

# TRINITY Echo

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**Pastor's Column - Jerome Evavold**

**ADVENT IS A TIME TO LOOK AHEAD**

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What a time to be looking ahead. After some 8 months of living with the awful coronavirus, we are still looking ahead for a treatment plan. As we all know, a year ago, we had no idea what the next year would be like. We had no idea how our lives and our worship lives would change. And we had no idea the sadness and loss many would experience with the loss of loved ones. We had no idea that all of the gatherings we look forward to with our families would change.

At times we join the writer of Psalm 13 in praying, "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?"

And yet the Word of God reminds us that God does not forget us and God is always about creating something new. Way back in the bible, the Prophet Isaiah spoke these words, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland".

We are called to trust that God is about to create something new. Advent is a season when we are challenged to look to the future. We look to the coming of Jesus into our lives and into our world. We celebrate the birth of Jesus and his coming into our lives every day and at the end of time when he will return as he promised.

We have been given hope with the new vaccines that are being developed. Let us pray and live with the hope that help is coming soon.

In the meantime, we join together in once again celebrating the time when the word became flesh and God came in Jesus to live among us. In the meantime, maybe there are things to do to help God give hope to people in need.

A recent Dear Abby article in the paper shared the story of how a family's life was changed by taking on the challenge to support a battered children's shelter. The word spread into the neighborhood and people jumped in to help. Eventually, they collected enough for two shelters. The family said it was one of the best holidays they had ever had and they would do it again the next year.

Our Hulda Circle has been collecting gifts for shelters for some time now and the Priscilla Circle has done similar things. Reaching out to those in need helps us embody the true meaning of the holidays.

In doing those things we can join in God's promise to make all things new again.

*Jerome*

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## Minister of Congregational Life-Shivon Miller

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I just saw a post on Facebook that read: “The first Christmas was pretty simple. It’s okay if yours is too. It’s simply Jesus.” This will certainly be a Christmas unlike others in many regards but you can’t take “Christ” out of “Christ-mas” so the very reason for Christmas remains.

I have been part of a Synod team writing curriculum over the past six months focused on the theme “Deeply Rooted in a Boundless God.” The curriculum we wrote for December focused around the stories of the nativity characters. Their lives certainly took unexpected turns that first Christmas. The news of Jesus’ birth impacted them in such a way that they had to change their attitudes and plans quite drastically.

Consider Mary. In the gospel of Luke we read that the angel Gabriel came to her with greetings from the Lord. It reads “**she was much perplexed.**” The angel goes on to tell her she will bear a child and he will be called the Son of the Most High. Mary responds “**How can this be?**” Yet with the angel’s words “Do not be afraid...For nothing is impossible with God,” Mary lays her questions and confusions aside and offers herself to God “**Here am I, servant of the Lord; let it be** with me according to your word.” Mary shifts from perplexed to trust, from “How can this be?” to “let it be.”

Consider Joseph. In the gospel of Matthew, Joseph, engaged to Mary, hears that she has been found with child from the Holy Spirit. He **plans to dismiss her** quietly, unwilling to expose her to public disgrace. Then the Lord appears to him in a dream saying “Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife.” When Joseph awakes **he does as the Lord commands and takes Mary as his wife**, waiting with her for the birth of Jesus. Joseph shifts from plans to dismiss Mary to taking Mary as his wife, from his plan to God’s plan.

Consider the shepherds. As they watch their sheep by night angels appear in the sky and **they are terrified.** But the angels speak the words “Do not be afraid” and tell them the good news of the child born that night that will bring joy. They wobble off trembling knee and make their way to the manger. **They return glorifying and praising God** for all they have seen and heard. The shepherds shift from being terrified to glorifying and praising God.

Consider the wise men. Wise men **traveling from the East** ask King Herod “Where is the child that has been born king?” They follow the star and overwhelmed with joy enter the house where they worship and give gifts. Then being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, **they left for their own country by another road.** The wise men shift – needing to travel by another, unplanned road.

Christmas requires the characters in our Biblical story to shift attitudes and plans. And they do. They are resilient. To be resilient means to be able to withstand or recover quickly from difficult conditions, from change. Our curriculum for December urges youth to consider that they are equipped to be resilient amidst change. Why are nativity characters resilient? Why are they able to withstand and recover, shift and change? They have heard the word of the Lord. “Do not be afraid.” They have a heightened awareness of God with them, of God active in their lives.

What if instead of asking “How can this be?” we say to God “let it be according to your Word?” What if instead of sticking with our plans we dare to allow visions of God’s plans to invade our dreams? What if instead of fear and trembling we move to glorifying and praising God? How about we leave our map behind and travel on a new and unexpected road, trusting the God that leads?

God’s word to us is clear this Christmas. “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that has come to all people.”

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## Worship Opportunities

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Knowing this we can keep it simple this Christmas. We can shift our attitudes and plans. For God has equipped us to be resilient amidst change.

I invite you this Advent and Christmas season to take part in three “Resiliency Practices,” shared in the Synod Curriculum:

**The Gospel of Luke Challenge:** Each day in December, from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>, read one chapter in the Gospel of Luke. There are 24 chapters. By Christmas Day you will have read about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Let your season be rooted in the reason we celebrate Christmas, the coming of our Savior.

**Grow your Stories of Resiliency:** 10 years after the tragedy of 9/11, psychologists put to test a theory about what makes people more resilient amidst the changes and stresses of life. They came to the same conclusion that individuals who know something about their family’s story seemed to be more resilient amidst change and stress. There’s something powerful about knowing you are a part of something much bigger than you. This can help us realize that what we are going through isn’t the only hard thing our families have been through. Grow your story this season.. Talk to family members or friends to learn something about where they come from and what they’ve been through. Ask them to share a hard time in their life and how they got through it. The simple act of growing your story – your family narrative - will equip you to be more resilient amidst change.

**Make a Resiliency Kit:** Our Middle School and High School youth are being gifted one of these kits from the church community. We encourage you to make one for the people you care about that may need a resiliency boost. Below is a list of options for items you might want to include in the box. Possible Items to Include: pictures, favorite encouraging quotes or scripture verses, an encouraging note, coloring pages, a pack of scented markers, a favorite snack, small journal, candle, fixings for hot chocolate, a calming smell, comfy socks, a list of things to be thankful for, a favorite book, stress ball, slinky, playdough, fidget spinner.

*Shivon*

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## **TRINITY CHRISTMAS 2020**

We invite you to join in new opportunities to celebrate Christmas this year.

### **FIRST - LIGHT YOUR LUMINARY ONSITE between 11am-3pm:**

While we will be unable to gather in the sanctuary space this season, we recognize that the Trinity space is a meaningful part of people’s Christmas tradition. You have received a luminary bag inside this ECHO mailing. (If you choose you may decorate or write your family name on the bag.) On Christmas Eve Day, we invite you to bring your luminary to the church. When you arrive you will find plastic baggies, each filled with sand and a battery powered candle at the top of the ramp by the front entrance. Set the whole plastic bag inside your luminary bag, zip side facing up. Open the top of the bag, turn on your candle and nestle it into the sand lit. Set your lit luminary bag along the edge of the sidewalk, or stairway to the front entrance.

#### **Reminder**

Please mask up, social distance and sanitize your hands when dropping off your luminary and picking up your poinsettia. Thank you for helping keep the community healthy and safe.

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## Worship Opportunities

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Read the words from Isaiah:

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Say this prayer:

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. The coming of your light into the world brightens weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to walk in the light of Jesus' presence. Amen.

### **THEN... PICK UP YOUR "POINSETTIA" TO BRING HOME TO WEAR.**

Next to the bags full of sand and candles, will be a container full of Poinsettia pin/ornaments. One of the beloved traditions at Trinity is the altar surrounded by poinsettias Christmas Eve. This year our poinsettias will not be gathered around the altar; instead they will be sent out into our homes. We encourage you to have someone in your home wear this poinsettia pin while joining in Zoom Christmas Eve worship or hang the poinsettia in view of your Zoom screen. When we gather for worship we will still see these poinsettias, gathered together. Unable to join us on Zoom – wear or hang this poinsettia in your home and remember that we are gathered as the body of Christ wherever we are celebrating the birth of Christ.

### **UNABLE/UNCOMFORTABLE WITH GOING TO THE CHURCH BUILDING?**

Light your luminary within or outside your home and remember the light of Christ breaking into our homes and spreading throughout our community and the world this Christmas Eve. Then please let us know prior to Christmas Eve, so we can make arrangements to drop off a poinsettia pin/ornament for you to wear with the community Christmas Eve.

### **FINALLY...GATHER FOR ONLINE WORSHIP (Wear your poinsettia pin):**

**ZOOM Christmas Eve Worship:**

**4pm and 10pm**

**\*\*Christmas Eve Worship on Zoom will include communion. Please bring your own bread/cracker and wine/juice to our screen time together.**

Still unsure of how to join Zoom Worship?

Call Shivon and she will be happy to help you learn how to call in by phone or log in through the internet.

**Facebook Worship at Home:**

**Sermon posts at 10am**

**Worship at Home posts at 3pm**

Don't have a Facebook account?

You can watch the Facebook posts through our website at <https://tlcduluth.org/worship/>

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## Worship Opportunities

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### **TAKE A DRIVE AFTER 5PM AND SEE ALL THE LUMINARIES LIT.**

**\*\* Volunteers needed for Christmas Eve Day to watch over the luminary drop off and poinsettia pick up** – Would you be willing to park on the road right in front of the sanctuary for an hour shift sometime on Christmas Eve Day between 11am-3pm? Volunteers will be asked to wear masks and keep social distance, waving and greeting community members from their car as they drop off their luminary bags and pick up their poinsettias. Having volunteers on site will also help keep supplies from being stolen.

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### **Upcoming Program Notes:**

#### **Advent/Christmas Family Kits:**

Trinity families that took part in Sunday School and Children's time in 2020 prior to the pandemic have been receiving family activity kits during this pandemic time. These kits strive to engage families in fun faith filled activities. The Advent/Christmas kit will be delivered to your door soon. If you have a preschool or early elementary child and would like to receive family kits, please email Shivon, [Shivon.miller@gmail.com](mailto:Shivon.miller@gmail.com).

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU** to those that have been funding these kits. We were able to deliver kits in July, October, November and December at no cost to the church budget thanks to special donations to this specific ministry. Thank you also to our delivery drivers that have driven around town dropping these kits at doorways and sharing smiles with the children and families through their windows.

#### **Middle School/High School Christmas Gifts:**

Our Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers will be receiving Christmas gifts delivered to their door from the church community. Each age group's bag is slightly different, including items to help youth reduce stress and build resiliency, but all bags strive to let youth know that they are being thought of and held in prayer.

**Want to help with delivery?** Let Shivon know. We are always looking for drivers.

#### **Middle School Advent/Christmas Zoom Gathering:**

Middle School youth group will not be meeting weekly for the month of December. Instead join in on Wednesday, December 16 for a special Advent/Christmas online party starting at 7pm.

#### **High School Advent/Christmas Zoom Gathering:**

High School youth are invited to gather on Zoom on Friday, December 18 for a special Advent/Christmas online party starting at 7pm.

#### **Frolic Sunday School Christmas Party;**

Our early childhood and early elementary age children are invited to join Serena, Per and Shivon on Zoom on December 13 starting at Noon for an hour of Advent and Christmas fun.

#### **Volunteer to light the Advent Candles:**

Would you as an individual or household be willing to video yourself lighting candles in your home and reading the Advent prayer for one of the Advent weeks? Please contact Shivon. She will provide you with the prayer. These videos will be shared on Facebook.

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## Worship Opportunities

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### **SHARE A CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH THE COMMUNITY:**

You've seen the videos of those stationed overseas sharing greetings with their loved ones on Christmas. While we are apart as a community this season, we would like to share Christmas greetings with one another. If you would like to share a video Christmas greeting or a written Christmas greeting with your Trinity community, send it by text or email to Shivon. These messages can be short, just a shout out of "Merry Christmas Trinity friends!" or written wishes "Dear Trinity family we pray for hope and health for each of you this holiday season." Signed with your name. These messages will be uploaded to our Facebook page and shared as part of our Christmas emails.

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### **CHRISTMAS PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:**

We want to invite you and your loved ones to take a part in a unique Christmas Program opportunity this year. We will be creating a Photo Christmas Program to share on Zoom on December 20 and through posted images on Facebook throughout Christmas week. We are inviting you to join in, taking pictures of yourself or inviting family members to take pictures frozen in suggested scenes representing the Christmas story. People need not be members to join in the fun. We will put all these pictures together to tell the story in a fun new way. You can choose to take one picture or choose to take pictures for many of the scenes. You can take a very basic photo wearing your normal clothes anywhere in your home or seek out creative ways to include props and costuming. Some of the scenes just need facial expressions. There is no pressure to be elaborate; we simply want to see a variety of faces. Below is a list of some of the different photos we still need. Each opportunity fits with a section of the Christmas scripture story. An idea for how to take a photo for this scene is listed; however, feel free to come up with your own idea. **Snap pictures on your phone and simply text them to Shivon at 218-341-6154, send by email to [shivon.miller@gmail.com](mailto:shivon.miller@gmail.com) or share over Google Drive. You can start sending photos today. We hope to have all photos submitted no later than December 13.** Then watch for faces on Facebook or join us on Zoom, December 20 at 11am to watch and hear the story. (If anyone in your house would like to help read the story on Zoom, please let me know.)

#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: An Angel Standing before Mary**

**Idea: Take a picture of one person standing with their arms up in the air, another kneeling in front of them, head bowed.**

Scripture Text: <sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Emmanuel**

**Idea: Take a picture of someone in varied places around your house next to a poster with the word "Emmanuel". God with us right where we are.**

Scripture Text: <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: People Traveling**

**Idea: Take a picture of people walking down your driveway wearing jackets and backpacks and carrying suitcases.**

Scripture Text: <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered.

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## Worship Opportunities

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**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Joseph and Mary traveling with a Donkey**

**Idea: Take a picture of one person sitting on another person crawling. If you have a third person, have them pretend to be leading the “donkey” along.**

Scripture Text: <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**PHOTO OPPORUNTIY: Pictures of Being Animals in the Manger**

**Idea: Take a picture of people on all fours.**

Scripture Text: and laid him in a manger,

**PHOTO OPPORUNTIY: No Room**

**Idea: Have someone barely peeking out a door, pointing to a sign on the door that says “No Room”.**

Scripture Text: because there was no place for them in the inn.

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Shepherds watching over their Sheep**

**Idea: Take a picture of one person standing holding a staff (a large stick) next to another crawling on the floor.**

Scripture Reading: <sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Shepherds being terrified**

**Idea: Take pictures of terrified faces.**

Scripture Text: <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Angels declare good news**

**Idea: Take a picture of someone holding a sign high in the air that says “GOOD NEWS!”**

Scripture Text: <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Multitude of Angels**

**Idea: Take a picture of a group of family members standing with their arms in the air.**

Scripture Text: <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: “Let’s Go!”**

**Idea: Take a picture of people smiling excitedly and pointing like they are going that direction.**

Scripture Text: <sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

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## Worship Opportunities

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### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Shepherd kneeling**

**Idea: Have a person kneel in front of another person holding a baby doll.**

Scripture Text: <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Mary treasured these things**

**Idea: Take a picture of someone with their hands over their heart, head bowed.**

Scripture Text: <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: The Shepherds Praising God**

**Idea: Take a picture of people lifting their staffs(sticks) in the air with excited faces.**

Scripture Text: <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: King Herod sends the Kings**

**Idea: Take a picture of a person in a crown pointing.**

Scripture Text: ... <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Three Kings**

**Idea: Take a picture of three people carrying presents standing in a line, one behind the other so the picture is taken from the side.**

Scripture Text: <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>\*</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was.

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: The Star**

**Idea: Make and decorate a large star and take a picture of someone holding it up high in the air.**

Scripture Text: <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>\*</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy.

### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY: Gifts**

**Idea: Take a picture of someone kneeling, holding out a gift.**

Scripture Text: <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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### **TRINITY’S ANNUAL MEETING ONLINE with drive by drop off ballots and voting**

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 31 at 11am. We will gather virtually on Zoom for our Annual Meeting. Needed materials will be mailed to homes and reports will be shared through the mail, email and website. If ballots are required for voting, these ballots will be collected by drive through drop off following the meeting. You must be in attendance at the virtual meeting to vote. If you need help learning how to join Zoom by phone or internet, please let us know. We need you to attend.

*Shivon*

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## Deaths

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**James S. McIntosh died October 11, 2020. Military honors will be held Friday, December 4th at the Cremation Society and his funeral service will be there at 10 am Saturday, December 5th. His wife Beverly is inviting the congregation to attend the services followed by a light lunch at the Incline Station.**



**On Sunday, November 1, the following people were honored who passed away from November 2019 through October 2020.**

**Toni G. Barrett  
Cheryl W. Carlson  
John Grassinger  
Mae Klawitter  
Betty M. Lund  
James S. McIntosh  
Joyce E. Peterson  
Donna M. Shepard  
Betty Strazishar**

**Reminder—Please remember to let someone know if you are in the hospital or if you would like to be included in the prayer requests. We have no way of knowing any of this unless you call or e-mail us.**

**Thank you**

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## Witness Within

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*Submitted by Heidi Johnson*

Early last summer, Trinity's church council voted on Pastor Jerome's suggestion that we would support a subscription for our congregation members to receive a year of *Living Lutheran* magazine issues. Everyone received their first issue in September and every month since.

The goal with this endeavor was to connect us more with the ELCA - the Evangelical Church in America - by reading the articles in *Living Lutheran*, which share what the wider church is doing in the world and how us being a part of the ELCA is helping do God's work.

In addition, Witness Within decided to offer monthly adult forums on the third Sunday at noon using articles from *Living Lutheran* in an effort to increase our understanding of the articles through discussion and sharing and also to offer another way to just spend time with each other albeit through Zoom.

September was our first adult forum. That issue's focus was care for creation, which tied in with God's Work, Our Hands. We discussed an article on water and how access to clean water quickly becomes an environmental and inequality concern that urgently needs to be addressed.

In October, the article, "A Pilgrimage at Home" was the focus, which highlighted labyrinths as a way to take a spiritual journey towards inner peace, certainly needed right now during this pandemic and quarantine.

For November, *Living Lutheran* had a faith and food issue, so the article chosen to be discussed was "Recipe for Action." In Matthew, Jesus told a parable about how the kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took who, "...mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." This seems fairly unassuming until we learned that three measures of flour is enough to make 70 loaves of bread. This helps us understand that the kingdom of God is for everyone, and we should love abundantly in response.

We are going to take a pause in December from our monthly adult forums, but please watch for the announcement for the next one on January 17 at noon to find out which *Living Lutheran* article we will be discussing next. Hope you can join us!

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# Property

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*Submitted by Eric Skadsberg*

It's that time of year again, as we have had discussions about snow removal. The plan going through the winter is to make sure the sidewalks, stairs and driveway are cleared of snow after each snowfall. We will discuss the parking lots each time to decide whether we should clear them or not. For instance, over the past two weeks, we have had two light snowfalls. Both of which caused us to clear the sidewalks, but neither of them (even in combination) were enough to cause us to plow the parking lots. Granted, the above freezing weather has helped with that decision.

It looks like we will need to replace the water heater for the church. The gas water heater is causing us problems as far as the flame going out periodically. The best solution is to replace the gas water heater with an electric model. We are currently reviewing estimates for doing the work, but the lowest so far is well over \$1000. We are also looking at alternate ways to get the replacement done.

With the colder weather, the need to start the boiler became necessary. We flushed the water in the boiler, then added boiler chemical to reduce oxidation in the heating pipes, and fired it up. Fingers crossed, but it has been working very well so far!

Unfortunately, with so few people in the Church on a regular basis, we don't necessarily hear of all of the problems that might exist, but we are prioritizing those that we do hear, so the most important ones can be completed as resources become available. I fear that once everyone can regularly use the Church again, there will be a flood of issues that are discovered. But we will address them as they come up.

Stay healthy everyone!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Eric Skadsberg  
Property Chair*

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## Finance Team

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First of all, a big thank you for all of your continuing support of Trinity, through your mail-in giving, text giving, on-line giving, Simply giving, and direct bank deposits. We are grateful for the level of support you have shown, given the many challenges COVID-19 has presented, including our inability to meet in person since March. This said, it is important for you to know that Trinity has incurred a sizable budget shortfall (\$37,000) through October. This shortfall is the result of both lower receipts and higher expenditures.

As you may expect, member gifts are down a bit from pre-pandemic levels (Year -to-date giving is down 8%). Also, while Trinity is again receiving rent from the preschool and the parsonage, we lost months of rental income from both this year. In addition, our cash reserves have produced modest losses this year rather than the modest income budgeted. To help offset our shortfall in receipts, we applied for and were awarded federal stimulus funds (\$34,295) through the Federal Paycheck Protection Program. On the expense side our operating expenses are tracking about 6% below budget. The reduction in operating expenses, however has been more than offset by unanticipated facility project costs, totaling over \$20,000, mostly for chimney and roof repairs.

Christmas season historically provided a significant portion of Trinity's annual receipts and we are hoping that giving this season will help meaningfully reduce our current budget deficit. We expect Trinity will have a shortfall going into 2021, and with the uncertainty of how long the pandemic will last, we expect challenges are ahead. However, this pandemic will end, and we are confident Trinity will meet all of these challenges. We look forward to the time when things are back to "normal" and we can meet in person again.

We will be sending a "Christmas Appeal," welcoming gifts to support Trinity operations.

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## Finance - Memorials through November 2020

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A gift to the **Trinity Ministries** in memory of **BETTY LUND**, from Sherry Rushing

A gift to our **2019 Christmas Appeal** from Ruth Anderson and Sam Talarico

A gift to **Camp Vermilion** from Norma Johnson in memory of her mother **Julia Johnson**

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **DONNA SHEPARD** from:

Claudine Hansen	Patty Christensen
Fred Sowl	Fritz and Faye Kerttula
Peg Evavold	

And to the **'In Stitches'** Quilting group from Dawn Kregness

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **JOHN GRASSINGER** from:

Claudine Hansen	Kathy Johanson
Fred Sowl	Sherry Rushing

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## Finance - Memorials through November 2020

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Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **JOYCE PETERSON** from:

Sherry Rushing	Fred Sowl
Patty Christensen	Claudine Hansen
Kathy Johanson	

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **BETTY STRAZISHAR** from:

Ruth Anderson .

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **BETTY STRAZISHAR** from:

Kathy Gilbertson  
Bea Wenck

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of loved ones past on their birthdays from Sherry Rushing and Kathy Johanson and Bonnie Ling:

**KATHERINE SEIGER JOHNSON, October 6th who would be 102**  
**LARRY RUSHING, September 14 who would have been 70**

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **MAE KLAWITTER** from:

Peg Evavold	Darlene Morris
Joanne Morris	Joanne Robson
Sherry Rushing	Don and Bunny Stellmaker
Claudine Hansen	Dick and Gloria Walkowiak
Kathy Johanson	Marilyn Peterson and Jim Lockwood
Jan Culliton	Gene and Sandy Keyser
Dick and Elaine Carlson	Ken and Marion Sunnarborg
Bret and Heidi Johnson	Fritz and Faye Kerttula
Fred Sowl	

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of Jason Miller's father **DAVE MILLER** from:

Bret and Heidi Johnson  
Claudine Hansen  
Joanne Robson

Gifts to the **ministries of Trinity Lutheran** in memory of **JIM MCINTOSH** from:

Darlene Morris	Claudine Hansen
Kathy Johanson	Joanne Robson
Dale Belsvik	Dick and Elaine Carlson
Joanne Morris	Fred Sowl
Bret and Heidi Johnson	Fritz and Faye Kerttula

We received a gift of \$500 from Carol Day in memory of **TIM & CANDACE ALTONEN and TED & GERTRUDE ALTONEN**. The Altonens were members of Trinity, and related to Carol who had fond memories of visiting the region. She is 92, and wanted to help Trinity in her generous memorial.

**Trinity Staff**

**Pastor**

Jerome Evavold  
jevavold@tlcduluth.org

**Minister of**

**Congregational Life**

Shivon Miller  
shivon.miller@gmail.com

**Treasurer/Financial Secretary**

Kathy Gilbertson  
kathy.trinity@gmail.com

**Secretary**

Aine Merrill  
aine001@centurytel.net

**Live-in Caretaker &**

**Custodian**

Bob Golla

**Building Use/Wedding**

**Coordinator**

Naydean Ringdahl  
naydeanringdahl@yahoo.com

*Merry Christmas  
and Happy New  
Year to All from  
the staff of  
Trinity Lutheran  
Church*

**2021 Offering Envelope Boxes**

**If you are using offering envelopes, please call Kathy at 733-9794**

**If you would like to have your offering envelope delivered**

**On either December 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**We are trying to avoid having to mail them out.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL AND TEAM MEMBERS:**

**There will be a Zoom meeting at 6pm on Tuesday December 15, 2020.**

**We need all chair members to attend to approve the Annual Meeting date and details. Please try to attend.**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1108 East Eighth Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55805

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Duluth, MN  
Permit No. 889

**Sunday Worship Schedule on Facebook**

**8am—Sermon**

**10am—Worship at Home on Facebook**

**11am—Zoom Worship Service**

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES ON ZOOM**

**4pm and 10pm**

Email: [trinity@tlcduluth.org](mailto:trinity@tlcduluth.org)

Website: <https://tlcduluth.org>

Phone: (218)724-9369 (currently no one answering)