

THE HOLY POST

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

"LOVING NOT JUDGING"

A Letter From The Pastor

BY PASTOR EMILY

I have long said that Advent is my favorite season of the church year. Ever since I was in seminary it's been the season where I feel most "at home." I don't usually think of myself as a glass-half-empty kind of person, but the combination of the Advent themes of waiting and longing fit the way I often perceive our broken world. And it's difficult to read or watch the news today and not sense the world's brokenness. It is clear: we still need a savior.

The deep longing I feel for this savior always makes the shift from Advent ("We need a savior.") to Epiphany ("He's already here!") rather difficult for me. It's one of the reasons I've shifted my Advent refrain to include more hope rather than dire despair.

Amanda Gorman, the American poet, has written a children's book titled "Something, Someday" in which a group of children takes on the task of cleaning up a heap of trash. she writes, "You're told not to hope. But you keep hoping anyway." That hope is, I believe, the true gift of Advent. *Expectant* hope. Gorman continues, "You make a promise to each other. You say, 'There is a problem, but it's our problem together. So we can fix it together. The problem is big. But together, we are bigger.'"

If you add God into the mix—Emmanuel, the *God-with-us* God—then the "we" of that sentence becomes even bigger.

When God became one of us, I truly believed God revealed the way in which God saves the world—through love and mercy, kindness and justice. Perhaps this Advent will draw us back to the center of our hope and perhaps we can trust that the One who saves us is, in fact, with us.

Advent blessings,
Pastor Emily

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Outreach

BY LINDA DAVIS AND VICAR DAVID

Sharing Abundance: Our Holy Trinity Pantry is becoming recognized by our neighbors and the “word” is on the street. Little by little, more people are dropping by on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 AM - 12 Noon to get help with food and household staples. Beginning in December, the 3rd Sunday of each month has been designated as **PANTRY REPLENISH SUNDAY**. Items can be dropped off in the narthex in the designated box.

The following is a list of our current needs:

- Canned Soup: Chicken & Noodle (or Rice) and Vegetable Soup
- 1 lb. bags of rice (white or brown)
- 1 lb. bags of dried beans of any type
- Canned Meat (no pork)
- Canned Fruit
- Ramen Noodles
- Instant Grits or Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter (16 oz.)
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Paper Towels, Toilet Paper
- Liquid Cleaners/Soap (small bottles): Dish soap, laundry soap, hand soap, and other cleaners
- Bottled water

(When purchasing canned food items, look for as many pull tab cans as possible to help our neighbors who may not have a can opener available!)

The list will be updated on an as-needed basis. If you would prefer, you may make a monetary donation. This would enable us to purchase items in bulk. Contact David Kluttz or Linda Davis if you have questions. A great big thank you for your support of this important outreach project!



**HAVE A SPARE COAT
OR HEAVY JACKET?**

Some of our neighbors need your help staying warm this winter. If you have a spare winter coat or heavy jacket you can donate - any size, any style - please contact Vicar David or Linda Davis. Thank you!



Community Music Event



A WINTER CONCERT BY
One Voice Chorus

DECEMBER 8 & 9

One Voice brings lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and LGBTQIA+ affirming people together to celebrate our lives in song. Since 1989, when five Charlotteans met to form the Chorus, One Voice has grown into an important source of strength for our community. The 25 singers at our first rehearsal in January, 1990 have become a joyous and dedicated group of over 70 singers, support members and paid musical staff.

[Summer Show 2024, Director Search](#)

Upcoming Events

DEC	7:30 PM	
8	Pride & Joy	\$30.00
		Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte
DEC	2:00 PM	
9	Pride & Joy	\$20.00
		Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte
DEC	7:30 PM	
9	Pride & Joy	\$30.00
		Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte



To purchase tickets, visit

<https://onevoicechorus.com/event/pride-and-joy-matinee/>

Or contact

1 (980) 220-2435

info@onevoicechorus.com

HTLC CHRISTMAS WORSHIP EVENTS



LESSONS AND CAROLS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

*CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24:

MUSICAL PRELUDE 6:30PM
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 7:00PM

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR 7:00 PM
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE

- Assisting Minister: Sheila Liles
- Torchbearers: Jadon Roger, Thomas Reinke
- Communion Assistant: Lilith Martina
- Crucifer: Lilith Martina
- Streamers: Luke Reinke
- Book: Santosh Prabhu
- Lector: Jeremy Jay



Stewardship

BY ROY JOHNSON AND PASTOR EMILY

Thank you for being part of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church and for your generous support of our congregation's ministry. We are pleased to announce that we received the full number of pledges needed to meet the \$5000 matching offering! Be assured that all offerings - whatever amount you are able to give -are appreciated! Join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 3 immediately after worship to review and approve the 2024 annual budget. Your attendance and participation are vital!



Hospitality Team

BY DIANA JOHNSON

Ho Ho Ho - Here we Go! A Pot Luck Luncheon will be held in the Corky Ingram Fellowship Hall immediately following the Congregational Meeting on December 3. Bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided. Plan to join us for great food and fun!!

The Hospitality Team would like to thank **everyone** who joined us for our 2023 events. Stay tuned for information on our plans for more fun and fellowship in 2024!

Beer and Hymns Returns!

Beer and Hymns returns on Sunday, December 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Divine Barrel Brewery. Come join us for a wonderful, musical, festive time!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- Dec. 2 Tom Pendleton
- Dec. 9 Roy Johnson
- Dec. 9 Nicia Carla
- Dec. 11 Ted Hill
- Dec. 13 Tracy Gentile
- Dec. 14 Kelly Walters
- Dec. 14 Paul Allison
- Dec. 22 Oliver Hartner
- Dec. 24 Taryn Lynn Brady
- Dec. 29 Garrett Brown
- Dec. 29 Art Gentile
- Dec. 31 Caroline Reinke



Worship Ministry

BY KATHY GROSECLOSE AND STEVE ALLEN

ADVENT is Here!

"As Christians, we use symbols to express visually the basic beliefs of our faith and reminders of the pilgrimage of our life in Christ. Symbols can have heightened meaning for us when associated with particular seasons of that journey. One such symbol is the Advent wreath."

"The Advent wreath has its roots in the pre-Christian practices of northern Europe. People sought the return of the sun in the dark time of the year (at the winter solstice) by lighting candles and fires. As early as the middle Ages, Christians used fire and light to represent Christ's coming into the world. Using this same symbolism, the Advent wreath developed a few centuries ago in Germany as a sign of the waiting and hopeful expectation of the return in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. The wreath, a circle, came to represent the eternal victory over death through Jesus Christ. The evergreens were a sign of the faithfulness of God to God's people, even in death, and the lighted candles were a reminder of the light of Christ brought into the world...This symbolism can be just as strong for us today."

"The circular shape, a symbol of eternal life, is most important. Four natural colored candles are always appropriate and symbolize the Light for which we wait. Four blue candles matches the blue used for the season, a color representing hope. Some assemblies may have the older tradition of using purple candles, keeping purple as the color for both Advent and Lent."

Adapted from "What is the Advent Wreath?" elca.org



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 9:30 AM ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 9:30 AM ADULT STUDY GROUP
- 10:00 AM CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 10:15 AM CHOIR PRACTICE
- 11:00 AM SANCTUARY WORSHIP

(SUNDAY WORSHIP YOUTUBE LINK)

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCrojYPr2elTCpj87J0sPkOg>

December Worship Schedule:

	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Communion Assistant</u>	<u>Lector</u>
December 3	Luke Reinke	Daniel Reinke	Sheila Liles	Amy Lageman
December 10	Steve Allen	Thomas Reinke	Caroline Reinke	Bill Larsen
December 17	David Kluttz	Isaac Jay	Golda Jay	Donna Jones
December 24, 11:00 AM Worship	David Kluttz	(See page 2 for 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service Assistants)		Laura Little
December 31	Wayne Simpson	Isaac Jay	Donna Jones	Lynn Sullivan



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN MEMORY BY:

Susan Allison	in memory of	John Allison, Sr.
Christine Duggan	in memory of	Dorothy McAdams
Ron Ellis	in memory of	Fred, Gertrude, Leslie and Musetta Ellis
Ron Ellis	in memory of	Jim and Ann Miller
Matilda Gawf (4)	in memory of	John Lee Gawf and his gift of music
Corky Ingram	in memory of	Johnny Ingram
Roy and Diana Johnson	in memory of	Roy E. and Melba Johnson
Roy and Diana Johnson	in memory of	Bill and Adeline Davis
Billy and Luellen Jones	in memory of	Our Loved Ones
Sheila Liles	in memory of	Frances and Robert Chapman
Cathy Fry and Joanne Marinaro	in memory of	Joseph Miguel Fry
Kari and Richard Nguyen	in memory of	Naomi Ritz
Kari and Richard Nguyen	in memory of	Paul Ritz and Jamie Kuntz
Kari and Richard Nguyen	in memory of	Rev. Rudolph and Meta Ritz
Wayne Simpson and Tim Owens	in memory of	Carl Simpson, Rachel and Fred Owens
Rasheeda Rashada	in memory of	Rashad Rashada
Angela and Steve Schang	in memory of	Don Kamerer
Angela and Steve Schang	in memory of	Kevin Tirk
Heather Smith	in memory of	Naomi Ritz
Heather Smith	in memory of	Rev. Rudolph and Meta Ritz
Lynn Sullivan	in memory of	Leslie Sullivan
CJ and Kim Van Pelt	in memory of	Richard Keith Newman
CJ and Kim Van Pelt	in memory of	Carolyn Ann Van Pelt



POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN IN HONOR BY:		
Lynn Butts	in honor of	Mr. and Mrs. Clayburn Butts
Ron Ellis	in honor of	Holy Trinity Lutheran Choir
Santosh Jayakumar (3)	in honor of	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
The Jay Family (2)	in honor of	Our HTLC Family
Billy and Luellen Jones	in honor of	Our children and grandchildren
Cathy Fry and Joanne Marinaro	in honor of	Kaley Jewel Fry
Wayne Simpson and Tim Owens	in honor of	Bessie Simpson
Lynn Sullivan	in honor of	Ben, Sarah and Eliza Rose Sullivan
Dr. Angela L. Wadsworth and Mrs. Annelle Royal	in honor of	Jerry Wadsworth
Dr. Angela L. Wadsworth and Mrs. Annelle Royal	in honor of	Dr. Jerry Evans

The 2024 Flower Calendar is now available in the church narthex.



Finance At A Glance

BY TIM OWENS

OCTOBER					
			October YTD	Budget YTD	Over (Under) Budget
Income and Expenses:					
Contributions	16,669		153,867	138,125	15,742
Rents & Building Use	8,625		43,624	39,333	4,291
Other Income	19		529	417	112
Total Income	25,313		198,020	177,875	20,145
Current Year Expenses	19,586		196,637	201,353	(4,716)
Prior Year Expenses	-		-	-	-
Total Expenses	19,586		196,637	201,353	(4,716)
Net Income (Loss)	5,727		1,383	(23,478)	24,861
Assets & Liabilities					
as of October 2023					
General Fund				82,362	
Dedicated Funds				29,444	
Endowment Fund				78,222	
Total Assets				190,028	
Note Payable - Home Mission (Boiler)				130,118	

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30am - Adult Bible 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10am - Children's Sunday 10:15am - Choir Practice 11am - Worship 12pm - Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch	9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours 11am - Staff Meeting @	9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @ 6pm - Pride @ Fellowship	9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours One Voice Choir Concert 9am - Office Hours	One Voice Choir Concert
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30am - Adult Bible 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10am - Children's Sunday 10:15am - Choir Practice 11am - Worship 12:15 The -ish Group 3pm - ARTS+ @ 5pm Beer and Hymns	9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours 11am - Staff Meeting @	9am - Office Hours 11am - Bible Study @	9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30am - Adult Bible 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10am - Children's Sunday 10:15am - Choir Practice 11am Lessons and Carols 1pm - Congregational	9am - Office Hours	9am - Office Hours 11am - Staff Meeting @	9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @ 11am - Bible Study @	9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @	NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @	
24	25	26	27	28	29	
Christmas Eve 11am - Worship 6:30pm Christmas Prelude 7pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Christmas Day		9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @ 11am - Bible Study @	9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @	9am - Office Hours 9:30am - Dance Group @	
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
New Year's Eve 9:30am - Adult Bible 9:30am - Adult Sunday 10am - Children's Sunday 10:15am - Choir Practice 11am - Worship						



ACCESS THE ONLINE WEBSITE CALENDAR AT: <https://htlccharlotte.org/calendar/>

