

TRINITY *news*

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 28 ■ ISSUE 1

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street • PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291 • www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram

[trinitylutheransg](#)
[trinityyouth203](#)



YouTube

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship - *select weeks*
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM

www.kvikradio.com

and on Facebook

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m.

1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian

Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist

Scott Solberg, Choir Director

Logan Olson, Handbell Director

Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader

Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6 NRSV)

Perhaps it seems odd, but I have been thinking a lot about sorrow lately. This December and last brought with them the unexpected deaths of people my husband and I have known and loved. We have now journeyed through two Advents marked by grief.

In the midst of sitting in that grief, I have watched on Sunday mornings as the light on the Advent wreath grows. Many of us name the Advent promises of hope, peace, joy, and love as the candles are lit. Often, we do not recognize that those candles are sometimes ignited in the backdrop of loneliness, uncertainty, grief, and fear.

Indeed, all of those things have always mingled together. They were present at the moment of Christ's birth, and they are present in our lives still today.

As I have watched the light from the candles around the Advent wreath grow, I have thought about other candles we often hold in sacred spaces. At baptism, we light a candle from the Christ candle and hand it to a sponsor of the newly baptized, proclaiming, "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

I have been thinking a lot about the Christ light we each hold, whether literally in our baptismal candles or figuratively, as the gospel takes hold of us and the light of Christ shines in our hearts and lives. I remember the way the light in a room grows when we are all gathered in one space, holding our baptismal candles, our Christ lights, for one another to see.

Indeed, many of us have Christmas memories of singing Silent Night as we pass the flame from one candle to the next. As the light is shared, the sanctuary transforms, and a room full of individual lights becomes a space of communal light.

As I think about the people I love who navigate the deepest seas of grief this season, I also think about the light of Christ and the ways we are called and privileged to bear the Christ light for one another.

It is true that if there were only one light, and it was the light of Christ, it would be enough to break through the deepest night. It is also true that as the number of candles grows, so too does the light. Sometimes it is through the work of God in others, as they bear the light, that we see the light of Christ.

Dear church, this Christmas, I pray two things: first, that you would be surrounded, either in spirit or in the flesh, by a host of people who hold the Christ light for you.

Second, I pray that all of us would bear the light that points to the "glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." I pray the light we hold would indeed be the light of Christ and that the light would only grow as we each, individually and communally, let our lights so shine before others that they may see and glorify the One who came... and is... and will come again. The One who is the light of the world.

May the light of Christ shine brightly upon you and in you this Christmas season.

In Christ,

Bishop Regina Hassanally

Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

“Jesus comes in the form of the beggar, of the dissolute human child in ragged clothes, asking for help. He confronts you in every person that you meet. As long as there are people, Christ will walk the earth as your neighbor, as the one through whom God calls you, speaks to you, makes demands on you.” German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dearest people of God,

God’s grace and peace and blessings to you as we begin another new year! As I write this, much has changed since last year at this time. We have had in-person worship since March, and we have had in-person Sunday School and confirmation this school year as well. In December, we were blessed to present both a Sunday School Christmas program and the annual Trinity Choir concert (both available for viewing on our YouTube channel “Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove,” if you missed them). Then, to celebrate for the 2021st time, we had three services on Christmas Eve with well over 200 people attending (and many more attending online), as well as a service on Christmas Day. As I said, much has changed.

And yet, some things have not changed. We are still fighting a pandemic that has taken the lives of more than 800,000 people in the U.S., and millions more around the world, including several Trinity members and several more in the community. We mourn these losses, and we pray for an end to the pandemic.

But there is one thing that never changes: We are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, as Jesus loves us. And we are called to love “the least of these” in order to show our love for Jesus.

We know that Jesus comes to us not just at Christmas but every day. Jesus comes to us in the music, liturgy, and scripture we hear in worship. Jesus comes to us in the waters of baptism and the bread and wine of communion. But most of all, most precious of all, Jesus comes to us in the people we meet every day. And we show Jesus to the people we meet every day in our words and actions.

As we look ahead to 2022, I have faith that we will continue to see Jesus and be Jesus for our Trinity family, for our community, and for the community at large. Thank you for your faith in this congregation. Thank you for your support of the mission of this church. And thank you for your continued faith in doing the work God is calling us to do in the world.

Happy New Year!
~ Pr. Elizabeth

New Creation

Ah, the new year, many of us are grateful to leave 2021 behind, hoping 2022 will be better. We may be setting new goals, resolutions, pledges, and promises. And some may even work! We might lose weight. We might work out more, eat less. We might be kinder, more tolerant, listen intently instead of waiting to break in with our point-of-view. I’m turning blue from holding my breath!

“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Setting a new course is nothing new for people of faith. And we don't necessarily wait for a new year, although it may help some of us. While Paul’s letter to the Corinthians is to new believers, and so, the idea of a new creation makes sense. Belief in Jesus sets them on a new journey of faith.

For us as Lutherans, being a new creation in Jesus Christ is correct. When Martin Luther wrote about Baptism, he did not see it as a once and done exercise. Every day was to be a drowning and rebirth in baptism. Every day was to be starting in Christ anew. People of Lutheran faith, (not that we are perfect) are to be a new creation in Christ. So when you wash your face everyday to start the day, keep in mind that you are renewing your baptism everyday.

~ Pr. Lane



Trinity's Annual Meeting is
 Sunday, January 30 ▪ 10:45 a.m. ▪ Sanctuary

All reports due by Friday, January 7

Audit ▪ Saturday, January 15

Every five years Trinity has an official audit by an outside accounting firm. This is the year for the official audit. The auditor is Mike Betz of Betz Accounting.

Items needed for the audit — *bring copies of these items, the auditor will be taking them with him (except for accounts payable backup):*

- bank statement and reconciliation for every month of 2021
- income sources for 2021 (donations or where income was generated)
- expenses (list of expenses and when paid — check #, etc.)
- any accounts payable bills for backup of the items paid
- a balance sheet and profit and loss statement as of 12/31/2021 that he can balance your accounts to.

SCHEDULE

- 1:00 p.m. WELCA
- 1:30 p.m. Cemetery Association
- 2:00 p.m. Beary Patch Preschool
- 2:30 p.m. Scholarship Endowment
- 3:00 p.m. Heritage Endowment
- 3:45 p.m. Mission Endowment
- 4:30 p.m. General Fund, Special Accounts, Youth



2021 Milestones

Baptisms

- Jeriya Lee Jones
- Tristan Michael Jones
- Kaien Blake Jones
- Oliver Wayne Landsom
- Riley Brian Firn
- Bryce Allen Firn
- Zoey Jean Denise King
- Arthur Raymond Turek
- Walter Allen Wiste

Deaths

- Roselyn Ann Lysgaard
- Joan Elizabeth Baumgardner
- Wayne Sanford Sherry
- Dale Wayne Bunge
- Beulah Viola Onstad
- Georgia May Roble
- Wayne Franklin Bunge
- Morris Truman Tweeten
- Leslie Alden Storlie
- Vernon Duane Roble
- Michael Dennis Ellestad
- Carol Marie Harvey
- Robert Arden Oefstedahl
- Audrey M. Ellingson
- Marjorie Ann Rostad
- Dean Robert Schutte-meier
- Virginia Josephine Blexrud



HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP! We will meet the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 p.m. We will meet at the Trinity Center and spend time in community, games, and deep faith conversations. ALL 9th -12th graders invited! Bring a friend or two, you do not need to be a Trinity member to attend — all are welcome!
Upcoming dates: January 9 and January 23 • 6-8p.m.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING: THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER! Please sign up by February 1.

What is the Youth Gathering? Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

All 9th -12th grade youth are invited to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, July 24-28, 2022. We are fundraising to help with the cost of the trip! Please contact Kerri to sign up or with questions or for more information. Invite a friend to go with you on the trip.

Rescheduled HS YOUTH LOCK IN Friday, January 14 beginning at 9 p.m. and ending the next morning at 7 a.m. Games, food, all around the church challenges and games. Stay up late, faith community, and time to worship our God! All 9th-12th grade youth invited. Questions? Check in with Kerri.

WINTER TUBING RETREAT

Saturday, February 5 • Cascade Mountain • 7th-12th grade youth invited
Mark your calendars now and watch for more details to come!

4TH - 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday, January 19 • 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • Fellowship Hall (in the church basement)
Games, community, snacks, and more! Christmas Bingo! Invite a friend along — all are welcome!

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

January 12 • Baptism
January 19 • The Lord's Prayer: Intro, Petitions 1-2
January 26 • The Lord's Prayer: Petitions 3-4

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

January 9, 16, 23, 30 • 10:30—11:20 a.m.

RELEASE TIME

We have more than 100 kids in grades K-5 participating this year! It's exciting and full of energy!
Meeting dates:

January 5 ▪ 1pm — 2nd grade ▪ 2pm — Kindergarten

January 12 ▪ 12pm — 5th grade ▪ 1pm — 4th grade ▪ 2pm—3rd/4th grades

January 19 ▪ 1pm — 3rd grade ▪ 2pm—1st grade

January 16 ▪ 1pm—2nd grade ▪ 2pm—Kindergarten/1st grades

DECEMBER 8, 2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Updates:

- Youth made 85 Thanksgiving pies! 25 youth helped with the project.
- In November, Staffing Team completed a 3-month employee review with Kerri Jahnke and a 6-month employee review with Nicole Krenzke.
- The Facilities Planning Team made a resolution to pass on to the Comprehensive Team the recommendation for the addition. The goal is to have the report done in 90 days.
- Nominating Committee (Milly Halverson, Mary Zaffke, Lara Wold Mendez, Jan Kraabel, Barb Arnold, Gary Wilhelmson) have met and are working on filling in open positions in teams and team leads.

Motions passed:

- To approve the 2022 budget as presented.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES!

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries.

We have several options to receive your offering:

- ▶ **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, www.trinitysg.org. Click on the "Contribute" link on the right-side of the page.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember – **sponsorships for the Media Ministry Fund** (\$100) or **Missionary for a Day candle** (\$40) can also be done. Do you have a certain date in mind? Give us a call, 498-5291, or send us an email, trinity@springgrove.coop.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY



WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY

- **498-HOPE (4673)**
-short daily messages and updates
- **498-AMEN (2636)**
-daily devotions
- **www.trinitysg.org**
-news, updates, info
- **Facebook:** *Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove*
-updates, music, worship, info
- **YouTube:**
Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove
-video recordings of worship, and more!
- **Instagram**
-photos, updates
- **KVIK 104.7FM**
- Sunday worship service,
- www.kvikradio.com

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

It seemed it'd be a night like any other this semester- a student leader meeting around the big table in the LCC kitchen, and wonderful supporters bringing in a meal halfway through the meeting. I should have known better. After all, longtime LCC friend and former Vice President Shirley draws people together. She, Jodie, and Gina brought in bags and baskets of vegetables, chips, buns, desserts, fixings, and on and on- and so much good gluten-free food!

Gina's children and a couple of their friends popped into the kitchen just before dinner, and soon the place was buzzing! I was surprised as more students came through the doors- a couple who had been coming the last few weeks also brought two new friends, and another student I hadn't seen since the first week of school, arrived later.

During worship that evening, we pulled tables together again, just like we had for dinner, and worked on making and writing Christmas cards for children and families in U.S. detention centers. (This was the second year in a row we participated in Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's "Hope for the Holidays" campaign.) I was so thankful that this was the week of the semester (aside from that first one, of course!) that so many people showed up.

One newer student looked up Christmas jokes on her phone to include in her cards, thinking of the children who would open them later. Several students began a deeper conversation of welcome, noting how often they'd felt unwelcome in churches and how surprised they were to find a place like the LCC. As we were wrapping up, I told them that these were exactly the kind of conversations we have at Independent Theo, and one of them came the very next Tuesday!

My prayer for you, among many, is that you may trust the welcome that is yours at the manger of Jesus this season and all the year through. Merry Christmas, dear ones.

Advent hope,
Pastor Corrine
 Lutheran Campus Center, Winona



LOOKING FOR A DELICIOUS HEALTHY MEAL? CHECK OUT SENIOR DINING!

Meals served Monday-Friday at the American Legion front room, please sign up 24 hours ahead of time by calling Annette at the Legion, 498-3385 from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. or (507) 458-4046 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. A suggested donation of \$3.75-\$7.00 is requested, but any amount is fine.

Due to supply outages, menus may change without notice. Care is taken to stick to the planned menu, but sometimes substitutes are unavoidable.

Chair volleyball will be played after lunch on Thursdays.

If anyone has an older family member who lives outside the City of Spring Grove, Senior Dining has frozen meals that can be ordered and picked up once a week, whether 3 or 5 or 7 meals are needed once a week or every other week, meals can be customized. Advance notice is needed and it is a "take what the kitchen sends."



▼ Bishop Regina Hassanally was our special guest on December 12.

▲ The Care Team packaged and delivered 38 Christmas Cheer packages ▼ full of food for families and individuals in the Spring Grove area.

◀ Local store, West Main Boutique, encouraged its customers to donate food in exchange for a discount on their purchase. All of the food was given to Trinity's Little Free Pantry. Thank you!!

▲ Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 8:00 p.m.





◀ Practices were held during Sunday School time to help the children prepare for the program.

▶ ▼ Our Sunday School children had their Christmas program, "New Star" on Sunday, December 19.

Thank you to all who made this program possible! It was a sweet telling of the Christmas story including songs and costumes.

Did you miss seeing it live? You can still view it on our YouTube channel or look under videos on our Facebook page.



Thank you, Jessi Strinmoen, for program photos.





Trinity's Christmas Concert "Comfort and Joy" was Sunday, December 19 with a limited audience. We hope that next year the sanctuary can be back to normal capacity!

- ▶ Logan Olson sang a solo with Pastor Lane Zaffke adding violin.
- ▼ Claire Solberg sang with the choir on a selection — a special moment for her dad, director Scott Solberg.
- ▲ Rachel Storlie and Alisha Solum sang a duet with Barbara Arnold adding flute.

Rachel Storlie and Rachel Udstuen both were accompanists.

The Handbell choir also played a piece.

The concert is able to viewed on our YouTube channel or under videos on our Facebook page.



Trinity supports missionaries Mark and Linda Jacobson through donations to our Missionary for a Day candle and other gifts. Thank you!



Greetings and Merry Christmas from the Jacobsons, 2021!

We are currently ensconced in a beautiful cabin in the north woods, surrounded by snow and pine trees, reminiscent of Christmases past. We've been blessed to be able to gather as a family here: Laura and James from New York, Sarah and Stéphane from Nantes, France, and Mark, Linda and Katherine from St. Paul.

We just celebrated Mark's 70th birthday as a family and now continue to explore the way forward for brain cancer treatments. Many of you have been following our journey on Caring Bridge following Mark's diagnosis with brain cancer (<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/daktarijacobson>). Mark's best birthday present was having two separate oncologists agree on recommendations for the best treatment going forward.

Mark and Linda have been occupied with treatment planning and the treatment itself. Mark did radiation and chemo through the summer, which was well tolerated, but the cancer is still here to deal with. We appreciate living near extended family and friends in Minnesota and the tremendous support they give. Mark is semi-retired but continues to do some consulting for the ELCA, especially around healthcare in Juba, Sudan, and in Bangladesh. He is working with the Cancer Care Center at KCMC, Moshi, and the Foundation for Cancer Care in Tanzania on plans for adding brain cancer care to their work. Linda is on leave from her volunteer work with sexual assault survivors at Ramsey County.

After we got our Covid vaccines, we were able to return home to Tanzania from April to June to visit our home church and lifelong friends. The highlight of the year was our middle daughter Sarah's wedding at her husband Stéphane's family home in Brittany, France this September. We went sailing, ate our fill of oysters, dined in the beautiful streets of Vannes, stayed in the lovely seaside family home where Stéphane spent his summers growing up, and got to practice our French with the many wonderful members of Stéphane's family. We are so grateful that they arranged the timing so that Mark was able to be there.

Laura and James live in New York City. Laura works with data at New York City Health + Hospitals and James is a career coach at Columbia University. This year they've enjoyed catching up with friends and the chance to eat indoors again.

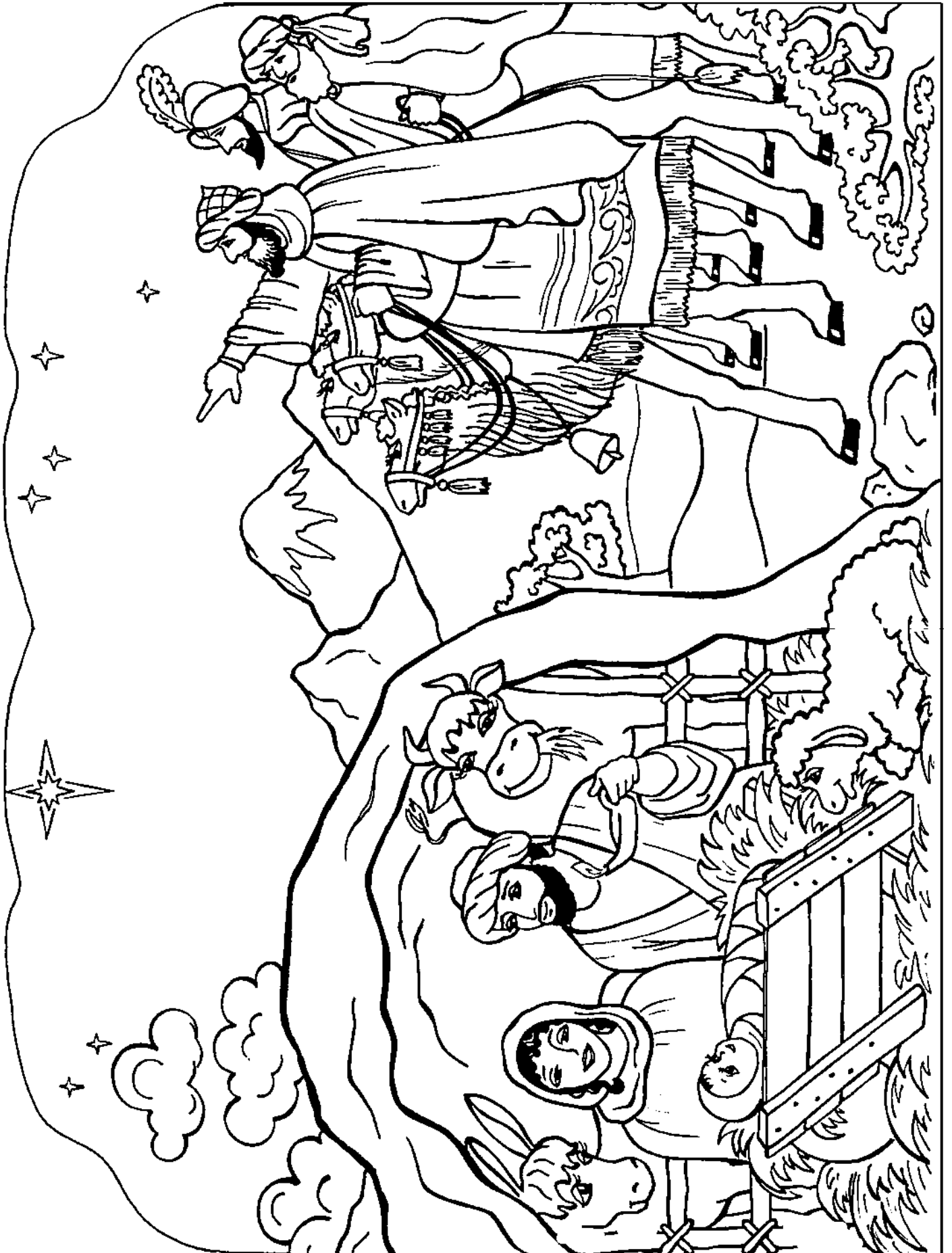
Sarah and Stéphane moved this year from Cape Town to live in Nantes, France. While they were sad to leave South Africa they are happy to be living close to (Dérobert) family. Their small belated wedding ceremony in France was a very special time for the whole family.

Katherine lives in St. Paul and continues to work for Alight, a humanitarian aid organization working with displaced people. Aside from time with Mom and Dad, she is taking advantage of the great outdoors, including camping (even when it snows!) and a boundary waters trip with Sarah and Stéphane. Covid travel restrictions means she has 'only' been able to visit her sisters in France and New York City this year.

We are grateful for your love and support in this difficult year. May the gift of Jesus that we celebrate bring hope and life to us all!

Christmas Joy and Love,

Mark and Linda and family
1429 Hoyt Ave W
Falcon Heights, MN 55108





January 9	Mark Schroeder
January 16	Bethany Bergsgaard
January 23	Carolyn Olson
January 30	Milly Halverson



Mon. Jan. 10	Linda & Steve Kemp
Tue. Jan. 11	Linda & Steve Kemp
Wed. Jan. 12	Janna & Len Myrah
Thu. Jan. 13	Janna & Len Myrah
Fri. Jan. 14	Elaine & Dana Kjome
Mon. Jan. 17	Elaine & Dana Kjome
Tue. Jan. 18	Nolie & Kim Kapplinger
Wed. Jan. 19	Nolie & Kim Kapplinger
Thu. Jan. 20	Doris & Kim Sherburne
Fri. Jan. 21	Doris & Kim Sherburne



Watch for a schedule coming from Kerri.

Usher Schedule



January Ushers
Scott Bingham (capt.) Steve Nelson Al Frydenlund Mark Schroeder Bruce Bergsgaard Ken Heim



December 26-January 8	Lori Wilhelmson
January 9-22	Milly Halverson
January 23-February 5	Judy Bratland
Christ in our Home devotional booklets and 498-AMEN instructions are located right inside the southeast entrance of the church.	



January Altar Guild
Bev Nelson (chair) Jan Lochner Lori Wilhelmson Jan Kraabel Cindy Thorson



Chain 1	Chain 2
Joyce Landsom	Karen Gray
Nolie Kapplinger	Bev Nelson
Terry Holland	Janet Wold
Bonnie Solberg	Jan Lochner
Dawn Hewitt	Ruth Johnsrud
Lynn Rostad Anderson	Judy Bratland
Milly Halverson	

JANUARY HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
FH = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement) MR = Middle Room (upstairs by offices) GR = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom) TC = Trinity Center						1 10:30am AA no Worship
2 2nd Sunday of Christmas 9:15am Worship, virtual only	3	4 5:00pm AA 6:30pm Nominating Committee, GR	5 1:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 2:00pm Release Time (K) 8:00pm Choir	6 5:30pm Education Team 7:00pm Finance Team	7 Reports DUE for Annual Report	8 10:30am AA
9 Epiphany 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 11:15am Nursing Home service 3:00pm Handbells 6-8:00pm High School Youth Group	10	11 9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna 5:00pm AA	12 9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 12:00pm Release Time (5 th) 1:00pm Release Time (4 th) 2:00pm Release Time (3 rd /4 th) 6:00pm Confirmation 7:00pm Council, 8:00pm Choir	13	14 9pm-7am High School Youth Group Lock-in, church	15 10:30am AA 1pm-5:30pm Audit 5:00 pm Worship/ Communion
16 Epiphany 2 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:30am Sunday School 3:00pm Handbells	17 2:30pm Phoebe, GR 7:00pm Hannah, GR	18 5:00pm AA	19 1:00pm Release Time (3 rd) 2:00pm Release Time (1 st) 2:00pm Eve 3:30-5:30pm 4 th -6 th grade Youth Group, FH 6:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	20 9:30am Worship at Manor	21 February newsletter info due!	22 10:30am AA
23 Epiphany 3 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 6-8:00pm High School Youth Group	24	25 10:00am Assisted Living service 5:00pm AA	26 1:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 2:00pm Release Time (K/1 st) 6:00pm Confirmation 8:00pm Choir	27 9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts 2:00pm newsletter prepped	28 9:00am Love Day	29 10:30am AA
30 Servant Sunday 9:15am Worship 10:30am Sunday School 10:45am Annual Meeting, Sanctuary	31					

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