



# Trinity Tidings

DECEMBER 2023



*A newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church*

*63-70 Dry Harbor Road*

*Middle Village, NY 11379*

*Office – 718-335-7300*

Sunday School	Sunday 9:15am
Social Time	Sunday 10:00am
Worship Service	Sunday 10:30am <i>in person and on Zoom</i>

Welcome to Trinity Lutheran Church, founded in 1863 and confluent with Ascension, Glendale in 2011. We are a family of Christian believers called together by the Holy Spirit and dedicated to serving God and community. We are followers of the Lord Jesus; in our life together we seek the promise, the love, the peace and the hope, which are God's gifts to us as His people. Our doors and our hearts are open to you in God's name. We invite you to share with us the adventure of faith that unfolds each week at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our fellowship embraces many activities, to which you are most warmly invited.

Trinity Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).  
Church Office: 718-335-7300, 9:45am to 2:45pm Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS: Zoom meeting ID = 7183357300, password= 11379

Using a phone, dial +16469313860

When prompted enter the meeting id followed by # 7183357300#

When prompted enter the password followed by # 11379#

## CHURCH STAFF AND TEAM

The Rev. Donald Lemke, Interim Pastor  
Mr. Frank B. Auriam ma, Jr, Minister of Music  
Mrs. Renee Robertazzi, Parish Administrator  
Mr. Vincent Mele, Sexton  
Mrs. Doris Tegge, Sunday School Coordinator

Dcn. Lois Jenkins, Synodical Deacon  
Dcn. Masayo Kagita, Synodical Deacon  
Ms. Masayo Kagita & Mr. Jeff Gardner, Worship  
Streaming Technical Team

Trinity Tidings is edited and published by Doris Tegge and Renee Robertazzi. We welcome articles and devotionals from our readers for the purpose of enriching our faith community. All articles and comments may be submitted to [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org) or [administration@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:administration@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

## QUIET OUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN ADVENT

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Twenty-Four Days of Advent. Well, at least the Advent Calendar would have us open a door to a symbol of faith each day of December through the 24<sup>th</sup>. But if we look at the calendar, Advent begins this year on 3 December 2023 and will come to an end before sundown on 24 December 2023.

On the Sunday closest to Andrew (30 November) begins Advent. The blue of the evening tide and fall rapidly marking the end of the year and the end of things. We are asked to give up our tenacious hold on things and our expectations of what is right and wrong. And just as rapidly, the Christ shatters our expectations by being born in a stable.

Advent warns us that our world is changing, whether with a calendar that welcomes the Christ or declares that Jesus will one day return to feed and heal us and hold us in hope and peace.

One thing remains...that God sees the turmoil in our world and asks us to prepare and invite the stranger to the stable and be made whole. Jesus has come and comes.

- by Pastor Don Lemke



(John 1:14)

Photo by [Philippa Lowe](#) on [Unsplash](#)

### FROM THE EDITOR

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Can you imagine a world without words? That's hard to do. Written and spoken language is a main characteristic of humanity and without it we feel lost and isolated. Words help us to express ourselves and form relationships. At Christmas we celebrate The Word made flesh. Jesus as man could talk to human beings. Not like a burning bush or a voice from a cloud, but person to person. It was something ordinary people could understand. The baby in the manger is God communicating to man in a most direct way. Are we listening?

*"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

- by Doris Tegge

## LOOK AT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY!

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- **SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY - December 17 during the 10:30am worship service**
- **CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday, December 24 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **CHRISTMAS EVE - Sunday, December 24 – 4:30pm Candlelight Service**
- **CHRISTMAS DAY - Monday, December 25 – 10:30am Worship Service**
- **NEW YEAR'S DAY - Sunday, December 31 – 10:30am Worship Service**

## GROWING IN FAITH RETREAT – NEW YORK DIAKONIA



On November 3, deaconesses Lois Jenkins and Masayo Kagita journeyed to West Hartford, CT to attend a retreat given by the New York Diakonia. Lois and Masayo are graduates of the Growing in Faith program which is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education for baptized members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is also available for anyone wishing in good faith to study Lutheran teachings. The program provides an engaging learning experience with the goal of increasing knowledge of the Bible and church history, deepening personal faith, and providing clarity for

our role as God’s people in this world. People attending the program often form close friendships with other students as they make their faith journey. The Growing in Faith retreat was a great way to get away from distractions, meet up with past and present classmates, and spend time in worship and reflection. If you are interested in the Growing in Faith program, contact Masayo Kagita at [masayony@gmail.com](mailto:masayony@gmail.com).

## SERVICE OF HEALING

On October 22, Trinity held a Service of Healing. This is a special worship service during which people are invited to approach the altar for prayer and anointing. Many did come forward to receive physical or spiritual healing. Pastor Lemke anointed each one with chrism oil which is traditionally a mixture of olive oil, balsam resin and frankincense. A prayer is said to bless the oil and it is applied to the forehead. This is a very old ritual that was also a practice of the early Christian church.

*“Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.” - James 5:14*

## NYC PERFORMERS IN SACRED PLACES



Doris Tegge attended a training session for Performers in Sacred Places on November 4. Performers in Sacred Places is an organization dedicated to matching artists of various disciplines to religious organizations that have spaces that are not being used every day. All participants in the program are required to attend a training session. Much of the training is focused on matching the right performer with the right space. It’s not just about how big the room is. It is important that the performers and churches share the same mission and values. To that end, each organization compiled a list of their vision, values, mission, and the impact they hope to make. It was surprising to see how much of the performers’ lists matched those of the churches. Common themes were community, inclusivity, empathy, respect, transformation, healing, nurture, and hope. The training also included a legal presentation on space use agreements. It covered legal considerations, contracts, and examples.

## CUB SCOUTS AT TRINITY

Cub Scout Pack 106 has been busy having fun, learning about kindness and citizenship, and beginning to participate in several winter community projects. They marched in the Metropolitan Avenue Veterans Day parade and celebrated Thanksgiving by turning the basement of Trinity into a movie theater! The scouts recently collected new pet supplies for North Shore Animal League. Now, they are collecting canned goods for the food pantry at Sacred Heart school in Glendale (which will be an ongoing collection) and new children's toys for Children's Hospitals and Family Shelters. Both collection boxes can be found in the back of Trinity Lutheran Church. For additional locations, please see flyer or contact [communicatons.pack106@gmail.com](mailto:communicatons.pack106@gmail.com). The scouts appreciate any contributions to their causes and wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful holiday season!



## WATER LEAKS

After a heavy rain in October, water was discovered near the elevator shaft. A special council meeting was held and it was decided to engage Roosevelt Roofing to address the problem. The roof was inspected and was in need of repair. Repairs were made, but leaking persisted. It was then determined that water was leaking from the sprinkler system. The leak was fixed. Water damage, which is mostly cosmetic, still needs to be repaired. Please consider making a special donation to the property fund to help cover these costs.

## CAMPUS USE

Trinity frequently receives requests from the community for use of the fellowship hall for various activities. Trinity welcomes community use of the space. However, to best serve both Trinity and the community, it is important that certain procedures are followed. All requests must come through the church office. A proposal detailing how the space is intended to be used must be submitted. Insurance of liability is required. A formal use of space agreement between the community representative and Trinity must be signed.



## NOTES AND REFLECTIONS

### JESUS PROMISED: I WILL...



Throughout the New Testament, Jesus makes many promises. He often expresses these promises by saying "I will." There are over 30 "I will" statements in the New Testament, each one stating a beautiful promise from the Lord. Here we list 10 of the "I will".

1. **I will** not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:18)
2. Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and **I will** give you rest. (Matthew 11: 28)
3. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I too will** love them and show myself to them. (John 14: 21)
4. Heaven and earth will pass away, but **my words will** never pass away. (Luke 21:33)

5. **I will** send the Holy Spirit to you. (John 16:7)
6. **I will** show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice” (Luke 6:47). (Here Jesus promised his guidance to understand truth.)
7. **I will** do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (John 14: 13)
8. If you love me, keep my commands. And **I will** ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever. (John 14: 15)
9. “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and **I will** send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matt 4:18) (As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen.)
10. **I will** see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy. (John 16:22)

- by Xuming Sun

### SEEING JESUS IN MY NEIGHBOR

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matt. 25:37-40. Please read the whole text Matt. 25:31-46 about Jesus’ Second Coming)

Years ago at a Special Olympics event in the US, nine young contestants who had disabilities (PWDs) lined up at the starting line for the 100 meter dash. When the starting gun fired, they all started off in their best effort toward the finish line.

But one boy stumbled, fell to the ground, and could not get up. As he began to cry, two other racers heard him. They looked back and without hesitation turned around and ran toward the injured boy.

As the other PWD contestants struggled to the finish line, the two came to the boy and helped him to his feet. They then linked arms and together walked to the finish line. By the time the trio reached the end, everyone in the stands was standing and cheering, some with tears rushing down their faces.

The two who had helped the boy had lost their chance to win the race, but they knew that they had done the right thing. (A true story that happened at the 1976 Special Olympics in Seattle, Washington.)

Sometimes running towards our personal goals can make us ignore the needs of other people around us – our family members, friends, or even strangers. Stopping to help a neighbor in need becomes an inconvenience and may prevent us from reaching the finish line. Like the Levite or priest on the road to Jericho (Luke 10:25-37), we do not want to complicate our lives by helping the half-dead man attacked by robbers who needs our help.

The Lord Jesus has promised that He will come again – not as a baby in the manger but as King and Judge. Our Savior first came to earth to suffer the shame and pain of crucifixion for our sake – redeeming us from sin, death, Satan, and hell.

By God’s grace through faith in Him, Jesus fills our heart with love and compassion especially for the weak and downtrodden. He will come again and we will make an accounting of how we have shown our faith by deeds of love for our neighbor. Meanwhile, the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to see Jesus in the “least of our brothers and sisters” and help them as we are able.



Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me for not helping my neighbor in need because it would inconvenience me. Let my heart be open and my hands ready to help the neediest around me. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Reflection: When have you been hungry, or sick or lonely and someone came and helped you? How did it feel? How does that experience help you be sensitive to the needs of others and want to help them?

- by Immanuel Natividad Ilagan

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## **PRAYER, BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP**

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### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

We are a small group of women from various churches that meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the Month. Bring a sandwich and we'll provide coffee and tea and something sweet.

### **TRINITY WEEKDAY PRAYER GROUP**

Monday through Friday, 12:15pm – 1:15pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/7183357300> password = 11379

### **MORNING TRINITY BIBLE STUDY WITH REV. DON LEMKE**

Thursdays, 10:30am, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/7183357300> password = 11379, Dial-up +1 646 558 8656.

### **WESTERN QUEENS CONFERENCE PRAYER MEETING**

Wednesdays, 7:00pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/6370126621> password = 062145

### **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH BIBLE STUDY WITH HOWARD COHEN, BILL GATI AND DONNA KUHNER**

Tuesdays, 7:30pm, on Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/2729059246>, Dial-up +1 646 8769923

### **DAILY PRAYER LINE WITH DCN. INGRID COMPTON**

Monday through Friday, 6:00am, Phone# 605-468-8820, access code = 1885702

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## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE**

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### **TRANSITION TEAM**

The process of calling a permanent pastor to Trinity requires the formation of a Transition Team. We need people to participate in this effort so that our congregation can move forward. No previous experience is required. If you would like to participate, please contact the church office or email [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

### **TRINITY WORSHIP**

Volunteers are needed each Sunday to read the lessons in person or on Zoom.

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Eucharist, usher, and deliver communion.

Volunteers are needed to help prepare the sanctuary for worship. Training session is October 11 at 10:30am.

Contact Lois Jenkins at [council-president@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:council-president@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

### **CLOTHING BOX DROP**

The large orange container is near the church entrance on Dry Harbor Road. Please do not leave items next to the container. The container is emptied multiple times each week.

## **FINANCIAL**

Support needed to continue ministry is estimated at \$3,500 per week to cover salaries, insurance, utilities, and repairs. Currently weekly donations are falling short of the required amount, requiring that money be withdrawn from the endowment account to pay bills. Please be generous.

Income from renting the fellowship hall to individuals or organizations is becoming an important source of income for Trinity. Please spread the news that we have a good space to rent (and there is good street parking).

## **PROPERTY**

One of the two compressors that support our air conditioning has broken down. The property committee (Helmut and Rick) are looking for someone with expertise to fix it. Otherwise, a new one will need to be purchased. If you can help, please contact the church office at 718-355-7300.

Please consider making a special donation towards the repair and maintenance of the Trinity campus. There is currently water damage that needs to be repaired

## **FUTURE MINISTRY**

Donations continue to be needed to support our technical ministry. This includes sound and video equipment, streaming, WIFI, and online hosting. The technology enables Trinity to reach out to a wide range of people.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

**Please make checks out to TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH.** You must write the name in full so that our bank can process the deposit. In addition to worship service offerings, donations can be made online by clicking the DONATE button on [trinitymiddlevillage.org](http://trinitymiddlevillage.org) or going directly to [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly)

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## **IN THE COMMUNITY**

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### **STACEY'S PANTRY**

48-08 91<sup>st</sup> Place, Elmhurst

Saturdays, 8:00am – 10:00am

Contact 917-533-1679 or [stjacobuspastor@gmail.com](mailto:stjacobuspastor@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Staceyspantryelmhurst/>

### **FOOD MINISTRY AT ST. JAMES – ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

119-15 135<sup>th</sup> Avenue, South Ozone Park

Thursdays 3:00pm-4:00pm, sign up by Wednesday

Contact 718-845-8770 or [foodin11420@gmail.com](mailto:foodin11420@gmail.com)



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## **ON THE CAMPUS**

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### **AA**

AA continues meeting on our campus on Mondays & Wednesdays at 10:30am (open discussions) and Tuesdays (beginners) & Thursdays (step meeting) at 7:30pm. Pray for their ministry of healing.

### **BOY SCOUTS**

Boy Scout troop 106 meets Fridays 7:30pm in the Education Center.

## GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout troop 04633 meets Fridays in the Education Center.

## CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack 106 is back in full force for the 2023-2024 season! With almost a 100% return rate, our scouts, grades kindergarten through 5th, are ready for another year of fun! Our scouts are trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent ... and we can't wait to see what adventures they have this year!

Email: [Communications.pack106@gmail.com](mailto:Communications.pack106@gmail.com) Website: <http://cubscoutpack106.weebly.com/>

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## TRINITY LEADERSHIP

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Rev. Don Lemke  
Dcn. Lois Jenkins - President  
Dorothy Russo - Vice President  
Lillian Hoffmann - Treasurer  
Doris Tegge - Secretary

Joyce Beaudoin  
Sandy Boos  
Rich Eichinger  
Muriel (Didee) Davis  
Dcn. Masayo Kagita

Nancy Keicher  
Bill Muller  
Cyndy Rooney  
Karin Spykerman

A copy of the council minutes is available on request. Email [information@trinitymiddlevillage.org](mailto:information@trinitymiddlevillage.org)

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## MEMORIALS

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In loving memory of **Kathleen Treiling** by  
Diane Cassel

The Firneis Family  
Henrietta & Erwin Markisch

In loving memory of **Florence Buchholz** by  
Florence & Joseph Beattie

In loving memory of **Charles Schueler** by  
The Firneis Family

In loving memory of **Katherine Eriksen** by  
The Firneis Family

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## TRINITY TIDINGS BOOSTERS

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Kenny Ash  
Joyce Beaudoin  
Jo-Ann Benini  
The Boos Family  
Boy Scout Troop 106  
Eva Calov  
Muriel Davis  
Joan Dowdle  
Ted & Laura Fackelman  
Bob Firneis  
Lori Grill  
Jim & Ann Haase  
Egbert & Dorothy Hardin  
Lillian Hoffmann  
Nilda Janacek

Gloria & John Krebs  
Dorothy Kummer  
Pastor Don Lemke  
Henrietta & Erwin Markisch  
John Maysonet  
Rev. Thomas Mugavero  
Kay Neuendorf  
Joyce Norgalis  
Rev. Paul J. Pfadenhauer  
Emma Richter  
Janet & Jerry Rugg  
Edna Schwenk  
Rev. E. Phillip Sebastian  
Linda Swiatocha  
Eleanor Tuohy

Marie Wengert  
Anthony Zalak

### **IN MEMORIAM:**

Ezio Benini  
Olga Finneran  
Elsie H. Johnson  
Florence & Henry Limbach  
Pastor Leo E. Longan  
Dorothy Rentel  
Kathleen Treiling  
James J. Tuohy