

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Share the Gospel. Overcome Barriers. Connect One to Many.



158 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, 07110 / (973) 667-0256

htlcnutley.org / office.htlcnutley@verizon.net

The Reverend Kathryn S. Irwin, Pastor

J. Scott Jones, Cantor

Council Members:

Steve Oberndorf (President) / Greg Sekula (Vice President)

Terry Graney (Treasurer) / Emily Thomsen (Secretary)

Sally Bayhi / Karen Lewis / Doris Schulz

Newsletter / Advent & Christmas 2019

From Pastor Irwin...

Advent Begins...

Doesn't it feel like we just did this? Didn't we just finish up with our last Advent and Christmas? What kind of merry-go-round is this church year cycle!? It's so easy to fall into the pattern of the liturgical seasons with a sense of dread, or banality, or unending work. It's so easy to try to just ignore the repetitive passage of time because it reminds us all too often not of what's beginning, but what we didn't get a chance to finish.

And yet.

This summer we ended up having to take two cars on our vacation. We split the kids, and I ended up with our oldest and youngest in the car with me. The youngest, having just turned one and still madly in love with naps, slept for most of the two-hour ride. Our oldest, at seven and a half, is much less enamored with sleep that accompanies sunlight, and so he and I were able to enjoy some rare time of one-on-one conversation and entertainment. About half an hour into the trip, I had the then-seemingly-brilliant idea of teaching him a circular song: "My name is Jack Johnson, I live in Wisconsin, I work in the lumber yards there (clap, clap) As I walk down the street all the folks that I meet say, 'What's your name?' And I tells 'em..." It is, to quote another such song, a song that never ends (yes, it goes on and on, my friends!). I taught it to him, line by line, then we sang it together for a while, then he kept going on his own. And going, and going...

I may have come to regret my "fun idea" shortly before we arrived at our destination.

But for my child, who had just learned not only this particular song, but the very fact that such repetitive songs existed, was transfixed by it, and thoroughly entertained, and also inspired to see how he could modify it while still keeping the circular nature of the lyrics. While I had grown tired of hearing the song for myself, I did love hearing and seeing how much he was enjoying it, and experiencing the joy of the repetition with him made the whole thing seem new to me again, and I found myself delighting in his experimentation with the form. In a move that surprised myself (and even more my spouse) I was so entertained by how entertained he was, that I taught him "The Song that Never Ends" as well. A week later, on our way back home, I had all four children in the car with me, and after the one- and three-year-olds had surrendered to the siren call of car

naps on the highway, our seven year old took it upon himself to teach our five year old the songs I had taught him.

Folks, my mind was blown. For two hours, on a long and boring car ride, those two siblings sat in the third row of the van and worked on those two songs, singing them in unison, making them call-and-response, trying out different lyrical adjustments, and just playing with the concept of circular songs. I have known these circular songs for many many years. And in all of that knowing I have forgotten to be amazed or delighted at the potential that lies within a pattern or a structure.

This Advent, and really this whole year, I'm going to do my best to approach the predictable, cyclical life of the church with the excitement of children learning and sharing a new style of song. How can we do this "same old same old" in new ways? How can we, through sharing the patterns we have always known, see them fresh through the eyes of those who are just discovering them?

This may be a year of great excitement and delight at Holy Trinity, or it may just be another year. That choice is ours to make, each of us as individual members, and all of us as a community. This past year we have done several things to engage in listening as a congregation to what God is calling us to do. In January at our annual meeting, the Discernment Team will present a summary of all that work, as well as a new identity statement for us as a congregation to consider and hopefully adopt, from which we can move forward into this coming year and the future beyond with renewed energy and clarified purpose.

There is work to be done and joy to be found in our life together at Holy Trinity! This is indeed the song that never ends. Will you join me in singing it?

Pastor Kat

WORSHIP LIFE

Whole Wheat Communion Bread

All are welcome to make bread for communion here at Holy Trinity. Here is the recipe we use. This recipe is courtesy of Jay Rochelle and takes less than 45 minutes from start to finish.

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups whole wheat flour

½ cup white flour

¼ teaspoon salt

¾ teaspoons baking soda

2 heaping teaspoons oil

¾ cup cold water

3 tablespoons molasses or honey or a mixture

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and blend well. Add water and honey/molasses and mix. Knead about 2 minutes. Flour pastry board/sheet and hands. Hand knead first until dough does not stick to surface. With floured rolling pin, roll out to ¼ inch thick. Cut or hand-form into 6-7-inch rounds (making 3-4 flat loaves). Bake about 15 minutes at 350° on an ungreased cookie sheet.



Advent

Blue is the color of Advent—a symbol of hope. Think of a deep, bottomless, and rich blue. Advent's blue is the velvety dark blue of the late-night sky of dawn, the luminous blue of blessed Mary's robes in icons and late medieval and Renaissance paintings, the eternal blue of a winter sky after days of overcast, and the blue of immense

ocean. Our banners remind of us action verbs from the lessons of Advent.

The Advent wreath is Lutheran in origin and is a beautiful symbol of the season. Here we see a circle of life, the circle of eternity,

the circle of return, and the hope of renewal. The evergreen boughs in the ring proclaim life, even in winter's cold and dearth of light.



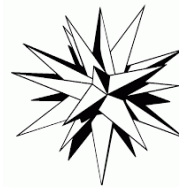
Advent is not a time of waiting for Jesus to be born. The Latin *adventus* is the equivalent of the Greek *parousia*: coming, presence. The coming of advent is not some past event fondly recalled that we then pretend to wish to come. It is the very real inbreaking of future and past into the present here. It challenges us to envision God's future and live it as a present reality. Advent does not mean wishing; advent means coming. "God with us"—the God who was, who is and who is to come.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Each week in advent, we light another candle on the advent wreath as we anticipate the coming of Christ, our Savior. Each week in Sunday morning worship, we need a few people to lead the advent prayer and light the candles on the advent wreath. See the signup sheet, contact the office or speak to Pastor Irwin if you'd like to help.



The Moravian Star



The Moravian Star that will shine over the altar is a gift from *Steve and Evelyn Oberndorf*. The first Moravian star was made in the Moravian settlement at Niesky, Germany, about 1850. It is a reminder of the star that led the Magi from their home in the east to Bethlehem, where they presented gifts to the Christ Child. The Risen Christ, likewise, proclaimed himself as "the bright and morning star." It will shine from Advent through Epiphany.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone or a special date with altar flowers, the cost remains \$30; the sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the front entryway, or you may call or email the office.



Worship Assistants Needed



Worship Assistants

Would you like to help in worship? We are in need of Communion Assistants & Assisting Ministers. There are "Holy Trinity Worship Assistants" guides on the table in the entryway that explain in detail the responsibilities of each worship area. You will be trained for the position you sign up for and will be scheduled to serve approximately once a month (sometimes less if we have enough people scheduled for each position).

Please see Pastor Kathryn, Scott Jones or contact Tina in the office if you are interested. Thank you.

Baptismal Birthdays



Baptism is our birth into the Body of Christ, the Church. As brothers and sisters in Christ, let us celebrate these anniversaries with each other.

If you haven't already done so, please let the office know of your date of baptism and your birthday, so that we may celebrate your special day!

Hanging of the Greens & Christmas Party, Sunday, December 22nd after Worship

After worship on Dec. 22, we will "Hang the Greens" and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas in combination with our Christmas Party. This is a big project, so we need all the help we can get. When you purchase your Christmas tree, please ask for any spare evergreen branches or hanging greens. Keep the greenery in a cool place and bring them to worship on the 22nd.



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Christmas Worship Services

For Christmas we gather to worship and celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with Us.

Tuesday, December 24th

7:30pm: Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight service with carols, for all ages.

Wednesday, December 25th

10:00am: Christmas Day Worship

Snow Day?

We always prefer to gather as the Body of Christ on Sundays, but also try to keep everyone safe. In the case of inclement weather, check the phone message at the office: (973) 667-0256. The message will be updated by 8:00 AM.



STEWARDSHIP GOD'S RESOURCES

Advent Coin Folders

Special Offering

In the newsletter mailing, you have received an Advent coin folder. We invite you to make a special offering to the church this Advent season, either by filling the folder every day with coins, or by considering what blessings you have received from God this year and how you might give back to God some of the generosity you have been shown. Folders, once filled, or offerings, once discerned, can be brought to church any Sunday in December or January using the envelope we've provided in the mailing. They can also be dropped off at the church office or put through the mail slot during the week, or you can mail it back if you are unable to get to the church.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Thank you to all who gave to the ministry of the church in 2019. Your gifts have enabled this congregation to worship every week, host faith-provoking discussions and studies, provide pastoral care in the community, form faith in all ages, and create faith-filled relationships among people of different ages and backgrounds. The 2020 Offering Envelopes will be available soon; please pick yours up in the upstairs entryway.



If you haven't received envelopes in the past and would like to start using them, please call the church office at (973) 667-0256.

Stewardship for Advent & Christmas

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. -Ephesians 2:8a

True confessions: I've never worn that jaunty Christmas tie my son bought me five years ago. At the end of every December I shake my head and say, well, maybe next year. It's a waste, I know. Most of us have a few Christmas presents, given in love and received with joy, that are forlornly collecting dust in a drawer or closet. That's not very good stewardship, is it?

More important than that forgotten bottle of perfume or homely sweater, how are you stewarding that most precious of all Christmas gifts—the new life you have through faith in Jesus? Do you cherish it, honor it, make the most of all it has to offer? Because it is truly amazing.

New life. Too many Christians focus exclusively on the AFTERlife that begins when we die. But that's missing out on the joy, peace and fulfillment that Jesus promises us today, what he describes as life abundant. You've doubtless seen evidence of this life in the cheerful eyes and peaceful smiles of holy people you've encountered. Light and love and joy radiates from them.

I want that life. Don't you?

The abundant life is Jesus' free gift, but it doesn't come automatically. It grows with us as we mature in faith through prayer, scripture study, worship, service and generosity – the disciplines of faith. In so doing, we align our hearts and souls with God's purposes and fulfill ever more closely those two holy commandments to love God and neighbor.

This year, don't let your faith end up like a jaunty Christmas tie, hanging unused in the closet. Make the most of it and live into the new, abundant life Jesus promises to us all. It's the number one stewardship lesson.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2018, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Support HTLC with Amazon Smile!

amazon smile

Do your holiday shopping at smile.amazon.com



Do you often shop on Amazon? Be sure to sign up for Amazon Smile to support our ministry at Holy Trinity! Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the cost of eligible purchases to Holy Trinity. To sign up, visit <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/22-2205690>, sign in with your regular Amazon username and password, and start helping Holy Trinity as you shop! (Donations earned through Amazon Smile will not be sent to HTLC in lump sums, and we will not know who has earned them. They will therefore not be able to be recognized in any formal way, but we give thanks for all of you who participate in this program!)

Serving at the Vincent Care Kitchen

Holy Trinity helps to serve at the Care Kitchen the last Saturday of every month.

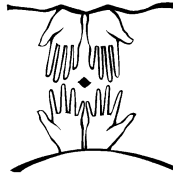
The Kitchen provides a nutritious meal every Saturday (except the first Saturday of the month) at Vincent United Methodist Church in Nutley. Everyone is welcome.

If you would like to help serve, please talk with Julie Franchino or Greg Sekula. Thanks!



Food Pantry and Personal Care Items

Each month we focus on one Care Item and one Food Item for the Care Pantry at Vincent UMC and the Food Pantry at Nutley Family Service Bureau. Contributions can be brought to HTLC any time, but on the fourth Sunday of the month we will bless them during worship and pray for those who will benefit from them in the coming month.



The Care Pantry at Vincent UMC serves 50-60 families each month, providing much needed household and personal care supplies to our neighbors in Nutley.

Monthly Care Items:

- January: laundry detergent**
- February: single packed toothbrushes, toothpaste**
- March: shampoo**
- April: bar soap**
- May: dish soap**
- June: household cleaners**
- July: laundry detergent**
- August: single pack toothbrushes & toothpaste**
- September: shampoo**
- October: toilet paper & paper towels**
- November: disposable razors & shaving cream**
- December: bar soap**

The Food Pantry at Nutley Family Service Bureau serves over 150 households each month, providing nutritious and comforting food options for our neighbors in Nutley.

Monthly Food Items:

- January: canned beans**
- February: peanut butter & jelly**
- March: canned chicken, tuna, stew**
- April: tomato sauce**
- May: macaroni & cheese**
- June: canned fruit & applesauce**
- July: canned beans**
- August: peanut butter & jelly**
- September: Canned chicken, tuna, stew**
- October: tomato sauce**
- November: macaroni & cheese**
- December: canned fruit & applesauce**

PLEASE CHECK EXPIRATION DATES BEFORE DONATING. THANK YOU!

COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP

Holy Trinity Family Game Day!

Join us on **Saturday, November 23rd (3:00pm-6:00pm)** for our Holy Trinity Family Game Day!



Families and friends of ALL AGES can enjoy board games, card games, group games, crafts and snacks. We invite you to bring your favorite game, a dessert/snack to share, and come ready for fun!

Nutley Thanksgiving Service

The Nutley Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Monday evening, November 25th, 7:30pm at Vincent Methodist church**, located at 100 Vincent Place, Nutley. Area clergy will participate, there will be the blowing of the shofar, Mayor Scarpelli will give remarks, and Nutley Congregations Choir will sing.



The Nutley Clergy Fellowship cordially invites the entire community to join them in lifting thanksgiving to God for our many blessings.

Thanksgiving Day Meals

St. Mary's Church (17 Monsignor Owens Place) will host a Thanksgiving Day meal (free) from noon – 2:30pm in their school gym on Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 28th) Everyone is welcome but please R.S.V.P. by November 25th by calling Diane (973) 235-1100 OR Marion (973) 661-0284. Let them know if you need transportation.



Franklin Reformed Church (45 Hillside Crescent) will gather for dinner and activities on Thanksgiving Day. Activities all day and dinner at 3:00pm in their Community House. All are welcome to join them. If you choose, you may bring a side dish or dessert to share, although this is not necessary. Please R.S.V.P. to the church office at (973) 667-7022.



ELCA Christmas Good Gifts Tree Ornaments

Help decorate our tree with ornaments that represent *ELCA Good Gifts*. You can select an ornament representing the gift you'd like to give and take them

home after Christmas as a reminder of your giving. The back of the ornament allows an individual or family to personalize their ornament with their name and year.

Gifts that Make a Difference

This Christmas you can give a *Shoprite* or *Target* gift card to our neighbors in need. Each gift listed will be utilized to care for those in our Holy Trinity family and neighbors in need.



Choose your ornament(s) from the tree and then place your payment and ornament in the envelope provided. Paid ornaments will help decorate our "Giving Tree" and can be taken home after Christmas.

You may also contact the church office or use the order form to order your ornaments and/or gifts. We will accept orders through Christmas.

Poinsettias for The Sanctuary

Would you like to beautify our sanctuary with a poinsettia? Each 6½" poinsettia plant costs \$10.00. Please return the order form on the back page of this newsletter, (or contact the office to place your order) by **Sunday, December 1st. with your payment.** Plants may be taken home after Christmas Eve Worship.



LEARNING OUR FAITH

Christian Education and Faith Formation for Our Younger Siblings at HTLC

In October we started offering a variety of Children's Faith Formation activities each month.



Sunday School

On the second and third Sundays, children aged 3½ through 6th grade will be invited to join their teacher (Julie Franchino or Ruth Sekula) at the back of the worship space after the reading of the Gospel and will return to worship in time to receive Holy Communion (or a blessing) with the congregation.

Children's Sermon and Worship Together

The first Sunday of the month will be an opportunity for the children to remain in worship with the whole community for the entire service and receive a Children's Sermon right after the reading of the Gospel.

Fourth Sunday Lunch Events

On the fourth Sunday of each month, we will have an all-ages (adults included!) gathering after worship with a special focus - and lunch!

- November 3: Reformation/All Saints Party
- November 24: Advent Party
- December 22: Christmas Party

Please feel free to speak to Pastor Irwin with any questions you may have.

New (Church) Year's Eve Party

On November 24th after worship we will have a lunch and Advent wreath activity to help us prepare for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Join us for food, fellowship, and easy crafting! This event is open to everyone, and you are encouraged to invite a friend. We need help with set up/clean up and since it's a potluck, food is needed. Please see the sign-up sheet in the back of the worship space or contact the office to see how you can help make this party a success.

LivingLutheran

Holy Trinity has a congregational subscription to *Living Lutheran Magazine* that provides for every member to get it. The cost per household is about \$8.95 for the year. If you'd like to help defray our costs, please put your offering in an envelope (or send in your donation) marked "Living Lutheran" in the offering plate.

Also, if you no longer require a subscription, please let the office know. Thanks.

CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

Call for Nominations

At our 2020 annual meeting in January we will have elections for Congregation Council and for Voting Members of the NJ Synod Assembly. If you are interested in nominating someone or being nominated to serve in either of these capacities, please contact Steve Oberndorf, congregation president.

Council Members commit to attending monthly council meetings and being active and present in the life of the congregation. Current council members whose first term is expiring are eligible for re-election. Three will be elected.

Synod Assembly Voting Members commit to attending the 2020 New Jersey Synod Assembly, and representing our congregation in the decision-making processes of the business of the synod (regional organization of Lutheran congregations in New Jersey). Costs of attendance are covered by the congregation. Two, preferably one man and one woman, will be elected.

Annual Reports, Meeting & Potluck



ANNUAL REPORT

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 26, 2020.** After worship; everyone is encouraged to participate. The Annual Meeting is the time when we tell the story of how God has been at work in

this congregation during the past year and look

forward to how our hands will engage in God's mission in 2020. We'll vote on our 2020 Spending Plan and elect new church council members and Synod Assembly Voting Members.

If you are the leader of a ministry area at Holy Trinity, please submit (preferably via email) your Annual Report to the church office no later than Sunday, January 12th; the reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 19th. *If not submitted in time, you will be responsible for printing & distributing your report. Thank you.*

Please find the Potluck signup sheet or contact the office to help or to bring food. Thank you!

THE SEASON IN OUR COMMUNITY

Tree Lighting & Living Nativity



The Township of Nutley's annual tree lighting will take place on **Sunday, December 1, 2019.** Activities & holiday music start at 5:30pm in front of the middle school, commencing with the tree lighting at 6:45pm at the Nutley Park Oval. (Franklin Ave.)

Visit the Living Nativity after the holiday celebration at Vincent United Methodist Church, 100 Vincent Place (runs every 20 minutes from 7-8:00pm.)



2020 Calendars



The 2020 calendars will soon be available; you are welcome to take one. Find them in the entryway or the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Calendars are a gift from *Brown Funeral Home.*

KEEP IN PRAYER

Sadie, Michael, Harland, Barbara, Elaine L., Richard, Sean, Beau & Sion, Paul, Roni, The family of David Merritt, the friends and family of Dorothy Greengrove, Robin, Terry, Fred, Richie, Miriam, Irene, Cort, Mike, Scott, Ruth, Barbara F., Cecilia and her family, Kathy, Dominic, Scott, , Family & friends of John Linsey, Carolyn, Elaine, Bob, Miriam, Terry & Shawneen, Joe Graney, Tucker and Thomas Irwin, the family & friends of Caino Zarillo, Jim Greengrove, Evelyn Pugaczewski, Monte & Dawn, Charlie, Ellen, Leslie & Sonia, Kent, Kate, Steve, Cynthia, Rich, Leona, Susan, Margaret, Sandra, Marilyn Krivak, Doris, the unemployed, under employed, people of 12-step programs, those we will tell the story of Jesus the Christ.

People are kept on the list for 3 months; please update the office with changes. Give prayer slips to an usher or the pastor before service or place in the offering plate for the following weeks' service.

HOLY TRINITY CALENDAR

Calendar is also available at htlcnutley.org

Sunday (11/17): 10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Tuesday (11/19): 7:00pm: Council Meeting

Wednesday (11/20): 7:30pm: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday (11/23): Noon: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

3:00pm – 6:00pm: Game Day at Holy Trinity

Sunday (11/24): Christ the King Sunday

10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion

After worship: Advent Lunch/Party/Prepare the sanctuary for Advent

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Monday (11/25): 7:30pm: Nutley Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Vincent U.M. Church

Wednesday (11/27): 7:30pm: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday (11/30): 10:00am – 1:00pm: Serve at Vincent Care Kitchen, Vincent U.M. Church

Noon: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday (12/1): Advent 1 / 10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Wednesday (12/4): 7:30pm: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday (12/7): Noon: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday (12/8): Advent 2 / 10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Wednesday (12/11): 7:30pm: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday (12/14): Noon: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday (12/15): Advent 3 / 10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion & Sunday School

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Tuesday (12/17): 7:00pm: Council

Wednesday (12/18): 7:30pm: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Saturday (12/21): Noon: 12-Step Group, Fellowship Hall

Sunday (12/22): Advent 4 / 10:00am: Worship with Holy Communion

After worship: Christmas Party & Hanging of the Greens

4:00pm – 9:00pm: Shalom Christian Prayer Fellowship

Tuesday (12/24): Christmas Eve

7:30pm: Candlelight service with carols

Wednesday (12/25): Christmas Day

10:00am: Christmas Day Worship



GOOD GIFTS, LOCAL GIFTS & POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettia *(Please return this form and your payment no later than Sunday, December 1st.)*

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Poinsettia(s) at \$10.00 each = Total Paid \$ _____

Poinsettia In Honor of: _____

Poinsettia In Memory of: _____

+++++



Gifts that Make a Difference

Give a gift card to our neighbors in need. Each gift will be utilized to care for those in our Holy Trinity family and neighbors. **Donations accepted through Christmas.**

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$10 (please write in how many \$10 cards)

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$15 (please write in how many \$15 cards)

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$25 (please write in how many \$25 cards)

Total Paid for Gift Cards: \$ _____

+++++



ELCA Good Gifts Tree Ornaments

Give a gift to make a difference in the world. (contact the office for more *Good Gifts* options.)

Donations accepted through Christmas.

_____ Goat, \$50 (please write in how many goats)

_____ Pig, \$30 (please write in how many pigs)

_____ Honeybee, \$20 (please write in how many bees)

_____ Feed a refugee family, \$25 (please write in how many meals)

Total Paid for ELCA Good Gifts: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL OF ALL GIFTS PAID (poinsettias, gift cards and ELCA gifts) \$ _____

For office use only

(For Counters total paid: \$ _____ paid via: Check # _____ Cash _____)