Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

717 Stover Ave, PO box 637 Milledgeville, IL 61051 Phone: 815-225-7410

Partner in Cooperative Ministry

First Lutheran West Jordan

N. IL. Synod of the ELCA Ministers

The People of God
Interim Pastor Rev. Carol Soderholm
Secretary Janet Barkley
Organist Nancy Janssen



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Trinity Lutheran Church Milledgeville, IL

And



First Lutheran of Jordan, Sterling, IL





West Jordan

Worship Helpers

Alter care, communion assistant, Ushers/greeters

Dec. 6, & 13th Arlyn & Kathy Hinrichs

> Jodi Woessner Lector

Dec. 20th & 27th Jim & Jan Wetzell

> Jan Wetzell Lector

Circle Hostess: LuAnn Gvozdjak

Pastor Carol is available 24/7 to members and friends of Faith on Forty

Please feel free to call her anytime at 815-973 -8011. In spite if the fact that we cannot be together physically, we can spiritually and emotionally.

Pastor Carol, I'm here for you.

In our prayers:

From First:

Irene Burdick, Sandy Bushman, Alena Crossman, Myron Deets, Anita Gilbert, Linda Habben, Roger Hinrichs, Scotty Powell, Jon Ryner, Ramon Woessner Gary Sibley, Al Vickers,

From Trinity:

Jerry Blair, Bill Borth, Ben Bryson, Leland Bryson, Shirley Cheeseman, Elena Crossman, June Franks, Elena Fraser, Jane Hines, Donna Folkers Johnson, Stacy Jacobson, Debbie Howlett, Matthew Foltz, Tom Graff, Cinda Heeren, Troy Kendall, Donna Miller, Roberta Mosley, Rhva Milnes, Jennifer O'Brien, Debbie Oldham, Kim Tomasi,



How to get what you need at Trinity Lutheran/First Lutheran Church's

Emergency Pastoral Care Concern?

Hospitalizations, Illness, Family Crisis

Call Pr. Carol Soderholm cell phone 815-973-8011

Do **NOT** rely on the hospital to contact the church.

Do **NOT** rely on word of mouth/ The grapevine.

Do **NOT** rely on mindreading skills. Pastor missed that class in seminary.

Non-Urgent **Pastoral Needs?**

Scheduling a home visit/baptism/ wedding. Confirmation/Christian Ed, Coffee & Conversation

Leave a message at Trinity for Pr. Carol. She will return it as soon as possible.

E-mail Pastor Carol @carol.soderholm@gmail.com

Questions about Administrative stuff?

Announcements for the bulletin, questions about schedules, Financial questions, hall rental, etc....

Call the Church and leave a message for Janet on the Church answering machine, for her to return during office hours

815-225-7410 or E-mail Janet at telcsecretary@mediacombb.net

Contact a council member

Church Leaders Directory

Trinity Lutheran Church

First Lutheran West Jordan

Tammy Miller (815-493-6664 cell 815-541-6195) President President Jan Wetzel (631-9353) Secretary Jodi Woessner

Vice-President

Lori Oncken Secretary

Connie Brockhouse Treasurer

At-Large Jim Brubaker

Karen Landers Ken Peterson

Custodian Lynn Kaufman

Musician Nancy Janssen Interim Pastor, Rev. Carol Soderholm Phone # 815-973-8011

Church Secretary Janet Barkley Church # 815-225-7410 Cell# 815-590-0520



The New Church Year start November 29th with the First Sunday in Advent

The Lutheran church calendar falls into three main seasons: Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, and Pentecost. The Advent and Christmas season is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ, and it is also a time of joy. Lent is a time to meditate on the suffering and resurrection of Jesus.

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin word *adventus* which translates to "coming." This coming is exactly what the church year is celebrating: the coming of Christ. During Advent, four candles (three blue, one pink) are lit each Sunday, on an Advent wreath. The candles represent hope, faith, joy and peace, respectively. Often, a fifth candle, called the Christ candle, sits in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas day.

Colors of Advent and Christmas: The colors typically used during Advent are blue or violet. More commonly, blue is used to signify hope. The violet color is traditionally used to proclaim the coming King, Christ. For Christmas, white is used to represent holiness, glory, and joy.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL
Have a safe and merry
Holiday Season.

Council Highlights from November 17th

New Toilet's in upstairs women's bathroom.

Church will be close till at least till December 5th. We will let you know when our next in church service will be by phone or on our Facebook page.

Connie Brockhouse retired as treasure and Donna Landis was appointed to take over the treasures duties.

Kim Steward resigned as Council President, Choir coordinator, and WELCA President, and Music & Worship, Shoe Box Ministry, and Landscape coordinator.

Our Southtown Ministry

Will be Tuesday, December 15th

Lynn will been dropping off Christmas gift cards,
for the residences Christmas gift.

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Trinity will have their next council meeting

December 16th, 2020 @ 7:00pm

OUR ADVENT SUNDAY READINGS ARE:

Nov. 29th	Dec 6th	Dec. 13th	Dec 20th
1st Sunday in Advent	2n Sunday in Advent	3rd Sunday in Advent	4th Sunday in Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11,16
Psalm 80:1-7. 17-19	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
1 Corinthians 1: 3-9	2 Peter3:8-13	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27
Mark 13:24-37	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1:16-38

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

 Dec. 24th Christmas Eve
 Dec. 25th Christmas
 Dec 27th 1st of Christmas

 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Isaiah 62:6-12
 Isaiah 61:10—62:3

 Psalm 96
 Psalm 97
 Psalm 148

 Titus 2:11-14
 Titus 3:4-7
 Galatians 4:4-7

 Luke 2:1-14[15-20]
 Luke 2:[1-7]8-20
 Luke 2:22-40

December Daily Prayer

Dec. 1st –Help me, O God, to follow your call to labor in Jesus' name. Amen

Dec. 2nd—Help me, Jesus, to turn away from my worries and toward you. In your name. Amen.

Dec. 3rd-God, help us trust that you are here, and that there is life in you—enough for us to share with neighbors in need. Amen

Dec. 4th-Lord Jesus, help me to truly live as one consecrated by you to do your holy work. Amen

Dec. 5th-Lift my burdens, O God, and fill my heart with love for my neighbors. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec. 6th-Jesus, help me be a messenger of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec. 7th– Turn me back to you, O God, that I might be refreshed to serve my neighbor. In Jesus's name. Amen

Dec. 8th- God, may I find glory only under the canopy of your love, intended as shelter for all people. Amen

Dec. 9th-God, help me to watch always for where you are at work, even in situations that seem scary at first. Amen

Dec. 10th-Lord Jesus, Help me turn to you for direction. In your name. Amen

Dec. 11th-Lord, help me celebrate the wonderful things you have done and share your abundance with others. Amen

Dec. 12th-God, help me exult over all you have sone for me. In Jesus' name. Amen

Dec. 13th– Help, me tell and show others what I believe about you, Jesus. Amen.

Dec. 14th- Help me trust you, O Lord, for you alone abide forever. Amen

Dec. 15th-Holy Spirit, draw me back to the life and freedom God has already given me in Jesus. Amen

Dec. 16th-Listening God, thank you for taking note of me and listening to me always. Amen

Dec. 17th-Lord Jesus, may your life, death, and resurrection be the foundational story of my life. Amen

Dec. 18th–Gifting God, help me respond to your call to serve in your sharing love. Amen

Dec. 19th-God, we hear you calling, but sometimes other voices drown out your message. Help me listen. Amen.

Dec. 20th– Abiding Spirit, keep us mindful of your presence, the greatest gift, new each day. Amen.

Dec. 21st-Creator God, thank you for sending us forth with a song to sing to all creation. Amen

Dec. 22nd-Trustworthy God, you guide us on life's path and stand ready to catch us when we fall. Thank you. Amen

Dec. 23rd-Abiding God, speak to us in new ways, calling us to abide in your promised presence. Amen.

 $\boldsymbol{Dec.\ 24th\text{-}Manger\text{-}child},$ open us to the fullness of your light as we tell the God-with-us story . Amen.

Dec. 25th-God of deliverance, help us deliver the good news of the gift of Jesus to all. Amen.

Dec. 26th– God of boundless love, teach us to be your light-bearers in the world. Amen.

Dec. 27th-God of promise, with Simeon and Anna we praise you for the gift of Jesus today an always. Amen

Dec. 28th-Faithful Creator, we venture through uncharted terrain, clinging to trust that you carry us in love. Amen.

Dec. 29th-Leadme, God, in pathways that will make known your love, grace, and mercy. Amen

Dec. 30th— God of infinite patience, teach us to value the days given to us, trusting your goodness. Amen

Dec. 31st-God-with-us in all our days, we praise you for your pres-







Dec	1st	Micah 4:6-13
Dec	2nd	Luke 21:34-38
Dec	3rd	Hosea 6:1-6
Dec	4th	Jeremiah 1:4-10
Dec		Ezekiel 36:24-28
Dec	6th	Mark 1:1-8
Dec	7th	Isaiah 26:7-15
Dec	8th	Isaiah 4:2-6
Dec	9th	Luke 1:5-17
Dec	10th	Habakkuk 2:1-5
Dec	11th	Psalm 126
Dec	12th	Habakkuk 3:13-19
Dec	13th	John 1:6-8, 19-38
Dec	14th	Psalm 125
Dec	15th	Acts 3:17—4:4
	16th	Malachi 3:16—4:6
	17th	Hebrews 1:1-4
Dec	18th	Hebrews 1:5-14
Dec	19th	Judges 13:2-24
Dec	20th	Luke 1:26-38
	21st	Luke 1:46-55
	22nd	Romans 10:5-13
	23rd	Zephaniah 3:14-20
Dec	24th	Luke 2:1-20
Dec	25th	Isaiah 52:7-10
	26th	Acts 6:8—7:2a, 51-60
Dec	27th	Luke 2:22-40
Dec	28th	Psalm 124
Dec	29th	John 21:20-25
Dec	30th	2 Peter 3:8-13
Dec	31st	Psalm 146



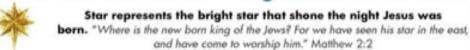


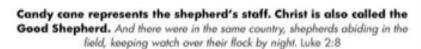
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HAY ANGEL FAITH HOPE FRANK INCENSE MYRRH SILENT NIGHT LORD SAVIOR CHRISTMAS

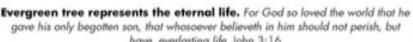


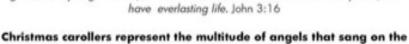
Christmas Symbolis











night Jesus was born. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest..." Luke 2:13-14

Christmas candles and lights represent the light that Jesus has brought to the world. To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. Luke 1:79

Holly Berries represent the blood that Christ shed for us. For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many remission of sins. Matthew 26:28

Nativity scene represents the scene in the manger where Jesus was born. And she brought for her firstborn son, and wrapped him swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn. Luke 2:7

Christmas wreath represents the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head... John 19:2

Christmas Bells represent the call of mankind to worship the Lord. For the Son of man came to seek, and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

You Look for Me at Christmas...

Author Unknown If you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star; I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are. You may not be aware of Me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations. But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, and listen to your heart, you'll find I'm waiting there for you. You're the one I want to be with. you're the reason that I came, and you'll find Me in the stillness, as I'm whispering your name. Love, Jesus





















An Advent Prayer for The Lord to Come

Prayer is a wonderful way to help cut away from distractions of the season and open your heart to prepare for the joy and hope of Christ's birth. Here is a sample prayer to use during the season to focus your heart and mind for the birth of Jesus Christ.

This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart.

Fill me with Your presence from the very start.

As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given,

Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven.

The first Christmas gift, it was the greatest gift ever.

You came as a baby born in a manger.

Wrapped like the gifts I find under my tree,

Waiting to be opened, to reveal Your love to me.

Restore to me the wonder that came with Jesus' birth,

When He left the riches of Heaven and wrapped Himself in rags of earth.

Immanuel, God with us, Your presence came that night.

And angels announced, "Into your darkness, God brings His Light."

"Do not be afraid," they said, to shepherds in the field.

Speak to my heart today, Lord, and help me to yield.

Make me like those shepherd boys, obedient to Your call.

Setting distractions and worries aside, to You I surrender them all.

Surround me with Your presence, Lord, I long to hear Your voice.

Clear my mind of countless concerns and all the holiday noise.

Slow me down this Christmas, let me not be in a rush.

In the midst of parties and planning, I want to feel Your hush.

This Christmas, Jesus, come to the manger of my heart.

Invade my soul like Bethlehem, bringing peace to every part.

Dwell within and around me, as I unwrap Your presence each day.

Keep me close to You, Lord. It's in Your wonderful Name I pray.

~Renee Swope, "The Manger of My Heart" from Proverbs 31 Ministries

The season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. At that time, the new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year) Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29th, and ends on Thursday, December 24.

Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their

red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, and they light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

Advent candle tradition, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Of West Jordan 20314 Hickory Hills Road Sterling, IL 61081 815-225-7410

Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

717 Stover Ave, PO Box 637 Milledgeville, IL 61051 815-225-7410; telcsecretary@mediacombb.net Worship: Sundays 10:15 AM trinitymville.360unite.com



Dear friends and members of Faith on Forty,

The year 2020 will be remembered for generations as the year when the world stood still - for many of us. Our fast-paced and frenzied lives basically came to a halt as nations and people faced a global pandemic. If we wanted to survive, physical distancing (staying away from each other) was required. Public places closed. **Home was the safest place to be.**

"Come home for Christmas" used to be a national mantra. Do you remember that? I believe it was sponsored by the Catholic church. In December we would see it frequently on television. "Come home for Christmas".

Coming home for Christmas used to include church = Christmas eve or Christmas day service. Sadly, it might not this year depending on how serious the flu/Covid season is. This season our home home might become our church home. If it does - no problem. The early Christians celebrated the birth of Christ in their homes. During the first hundred years of the church there were no churches. Small groups gathered in someone's home. Church was home.

This year, if church is home for you - celebrate that!. If you are well be grateful. If you are alive be grateful. If you are comfortable and warm in your home, be grateful. If you have a full Christmas dinner on your table be grateful.

The pandemic forced us back into that sacred place called home......to be with families we had maybe taken for granted. Home is our faith community now.

The pandemic this Christmas gives us an opportunity to practice what is so important to Saint Paul: heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, generosity, patience, forgiveness and peace. Scripture tells us to strive for this more excellent way.

In 2020 the world stood still. Billions encountered their families again.....and home as a sacred space. May we have the wisdom to treasure this blessing.

With all my love and prayers for you, Pastor Carol

PS... On a lighter note, I was talking to Ray Ritcliffs this week about Christmas and whether we might be able to enjoy the church this year. He said, "Well..... the mice are the only ones coming to church these days - and the usually live to regret it."

