

# THE BRIDGE

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Rev. Elizabeth M. Strobel  
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*"Diverse in Backgrounds, United in Faith"*

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Dear Friends,

The following pages of this newsletter are jam-packed with the joys of the season! I encourage you to mark your calendars for our many celebratory events. Every December, Trinity is filled with singing, twinkling lights, and even parties. Christmas is coming – joy to the world!

If you are ready to be merry, then keep reading past this page! You will not be disappointed.

If, however, this month brings you sadness or worries, then the rest of this page is for you.

Look, let's be honest – Christmas can be hard. No other season so highlights the things we lack – you may be grieving a loved one, struggling financially, mourning our world's brokenness, or simply not experiencing the perfect holiday that commercials promise you. The days are short and the nights are long – and our culture tries to drown out the darkness with carols and movies and flashing lights.

But people of faith know better. Have you ever noticed that Advent always begins with darkness? Our Advent Scriptures address communities in pain and loss – “Comfort, comfort by people,” “the wolf shall lie down with the lamb,” and “the days are surely coming...” All of those words were addressed to a community of hurt, separated from families, the temple in ruins, feeling abandoned by God. Through Scripture, though, we learn that we are not abandoned; despair and darkness do not get the final word. God has come and is still coming to us to bring redemption. We may grieve, but we grieve as a people with hope.

Beloved children of God, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

You are not required to be “merry and bright” this season. But I do hope that as you come to worship, as you listen to the words of Scripture we read around Advent, you are able to glimpse the glimmer of hope that we find in the birth of Christ. The light will shine, even though the night is long.

My prayer for all of us is that our hurts will turn into hope as we remember that God – Emmanuel – dwells with us. Come to worship and hear this good news. And please also remember that my door is always open should you need to talk.

Blessings,  
Elizabeth



## Mark Your Calendars for **DECEMBER**



### **DECORATE THE CHURCH**

Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
9:00 a.m.

We will be having a time of fun and fellowship while decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:00 – noon. Come and help and enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut.



### **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Saturday, December 8  
8:00 a.m. – 11:00



### **INDEPENDENCE MESSIAH**

Saturday, December 15  
7:00 p.m.



### **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

Sunday, December 16  
10:30 a.m.



### **CHRISTMAS CANTATA**

Sunday, December 23



Dec. 6 George & Brenda Scott



- Dec. 2 Carolyn Rich  
Eli Sherer
- 9 Carol Chartrand
- 10 Irene Schmitt
- 13 Reid Hansen
- 16 T.J. Layman
- 17 Jack Layman
- 21 Claudia Grunewald  
Laurie Rasmussen
- 22 David Lyons, Jr.
- 26 Thomas Thieme
- 27 Mike Richards

### SEW 'N SO'S

Thank you Trinity, for saving the Best Choice Bar Codes for us. We have received 1,264 bar codes far this year.



The Sewing Ladies have made 19 quilts this year and donated them to individuals and to Community Service League. Please keep saving those bar codes.



### WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

This list of members at Trinity has been organized for the purpose of being lifted up in prayer during the week. We look forward to God's richest blessings as we pray for one another. During the month please pray for these:

- Dec. 2: Barbara Burnett  
Steve & Sally Burns  
Louis Byre
- Dec. 9:: Beverly Campbell  
Paul Carr  
John & Teresa Chapman
- Dec. 16: Travis & Genie Chapman  
Carol Chartrand  
Ellen Chrisman
- Dec. 23: Donna Coffel  
Don Combs  
Bob & Jane Cooper
- Dec. 30: Billie Cross  
Joe & Mary Daniel  
Dennis & Felicidad DeLong





**ADVENT FAIR**

**Sunday, December 2 – 9:30 a.m.**

It's time for the Advent Fair! Bring your favorite holiday snack to share. We will have fun caroling, making crafts, playing bingo and celebrating the spirit of Advent!



**Candlelight Service**

This year we are offering TWO Christmas Eve Services!

Monday, December 24

Family Christmas Eve Communion  
Worship 7:00 p.m.  
Wassail Bowl 8:00 p.m.

Traditional Christmas Even Communion  
Wassail Bowl 10:00 p.m.  
Worship 11:00 p.m.



*On the first Day of the Week*

*"The people came together..."*

Nov. 4.....	74
Nov. 11.....	83
Nov. 18 .....	65
Nov. 25 .....	Service Cancelled

*"and the people gave . . . "*

Nov. 4.....	\$5,495.41
Nov . 11.....	2,007.14
Nov. 18.....	2,358.00
Nov . 25.....	<u>Service Cancelled</u>
Total.....	\$9,860.55

*A heartfelt thank you to those who have so lovingly and generously contributed to Trinity's memorial funds:*

*Paul Carr*

**CHRISTIAN SYMBOL**

**Five-Pointed Star –**

The star of Bethlehem is often shown as a five-pointed star. Roughly shaped like a human being. It symbolizes Christ's incarnation. It also calls to mind the wise men's journey: "After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the onke who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matthew 2:1-2, NIV).





### Trinity Table

Trinity Table is a monthly effort to provide a hot meal to anyone who needs or wants it. The next Trinity Table is scheduled for Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to donate monetary support or your time as a volunteer, please see Kyle Palmer.

### THE JOASH CHEST

*“Joash was seven years old when he began to reign; he reigned forty years in Jerusalem...The king gave command, and they made a chest, and set it outside the gate of the house of the Lord. All the leaders and all the people rejoiced and brought their tax and dropped it into the chest until it was full... So they did day after day, and collected money in abundance.”*

*-from 2 Chronicles 24*



The Joash Chest will be open to receive your 2019 Pledges at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The Joash Chest can then be found in the sanctuary every week beginning on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.



### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS!

How do you tackle your Christmas list when there are folks who seem to already have everything? A gift from the heart is the perfect gift!

Trinity has received the 2018-2019 Presbyterian Giving Catalog that lists a variety of small gifts with a big impact. You can give families in need the gift of livestock to help improve their food security and/or as a source of income, you can help a whole community with safe drinking water, you can help provide school supplies for a displaced student, or a sewing machine that can help a single family with their clothing needs or help launch a business in a community... Doing it all in honor of your hard to buy for loved one. There are so many possibilities, some for as low as \$25! Check out the catalog on the Mission Spotlight bulletin board in the Narthex.

You can also send a donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance fund in their honor. That gift would help those affected by hurricanes like Florence and Michael, and earthquakes and other natural disasters throughout the world. More information on this can be found at [www.PCUSA.org](http://www.PCUSA.org)



Congratulations to Jennifer and Jason Robinson upon the birth of a daughter, Kyla Rose, on November 6. Kyla has a big sister, Kyndall, and a big brother, Kellon. Scott and Susan Matthews are the happy grandparents.

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Trinity sends its love and sympathy to Cathy Ruppert and her family following the death of her father, Tom Haggard on Thursday, November 15. His funeral will be held at Trinity on Saturday, December 22. Visitation will be at 9:00 a.m. followed by the service at 10:00 a.m.

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### **MITTEN TREE**

Don't forget to bring mittens, scarves, hats, and other cold weather clothing for our Mitten Tree in the Narthex. Donations will be received through December and

then taken to Hope House.



### **2018 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT**

Trinity will again be paying our assigned per capita assessment in 2018 by asking members of the congregation to donate their own \$43.29 per active member. This will help to ease our budget.

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### **PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS GIFT**

Members of the congregation wishing to give a monetary donation for Pastor Elizabeth Meador Strobel's Christmas gift should see Clerk of Session, Barbara Burnett or Financial Secretary, Evelyn Richards by Sunday December 16, 2018. Our gift will be presented to her at the Christmas Eve Candlelight service.

Barb Burnett

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When the weather is bad do you wonder if Trinity is opened? Now you can turn to your local television stations to find out. We will be listed on WDAF Channel 4, KMBC Channel 9 and KSHB Channel 41. We will NOT be listed on KCTV Channel 5.

## Congregational Meeting



Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 9, immediately following worship for the purpose of amending the church Bylaws, electing a new slate of officers, electing a new nominating committee, approving the pastor's Terms of Call, and receiving the budget. Copies of the amended Bylaws are available in the Narthex for your review prior to our meeting. Visiting guests are welcome to attend the meeting, regular visitors are encouraged to attend, and active members are expected to attend.



### *From the Trinity Staff:*

*Rev. Elizabeth M. Strobel, Pastor*

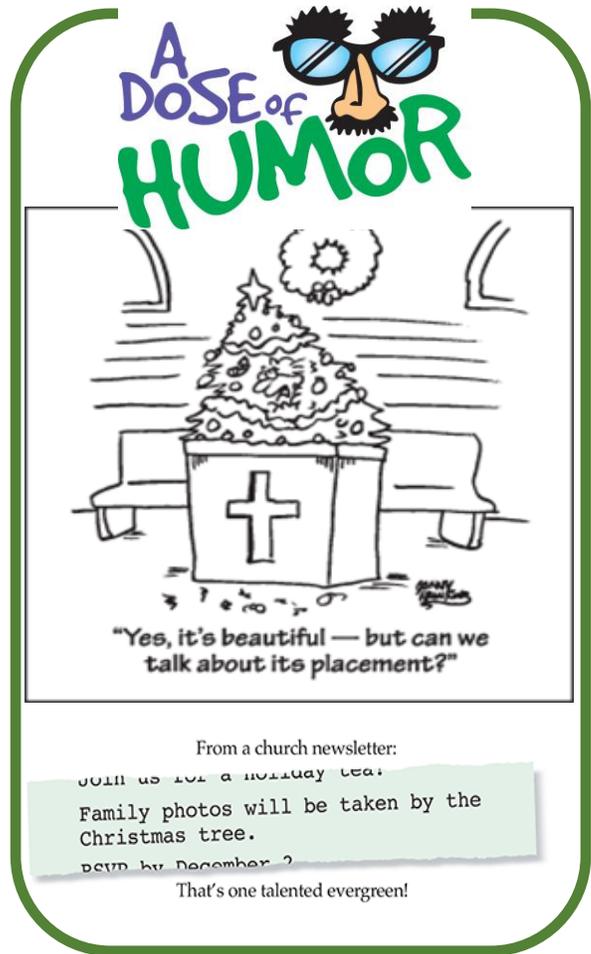
*Jack Palmer, Organist*

*Kristopher Taylor, Chancel Choir Director*

*Barbara Ploeger, Church Secretary*

*Madeliene Lyons, Nursery Attendant*

*Diana Miller, Nursery Attendant*



Don't Miss the



The deadline for items submitted for the January Bridge is Friday, December 14th.

Information for the weekly News Sheet is due each week on Wednesday by 1:00 p.m.