

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICES

Family Worship at 4 p.m.

Candlelight Worship at 6 and 10 p.m.

There is no worship service on Thursday, December 27.

We will have one worship service at 9 a.m. on  
Sundays, December 23 and 30.

O Come, O wisdom from on high,  
Embracing all things far and night;  
In strength and beauty come and stay;  
Teach us your will and guide our way.  
*~O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, ELW Hymn #257*

Now is a season of waiting, of hopeful anticipation. It is Advent! It is the season of the church year when we hear the prophecy of God's salvation and anticipate the coming of our Savior at Christmas. But first! Advent! Even though carols are sung throughout the month of December and trees get decorated and children's Christmas Pageants proclaim Good News of great joy, a sacred Christmas requires us to observe Advent, to prepare our hearts for Jesus.

Now more than ever, this congregation is living in an Advent season—preparing for the future, listening to where God is calling us, wondering what is next. As our Transition Team works with Deacon Bonnie; as we bid a fond farewell and Godspeed to Lisa and John Butler; as we welcome a new staff member to the main office; as we keep listening, worshiping, growing in our faith, we are living in Advent. A season of preparation for what is to come! A season of holy anticipation!

All the preparation and anticipation of Advent lends itself to a wonderful Christmas day, or in our case, a joyful, healthy future in ministry that will continue for generations to come. Oh yes, Trinity Lutheran Church is living in a marvelous, sacred Advent season and I, for one, am thankful to be experiencing it together!

In the peace of Christ,

Pastor Amy



### JOIN US FOR A BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 16  
4 p.m.

What is a Blue Christmas? A service of peace and pause, hope and healing, comfort and calm for those who find this season challenging.

Sometimes the Christmas season sweeps past those whose heart are not in it for various reasons. Grief, illness, depression, unemployment,...can keep us from feeling the hope and joy of Advent and Christmas.

This service creates a space of solace and room for rest during a busy season. Join us to worship and be comforted by God who loves you. Please invite others who you think may be interested!



Trinity English Lutheran Church  
 314 Barrie Street  
 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538  
 Address Service Requested

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**WE EXTEND OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY TO...**George, Emily and Kyle Jaeckel and their family as they mourn the death of wife and mother, Becky Jaeckel; to Kaci Evenson and her family as they mourn the death of Bud Farnsworth; and to Dan Courtier and his family as they mourn the death of his mother, Donna Holmes. May all be comforted by God's promise of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

**PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR...**Debbie Pierce, Rhonda Cook, Linda Gallman, Ruth Smithback, Marsha Anderson, Sandy Anderson, Wanda Olson, Mary Weston, Shelley Weber Schaitel, Pat Sullivan, Zachary Vurva, Dean Hanke, Kim Hannan, Karen Weber, Donna Weeks, Angie Kratz, Glen Green, Vern Borchardt, Bryce Knuppel, Bob Moore, Linda Doerr, and Andrew Campbell.

**YEAR END INFORMATION**

As the year is quickly approaching its end, we are grateful for the continued generosity and giving hearts of our members. We are, of course, aware that the changes in the Federal tax laws this year have personal financial implications regarding charitable giving for most of us. But we ask that you continue to be mindful of your annual giving pledge, which plays such an important role in the work Trinity is able to do in our congregation, community and the ELCA as a whole. If you would like a reminder of your 2018 pledge amount, please contact Lisa at [lsbutlertlc@gmail.com](mailto:lsbutlertlc@gmail.com). Thank you and God bless you all!

The Finance Committee

Integrated Counseling Services is now Catholic Charities! The wonderful sliding scale mental health services remain the same but the funding and oversight is different. We give thanks for this beautiful ministry in our community!

Thank you, Trinity, for sharing God's love through winter items. More than 350 scarves, mittens, glove, hats and assorted coats, boots, earmuffs, etc. were given to the Fort schools and a Madison center serving the poor and homeless. You've truly warmed the hearts of others! Thank you!

The STAR Group





# Our own Lisa Butler is Moving to Florida and is Becoming a Grandma!

Please join us on **Sunday, December 16** at the 8:15 a.m. service to send Lisa off with all of our love and thanks!

After the service, we will have a reception for her in Fellowship Hall.

At 10 a.m. we will present her with her Thanks for your Service Gift.

We are compiling a book filled with Grandma advice. Her daughter and son-in-law, Abby and Zach, are having a baby boy in January...the main reason she is leaving for Florida! Please bring a note with your best Grandma advice (if you are a Grandma) or the best thing your Grandma ever did for you (if you're not a grandma).

If you can't make it to the reception, please drop your advice off at the office and say good bye!

THANKS LISA for 25 years of wonderful service to Trinity!



# Youth and Families - December 2018



## GIFT CARDS

Are you looking for great gift ideas?  
Are you looking to support the youth at Trinity? Look no further!

When you order a gift card, you get a full price gift card and Trinity Youth get a percentage of that amount back.

**WIN WIN!!**

Vendor lists and order forms are on the table in front of the office.

Please have your order form with payment made out to Trinity Youth turned in to the office by 10 am on the following Monday mornings.

Nov. 26th

Dec. 3rd

Dec. 10th

Dec. 17th

Cards should be available for pick up on the Thursday or Friday of those weeks.

Thanks for Supporting Trinity Youth!

## Christmas Neighbors

The Giving tree will be set up in the front hallway on Tuesday, Nov 20th.



We will have over 12 families that we will be supporting this Christmas. All you have to do is take a tag or tags from the tree. Each tag will have suggestions for you. There will also be tags for monetary donations that will go towards Christmas dinner and additional food items. There will be some tags that are for personal care items such as toothpaste and laundry soap.

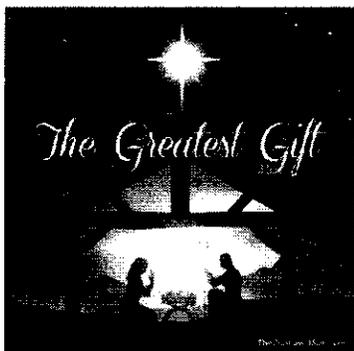
Please bring your UNWRAPPED gifts back to church by Sunday, December 16th.

## Young Adult Devotional Bible Study

Come join us for a deeper look into our faith!

Thursday, Dec. 6th 6-7pm

Thursday, Dec. 13th 6-7pm



## LIFT

Wednesday—Dec. 5th LIFT  
6:30-8:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 12th UPLIFT  
7-8:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 19th LIFT  
Christmas Neighbors

Gift Wrapping night 6:30-8:30  
(No dinner)

## Confirmation Schedule

Confirmation Class—Wed. Dec. 5th 7th grade 6-7pm

Confirmation Class—Wed. Dec. 12th 8th grade 6-7pm

Confirmation Class—Sunday Dec. 9th

Both grades 9:30-10:30am

## NOTES FOR TIDINGS:

### YOU ARE INVITED. . . . .

To a service of history and carols. On Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., we will worship by celebrating the 12 basic tenants of our faith. It's a good reminder of what our foundation is and how our faith is formed. We'll need some willing readers that day, since it is very different (no sermon!). Our basic building blocks of faith will be separated by our beloved Christmas Carols. Come, relax, worship, join in song and learn what that strange "12 Days of Christmas" song is really all about. Of course, it will include the celebration of Holy Communion as always.

Your Trinity Transition Team is hard at work. They are an amazing, dedicated group of people.

We spent our first two weeks looking at **Social/Interpersonal Wholeness** in the church at Trinity. That's defined as *"having to do with how well people are welcomed and integrated into the life of the community and how well relationships between members are built and maintained"*. What a mouthful! It was a wonderful, fruitful discussion covering lots of topics. We'll be forming small committees to drive some of the ideas of the team forward. You'll hear a lot more about that at the annual meeting. We want a group planning fellowship events. We want a group getting ministry opportunities in front of everyone and inviting people to do many things around the church. We want a group looking for fun ways to encourage our hospitality and our relationship building. We'll add small groups at some point, Bible studies, more book clubs, and perhaps some social small groups for growth. We even have a few people looking into using the building for special tutoring to link to the community in ways that are needed.

Sound like a lot? It is. It certainly is. I believe the key word here is the church being much more **deliberate** about the way we relate to each other. Putting things in place that will help us live our best faith-driven life in Christ in the world. There is much more to come. What do you need to do about all this? Stay tuned. Stay responsive. Get involved when something strikes you as your kind of activity or service. That's all. We are striving to be a welcoming congregation that is Healthy and Whole as we march forward into the future.

With the words of St. Paul, I echo: ***"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now."*** Philippians 1:3-5

## Food Pantry Thanks

Thank you for supporting the Sunday school November food collection for the Fort Atkinson Pantry. We collected enough food to overflow three shopping carts!

*God's Work, Our Hands*

## Sunday school dates to remember!

Dec. 9 – Grades 4K-4 Christmas worship rehearsal during the Sunday school hour.

Dec. 16 – Grades 4K-4 Christmas worship during the 10:45 service

Dec. 16– We **DO** have Sunday school!

Dec. 23 – **Worship at 9:00—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!**

Dec. 30 – **Worship at 9:00—NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY!**

Jan. 6 – Regular schedule for worship and Sunday school

## Give Thanks for our talented Sunday school staff

As a congregation we are richly blessed with 28 dedicated and talented Sunday school volunteers. One of the best ways to show your appreciation is to simply take a moment and write a note or personally tell the teachers and aides **thank you** for the time and talents they share with our students. The names of the volunteers are on the classroom doors.

## What is the season of Advent?

Advent is the season of the church year during which we prepare our hearts, minds, and spirits for the coming of the Christ child. The season of Advent begins four weeks before Christmas and ends with Christmas Eve. For many, this is a hectic season with demands on time and focus. We find it hard to add another layer to our already busy lives. Yet, as Christians, we are called to be different, to set aside time for God. The Bible encourages us to "Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth." Colossians 3:2  
May we set aside time to encounter God during Advent, and all seasons of our lives.

## Book for Advent personal growth and book discussion

For this Advent season, the book *Pauses for Advent* by Trevor Hudson has been selected. *The back cover of the book states:* "Join Trevor Hudson as he encourages us with daily readings that lead us to reflect on a biblical word and scripture passage." "Pausing for just a few minutes each day readies our hearts to receive the most wondrous gift of all - the Christ who is alive and present with us today and every day."

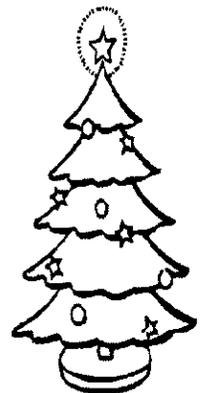
Pick up a copy of this book at the church office. The cost is \$9.00. It works best if you have the exact amount or write a check to Trinity Lutheran and mark it Advent Book. This book is set up as a daily devotional. A one-night discussion is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. in the kitchenette. The discussion will be focused on the portion of the book read up to that date. If know of others who would enjoy this type of reading and discussion, please let them know of this opportunity.

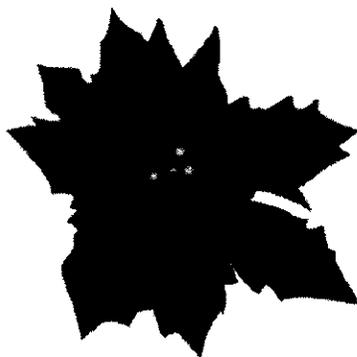
Check the bulletin board to see how grateful the women of UPAVIM are for our donation to their scholarship program. (The thank you note has a little girl on the cover.) The check arrive just in time for next year's planning, and filled a void the board thought they had. We have helped more than 20 kids go to school in 2019 and keep the tutoring center open! Well done, good and faithful servants of the Lord.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!!

We need Communion Assistants,  
Ushers and Nursery help.

Please sign up on the bulletin  
board across from the Hearth  
Room!





## POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

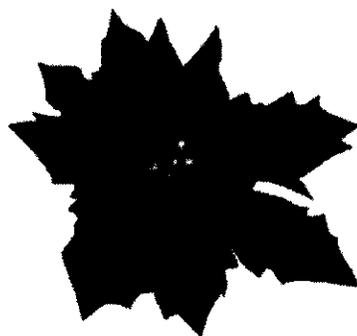
Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship! Please take your plants home after worship. Please return this order form and \$18 per plant to the church office by ***Sunday, December 9, 2018.***

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Offering envelope number: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



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Help decorate our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve worship! Please take your plants home after worship. Please return this order form and \$18 per plant to the church office by ***Sunday, December 9, 2018.***

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## DECEMBER 2018

<b>25</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Fellowship <b>9:45 AM</b> Adult Education <b>9:45 AM</b> Bells <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon <b>7:00 PM</b> Council	<b>28</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> LIFT <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>30</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>1</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Band Rehearsal
<b>2</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Worship w/Praise Band <b>9:15 AM</b> Fellowship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:45 AM</b> Bells <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship w/Praise Band	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Transition Team Meeting	<b>4</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon	<b>5</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> 7th Grade Confirmation <b>6:30 PM</b> LIFT <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite <b>6:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> Young Adult Devotionals <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>7</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Fellowship <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:45 AM</b> Bells <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship	<b>10</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Reena Worship <b>1:00 PM</b> STAR <b>6:00 PM</b> Transition Team Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> Book Discussion Group	<b>11</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Dycora Worship <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon <b>7:00 PM</b> Committees	<b>12</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> 8th Grade Confirmation <b>6:30 PM</b> UPLIFT <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite <b>6:00 PM</b> Boy Scouts <b>6:00 PM</b> Young Adult Devotionals <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>14</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> <b>8:15 AM</b> Worship <b>9:15 AM</b> Fellowship <b>9:30 AM</b> Butler Reception/Fellowship Hall <b>9:30 AM</b> Sunday School <b>9:45 AM</b> Bells <b>10:45 AM</b> Worship w/SS Christmas Program <b>4:00 PM</b> Blue Christmas Worship Service	<b>17</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Transition Team Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon <b>7:00 PM</b> Council	<b>19</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Ruth Circle <b>6:30 PM</b> LIFT <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>21</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>24</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship <b>6:00 PM</b> Worship <b>10:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>25</b> OFFICE CLOSED <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> NO WORSHIP TODAY!! <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite	<b>28</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <b>9:00 AM</b> Worship	<b>31</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>1</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> AA/AIAnon	<b>2</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Respite <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship	<b>4</b> OFFICE CLOSED!	<b>5</b>