



December Beacon

Happy December and Merry Christmas!

This month, I'm going to talk about something thrilling and exciting: the church council!

At this point, you might be feeling a little disappointed or even nauseous that I'm talking about council for my Christmas Beacon article. But fear not! Like the angel said to the shepherds announcing Christ's birth: "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people."

Oftentimes when we hear about the church council, or are asked to serve (*gasp*)... visions come to mind of shouting matches, political battles (in church of all places!), or one more night to be out, let alone what comes to mind when a council term of service gets equated to a life sentence of dullness and drudgery. Maybe you have experiences of council being like this or worse in the past. I'm sorry if you do.

This is not my experience of council here at Trinity at all! What and whom I see around the council table are people who, despite the stereotypes of church council, said yes to coming onboard as leaders, shepherds and stewards of our church. They said yes to doing hard things. They said yes to giving time and talent to bring the announcement of Christ's birth to life for the people who walk through our doors. There's good news to be had here at Trinity – good news of great joy! – thanks to people like our courageous council members who dedicate themselves to the behind the scenes work and the less glorious work of the church for the benefit of not only our church but also our community.

Our meetings are cordial, and we are deliberate and thoughtful in our conversations and decision-making. Everyone gets to be heard. And we strive to hold each other

in the highest regard, while holding one another accountable and supporting one another as a team. We even commit ourselves to a covenant every year and we really do try to keep meetings to within 90 minutes.

Yes, there are expectations of council members just like any other leader or someone to whom responsibility is entrusted. But being a council member is doable! Come to our December council meeting and see what we are about on Tuesday evening, December 9th at 7 pm. We believe in accountability and transparency. And Council is here for you.

Give it some prayer and consideration to see if God may be guiding you to serve in this important and needed way. It's a great way to share that Christmas message of the joy of Christ's birth, and the rest of the year to share the good news of the life, and even death and resurrection of Jesus, through service and ensuring the mission and ministry of Trinity continue to thrive.

Have a most blessed Advent and Christmas and have a happy and safe New Year! 2026 awaits!

Blessings,

Pastor Rick

Office Hours:

Pastor Rick: Tuesdays 10:00-1:00 p.m. and by appointment

Pastor will be away from the 25th – Jan 2nd but will be available for pastoral care emergencies

Tracy: Tuesdays: 9:30-2:30, Thursdays: remote. Call, text or email any time.

Tracy will be out of town Nov 24- 30th

Please Hold in Prayer

To add someone to the prayer list in the bulletin/beacon, add them to the list in the back of the Sanctuary or contact the church office. If you would like your prayer concern to be shared through our One Call Prayer Chain, please contact Sue Kidder at 716-542-2095.

We pray for healing, strength and patience for those we love going through difficult times:

Dale Kruschke
Harold Gardner
Donna Kumpf
Kate Crampton
Nancy Peters (Harold's sister)
Bob Widenan
David Kennedy\Sharon Ferraro
Sherri (Mary Lou's friend)
Rachael Pastuszynski
David Kennedy
Paula Jendrowski
Ronda Lauridsen

We pray for patience, strength and support for the families and friends of:

Shawn McCormick
Anne Lauridsen
Dave Urbanski
Ann Hake



Sunday worship is weekly at 9:30am!
Sunday School is (mostly) weekly at 10:45-11:30
Counters: December: Marilyn
(volunteers needed for Monday morning counting)

COUNCIL



Council: December 9th @ 7pm, January 13th

Our nine-member church council does amazing work keeping Trinity working well throughout the year. We meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month, and members are active on committees and support Trinity and each other in many other ways. The council has one or three-year term. **Would you consider serving in this important leadership ministry?** We'll be electing new council members at our annual meeting on January 25th.

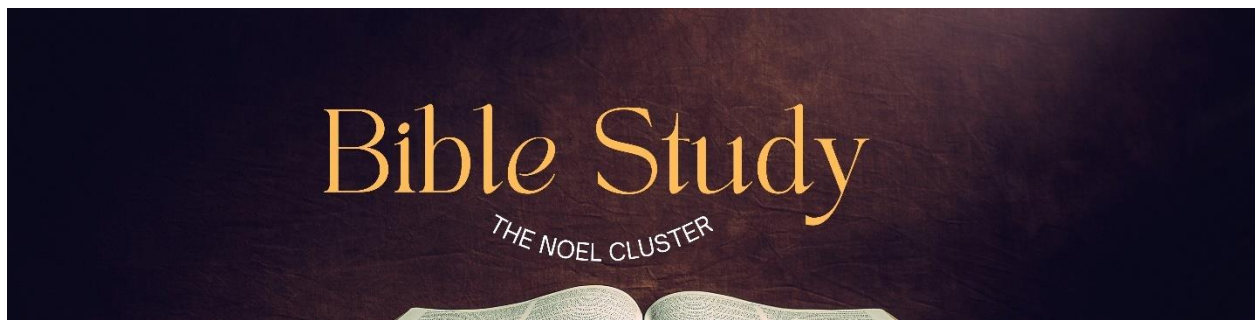


Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated, set up and cleaned up from the rummage sale!
We brought in \$1527!

More Rummage

Now comes the fun part. We need to deliver the remaining boxes to Goodwill or Salvation army. We have some volunteers spearheading it – If you need to get in the church, please call Ronda and she will come with her key and help you load. If there are items that are not sellable, Gordy Dorr volunteered to take those for trash. Tracy Dorr is going to take as many boxes as possible each Tuesday. Donna already grabbed a whole carload. If you think you can help, grab a box or see any of those folks! Thank you!



Bible Study

Trinity is part of the NOEL (Niagara Orleans Ev. Lutherans) cluster of churches' Bible Study. Consider this your invitation to join, make new friends, and gain new insights into the Word and faith.

Pastor Rick, Pastor Craig, and Pastor Sohail lead this Bible Study, which is at 10 am Thursdays. The location rotates among the NOEL churches:

December 4th – Zion Lutheran-4447 Central ave Gasport

December 11th – St. John's 10213 Roosevelt Highway, Lyndonville, 14098

December 18th – Here at Trinity!

December 25th – no Bible Study

January 1st – No Bible Study



November 30th: Chowder and Rummage Sale Debrief meeting following worship

December 2nd: Strategic Planning Committee at 6:30pm

December 6th: Christmas Decorating Party 10:00am

December 7th: Chrismon Sunday – **also the last day to order Poinsettias AND – Women's Group at noon! Christmas Chitchat!**

December 14th – Sunday School Parents' meeting (During SS hour)

December 15th: Safety Committee at 1pm

December 24th: Christmas Eve Services – 10am and 7pm

January 4th: Sunday School Christmas Pageant during worship

January 11th: Deadline for reports for annual meeting

January 25th: Annual meeting with potluck following worship

**Please take note: Poinsettia orders are
due no later than December 7th!**

Womens Group:

Our next meeting will be **Sunday Dec 7th at noon**. We'll enjoy some Christmas festiveness and enjoy chatting about our lives and God in our lives. Please join!



- Our collaboration with Zion Lutheran Church in Gasport continues. I share $\frac{1}{4}$ of my full-time pastoral call with Zion. I lead worship with Zion on the first Sunday of each month and then coordinate worship leaders to be there on other Sundays; in addition to meetings, administrative duties, pastoral care needs and any pastoral acts. We also collaborate on some faith formation activities, notably Bible Study on Thursday mornings at 10 am. This Bible Study rotates among five churches, which has been working well. Zion needed a transition pastor upon the retirement of their pastor after 43 years of ministry, and Trinity needs the financial boost that $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pastor's pay package being reimbursed offers. Officially this collaboration continues through the end of the year, but longer-term options are being investigated. Keep Zion in prayer as they continue through their time of transition.
- I have a **pastoral care list** of around 10 people that I care for through a combination of phone calls and visits to homes, hospitals and other care facilities. Please reach out if you are interested in a visit or phone call or have ideas about how to help care for our siblings in this sacred way.
- With our Sunday School growing, it means our weekly offering counters are now short a **counter**. Please reach out to Becky Fix if you might be able to help with this important work.
- Pastor will be off from **Dec 25th-Jan 2nd**, but is on call for any pastoral care emergencies.



- Our property committee is now without coordinators, so we've started calling on people with certain property-related skills to help.
- **If you have talents you can share to help on any church project, please let us know.**



- **All parents are asked to join Pastor during Sunday School for a brief meeting on December 14th.**
 - Pastor would like to talk about what lies ahead with the confirmation aged class, as well as youth ministry and LCLC camping opportunities.
 - For anyone who has not received their first Bible from church, we'll share details about the process.
 - If you feel your child is ready to receive first communion (provided you feel your child can understand the meaning behind communion) we will talk about that as well.
- Thanks to all who have helped with the shuffling and pivoting we've done this year. Right now, we're gearing up for our Christmas Pageant on January 4th!

FINANCIALS



- We'll soon be crafting our budget for 2026. Thanks to our treasurer, **Lisa Kaminski**, for her hard work in stewarding our financial resources. This coming year presents the continued challenge of balancing a budget with increasing expenses.

We are grateful for your financial gifts, realizing that times are tough for many of you financially. We're always happy to share the church budget upon request - copies are available in the narthex on the back right of the table, and if they run out, just let the church office know you need one.

CHOIR



- Our choir is back! And with new voices!!! We're ramping up our activity gradually to give our new people time to grow into their singing. See David Hofmeier if you're interested in joining and for rehearsal and performance details.



- The **ELCA Good Gifts Christmas Tree** is making its return. Stop by to choose an ornament for an alternative Christmas gift that will support people in developing areas of the world. **Make your payment:** cash or checks can be made out to Trinity in the amount of the ornament(s) you chose. Please include in the memo 'Good Gifts: _____' (write your ornament choice in the blank space, then you get to keep the ornament!). **Pick a card:** we have a variety of fun Christmas cards you can send to those you bought a Good Gift for. It will run through Dec 21.
- We are starting a fun new group activity – **Christmas Decorating!** It will be tough to follow in Laura Pingitore's steps, but we will do our best to work together to do it. Please join us on **Saturday, December 6th at 10 am** with the whole family. We'll play Christmas music, eat some munchies and have fun getting the church spruced up for December.
- **Sunday, December 7th,** the Christmas season kicks off with our favorite – **the Chrismon service.**
- **Poinsettia Orders: Due December 7th!**
- Our **Christmas Eve worship** times are set: **10 am and 7 pm.** Come join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Music, communion, candlelight and more will be a part of both services.
- Our Sunday School Christmas pageant service will be **January 4th.**

FOOD PANTRY



First Monday of the Month: Food Pantry setup @ 8am

First Tuesday of the month: Food Pantry distribution @ 8:30-10:30am

Christmas Schedule: December 1st setup, December 2nd distribution.

December 15th setup, December 16th distribution.

January 5th setup and 6th distribution

The Little Free Pantry is open for anyone in need and is supported by donations of items from the community.

WI-FI: Go to 'Trinity Guest' on your device, and then when prompted, enter the password: BeABeacon

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1st- Madyson Krieger

12th- Aaron Infanti

15th- Annette Cinotti

17th- Nicole Kaminski

26th- Carolyn Finger

30th- Mary Palizay

Emma Corbett

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

13th – Jim and Sue Kidder

18th - Bill & Tracy Kittel

26th - Jane & Gordy Dorr (55 years this year!)

Crittenden Quilters

Do you know how much work the Crittenden Quilters do? They are very busy ladies! This year, they made:

- **325 Project Linus Blankets**
- **20 Quilts of Valor (which they gave out at the Newstead Senior Center on 11/7)**
- **200 small wallets for Meals on Wheels distribution in Alden and Clarence**
- **Various other small mission projects, including adult bibs, walker caddies and pillowcases**

We are very lucky to know such a fabulous group of women! The group wishes to thank everyone in the congregation for letting them use the Fellowship hall.

Are you interested in joining? They meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month from 10am-noon. They can also make you a “to-go” kit – precut squares so that you can work at home. They’d love to see you, so if you are interested, drop by a meeting or see Ronda or Donna!

