



# Trinity Today

Vol. 22, No. 12

December 1, 2020

## Christmas Worship — Make Your Reservation Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup>

**On December 24<sup>th</sup> this year there will be three services at 3:00, 5:00, and 7:00 p.m.** in order to accommodate members and guests who want to worship in person on Christmas Eve. The decision to add a third service was based on the results of a survey of the congregation (thanks to all who took a few minutes to complete the Christmas survey). Due to COVID safety protocols seating will be limited in the Sanctuary at each service so RSVPs will be very important. The Christmas survey indicated what has been historically true at Trinity Downtown, the most popular worship time is 5:00 p.m. If you have flexibility



on December 24<sup>th</sup> to worship at another time, please choose 3:00 or 7:00 p.m. For those who are not comfortable attending in-person on Christmas Eve, streaming and on demand options will be available. The Christmas Eve service will follow the traditional format of Lessons & Carols and will include a candle lighting ceremony. However, there will not be a pageant with live animals this year.

**On Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup> there will be one service at 9:00 a.m.** that will be both in-person and live streamed with on demand available too. This Festival Service will be in a similar format as previous years with special music and beloved carols.

You will be able to make reservations for Christmas Eve/Day worship beginning on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Once the Sanctuary capacity limit has been reached those attempting to make a reservation will be instructed to select another worship time. Please be considerate of others by reserving only as many seats as are needed. If you are unable to attend at the time selected, please notify the church office as soon as possible so that the seating is available for others. Reserved seating will be released 10 minutes before the start of worship, so don't be late.

While the Governing Board and Administrative Staff are regularly evaluating the level of protocols required to protect those who attend worship in person, it is anticipated that reservations, temperature checks, health questions, and masks will still be required at Christmas time. If you are able to help with the screening process on Christmas Eve or Day, please contact Jean Minsch via email at [jaminsch@yahoo.com](mailto:jaminsch@yahoo.com).

# Chrismons - Advent Sermon Series

Monograms are two or more letters that are combined to form a symbol or logo. They are used by countries, companies, and colleges. Your favorite sports team likely has a monogram. People use them to personalize stationary, luggage, clothing and even to keep track of their underwear. The earliest known examples of monograms can be found on coins dating back to 350BC. Over the centuries, monograms of the name of Jesus Christ have been used as Christian symbols and are called Christograms.

In 1957, Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA, came across drawings of Christograms. She saw how they could be used to tell the story of the Gospel at Christmas time which led her to the idea of using them to decorate a Christmas tree. Frances called the symbols she put on the tree "Chrismons" a combination of "CHRIST" and "MONogram."

Using Chrismons to decorate Christmas trees quickly became popular in congregations across the country. They are traditionally colored white and gold (the liturgical colors for Christmas symbolizing Jesus' purity and perfection). Chrismons can be made from nearly anything but mostly commonly include the use of styrofoam and beads.



Many years ago the ladies of Trinity Downtown made Chrismons to decorate the trees in the Sanctuary. However, in the recent past these decorations have been put on a smaller tree in the Foyer. This year the Chrismons will be used again in the Sanctuary and these decorations will be the focus of the Advent Sermon Series. A team from the congregation made Chrismon kits so that you can make a Chrismon for your tree at home. The kits are available after services or may be picked up during the week. To make other arrangements to receive your kit, contact the church office at 713.224.0684.

An explanation of a Chrismon will be included with each Sunday message during Advent. In addition there will be a brief daily devotional about one of the Chrismons that you can watch on demand online. These daily devotionals will replace the in-person mid-week Advent services typically held at Trinity Downtown on Wednesdays. While this may be an unusual year, the Worship Team hopes that this Advent series will be very meaningful and lead to a joyful celebration of Christ's birth.

## Poinsettia Donations

We have ordered poinsettias (\$8.50) to adorn our worship areas on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. If you are interested in donating a plant(s) which may be taken home with you after the Christmas Day service, please complete the form [online](#) and submit your payment by mailing a check earmarked for poinsettias to the church office or submit [online](#).

There is no limit on the number of poinsettias you can order. Deadline to order poinsettias and have dedication included in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Service Folders is December 16.



# Christmas Giving Opportunities

As we gather with our families this season (perhaps virtually!) we are reminded of our neighbors that are suffering from homelessness or children in under-resourced homes that need to see a tangible expression of Jesus' love. This year, we have two opportunities for you to share the blessings that God has given to you with our neighbors.

- For many years in December, Trinity has hosted a "sit down" dinner for those that are suffering from homelessness in our community. Due to the COVID social distancing restrictions, we've re-imagined how we can accomplish this ministry in 2020. Here's the plan: during a "regular" weekday in mid-December, the sack lunch ministry will include two special gift cards in each bag:
  - A \$15 gift card to Kroger which can be used to purchase one or two hot meals at Kroger's deli counter; and
  - A \$25 gift card to Wal-Mart to purchase essentials such as socks, toiletries or food.
  - The gift cards will be inside an envelope containing a Christmas card with a message of hope.
- We are participating in LINC's "Toys for Joy" program which provides gifts to children in under-resourced households. Trinity has committed to provide 80 gift cards for distribution to high school kids who can use them to buy games, music, clothing, etc.

**You can participate in these ministries by giving online ([click here](#)), dropping a check made payable to Trinity Downtown in the donation box in the Narthex, or by mailing your donation to the church office.** Be sure to note which ministry you are supporting on your check. Trinity's staff will use the funds provided to purchase the appropriate gift cards.

Your support of either or both opportunities at whatever amount you choose will help Trinity provide a meaningful Christmas gift while sharing the love of Jesus with a neighbor in need.



## New Governing Board Members

Congratulations to the new and returning Governing Board Members elected at our November Congregational Assembly. Thank you to Bo Hopmann, Steve Maynard, and Josh Rodriguez, who term out after six years of faithful service on the Board.



Tim Grady (Elder)

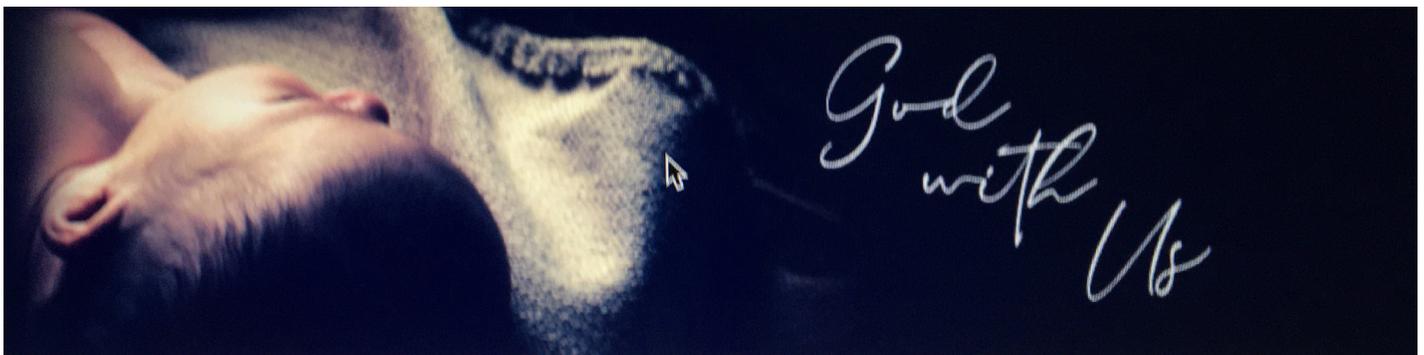


Cassandra McGarvey



Cynthia Roney

## “God with Us” - Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries



What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God's Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, “God with us.”

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He knows us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Printed devotional booklets are available at Trinity or you can view them [online](#).

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#).

# New Year's Worship

Available Online Beginning December 31st

## Hey, Trinity Family!

I am so excited that we had our first in person event! It was a blast playing laser tag and seeing kids in real life! It went off without a hitch! I am looking forward to safely doing our white elephant exchange on December 13<sup>th</sup>! I continue to connect one-on-one with families on their terms! Thank you for your support and excitement!

Blessings,  
Haley Davisson, DYCM



### 2020 GOVERNING BOARD

Jim Baccus (Elder)  
Kim Davis (Chair)  
Cindy Deere  
Delvin Dennis (Elder)  
Thomas DeVries  
Pastor Michael Dorn  
Bo Hopmann  
Dan Krueger (Elder/Vice-Chair)  
Steve Maynard (Elder)  
Janet Mueller  
Joshua Rodriguez (Elder)  
Cynthia Roney (Secretary)

Minutes of the Governing Board are available to our members at the Welcome Center.

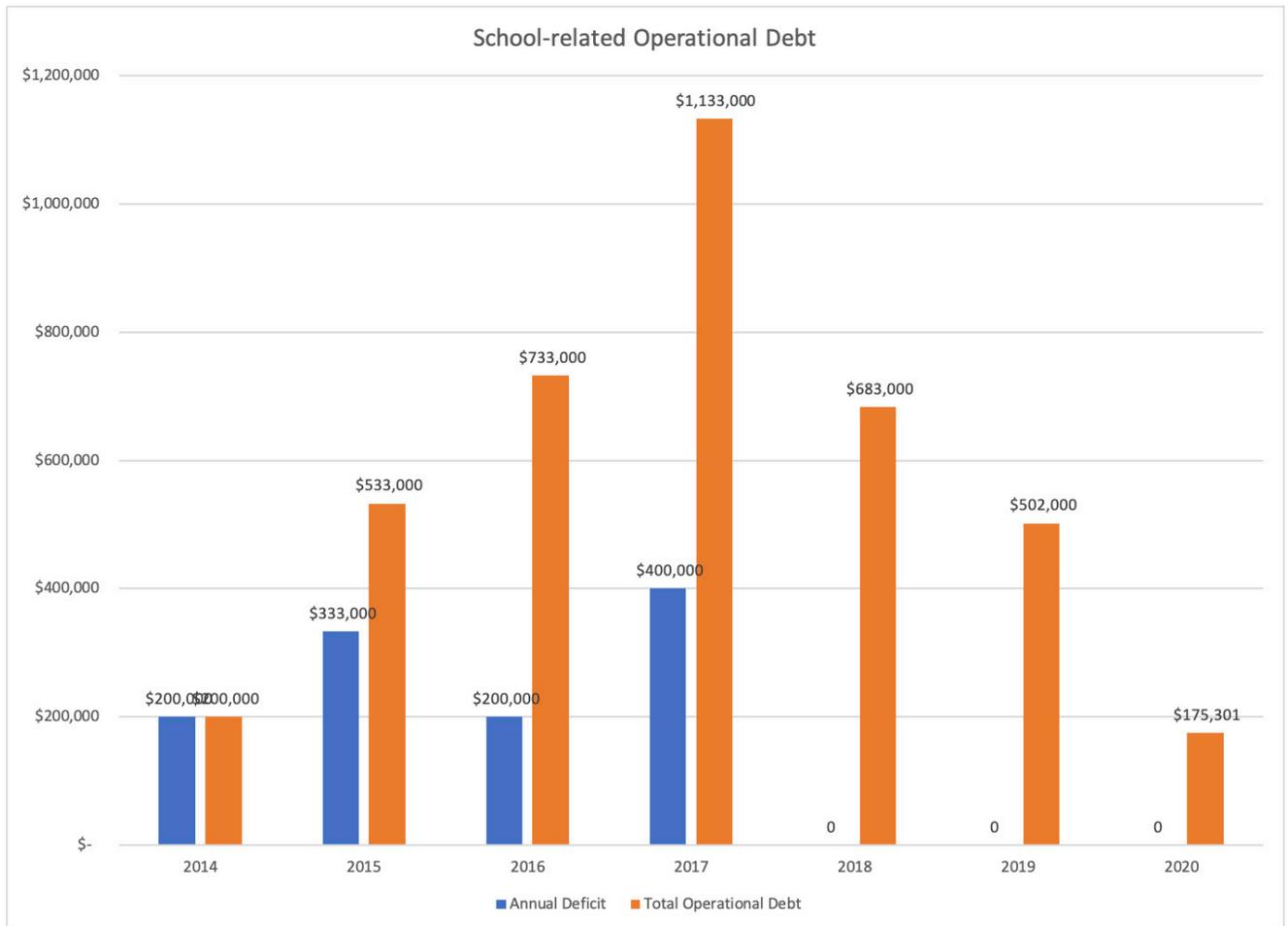
# Finance Corner - December 1, 2020

...we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' Acts 20:35b ESV

As year-end approaches, we celebrate together the Advent of our Lord, and anticipate His coming again. This is also a busy time of year for financially-related news, including:



- At the Congregational Assembly on November 15<sup>th</sup>, voters approved the 2021 Ministry Financial Plan which calls for spending \$2.2m for ministry operations next year. This amount includes \$266k allocated for debt payments on Trinity's two outstanding loans from the Texas District's Church Extension Fund. The Plan assumes that we will restart "normal" in-person worship services and outreach activities in late spring or early summer of 2021.
- Trinity is on track to pay-off our operational debt loan by the end of December 2021! This loan was incurred to provide subsidies to our K-8 school in 2014-2017. The payoff was accelerated almost an entire year due to a generous donation and the utilization of the majority of 2019's operational surplus to paydown the principal.



- 2021 Home Treasury Commitment Cards were mailed to members and supporters in October. Please be in prayer asking God to guide your thoughts on what He would have you give to

Trinity in the coming year. You may drop your 2021 pledge into the donation box in the Narthex after any worship service, complete an online version of the pledge card by clicking [here](#), or mail your pledge card to the church office at:

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Attn: Contributions Manager  
800 Houston AVE  
Houston, TX 77007

- Through October 31<sup>st</sup>, our tithes and offerings are 4% lower than budget, but our expenses are 8% lower than our budget.

Trinity recently received \$190 contribution from Amazon Smile in response to those in our congregation that have asked Amazon to donate a portion of their purchases to us.

## Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at AmazonSmile and Amazon donates

amazon smile



## How to increase your giving to Trinity without spending any additional money.

Please remember that you can expand your stewardship by using a program that Trinity has qualified for at Amazon. Amazon will give Trinity a 0.5% rebate for all purchases made by our supporters when making their normal purchases at Amazon. It's very easy—whenever you are shopping on Amazon, go to this web address (instead of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)):

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-1238451>

Using this service from Amazon won't change the cost of the products you buy, and all of your account settings and preferences will be retained. The only thing that will change is that Trinity will receive a rebate!

The end of the year is traditionally a time when non-profit ministries and churches look forward to receiving a higher-than-normal level of contributions, and Trinity Downtown is not an exception. We depend on your continued generosity to fund our ongoing ministries.

It is an honor to watch what God is doing as He continues to work in and through us to build His Kingdom!

Joyfully Joining Jesus Alongside You,  
Ron Lacy, CFO

# New and Recently Started Bible Studies Arrive for Advent

As we enter this cherished season of the year, preparing our hearts for Jesus' birth, please consider joining one of our weekly virtual Bible studies. New topics have recently started in many of our studies and it's a wonderful way to begin a new spiritual discipline as we enter a new Church year. Virtual login information is available on Trinity's website [www.trinitydt.org](http://www.trinitydt.org).



## SUNDAYS - YOUTH

**Foundations 56** (5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grades) - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Led by Jane Suchma & Karen Maynard

Online Kids Interactive Experience. (Note: To join this class go to <https://www.trinitydt.org/youth-ministries/>.)

**Confirmation Class** (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grades)

Led by Mary Oliver and Haley Davisson - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Confirmation program seeks to help 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students own their faith. In the course, each student will learn the key truths of the Christian church as they prepare to confirm the faith into which they were baptized. The class will equip each student to apply their faith for life and provide a foundation for an ongoing relationship with God.

**High School Class** (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)

Led by Elizabeth Oliver - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Study of the book of Ephesians.

## SUNDAYS - ADULT

**Our Life's Seasons as Lived by David** (New topic start date: December 6)

Led by Thomas DeVries - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

A human life can be divided into unique "seasons". As a multi-generational class, we see the value in openly exploring among those who anticipate the season, those who are living it and those who have passed through with their medals and scars. We will use King David's life as a backdrop to our discussion and find nuggets of God's truth that can help us live in a way pleasing to Him and beneficial to the world.

**The Messiah** (New topic start date: November 22)

Led by Jim Cleary - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

We hear parts of it sung every year during the Christmas season, but what many listeners fail to realize is that the entire text of Handel's *Messiah* is drawn from Scripture—and many of the Old Testament passages that shaped Israel's hope for their Redeemer are included in that text. This class will lead you through Scripture passages used in Handel's work that highlight who Jesus is

and what He came to do. It might change the way you listen to the *Messiah*. Even more, it might change the way you live.

Discussion-oriented but we will also be listening to Handel's *Messiah* each class as well.

### **What Will Heaven Be Like?** (New topic start date: November 29)

Led by Pastor Paul Dorn - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

This two-week mini study will look at and discuss the article, *What Will Heaven Be Like?*

On December 14<sup>th</sup>, we will begin the study "The Gospel according to Mark". The Gospel of Mark proclaims in bold and certain terms that the reign of God has come in Jesus Christ. It's good news for a world looking for hope.

### **Wise Up and Live - The Book of Proverbs**

Led by Bill Fischer's Team - 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Proverbs are a series of statements primarily written by King Solomon that give good advice on how a person should live. They don't tell a story as do so many other books of the Bible. Instead they provide instruction and guidance on a variety of topics, including wisdom. Learn with us on how to "Wise Up and Live!"

## **WEDNESDAYS**

### **Sinners and Saints (Women's Study)**

Led by Jan Case - 9:30-10:30 a.m.

There is a lot of confusion about what it means to be a sinner and a saint. "Sinners and Saints" will give you an insight into how you are both, and ultimately, how you can come to a deeper understanding of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Virtual Midweek Spiritual Check-in**

Led by Jim Cleary - 7:00-8:00 p.m.

## **THURSDAYS**

### **Sonrise Bible Study**

Led by Pastor Donald Black - 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The class discusses the Scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday. The class is open to men and women. For more information, contact Bill Fischer at 713.827.8664 or [bfisch@aol.com](mailto:bfisch@aol.com).



Your word  
is a **LAMP** to  
my feet and  
a **LIGHT** to  
my path.

Psalm 119:105, NRSV

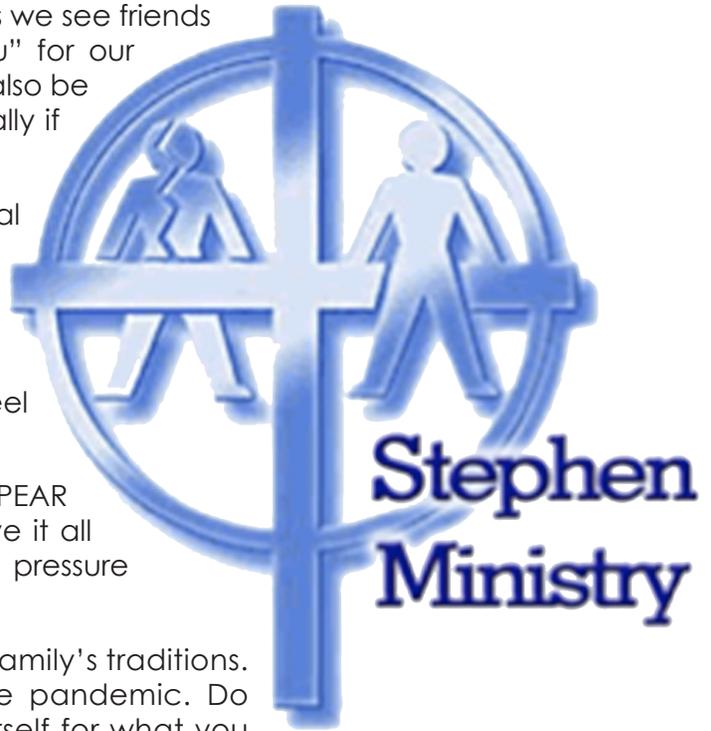
# Feeling Stressed This Holiday Season?

The “holiday season” can be a time of great joy as we see friends and family members, collectively say “thank you” for our blessings and celebrate Jesus’ birth. Holidays can also be one of the most stressful times of the year, especially if you are grieving the loss of a loved one.

And, of course, we’ve all encountered additional stressors in 2020. Whose life has NOT been touched or changed this year?

Here are some steps you can take to control stress:

- Recognize that you may be emotional or feel sad, and that’s perfectly okay.
- Temper your expectations—it may APPEAR that your friends and family members “have it all together”. They don’t, so don’t put added pressure on yourself by trying to hide your emotions.
- Don’t be afraid to make changes to your family’s traditions. This is especially good advice during the pandemic. Do what you can do and don’t chastise yourself for what you cannot do.



**Are you feeling sad or anxious during this season? Have you been grieving the loss of a loved one during this season? Do you need to bring your feelings to the feet of our Lord? God never intended for us to go through these challenges alone. Reach out to Trinity’s Stephen Ministry for assistance.** Stephen Ministers are laypeople in our congregation trained to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to individuals facing difficult times in life—grief, cancer, divorce, financial difficulties, hospitalization, chronic illness, job loss, disability, loneliness, a spiritual crisis, or other life struggles. They have a compassionate heart for those who are hurting, and they have been equipped with caring ministry skills by Trinity’s Stephen Leaders. A Stephen Minister typically has one care receiver (of the same gender) at a time and meets with that person once a week to listen, care, pray, encourage, and offer emotional and spiritual support.

If you’d like to learn more about how our Stephen Ministry could provide a listening ear and caring heart for yourself, a loved one, friend, neighbor or co-worker (inside or outside our congregation) please speak with one of our pastors or reach out to Ron Lacy at [rlacy@trinitydt.org](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org) or 713.229.2970.

A small, fluffy, light-brown puppy is looking over the edge of a wooden crate. The puppy has large, dark eyes and floppy ears. The background is a dark, textured surface.

**Life  
got  
you  
down?**

**Stephen Ministry provides  
confidential, compassionate  
Christian care.**

**For more information,  
contact Ron Lacy at  
713-229-2970 or  
[rlacy@trinitydt.org](mailto:rlacy@trinitydt.org).**

# Blood Donor Sunday

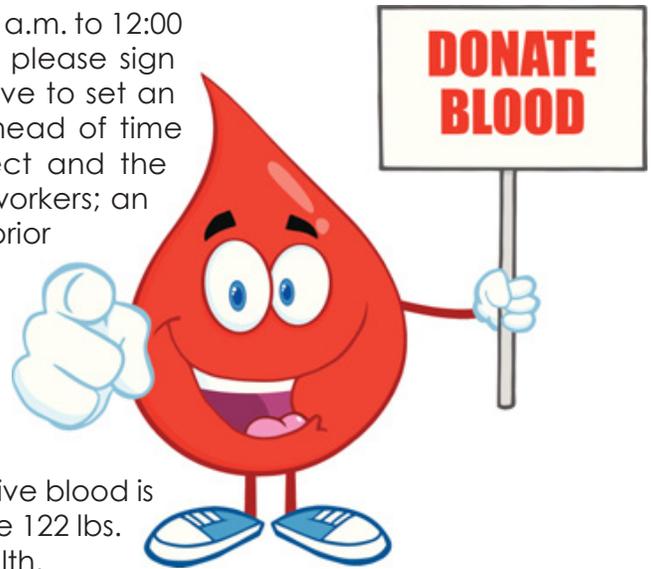
Our next Blood Donor Sunday will be held January 17, 8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the gym. If you would prefer a special time please sign up online at [www.giveblood.org](http://www.giveblood.org) and pick Trinity's drive to set an appointment. While scheduling an appointment ahead of time gives us an estimate of how many donors to expect and the Blood Center sends out the appropriate number of workers; an added bonus is we take scheduled appointments prior to walk-ups.

We look forward to a very successful drive this winter. Double red cell and combination whole blood and plasma machines will be available for those wishing to donate that way. Both count for two donations.

REMINDER!! The minimum donor age requirement to give blood is 16 years old with a parent's permission. Weight must be 122 lbs. (still 110 lbs. for 17 and older) and in general good health.

REMEMBER: one unit of blood can save as many as three lives as it is broken down into three components – red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

May our Lord keep you healthy so you can continue to contribute the gift of life!

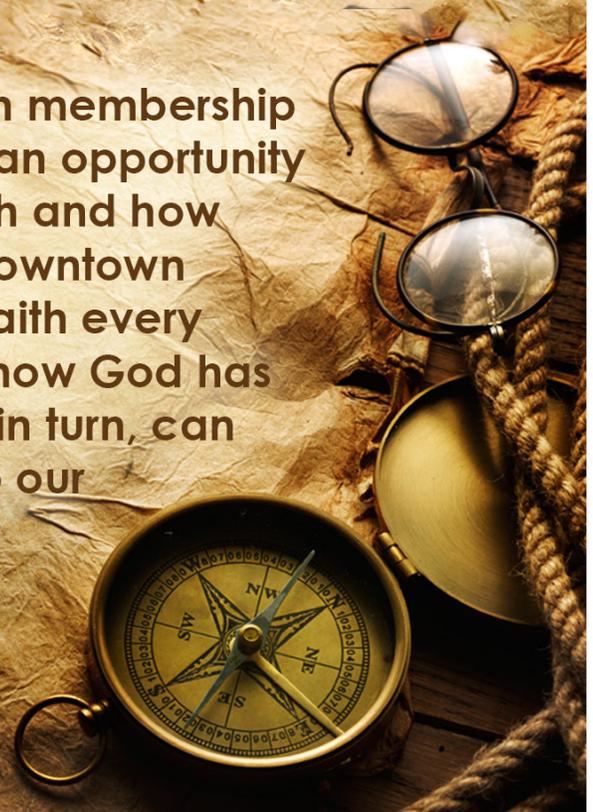


## Faith Discovery Class

**Sundays, January 10 - February 28**  
**10:30 a.m. - Virtual on Zoom**

**8-Week class for persons interested in membership at Trinity Downtown. The class offers an opportunity to learn more about the Christian faith and how you can become part of the Trinity Downtown community as we each live out our faith every day. Class participants will discover how God has uniquely gifted them, and how they, in turn, can use their gifts in service to Him and to our neighbors.**

**Contact Pastor Dorn at [mdorn@trinitydt.org](mailto:mdorn@trinitydt.org) for more information or to register for the class.**



# Puzzle!

The word list contains the angel's Christmas message to the shepherds. Fit those words into the crossword squares. Then write them on the correct lines below to complete Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

1	be	baby	that	today
e	do	been	this	afraid
2	all	born	town	Christ
3	for	find	will	cloths
4	has	good	bring	manger
5	joy	Lord	David	people
6	not	news	great	Savior
7	you	sign	lying	wrapped

“ \_\_\_\_\_ . I \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ ; he is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .” Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Answer: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11, NIV.

## Ladies Circle Meetings Still ‘On Hold’

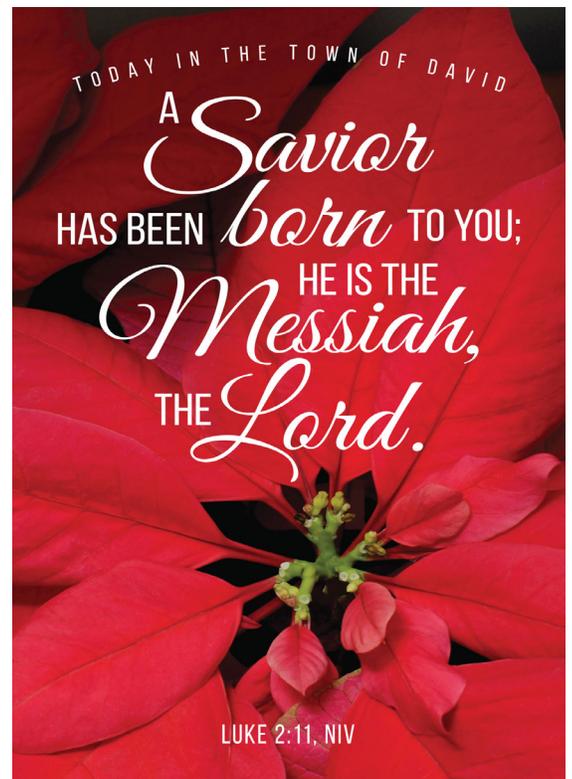
Due to the increase of Covid-19 cases in Houston, the Executive Board of Trinity Lutheran Ladies Circle has decided to cancel the Ladies Circle's Christmas meeting and luncheon scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. A decision regarding future meetings will be made at a later time—please watch your email and future publications of this newsletter for updates.



In the meantime, we are encouraged to continue to pray for one another.

For further information about the Ladies Circle, please contact Debbie Leonard at 319.431.6804 or [debbie.leonard.TX@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.leonard.TX@gmail.com).

MAY GOD BLESS YOU THROUGHOUT THE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON!!!



*Wishing You a  
Joyous Christmas  
and a  
Blessed New Year!*

*In Christ,  
Your Trinity Staff*



# Greetings from Westfield House, Cambridge!

In my last update, I only had 2-3 weeks of classes under my belt. Now, by the time you read this, I will only have a few days left of this term. This is very different from the 14-week semesters I've grown accustomed to at the seminary. The weeks have gone by quickly, but they haven't been easy.

Stephanie and I have both been challenged tremendously in these few short weeks. It didn't help that we only had about two weeks of 'freedom' in which to explore outside and be able to go freely into shops and any other facility that wasn't closed due to COVID. The shortage of direct personal interaction with other humans has certainly been challenging. In the midst of this new lockdown that the UK government has imposed, there isn't much to do other than sit in front of our computers for class work – Zoom classes, reading, and writing. While I appreciate the ability to focus on my studies, they have presented their own set of problems.



**Chuck Ridley,  
Seminary Student**

Stephanie and I were reflecting on the fact that this is a very different setting from the seminary. I would say that most of what we're doing here is 'academic theology' which is different from the formative and preparatory theological studies that we do at Concordia. That's not to say that what we do at the seminary isn't academic. I believe it is very rigorous. However, as I've noted in previous letters, the faculty at Concordia is comprised of ordained ministers who are interested in the formation of faithful ministers for the sake of the Church. Here, things appear quite different. While several of the teachers we have are ordained clergy (in the Church of England) and many of our classmates are preparing for ordination in the Church of England, the tenor of the classes is often very different. As Stephanie reflected, "where is God in these classes that are supposed to be about God?"

I try to remain balanced in my appreciation of being in a different context – socially, academically, and theologically – and not think and speak too critically of some of the ideas presented in our readings, by teachers, and from our classmates. I want to learn and take what is good even if it's not all gold. However, I find myself thinking that theology here has become too philosophical. Granted, some of my reaction may be due to feeling overwhelmed by new or different ideas. But it is hard to not notice that Christ crucified is not the dominant message here.

I realize that this is perhaps a big claim. Let me offer a couple of examples to try and support my statement. First, we have been studying various practices of the Lord's Supper in the early Church and into modern times. The particular focus on the study, though, was not on the doctrine of the sacrament itself, but on what is called 'eucharistic prayer'. Now, if that term doesn't sound familiar, I don't blame you. We don't really speak that way in the LCMS. You might think of it as the various parts of the liturgy of the sacrament, though. If you look in your hymnal, it would essentially be the portion marked 'service of the sacrament'. But not long into the study did we realize that many of the pieces of the 'eucharistic prayer' don't appear in our liturgy. Well, they tend to confuse and detract from the message that the sacrament is God's gift to you! There is so much interest in analyzing these 'prayers' academically but the authors we read can't seem to understand that this is not a work of man to incite God to do something. Many authors seem confused and even offended that Lutherans aren't playing along with them in asking the Holy Spirit to change the elements. Now, these are really aimed at the ELCA in the wake of the ecumenical agreements they made with other church bodies, but that's another newsletter...

In any case, my point is that this class comes across as so focused on trying to get churches to be better at clarifying the role of the Spirit in the sacrament and being more Trinitarian in its language during this one part of the service that it ends up sending the message that Jesus' words aren't enough. No thank you. I can appreciate their academic interest. Some of the readings are interesting to ponder. At the end of the day, though, I'll take Jesus at His word and simply receive His gifts as the beggar I am.



*King's Cross station in London shortly before Remembrance Day. The poppy is the symbol for the commemoration of the armed forces members who died in the line of duty.*

One more example. One of my classes is 'Philosophy of Religion: Truth, God, and Metaphysics.' Okay, granted the Divinity Faculty is not entirely Christian and the name should have been a give-away, but I was lured in by the name and description. The class is interesting, but even with a Christian supervisor, I don't think Christ has been mentioned once this entire term in that course. This class and the 'D Society' associated with the Philosophy of Religion department – which has presented a few seminars that I've attended (virtually) – seem more like intellectual exercises than an attempt to improve ministry. As one of my classmates put it, "it feels like a lot of navel gazing." I can see how this might prepare ministers to be able to detect certain philosophies from people as they speak – we all have them ingrained whether we recognize them or not. But it seems to me that this could just as easily be part of a counseling or psychology program.

I think maybe I've been overly negative so far. Let me say that I continue to be thankful to be here. I have felt humbled and the challenges have pushed me out of my comfort zone, allowing me to see the distinctions between the LCMS and other church bodies more clearly. I certainly appreciate even more the top-notch faculty at Concordia Seminary (CSL) and the faithfulness of the LCMS to the scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Also, considering that most of those being trained for ministry in the Church of

England go through shorter programs (and therefore I assume much less preparation), I am thankful for the outstanding education and formation going on at CSL.

As we spend more time outside of the Lutheran bubble, I am constantly reminded of the importance of returning to the faithfulness and steadfast love of God in Christ. We live in a broken world, painfully aware of our own shortcomings and those of the people and systems around us. As we begin Advent, this is a good time to reflect on the coming of our Lord into the flesh to take on our sin and be our savior and to renew our eagerness for the return of Jesus. That last part might not be such a problem this year with all that has happened over the last eight months or so. Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus!

*"so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love." (c, ESV)*

In Christ,  
Chuck Ridley

### BOARD OF ELDERS - CONTACT INFORMATION

Jim Baccus . . . . .	<a href="mailto:jimbaccus@comcast.net">jimbaccus@comcast.net</a> . . . . .	713.956.1899
Delvin Dennis . . . . .	<a href="mailto:ddennis@entouch.net">ddennis@entouch.net</a> . . . . .	281.415.8787
Dan Krueger . . . . .	<a href="mailto:dwkrueger5@yahoo.com">dwkrueger5@yahoo.com</a> . . . . .	901.258.4029
Steve Maynard . . . . .	<a href="mailto:smaynard@durwoodgreene.com">smaynard@durwoodgreene.com</a> . . . . .	281.799.9600
Joshua Rodriguez . . . . .	<a href="mailto:joshrodriguez@hotmail.com">joshrodriguez@hotmail.com</a> . . . . .	832.527.1957



**Drive-Up Holy Communion**

**Wednesdays**  
11:00 am - 1 pm

**Saturdays**  
9:30 am - 11:00 am

Call the Church Office  
at 713-224-0684  
8:30 am - 2:15 pm  
Monday - Friday  
to RSVP

**STAFF DIRECTORY**  
**713.224.0684**

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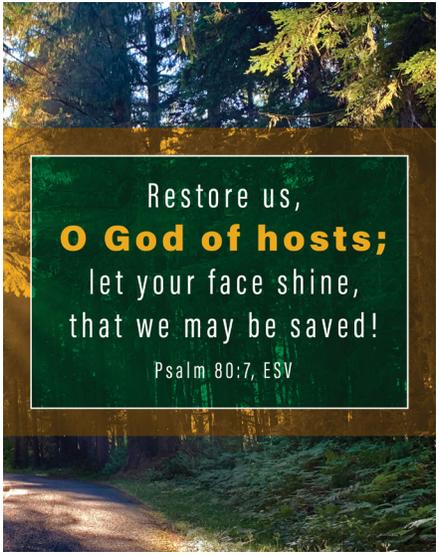


**TRINITY**  
*Downtown*

*Joyfully Sharing Christ's Saving  
Love With All People Now!*

# A Life Quote for the Church Year - November 29 – Advent I

“Restore us, O God (Psalm 80:7)! Restore us by Your humble coming among us. Restore our courage to speak for those vulnerable to using death as a solution. Restore our compassion to serve their survival and salvation as You have ours. Restore our congregations to welcome, receive, and embrace every human life. Restore our communities to accompany instead of abandoning. And restore our country to protect and provide for unborn and elderly.”



This “Life Quote” is from LifeDate, a quarterly journal of news and commentary from Lutherans For Life – [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



**Merry Christmas  
&  
Happy New Year!**

Trinity Downtown  
www.trinitydt.org      800 Houston Avenue • Houston, TX 77007      713-224-0684



Article submission deadline **December 11** for articles to be published January 1, 2021.  
Submit articles to [pschroeder@trinitydt.org](mailto:pschroeder@trinitydt.org).  
Contact Pam Schroeder at 713.229.2944 with any questions about this publication.