



# Joyful Noise

DECEMBER 2020

## *A Message from Your Pastor...*

Dear Friends of Trinity,

As we move into the month of December, we move into the month of “surprises”! Our family enjoys surprises. Especially surprise visits! Since our children and grandchildren all live in Canada, visits are precious and important. A number of years ago, before she was married, our third daughter, Ditzza, was planning a surprise visit on Christmas Eve. She was going to fly out on the morning of December 24th from Vancouver Island and get to Billings mid-afternoon. The plan was that she would come to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and sit down next to her unsuspecting mother! That surprise didn’t work. Ditzza phoned me about 10:00 am on Christmas Eve and, with tears, gave me the surprise that she missed her flight! She slept in too long! (That has been Ditzza all throughout her life. We had to drag her out of bed for school every morning!) Fortunately, she could get a flight out on Christmas morning and make it that evening as a special surprise package on Christmas Day.

When I refer to December as being the month of surprises, it’s not just our family I am talking about, but the Holy Family and the characters who surrounded Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus. When you think about the wondrous Christmas story, think of all the surprises: Mary surprised by the angel Gabriel with the news that she would be the mother of the Savior! Joseph, sadly surprised that Mary was going to have a baby whom he knew was not his! Joseph, being pleasantly surprised when the angel of the Lord revealed to him in a dream that Mary had remained faithful and that God was

using her to bring the Christ into the world! The surprise appearance of the angels to the Shepherds with the news that a Savior had been born! The surprise of Herod when the Wise Men did not return to him with the location of the newborn King. And when Herod made the surprise attack on Bethlehem, the Lord had already safely moved away the Christ Child from the danger.

As you think of the beloved Christmas story that we listen to again and celebrate in worship, what other surprises can you think of? Think about it and let me know! When we think about it, doesn’t the Lord surprise all of us with His plan of salvation? He came into the world, born as a human like us, surprisingly willing and able to take up all of our sins as His very own. And surprisingly, He took the punishment that we deserve upon Himself instead and gives us forgiveness and eternal life.

As we celebrate Christmas this year under the cloud of the virus and the impact of the “protective guidelines” that we are living under, may the Lord surprise us with His blessings of faith, hope, love, joy, and peace nevertheless. We can have confidence in this, because our God is full of gracious and glorious surprises!

In His Service and Yours,

Pastor Dan Rinderknecht



*Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*

# School and YOUTH NEWS



**Richard Thomas**  
*Principal of Trinity  
Lutheran School*

## OUR FATHER'S LOVE

Greetings from Trinity. Our world continues to throw curves at us. It seems like I have been on a roller coaster. This last month has really reminded me how important it is to keep my focus on my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I didn't keep my focus on Him. During my illness, I started to focus on my issues. I found myself feeling darker and all alone. I strayed away from the One who was right by my side. I apologize to my brothers and sisters in Christ. I was not practicing what I preach. Praise God that He kept loving me through it. His Word kept pointing me back to Him. Finally, in my darkness, His Word broke my weakness. His Word, in a flash, brought me out of myself. Once that focus centered back on Him, I began serving His people again. The older I get, the more He continues to teach me His ways. So, to those of you who might be in that dark place, He hasn't left you! **Read His Word.** Let the Holy Spirit do His thing. We are all blessed to have such a loving Father. May the Lord bless your family.



**Cameron Heiliger**  
*Director of Youth &  
Parish Education*

## YOUTH NEWS

### *Change.*

It's a constant in life, but even more so now as we endure ever changing restrictions, guidelines, and understandings of the virus that has seeped its way into every aspect of life. We see change as we look ahead to new administrations in the White House and in the Governor's office. We see change as we look ahead to Advent and Christmas with traditions having to be shelved, services going online, travel and time with family being discouraged...

### *Change.*

It's all around us, and yet we have these words from Ecclesiastes: "What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9). Often, I think we hear these words as a lament: Solomon throwing up his hands at the meaninglessness of it all and saying, "If there's nothing new under the sun, what can I possibly do?" But I would challenge us to take heart and be encouraged by these words as we empathize with the human condition, sin, and are reminded that what we experience as difficulty and hardship in THIS life has been experienced by all of mankind. We can take heart, being reminded that the more things change (or the more we perceive change), the more things stay the same – what has been will be...there is nothing new under the sun.

### *Change.*

This year, we had to change our collection and assembly for Thanksgiving baskets. In some cases, we had to change our delivery practices and prepare for new logistics. BUT, through our efforts, God once again blessed 20 families!

This year, we will be changing how we celebrate Advent and Christmas in Sunday School and with our Youth Groups. BUT, as we look ahead to Christmas, we still look ahead with hopefulness and joy as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever because what has been will be... and there is nothing new under the SON.

### *Change.*

It's all around us in this life, but we look ahead with hope to a never-changing future that has been provided by Jesus.





# *Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him!*

**Join us for worship this Christmas,  
at church, or at home!**

## **Online Advent Worship Services**

***Wednesdays (December 2, 9, & 16)***

- Prerecorded Advent services available each Wednesday by 6pm at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

## **Christmas Eve “Eve” Worship Service**

***Wednesday, December 23, @ 7pm***

- Candlelight Christmas Eve worship with music led by the worship team
- Service will also be live-streamed and available anytime afterward at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

## **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

***Thursday, December 24, @ 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm***

- Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve worship services
- 2pm service will also be live-streamed and available anytime afterward at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

## **Christmas Day Worship with Communion**

***Friday, December 25, @ 10am***

- Service will also be live-streamed and available anytime afterward at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

## **Weekend Combined Worship with Communion**

***Sunday, December 27, @ 10am***

- Single weekend worship service (no Saturday service, or Bible Study)
- Will also be live-streamed and available anytime afterward at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

## **New Year’s Eve Worship with Communion**

***Thursday, December 31, @ 7pm***



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>ALTAR DUTY:</b> Shared Duty <b>Trinity Worship Services on Community 7</b> 8am Sundays & 5pm Tuesdays  <b>CHURCH:</b> 245-3984 <b>SCHOOL:</b> 656-1021 <b>WEBSITE:</b> <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a>						
<b>6</b> <i>Psalms 89</i> <b>MITE BOX SUNDAY</b> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes	<b>7</b> <i>John 21</i> 7pm Adult Class	<b>8</b> <i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i> 9am Quilting 6pm Cradle Roll Mtg. 6:30pm Board of Ed Mtg 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zigel	<b>2</b> <i>1 Corinthians 13:9</i> 1pm Visitation Guild Mtg. Kitchen Guild Mtg. 2:15pm Chapel at TLS 6:30pm FIRE Youth Group <b>Online Advent worship available by 6pm at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a></b>	<b>3</b> <i>Mark 11:1-10</i> 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b> <i>John 20</i>	<b>5</b> <i>Psalms 88</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship with Communion
<b>13</b> <i>Psalms 91</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	<b>14</b> <i>Matthew 2</i> <i>Pastors' Circuit Meeting</i> 5:30pm Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm Evangelism Mtg. 7pm Fellowship Bd. Mtg. 7pm Adult Class	<b>15</b> <i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i> 9am Quilting 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zigel	<b>16</b> <i>1 Thessalonians 5:16-24</i> 6:30 pm FIRE Youth Group <b>Online Advent worship available by 6pm at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a></b>	<b>17</b> <i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i> 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>18</b> <i>Matthew 3</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS	<b>19</b> <i>Psalms 92</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship with Communion
<b>20</b> <i>Psalms 93</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Toddler SS & Adult Bible Class	<b>21</b> <i>Matthew 4</i> 7pm Adult Class	<b>22</b> <i>2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16</i> 9am Quilting 4pm LFL at Mount Olive 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zigel	<b>23</b> <i>Romans 16:25-27</i> 7pm Christmas Eve "Eve" Worship (Candlelight service with worship team singing) Service will be live-streamed at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a>	<b>24</b> <i>Luke 1:26-38</i> <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Worship Services at 2, 4 &amp; 6 pm</b> 2pm Service will be live-streamed at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a>	<b>25</b> <i>Matthew 5</i> <b>Christmas Day</b> <b>10am Worship with Communion</b> Service will be live-streamed at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a>	<b>26</b> <i>Psalms 94</i>
<div>NO SCHOOL FOR TLS</div> <div>Christmas Break</div> <div>Return to School Jan. 4.</div>						
<b>27</b> <i>Psalms 95</i> 10am Worship w/Communion Service will be live-streamed at <a href="http://www.trinitybillings.org">www.trinitybillings.org</a>	<b>28</b> <i>Matthew 6</i> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	<b>29</b> <i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i> 9am Quilting 7pm Lay Ministry Bd. Mtg. 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zigel	<b>30</b> <i>Galatians 4:4-7</i>	<b>31</b> <i>Luke 2:22-40</i> <b>New Year's Eve</b> <b>Worship</b> <b>w/Communion</b> <b>7 pm</b>	<b>Lay Ministers:</b> Saturday: Neal Wagenman Sun. 8:00: David Jinguji Sun. 10:30: Ted Loomans  <b>Acolytes:</b> Saturday: Sun. 8:00: Sun. 10:30:	



# Financial REPORT

October Finances		
Income		154,690
Expenses		157,933
<b>Net Margin</b>		<b>-3,243</b>
2020-2021 Finances		
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Target</i>
Offerings	247,128	296,701
Total Income	634,521	670,698
Total Expenses	648,356	670,698
<b>Net Margin</b>	<b>-13,835</b>	<b>0</b>
Phase I Completion Drive (Goal of \$325,000 to Pay Off Loan)		
Gifts and Pledges (through May)		\$289,000
Remaining Needed to Complete		\$ 36,000

You may have noticed that our general fund offerings are running about \$50,000 (20%) behind our giving goal through October. We thank God that we have an operating reserve and have been able to meet all of our financial obligations during the pandemic. However, utilizing our reserve is not a sustainable long-term solution if we are going to continue under our current budget model. We ask that our members prayerfully respond to help us get back on track as we wrap up the first half of our fiscal year. You may want to consider signing up for Simply Giving, or giving a special year-end IRA gift.

If you have been impacted financially by the pandemic and are in need, please let us know. The Lord has given our congregation everything we need to care for one another during these challenging times. Please know that you are not alone!



**Lutheran  
Women  
in Mission**

## LWML MEETING

At our meeting in November, the following officers were elected for a two-year term: Grace Swift, Vice-President; Sherrie Murray, Secretary; and Betty Kober, Assistant Treasurer. Also elected were delegates to the National LWML Convention in June. The Southeastern Zone delegates are Myrt White and Sherrie Murray, with Clara Mae Bird as the alternate.

With current news and restrictions, sadly the December potluck and meeting are cancelled. May you all have a joy-filled Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior!



**Poinsettia  
Orders**

## POINSETTIA ORDERS

HELP US DECORATE THE ALTAR for the Christmas season by ordering your poinsettias now! The cost of each poinsettia is \$10, and order forms are available in the narthex. Please complete the order form, place in the envelope provided (along with your cash or check **payable to Trinity**) and drop in the box

that is located in the narthex. (Please also note on the envelope if you are purchasing your poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone. This will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of December 19 and 20). We will accept orders through December 13. You may pick up your poinsettias following the Christmas Day worship service. *Thank you for helping us decorate the altar during this special season!* ~Trinity's Altar Guild

## ADDRESS CHANGES

**Garry Leikam**

1920 Wyndstone Way, Apt. #2101  
Billings, MT 59105

**John & Mary Wiedmeier**

3140 Sweetwater Ave. #110  
Billings, MT 59102

**Sandi & Shalene Ward**

632 Miles Ave, Apt. 2  
Billings, MT 59101

## BAPTISMS

**Roman Daniel Smith**



# Special Events

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9, & 16**  
Online Advent Worship Services  
Visit [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, @ 7PM**  
Christmas Eve Eve Worship  
(with worship team)  
Also live-streamed at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Worship @ 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm  
2pm service also live-streamed  
at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, @ 10AM**  
Christmas Day Worship & Communion  
Also live-streamed at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, @ 10AM**  
Combined Weekend Worship Service  
Also live-streamed at [www.trinitybillings.org](http://www.trinitybillings.org)

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, @ 7PM**  
New Year's Eve Worship



## News

### LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES' ADVENT DEVOTION NOW AVAILABLE!

Lutheran Hour Ministries' FREE Advent Devotion Booklet, "God with Us," is now available in the church narthex. Need a copy mailed or delivered to you? Call the church office and we will gladly get you a copy!



*Knowing Christ and Making Him Known*