

December 19 & 20, 2020 Weekly Bulletin

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Principal/Associate Pastor: Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Church Administrative Assistant: Beth Wohlrabe

Church (920) 722-2662, School (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:00am-3:00pm



✝ This Week at Trinity ✝

Sunday, December 20

9:00AM Worship in Church & Online

10:30AM Ed. Hour - Online & In Person

Monday, December 21

Pastor's Day Off

No School

6:00PM At Home Prayer Time

6:30PM Women's Bible Study Online

Tuesday, December 22

6:30AM Ladies Bible Study

No School

Wednesday, December 23

No School

No Catechism

No Worship Service

Thursday, December 24

No School - Offices will be Closed

4:00PM Worship in Church & Online

(Mask Required)

6:30PM Worship in Church & Online

11:00PM Worship in Church & Online

Friday, December 25

No School - Offices will be Closed

10:00AM Worship in Church & Online

Saturday, December 26

5:00PM Worship in Church & Online

Sunday, December 27

9:00AM Worship in Church & Online

10:30AM Ed. Hour - Online & In Person

✝ We Pray For... ✝

Family of Sharon Erdmann, Paul Bruner, Randy Ross, Sandy Rammer, Mike Godwin, Barbara Thomas, Rick Stanford, Mona Bahrke, Scott Henrickson, Jason Seals, Lee Weinig, Barbara Kester, Merry Voigt, Karen Beard, Rose Kosloski, Alyce and James Thurber, Kari Lindner, Joan Reinke, Tom Drum, Merle Webber, Joyce Virchow, Wendy Kondzela, Oliver Siegel, Roy Mehl, Jeff Dionne, Laurel Wirth, Donna Mies, Roman Brockman, Kathy Rigotti, Dianne Olsen, Norb Pomerence, Alan Manteufel, Shirley Fleischer, Don Mader, Ann Keller, Mark Becker, Roman & Flora Turenko, Scott Dontje, Scott Steenepoorte, Tom Howden and family, and Lynn Olson.

✝ Stewardship Lesson ✝

2 Samuel 7:4 – “But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan. . .”

Nathan thought David's idea was great, so he blessed it with the Lord's name. But, later that night, the Word of the Lord set him straight. The Word of the Lord must be the basis for what we think, say, and do in God's Kingdom – not our own desires or whims.

News, Events, Requests, Etc.

Visit us at: www.trinitymenasha.com or
"Like" Us on Facebook.

This Weekend's Banners- The Pulpit Banner - "Advent Candles & Holly." **Banner in Narthex** – "Rejoice! Glory to God in the Highest."

Thank you- Liz Billings & Braelyn Boss for the Music during our Worship.

\$ Current Finances \$

Monthly Income Needed: **\$75,637**

Income as of December 13: \$26,566

Church Office- The Church Office hours are Monday-Wednesday 8AM-3PM. Thursday & Friday the Office will be closed.

Teaching the Faith Bible Study- with Pastor GeRue. We meet Sundays from 10:30–11:30 AM in the meeting room. Some topics will be Holy Scriptures, God's Law, Creation, Salvation, The Trinity, God, Confession, Sacraments; things you were afraid to ask & more. The study is open to all. It is a review of the Lutheran Christian Faith and serves as an Adult Information / Confirmation Class.

Prayer Chain- Barbara Kester is head of the Prayer Chain. If you desire prayers for yourself or someone else, please call Barbara at (920) 722-3228.

Church Mailbox- Please look for your name on your church mailbox.

Ushers- We are looking for more ushers to help on Wednesday night, Saturday, and Sunday. If you would like to help, please contact Beth at the office and she can get you on the schedule.

Portals of Prayer- Devotional books are \$.75 each. Please let the office know if you wish to purchase one.

Women's Bible Study- If you wish to join the online Women's Bible Study contact Connie Henkel by email at sonshine_54952@yahoo.com or call (920) 725-0694.

Altar Flowers- If you wish to donate flowers please contact the office. The cost of providing Altar flowers is \$25.00.

Volunteers- To help with temperature taking on Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday. If you would like to help, please contact Mary Howden (920) 730-9521.

From Board of Properties- Hello everyone, Cold and snowy weather is upon us. Which means it's time to dust off the shovels! Please prayerfully consider signing up for one-month, multiple months, or the entire season! If you are interested, there are two ways to sign-up: contact Eric Voigt (property@trinitymenasha.com) or contact Beth through the Church Office.

We are also looking for help with shoveling before school starts in the morning and before school is released in the afternoon. Please contact Eric Voigt or Lee Colby with any questions or for more information. Thank you.

New 2021 Church Directory- Please look for your new 2021 Church Directory in your church mailbox. If you did not get one, please contact Beth in the office and she will give you one.

2021 Offering Envelopes- Your new envelopes are in your church mailbox. Please do not use them until 2021. Call Beth in the office if you did not receive yours.

Shelter Blanket Sewers Wanted! If you can sew a straight seam, or close to it, we have a need for you. We have a lot of squares and strips ready to be sewn together into quilt tops. This is a project you can do at home. Contact LaVerne Werth @ 740-0381. Machines are also available for your use.

Thank you- Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML extends a heartfelt "thank you" to the many members of our Trinity Family who supported our "Call to Order Bake Sale." It was a joy to do something for you and we pray it brought you joy. We are also thankful for the numerous donations. Our final proceeds are \$1992.00. The money will be used in its entirety for missions and Trinity Church and School projects and will be disbursed in January 2021. To God be the Glory!

Christmas Blessings from Your Board of Worship

The year 2020 has put us through a lot of changes since March. Many of the decorating participants from the past have been asking about the plans for this year. Let's just say – it's going to be a different look and feel. We have decided to build the anticipation for Christ's birth in our decorating format this year. No large, massive explosion of decorations all done in one day, but a more subtle increase to point the way to His birth. If you wish to be involved in the plans you can contact Sally Bolan @ 920-422-2054. Sally will be contacting past workers to assist with some aspects of the process that they are familiar with. Our prayer is to have us all return to the true meaning of Christmas and not be fixated on how elaborate our decorations are.

A blessed Christmas to All,
Elaine, Sally, Beth, Chantay, Val & Kari

Trinity's Food Pantry

Thank you to all who continue to support Trinity's Food Pantry through food & monetary donations. We have truly been blessed by your generosity! You are providing for many who are in need at this time. We are in need of the following non-perishables: Cereal, Canned Pasta, Mac & Cheese, and Pudding/Jello. If you or someone you know would benefit from the pantry, call Steve Reinke at 920-540-5090.

\$ SCRIP News \$

SCRIP is sold in the Church Office Mon-Friday from 8:00AM-3:00PM.

How to Order Scrip? You can call the office Monday-Friday 8:00AM-3:00PM, Or email Beth with your order -- bwohlrabe@trinitymenasha.com. She will put it together and you can receive your order at door #7 when the office is open.

Kwik Trip Scrip is back to a 10% rebate, limited time only. Get yours today!

Pick up your Tom's Drive In Scrip - at a 10% rebate now through the end of the year. Get yours today!

Luther and the Christmas Tree- According to tradition, Luther may have popularized the tradition of the Christmas tree to express and teach theology to his family. On his way home one evening, he became overwhelmed by the incredible beauty of a fir tree positioned against the backdrop of the brilliant starlit sky. He so desperately wanted to describe what he had seen to his family, that he brought home a fir tree and even decorated the tree with candle tapers, mimicking the stars that hung over the manger where the newborn Messiah lay.

✠ School News ✠ “Sent to Serve”



Christmas Break- Friday December 18th through Sunday, January 3rd. Classes resume Monday, January 4th at 8:15am. Have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

This week's theme: "God's Servant Mary"

Luke 1:26–38

“And the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus’” (Luke 1:30–31).

What are your fears? The dark, snakes, spiders, height, monsters, etc.? What are you afraid of? We all have times when we are afraid, and things we are afraid of. Today's Scripture reading tells us about a time when Mary might have been afraid.

Our Bible reading for today tells us about the angel Gabriel's visit to Nazareth to share a special message with Mary.

The angel greeted Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary.” Mary may have been frightened by the appearance of an angel. (How do you think you would react?)

Mary could certainly have been frightened by the angel's message. Mary's plan to be married to Joseph was going to be interrupted. Mary was going to have a baby! The baby would not be the child of Joseph. The baby would be the Child of God. The Holy Spirit would bring human life in the womb of Mary. Mary could not understand God's working because she asks, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” Only God, in His miraculous power, could bring about this miracle. Jesus had to be one of us, true Man, to come into the world to be our Savior. God was going to make this miracle happen through Mary.

God's plan could have had other frightening consequences for Mary. How would she tell Joseph? What would she tell her friends? How was she going to raise the baby, who was the Son of God? There were lots of frightening details.

Although she was frightened, Mary trusted God's promises and plan. Mary responds to the angel, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (v. 38). Soon we will hear the Christmas story again. Joseph and Mary continue to trust God's plan, and soon they are part of God's miracle in Bethlehem.

Our fears go beyond the dark, spiders or the other things on our list. Sometimes we, too, wonder about God's plan for us. We, too, bring our fear questions to God: Will my family be OK? Will God be with me and others when we're sick? Whatever questions or fears we have, we, too, can trust in God's Word and God's promises. The God who kept and blessed His servant Mary will also keep and bless us.

PRAYER: Jesus, we confess that we, too, have many fears. Because You came to be our Savior, we no longer have to fear Your judgment. As You gave Mary faith to face her fears, give us faith to always trust in Your plan. Amen.

CHRISTMAS UNMASKED

First, a disclaimer - this is not a ranting for or against masks during a pandemic. This is, however, a message to show how masks give us a new angle to understand Christmas and Jesus. Let me explain...

In every religion, in every century, there's a deep longing to see God. To know "What does God look like?" And ever since man has made art, we've made art of god or gods to be worshiped.

And while Judaism forbade making graven images of God, the Jewish Scriptures do recognize humanity's deep need to see God's face. In fact, worship is sometimes called "seeking God's face", and the most-famous blessing in Jewish Scripture includes this line that the "LORD make his *face* shine upon you." And Moses – you know, the ten commandments guy? – he has this encounter with God, and he asks to see God's face; but the Lord responds that he must cover Moses' eyes as he passes by because "no one can see God and live".

So, it's not just that we want to see God's face, but also that God masks his face. Which is why Christmas is so mind-boggling.

Because there, in a dingy cave in a forgotten village, humanity got its first glimpse of God's face. With the birth of Jesus, God took the mask off. Christmas unmasked God. And we could look into God's eyes. God's smile. God's...face.

Even more outrageous? God invited illiterate shepherds, a rejected teenage girl, and cattle to be the first to behold the face of God. One of first-century biographer of Jesus said it like this, "The Word – as in the God we only knew and heard about through what was spoken – suddenly, this Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Later, one of Jesus' closest followers begged Jesus to see the face of God and said, "Show us the Father". And I love Jesus' response when he says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." So how does this change the way you and I celebrate Christmas?

Well, I know you want this pandemic to be over and done. So do I. And you might be feeling a little lonely. So am I. However, you can use that frustration, that longing, to give you a deeper appreciation of what you have in Jesus this Christmas. You are no longer separated from God. There is no longer a barrier between you and the Divine. You can celebrate this season because of what – or Who – Christmas unmasked.

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952
(920) 722-2662



Christmas Eve

*Thursday, December 24th
4:00pm (Mask Required)*

6:30pm

11pm Candlelight w/Communion

Christmas Day

*Friday, December 25th
10:00am w/Communion*



New Year's Eve

*Thursday, December 31st
6:30pm w/Communion*



Masks are encouraged for all services; they will be required at the 4pm service. Social distancing is still highly recommended and urged for all services. Call the Church Office to register for any of the Christmas services by December 23rd, and the New Year's Eve service by December 30th. All services will also be live streamed on Trinity's Facebook page.