

THE BRIDGE

Trinity Presbyterian Church
Independence, MO 64052
816-252-5893
Fax # 252-5024



Rev. Elizabeth M. Strobel
www.trinityofindependence.org

December, 2017

Volume FMMXVI No.12
trinitypresby@att.net

"Diverse in Backgrounds, United in Faith"

Friends,

It is that time of year again – Christmas is coming! December has long been one of my favorite months – snow, gifts, sugar cookies, twinkling lights, greeting cards, and peppermint mochas all fill me with joy, and I know that you all have your own favorite traditions, as well. In the church we also revel in the ancient story of a young family seeking refuge, of a baby being born in the most unlikely of places, of a birth that was celebrated by both angels and shepherds. It's a season filled with nostalgia and wonder.

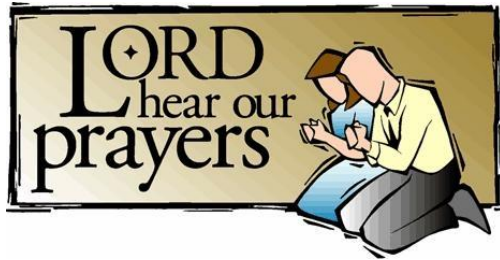
Among all of the wonders of this season, one of the most treasured practices is singing Christmas Carols – they move our hearts and stir our souls. We all know these songs and might belt them out even if we're reluctant to sing at other times of the year. When I've asked your favorite traditions in the past, many of you have responded with "*Silent Night* – with candles!" The music of Christmas feels magical and helps to remind us of the story and why we are gathered.

As well as reminding us of the story of Christmas, the songs of the season also foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus. In *Joy to the World*, we are encouraged that as Christ comes, "no more [will] sins and sorrows grow" for "he rules the earth with truth and grace". In *Away in a Manger*, we are comforted by knowing that Christ will "take us to heaven to live with [him] there". And in *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, we are reminded of the greatest joy of the season when we pray "O come to us, abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel".

This year as we sing these beloved carols, pay attention to the messages that they bring. They remind us of the greatest gift we receive each and every Christmas – the assurance that God is *with* us in all our joys and sorrows, in our heartaches and celebrations. In the life of Jesus, God became incarnate and dwelt among us. Our world and our lives have never been the same. This is good news to sing about – this is the good news of Christmas!

Blessings,
Elizabeth





WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for these:

- Dec. 3:** Pamela, Alexandria, & Xavier Thieme
Paul & Sondra Tivis
Phillip, Terri, Xander & Samantha
- Dec. 10:** Carl, Christina, Zian, & Mya Trober
Christi Trober
Noel & Nancy Tyler
- Dec. 17:** Dorothy Vader
Dr. Orville Walker
Marilyn, Walter, River & Harley Preator
- Dec. 24:** Dan & Ruth Washburn
Carol, Jessica, Allison, Albert, Jr, & Elizabeth Weeks
Mary Weldon
- Dec. 31:** Rich & Donna White
Brian, Julie, Danielle Wildschuetz & Alyssa Morris



- Dec. 6** George & Brenda Scott



- Dec.** 2 Carolyn Rich
9 Carol Chartrand
10 Irene Schmitt
13 Reid Hansen
16 T. J. Layman
17 Jack Layman
21 Laurie Rasmussen
22 David Lyons, Jr.
24 Claudia Grunewald
27 Mike Richards



Trinity sends its deepest sympathy to the family of Patsy Jones following her death on October 28, 2017. Patsy was a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church prior to its merger with Trinity.

Trinity sends sincere condolences to the family of Grace Breeze, also a former member of Calvary, who passed away on November 15, 2017.



SEW 'N SO'S

Thank you Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes for us. We have received 1,459 bar codes for this year.

Please keep saving.

They have also made 16 quilts and donated them to the Community Service League.



Congregational Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Trinity will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2017 following morning worship.



On the first Day of the Week

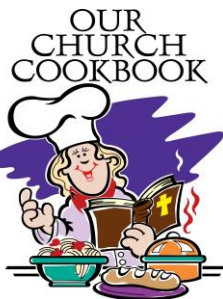
"The people came together..."

Worship Services:

Nov. 5	.....	67
Nov. 12	.....	73
Nov. 19	.....	69
Nov. 26	.....	77

"and the people gave . . . "

Nov. 5	.....	\$2,274.80
Nov. 12	.....	4,327.00
Nov. 19	.....	2,642.00
Nov. 26	.....	<u>Unavailable</u>
Total	.....	\$9,243.80



Recipes are still needed for the Presbyterian Women's cookbook. We are looking for all kinds of recipes and especially from our youth. Any questions please contact Lucy Berry at 456-2235.

T.I.G.E.R.s CORNER



Dec.. 10 11:30 a.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s
 Dec. 24: 11:30 a.m. - T.I.G.E.R.'s

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

Branch (Tree) of Jesse – Isaiah used the image of a new tree growing from what appears dead to



foretell God's redemption of Israel: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" (Isaiah 11:1, NIV). During Advent, this prophecy assures us of the coming of the Messiah, descended from King David, and thus his father, Jesse.





**DECORATE
THE CHURCH**
Saturday,
December 2
9:00am- Noon



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA
Saturday, December 2
8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Come and enjoy some pancakes & have your picture taken with Santa. Your first picture is free. Additional pictures will be available for \$1.00 each. All are welcome!

Questions, please call Jan Privett at 419-9405 or Kim Miller at 591-7314.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
Sunday, December 10 - 10:30 a.m.

It's time again for our annual Christmas Pageant, starring the church children and youth! If you child is participating, **please plan to attend all rehearsals:**

Sunday, December 3, after church
Saturday, December 9, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, December 10, 9:30 a.m.



INDEPENDENCE MESSIAH
Saturday, December 9 - 7:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS CANTATA
Sunday, December 17 - 10:30 a.m.



**BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE
FOR THOSE WHO GRIEVE**

Thursday, December 21 – 6:00pm

It's the most wonderful time of the year – except when it isn't. The holidays can bring up old griefs and exacerbate new ones. Join us for this special evening service for comfort, healing, and hope.



Family **Christmas Eve** *Service*

**Sunday, December 24,
Worship 10:30 a.m.**



**Sunday, December 24,
Wassail Bowl 10:00
Worship 11:00 p.m.**



MITTEN TREE

Don't forget to bring mittens, scarves, hats, and other cold weather clothing for our Mitten Tree in the Narthex. Donations will be received through December and then taken to Hope House.



All women are invited to join Circle 3 on Monday nights in the Colonial room as we discuss the second section of the book "Making Sense of the Bible" by Rev. Adam Hamilton. You will need to obtain your own copy of the book and be prepared for discussion according to this schedule: Monday, November 27, 6:30 PM ~ Chapters 19-22; Monday, December 18, 6:30 PM ~ Chapters 22-23; and Monday, January 22, 6:30 PM ~ Chapters 24-26. Of course, any inclement weather could change this plan but please join us for a time of fellowship and discovery concerning the Bible.

(Note: During 2017 we have already reviewed the first section of the book and later, as a group, we will decide a schedule for studying Chapters 27-32 during 2018.)

ADVENT FAIR
Sunday, December 3 – 9:30 a.m.

It's time for the Advent Fair! Bring your favorite holiday snack to share. We will have fun caroling, making crafts, playing bingo and celebrating the spirit of Advent!





From the Trinity Staff:
Rev. Elizabeth M. Strobel, Pastor
Jack Palmer, Organist
Kristopher Taylor, Chancel Choir Director
Barbara Ploeger, Church Secretary
Madeliene Lyons, Nursery Attendant
Diana Miller, Nursery Attendant

A DOSE OF HUMOR



“At least they saved themselves a co-pay.”

~~oops!~~ From a worship PowerPoint:
 Son of God, love's pure light
 Radiant beams from thy holy face
 With the dawn of redeeming grace
 This likely caused beams of laughter during the candlelight service!



When the weather is bad do you wonder if Trinity is opened? Now you can turn to your local television stations to find out. We will be listed on WDAF Channel 4, KMBC Channel 9 and KSHB Channel 41. We will **NOT** be listed on KCTV Channel 5.

The deadline for items submitted to the **January Bridge** is **Friday, December 18th.**

Information for the weekly News Sheet is due each week on Wednesday by 1:00 p.m.

Don't Miss the **DEADLINE!**