow slope.

Rudolph roars with red anger and a red as rose nose.

Winter whacks whistley wind.

Snowballs simply slowly hit the slick ground unless they hit you sorrowfully.



Jesus is Better Than Santa

Santa lives at the North Pole.	JESUS is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh	JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year	JESUS is an ever-present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies	JESUS supplies all your needs.
Santa comes down your chimney uninvited	JESUS stands at your door and knocks. and then enters your heart.

You have to stand in line to see Santa	JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.
Santa lets you sit on his lap	JESUS lets you rest in His arms.
Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, What's your name?"	

JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name. He knows our address too. He knows our history and future.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly	JESUS has a heart full of love.
All Santa can offer is HO HO HO	JESUS offers health, help, and hope.
Santa says, "You better not cry"	JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you.
Santa's little helpers make toys	JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes, and builds mansions.
Santa may make you chuckle, but	JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree	JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison.
We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about.
We need to put Christ back in Christmas.
Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Yes, Jesus is better; he is even better than Santa Claus!

The Grocery List... Louise Redden, a poorly dressed lady with a look of defeat on her face, walked into a grocery store. She approached the owner of the store in a most humble manner and asked if he would let her charge a few groceries. She softly explained that her husband was very ill and unable to work, they had seven children, and they needed food. John Longhouse, the grocer, scoffed at her and requested that she leave his store. Visualizing the family needs, she said, "Please, sir! I will bring you the money just as soon as I can." John told her he could not give her credit, as she did not have a charge account at his store. Standing beside the counter was a customer who overheard the conversation between the two. The customer walked forward and told the grocer that he would stand good for whatever she needed for her family. The grocer said in a very reluctant voice, "Do you have a grocery list?" Louise replied, "Yes sir" "O.K." he said, "put your grocery list on the scales and whatever your grocery list weighs, I will give you that amount in groceries." Louise hesitated a moment with a bowed head, then she reached into her purse and took out a piece of paper and scribbled something on it. She then laid the piece of paper on the scale carefully with her head still bowed. The eyes of the grocer and the customer showed amazement when the scales went down and stayed down. The grocer, staring at the scales, turned slowly to the customer and said begrudgingly, "I can't believe it." The customer smiled and the grocer started putting the groceries on the other side of the scales. The scale did not balance so he continued to put more and more groceries on them until the scales would hold no more. The grocer stood there in utter disgust. Finally, he grabbed the piece of paper from the scales and looked at it with greater amazement.

It was not a grocery list, it was a prayer which said, "Dear Lord, you know my needs and I am leaving this in your hands". The grocer gave her the groceries that he had gathered and stood in stunned silence. Louise thanked him and left the store. The customer handed a fifty-dollar bill to the grocer and said, "It was worth every penny of it."

*Only God knows how much a prayer weighs.
So many of us do not take advantage of the power God has given us.*

A prayer!

Trinity Church Council – October 2019

Present: K Stattelmann, J Morrill, H Zimmel, D Maher, K Moberg,
J Bohlen, R Stotesbery, J Rach

Also present: Bonnie Stotesbery.

Call to order by Josh

Opening devotions led by Jim

Secretary's report approved as submitted.

Motion Kelly, second Haley

Treasurer's report approved as submitted.

Motion Jodi, second Kelly

Committee Reports:

- Education: Confirmation is going well. We are looking for someone to do confirmation pictures. Several options were discussed.
- Evangelism & Worship: none
- Property and Management: There was a discussion on the condition of the shingles and the condition of the bathrooms in the basement.
- Stewardship: none
- Outreach: Our outreach project is the Paw Pantry. Collected items will be delivered.
- Parish board: none
- St Pauli: none

Old Business

1. Sale of the Nelson property: Closing is the 18th of October. Jodi will check with the synod to find out available investments for the funds.
2. Confirmation Sunday is October 27th.

New Business

1. Newsletters: There will be a stack of printed newsletters available for those who do not have them emailed. It will be encouraged for members to provide the church office with their email addresses.
2. The Christmas shoebox shipping charges will be taken out of the Thrivent Funds. Motion Jodi, second Randy.
3. Pastor Kathryn from the Synod office will be out to talk to council members from both churches on Sunday, October 20th after worship.
4. Plans are being made to once again host a Thanksgiving meal for community members. More details will follow.
5. Minister Bev is doing well but does not want a celebration at this time.

Close with the Lord's prayer.

Motion by Haley to adjourn, second Kelly.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Maher, secretary.

Trinity Activity of Funds October 2019

General	Bal. 10/1	53,045.46
	Income	7,553.40
	Expenses	- 9,769.44
	Trans. to Special Funds	- 901.64
	Bal. 10/31	49,927.78
Chaperone	Bal. 10/31	3,652.95
Discipleship	Bal. 10/31	10.28
Long Range Repairs	Bal. 10/1	24.54
	Income	820.00
	Bal. 10/31	844.54
Olai Steen Scholarship	Bal. 10/1	5,311.54
	Income	36.64
	Bal. 10/31	5,348.18
TLC Scholarship	Bal. 10/31	1,484.66
Memorials	Bal. 10/1	4,206.05
	Income	45.00
	Bal. 10/31	4,251.05
Thrivent	Bal. 10/31	9,373.21

Total balance of all special funds: \$24,964.87

Combined General & Special Funds: \$74,892.65

St. Pauli Maintenance Fund:

Bal. 10/1	\$10,213.28
Income	900.00
Interest	.45
Bal. 10/31	11,113.73

Memorial Money Market

Bal. 10/1	\$ 105,200.53
Income	.00
Interest	17.87
Bal. 10/31	105,218.40

Follow us! Do you follow the ELCA on social media?

Keep informed with church news, events, pictures, and videos across many platforms.

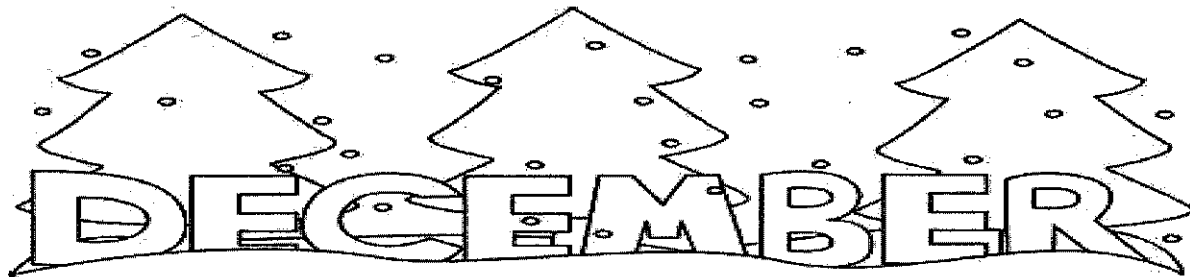
Facebook at

Facebook.com/Lutheran;

@ ELCA on Twitter;

**@ ELCA on Instagram and
YouTube.com/ELCA.**

TIME is ~ Too slow for those who wait, Too swift for those who fear,
Too long for those who grieve, Too short for those who rejoice,
But for those who love ~~~ TIME is not.



HOLDEN

Altar: Cindy Smart & Sharon Trulson
Janitors & Ushers: Murray & Cindy Smart
 Mike & Sharon Trulson

www.holdenluthran.wordpress.com
 E-mail: trinity008@centurytel.net

TRINITY

Altar Guild: Donna Moberg & Joette Strobel
Communion Assistant: Josh Bohlen &
 Chuck Folkens
Acolytes: Garrett Basta & Jareem Patterson

www.trinitylutheranclinton.net
 Office: 320.325.5178

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 First Sunday of Advent 8:45 Holden Communion Worship 9:30 Trinity Sunday School and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Communion Worship 2:00 T Christmas Decorating	2	3	4 9:00 T Quilting 5:30 T WELCA Pot Luck Christmas 5:30 Communion Worship at T	5	6	7 Nikki Radosevich & Kyle Roike Wedding
8 Second Sunday of Advent 8:45 Holden Communion Worship 9:30 Trinity Sunday School and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Communion Worship	9	10	11 9:00 T Quilting 1-5:00 H Quilting at Schoons 5:30 Communion Worship at T 6:00 T Council 7:00 Joint T & H Church Council	12	13	14
15 Third Sunday of Advent 8:45 Trinity Communion Worship 9:45 Trinity SS & Coffee Hour 10:30 Holden Christmas Program and Potluck Dinner 4:00 Trinity SS Christmas Program followed by Youth Supper	16 ←TIME CHANGE	17	18 9:00 T Quilting 5:30 Communion Worship at T	19	20 6:00 Dybdahl Baptisms at Trinity	21
22 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 Holden Communion Worship 9:30 Trinity Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Communion Worship	23	24 3:00 Holden Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 Trinity Christmas Eve Worship	25	26		28
29 First Sunday of Christmas 8:45 Holden Worship 9:30 Trinity Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Worship	30	31	Confirmation Schedule <u>Dec. 4, 11, 18</u> 4:00-4:45 7 th 4:45-5:30 8 th			