



Tidings

A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY
CHURCH
WAUWATOSA

“Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited.” – Thomas Merton

Dear People of God:

I've been thinking quite a bit about the above quote from Thomas Merton. I'll admit to being fairly far removed from the "hustle and bustle" that fills the days before Christmas for so many people. I'll also admit I've learned no amount of pleading or cajoling from the priest will help folks slow down (calendars just don't work that way). We live in a culture in which commitments are squeezed into every available time slot.

This is why the Merton quote is so startling. Christ comes into our world and our lives even when we don't make room for him! The Incarnate love of God will not be thwarted — even by our perceived busyness. Maybe the task of Advent isn't to "make space" for God's love as much as it is to realize God's love is among us already, and to recognize that Divine Love whenever, wherever and however it appears.

People often comment to me in the days leading up to Christmas about this time of year being "my busy season." I usually respond with some version of, "it's a different sort of busy, because Advent and Christmas are seasons of opportunity for folks to reconnect with the reason we Christians celebrate the Birth of Christ in the first place."

My prayer for all of you is that as you make your way through these coming days, you will catch glimpses of God's grace in the midst of the "hustle and bustle." I encourage you to use the following prayer in your daily devotions between now and Christmas Day:

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for the Fourth Sunday of Advent)

Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

The Rev'd Gary B. Manning, Rector

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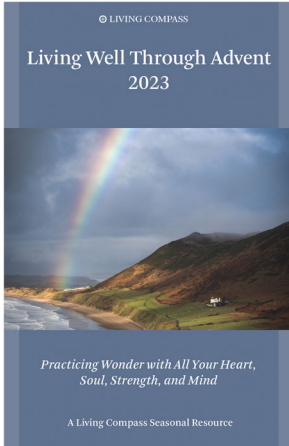
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Friday Family Fellowship

The First Friday Fellowship group will meet on
December 1 at 6:00 pm.

This month's theme is Middle East Food in honor of Bethlehem.
Please R.S.V.P. to Emily Watkins (jimandemily@gmail.com)

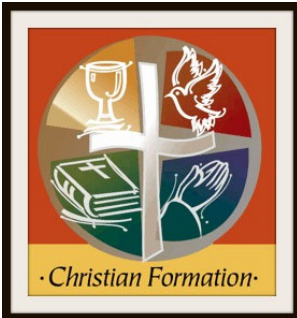


Walking In Wonder — A Pre-Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 2, 2023—9:00 am until noon

At Trinity Church

Join Scott Stoner and Gary Manning for a morning of reflection and contemplation as we anticipate the season of Advent. This is the perfect opportunity to carve out several hours for quiet ahead of the busyness of the holiday season. The morning will feature times for solitude and discussion. Scott and Gary will also introduce participants to two brief "contemplative walking" experiences. There is no charge for this event, but we would like to have an idea of how many folks to prepare for, so please let Gary know if you're planning to attend by emailing him at gary@livingcompass.org.



Christian Formation Classes continue...

Students and teachers meet at 9:00 am downstairs. Look for the signs outside each classroom door.

The nursery is open at 9:00 am with paid staff member Allison Corn and a second rotating adult volunteer. **The nursery is also open during the 10:00 am Liturgy if you and your child need a break.**

Please note: The nursery will be closed on December 24 and December 31

The December schedule is as follows:

December 3, 10, 17 (No Christian Formation on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31)

Young Artists Needed

We have a special art project we will be working on during Sunday School through the Advent season. The artwork created will be printed and utilized during the 4pm Christmas Eve liturgy. If you have not been able to join us for Sunday School previously, don't let that stop you from attending now. Sunday School meets at 9:00 am in the downstairs classrooms.



Adult Forum meets in the Parish Hall at 9:00 am

For Advent, the Adult Forum will reflect on *Our Lady, Undoer of Knots* based on a book by Marge Fenelon. As a member of the Catholic Press Association, she traveled with Pope Francis to the Holy Land in 2014, heard him implore the faithful to pray unceasingly for peace, and was inspired by the Pope's devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots. It occurred to her that the conflicts in the Middle East include so many knots—the

knot of injustice, the knot of separation, the knot of confusion, and so many more. "Conflict doesn't only occur in the Middle East;" Fenelon writes, "it occurs in our personal lives as well, and even at our dinner tables."

Come join us as we explore some of these knots during this season of searching for peace, both on the global stage and personally. We'll pray to let go of these knots, to turn ourselves over to Christ through his mother.



Taizé-style Service

Sunday, December 3, 4:00 p.m.

A Taizé-style service for the 1st Sunday of Advent! A candlelit time for quiet and meditation to begin the season of Advent and to prepare for Christmas, featuring chants from the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé, France. Any instrumentalists interested in helping to lead the music please contact Curt Sather, Director of Music at music@trinitywauwatosa.org. There will be a musical rehearsal at 3:00 p.m. preceding the service for anyone wishing to learn the chants and assist in leading the singing.



The Men's Group meets on the first Monday of the month!

All men are welcome to join Gary Manning and Joe Thulin for a time of fellowship.

The next meeting date is December 4 beginning at 6:30 pm.



Episcopal Youth Community (EYC)

Details are sent via email. If you would like to be on the email list for EYC, please contact Gary Manning at tosapriest@gmail.com.

Trinity Youth Group Calendar—December 2023/June 2024

December 10 -- Trinity EYC – Advent Party! Location TBD, 5-7 pm

January 14 -- Trinity EYC – IRON CHEF RETURNS! @Trinity Church, 5-7 pm

February 4 -- Trinity EYC – Movie Night! @Trinity Church, 5-7 pm

February 25 -- MKE Youth Collab – Meet at St. Paul’s Church, 5-7 pm

March 17 -- MKE Youth Collab – Meet at St. Paul’s Church, 5-7 pm

April 7 -- Trinity EYC – Activity TBD – @Trinity Church 5-7 pm

April 21 -- MKE Collab – Meet at St. Paul’s Church, 5-7 pm

May 5 – Trinity EYC – Afternoon Outing, TBD, 3-5 pm

May 19 – Trinity EYC – Cookout w/ Parents, Siblings and “Rising” 6th Graders!
@Trinity Church, 5-7 pm

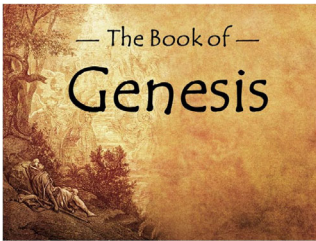
June 14 & 15 -- MKE Collab Service Project – Overnight Event. Details to Follow

BLANKET MINISTRY

Trinity has shared over 250 blankets with both Children's Cath lab and Kathy's House. We were blessed with several grants which helped us with this ministry. As always, you are welcome to help tie the blankets or you may take some and tie them at home. We also decided to add preparing supper for the guests at Kathy's House. We served a wonderful picnic dinner on November 9th which was a big hit for the guests. Now we are hooked!

The next blanket tying date is December 11 from 10:00 am to Noon in the parish hall. We will be serving dinner for the guests at Kathy's House on





The Wednesday Evening Zoom Bible Study

continues!

There will be one session in December:

On **December 13 at 7:00 p.m.**, we will discuss Genesis, chapters 25-28.

Zoom Meeting Bible Study Credentials are:

Meeting ID: 850 3195 1433 -

Passcode: 354418

Advent and Christmas Music Sunday, December 17 4:00 pm



Curt Sather will perform a recital on the pipe organ at Trinity featuring music of Advent and Christmas. The audience will participate in singing carols, and, in addition to sacred music of the season, there will be movements from the Nutcracker Suite.

This special event is free and open to all!

Come and celebrate the season of Advent and Christmas!



ADVENT IS HERE!

The flower committee needs to know how many greens and flowers to purchase since this is not a budgeted item. You can help them by completing this form and returning it to the parish office or dropping it into the Sunday offering plate. Thank you! The deadline is December 18.

Your name(s) _____

Phone/email _____

Suggested donation \$30

In Thanksgiving for:

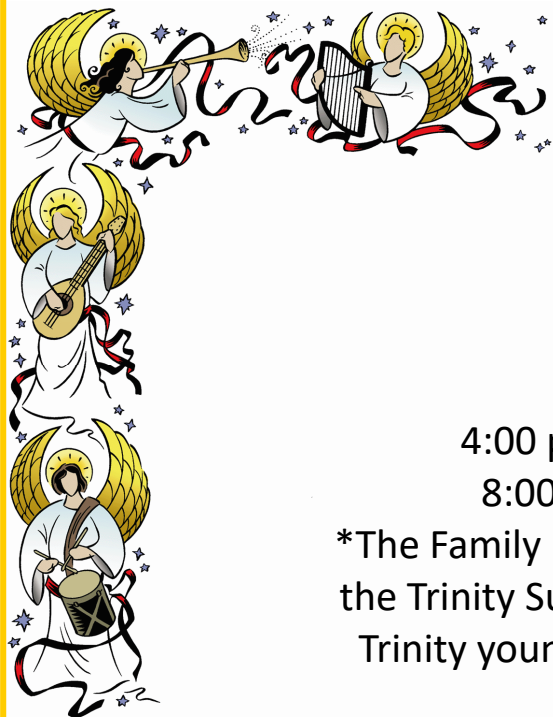
In Memory of:



Please help decorate the outside of the church on

**Saturday,
December 23 at
10:00 am.** We

will be hanging the greens outside in preparation for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. Please direct your questions to Barb Neils at bneils48@gmail.com or 715-250-4865.



Christmas Eve Day

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Advent 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Family Friendly Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

8:00 pm Festival Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*The Family Friendly service will feature bulletin artwork from the Trinity Sunday School, a reading of the Christmas Story by Trinity young people, and congregational singing of favorite Christmas Carols.

Christmas Day Liturgy

Monday, December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Nativity, Rite II

Tips regarding 2023 Year-end Contributions From Beth Vogel, Treasurer

*If possible, please pay your remaining 2023 pledge before year end. Any contribution received on or before December 31, 2023, will be reported on your 2023 Contribution Statement, and, therefore, can be used as a 2023 tax deduction. The 2023 Contribution Statements will be sent out the last week of January 2024.

*To be sure any year-end contributions are credited for 2023 tax purposes, the contribution must be at the church no later than Sunday, December 31, 2023. If no one is in the office, just drop the contribution through the mail slot. The mail slot is located east of the parking lot doors. If you drop it in the mail; it needs to be postmarked on or before December 31, 2023.

*Please indicate on your check to what account the contribution should be credited (i.e., prepaid 2024 pledge, 2023 pledge, Christmas flowers, Christmas offering, memorials, weekly flowers, rector's discretionary account, etc.) If you have any questions, contact the church office, and leave a message for Barbara Thompson, Financial Secretary, or Beth Vogel, Treasurer. You can also email Beth at treasurer@trinitywauwatosa.org.

***NOTE:** January 1 – November 12, 2023, Contribution Statements were mailed the week of November 20, 2023. Please review them and contact Beth with any questions or corrections.



Meta House Advent Project

As we have been hearing in the news and many of us know from our own experience with family and friends, addiction takes a devastating toll on health, healthy relationships and livelihoods. Meta House has been a residential treatment center for women since 1963. Watch for gift tags for the women and their children in residence to be posted on the library windows on December 3. Items due Sunday, December 17. A sampling includes diapers various sizes, baby bottles, 2024 planners, journals and gratitude journals, crafting kits, coloring and activity books, gel pens, markers, slippers and slides, nail polish, hairbrushes, combs, blow dryers, plugin headphones, kids toys for 12 and under, board games, puzzles and playing cards. All items must be new, unused, and unopened.

Awesome Auction for Outreach 2023

The total raised for the Awesome Auction was **\$21,114.50!! Woohoo!**

A lot of work and fun yielded a great night with over 80 people in attendance. There were three fund raising events prior to the night of the auction which raised over \$1200. The Eisenmann Family and Nancy Huber created the game environment. Erik Eisenmann and his group played Family Feud, Minute to Win It and the Price is Right. The participants had a great time. The "Ask Me" supported the Wisconsin Humane Society and Forward Scholars which raised another \$3000 (included in the above total). Thank you to everyone who donated an item or who bid on the many items we had for sale. It takes everyone to raise money for this important event. This years total is \$1200 more than what was raised last year. This indeed was a team effort.

Thank you to the talented Awesome Auction Committee Members who donated endless hours of their time to make the Auction a success: Lynn Fohr, Beth Vogel, Jacob Thornberry, Melissa Paradowski, Marlene Udovich, Joan Pfeil, Barb Hagon, Liz Paulsen, Jenice Carolan, Cheryl Thulin, Mary Szulczewski, Ann Brophy, Claudia Roessl, Erik Eisenmann, and Jill Paradowski.

Volunteer Delivery Help Needed!!

The clothing and other items that are donated to Trinity Church are sorted and placed in bags. The bags are then put on a cart downstairs in the outreach room. The key to the outreach room is in the parish office. **Once a month** the bags are delivered to either **Street Angels** located at 125 N 120 who receive deliveries from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Wednesday and Friday, or the bags may be delivered to **Father Gene's** 5919 W. National. They receive deliveries from Monday through Thursdays from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

"Dinner to Go" bagged lunches are prepared on the third Friday of the month. The lunches are in boxes in the parish hall and ready to be delivered to **The Gathering at Ascension Church** 1236 S. Layton on the following Saturday between 9:30 am and 10:30 am.

Interested volunteers to make any of the above deliveries please contact Jill Paradowski at jill.paradowski@gmail.com for more information.

Sacred Spaces

The Indigenous People of the American Southwest built and continue to build, a sacred space called a Kiva. It is usually an underground chamber, covered with wooden beams with an opening in the center of the roof. The Kiva is entered and exited by means of a Kiva ladder. Inside you're in darkness. When your eyes adjust, you see the pinpoint of light in the roof. It is a sacred space. A kiva is a space used by Pueblo dwellers for rites and political meetings, many of them associated with the kachina belief system. Among the modern Hopi and most other Pueblo peoples, "kiva" means a large room that is circular and underground, and used for spiritual ceremonies. During my time living in New Mexico, I visited the great Kiva of Chaco Canyon – truly a wonder of the ancient world. <https://newmexiconomad.com/chaco-canyon-national-historical-park/>



The Ladder to the Light by Steven Charleston shows us a way to climb the ladder in the kiva as a mediation on aspects of our spiritual lives. Each rung of the ladder is given a chapter on our spiritual lives. The bottom rung is Faith. This is followed by Blessing Hope, Community, Action, Truth, Renewal, Transformation and finally the emergence into the light.

Steven Charleston is an indigenous elder of the Choctaw nation and a retired Episcopal

Bishop. Rev. Michael Curry says about *The Ladder to Light*: "Here is wisdom born out of a lifetime of listening faithfully to the voice of God. Here is wisdom we need for the living of these days."

This book (of his many) has helped me on my own spiritual journey. He intersperses his wisdom with his daily messages he receives during his morning prayer ritual. He shares these messages on Facebook! The journey through the Kiva provides wonderful imagery and guidance. I hope you will look at his works and become a follower of him on the 'Book of Faces'. There will be a copy in Trinity's library soon.

Here is one of his FB posts:

"I am getting too old for some things. For example, I am too old to hate. I have been around long enough to learn that we are all human beings. We are different, not better. Hating others is only a form of hating yourself. I am too old to despair for I have seen the tides of life rise and fall; I am too old to be uninvolved because I know how little time we have to love; I am too old to blame for I know how often I have been mistaken myself. I am too old for some things, but caring is not one of them."

The Anit-Racist Study Group is exactly that. We study our current situation regarding discrimination, hate speech and other social issues we see today. We look at history of racism in American and in the Episcopal Church – with film, with books, with field trips and conversation. We are not exclusively a book group. We are hoping to share what we learn to help make our community a better place. All are welcome to check out books we have added to Trinity's library or join us for our monthly meeting. We will not have a meeting in December. ~ Betsy Jeffery

Foyer Groups 2024



Foyer Group 2016

Foyer Groups are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular but informal basis

for purely social reasons – to enjoy one another’s company, to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members and just to get to know other people who share a common interest in Grace but with whom we might not otherwise interact. They provide a means to develop new friendships and deepen old ones and are a way to make our parish feel smaller and warmer.

There is no agenda or plan – just casual fellowship and a refreshing meal. Groups are made up of singles, couples, young people, retired folks, etc., in other words a cross section of the parish. Out of the meetings, friendships develop among people who might not have any other opportunity to meet and get to know each other.

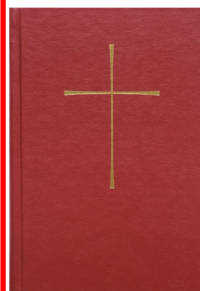
Newcomers are especially invited to join one of the groups at any time. Each small group of eight to twelve people will meet beginning in the new year, in the home of one of the members of the group. Generally, the host provides the main course while the other members fill in the rest of the meal such as appetizer, bread, salad, veggies, dessert, etc. Some groups have enjoyed gathering for a picnic lunch during good weather or even meeting at a local restaurant. Some groups have elected to study and discuss certain books, or incorporate an evening devotional into the gathering, while others gather for a purely social experience. The choice of available options is limited only by the collective imagination of the group, but the

main idea is for the gatherings to simply focus on Christian fellowship, a refreshing meal and relaxed conversation.

The groups are put together randomly in order to add an element of spontaneity, such that each of us might have the opportunity to get to know others in the parish who may be outside our normal circle of acquaintance. In other words, this is a great way to meet and get to know those you might not have a chance to visit with otherwise.

Sound interesting to you? Want to learn more about Foyer Groups? If so, keep your eyes open and your ears to the rails in the coming months for more information and a special invitation to join one of the groups that are planned to be formed in the new year. Foyer committee members are Susie Saunders email soozer518@yahoo.com, Julie DeLeon email juliedeleon@yahoo.com and Scott and Katie Wiese email katierwiese@gmail.com and srwiese@me.com.

Book of Common Prayer



At the end of January we will be placing an order for 90 copies of the Book of Common Prayer to replace some of the tired and well used books in the pews. Donations in the amount of \$25 per book are appreciated. A remembrance book plate with your name and the name of your loved one can be inserted into each book you donate. Please make your check out to Trinity Church with Book of Common Prayer on the memo line.

Book of Common Prayer

Name:

In Memory of:



Trinity Episcopal Church
Wauwatosa, WI

VESTRY CANDIDATE NOMINATION FORM

At the Annual Parish Meeting
on January 28, 2024
we will be electing new Vestry
members. Candidates must be
Communicants in Good Standing
who are willing to be elected and to
serve faithfully in the best
interest of Trinity Church.

Please get permission from the
candidate you wish to nominate,
complete this form, and return it to
the parish office.

As a committed and communing
member of Trinity Episcopal Church,
I hereby nominate

Name of nominee

who is a Communicant in
Good Standing, for election to the
2024 Vestry of Trinity Church.

Nominated by:



Thank you to the following volunteers who helped with the fall clean up of Trinity Church and the Rectory Grounds on Saturday, October 28!

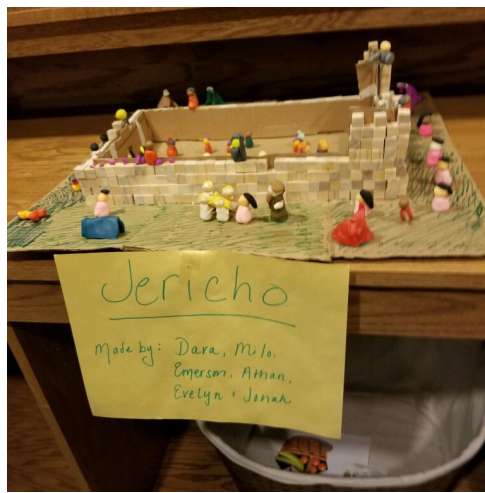
Jenice Carolan, Cindy Parman, Barb Neils, Jill Paradowski, Luke Schleif, Brook Compton, Patrick McSweeney
Laura & Raf Toro, Brendon & Auggie Dorn.



Awesome Auction Fun—Saturday, November 4!



Sunday School Project

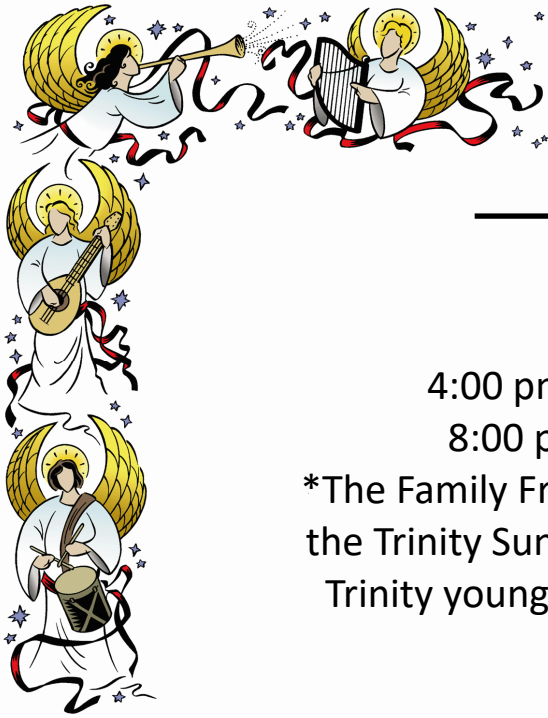


Thanksgiving Day Feast



December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00 pm First Friday Fellowship	2 9:00 am—Noon Pre-Advent Quiet Day Walking in Wonder
3 ADVENT 1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Christian Formation 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Fellowship 4:00 pm TaizéService	4 6:30 pm Men's Group	5	6	7 7:00 pm Choir Practice	8	9
10 ADVENT 2 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Christian Formation 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Fellowship 5:00 pm EYC Advent Party	11 10:00 am—Noon Blanket Tying 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg.	12	13	14 7:00 pm Choir Practice	15 6:30 pm Sandwiches for "Dinner on the Go"	16
17 ADVENT 3 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 9:00 am Christian Formation 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Fellowship 4:00 pm Organ Recital	18	19	20 7:00 pm Zoom Genesis Bible Study	21 7:00 pm Choir Practice	22	23 10:00 am Hanging of the Greens
24 ADVENT 4 8:00 am Rite 1 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Family Friendly Holy Eucharist 8:00 pm Festival Choral Holy Eucharist	25 Nativity of Our Lord 10:00 am Liturgy of the Nativity	26	27	28	29	30
31 CHRISTMAS 1 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:00 am Holy Eucharist 11:00 am Fellowship						



Christmas Eve Day

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Advent 4

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I

Christmas Eve Liturgies

Sunday, December 24

4:00 pm Family Friendly Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

8:00 pm Festival Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II

*The Family Friendly service will feature bulletin artwork from the Trinity Sunday School, a reading of the Christmas Story by Trinity young people, and congregational singing of favorite Christmas Carols.

Christmas Day Liturgy

Monday, December 25, 2023

10:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Nativity, Rite II

www.trinitywauwatosa.org

TIDINGS

Trinity Church
1717 Church Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
December, 2023

