



Behold the Lamb of God

God's Indescribable Gift

Christmas Worship Schedule

A Traveler's Christmas

Tuesday, December 21st - 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th - 3, 5, 7, and 9 p.m.

*Childcare available for children under 4 years of age
No childcare at 9 p.m.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26 WORSHIP

One service at 10 a.m.

In person and live-streamed



TRINITY
C H U R C H

DECEMBER 2021

Printed on November 23

From the Pastor's Desk....

Christmas is a celebration of gifts. Consider John 3:16, one of the world's most favorite verses: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." We see in this text that out of His love for the world, God gave His only Son to change eternity. In response to this gift, the shepherds ran to the manger and gave all of themselves in their worship, and the wise men gave their treasures in the precious gifts that foreshadowed Jesus' destiny. When we really contemplate God's gift to us, His generosity of giving plunges the depths of our souls.

Giving is much on the minds of people today. All around our country, in preparation for the tradition of gift giving, the frenzy of shopping has begun. Perhaps in part due to the news reminding us to do so early because of supply chain interruptions.

In our flurry to shop, it's important to remember that gift giving has a much deeper, spiritual, response-oriented focus. In Romans 12:1 we read, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is true worship." I believe the greatest gift we can give at Christmas is ourselves. This gift places our lives in God's hands, letting Him mold us into the disciple He desires each of us to be.

The shepherds at the manger modeled this, their lives are a metaphor for discipleship. It was as if they were sheep from the front and shepherds from the back. Imagine them at the manger like sheep, worshiping the infant who identified Himself as the Good Shepherd, willing to follow Him wherever He would go. Now think of them as shepherds, leading others to recognize and worship Jesus, the Good Shepherd, the King of Kings, the Savior of the world.

The Wise Men shared generous gifts with the child King. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were laid at Jesus' feet. Just as the shepherds modeled being a living sacrifice, these men did as well. In their case, they gave themselves and their treasures. I would identify these as two gifts we can give to Jesus today.

Considering the text from Romans and the actions of the shepherds and wise men, ponder these questions. Have I given myself to God in Christ Jesus to mold my life and grow my faith? How have I served Jesus through His Body, the Church? What action have I taken, or can I take, that leads others to Christ? Do I sit on the sidelines, receiving all that God has to offer, or am I willing to lay my life and treasures before the Christ Child for His use?

With these questions in mind and as you are gift giving this Christmas, I pray you include the gift of yourself and your treasures. This response to God's incredible gift to you will open your heart to experience a greater measure of the true blessing of gift giving at Christmas.

Your Pastor and Friend,

Pastor Erik

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

Recently, sixty-five people explored how Christians do relationships. Meeting weekly, each session included silent reflection, video teaching, table discussion, partner activities with time for snacks and connecting with others.

*My past self
doesn't have to
define my
future self.*

MAJOR THEMES EXPLORED

- relationship check-in topics
- clarifying expectations
- understanding the influence of one's family of origin
- paying attention to feelings
- listening well
- identifying one's values
- fighting cleanly

*I need to work
on me in order
to foster
positive
relationships*

This course was a true blessing for those who participated. Check out a few of their responses when asked, "I'm beginning to realize..."

- ...how my family of origin continues to influence me as an adult.
- ...that developing healthy relationships is a long process.
- ...that my family has work to do regarding communication and resolving conflict.
- ...that I need to be more intentional about carving out time in my day to be in relationship with God.

.....
Coming Soon

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY SPIRITUALITY

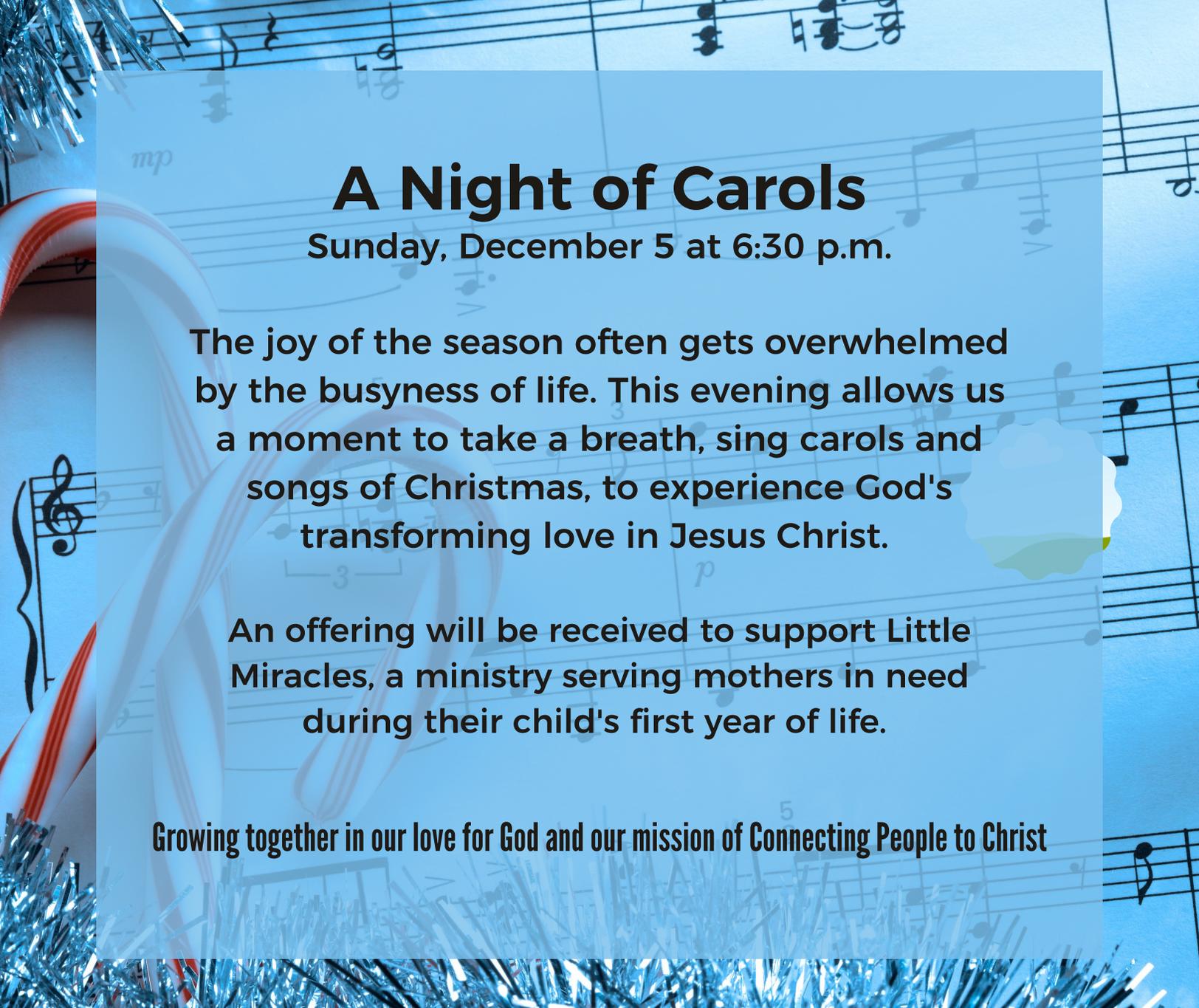
Sundays from Feb 20 - April 10 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Slow down your life to develop your own personal relationship with Jesus.

MAJOR THEMES INCLUDE: The problem of shallow discipleship, know yourself, understand your past, recognize God's presence in life's difficulties, rest in God through life rhythms, love others, and plan for ongoing growth.

Set aside Sunday evenings and make plans to participate.

REGISTRATION COMING SOON.



A Night of Carols

Sunday, December 5 at 6:30 p.m.

The joy of the season often gets overwhelmed by the busyness of life. This evening allows us a moment to take a breath, sing carols and songs of Christmas, to experience God's transforming love in Jesus Christ.

An offering will be received to support Little Miracles, a ministry serving mothers in need during their child's first year of life.

Growing together in our love for God and our mission of Connecting People to Christ



Let's Talk

**Sunday December 5
2-4 pm in the Chapel**

This open forum allows you to ask your questions about anything and get answers from Pastor Erik and other Trinity leadership.

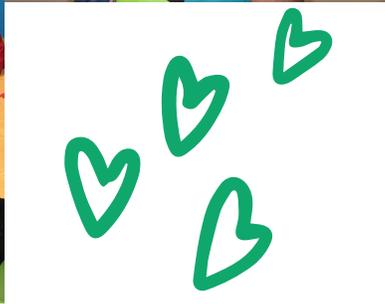


TRINITY KIDS

THE HEART OF TRINITY KIDS IS TO EQUIP PARENTS TO WALK ALONGSIDE YOUR KIDS AS THEY LEARN AND EXPERIENCE THE LOVE OF JESUS.

Meet the
Trinity Kids
Nursery Team!

Trinity Kids has been blessed with several new team members in our Nursery over the last couple of months... meet four of our fantastic volunteers!



These ladies have stepped up to love on our youngest Trinity Kids... ages 4 months to 4 years. They enjoy playing, laughing, dancing, reading and crafting with other team members and the amazing kids who visit Trinity Kids while parents enjoy distraction free worship!

Do you enjoy spending time with littles, then handing them back to parents?! Prayerfully consider joining our Nursery Team and serving in a way that is meaningful to kids and parents alike!

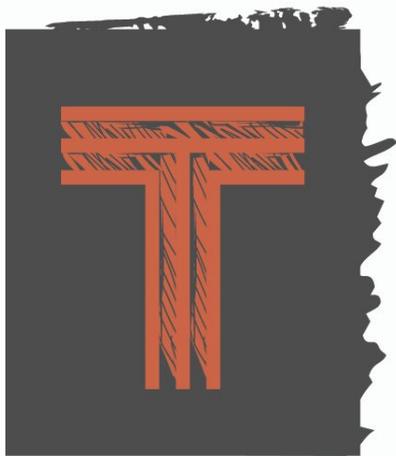
Contact cnash@trinitylife.org to chat about your best fit at Trinity Kids.

**Our next
Trinity Kids
community
event is
coming soon!**



Find us on Facebook at fb.com/trinitykidspapio

On break December 22 & 29



GRADES 6-12

TRINITY STUDENTS

Wednesdays 6-8:15 p.m.

Use the Northeast entrance

Pizza, student store, pop and snack machine (cash only),
open gym, games, worship, message, small groups



CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 15
6-8:15 p.m.

Bring your friends.

Games, snacks & fun!!
Enjoy time together before
winter break.

Our Next Unit

Christmas is almost here! Which means there's a lot for us to look forward to – sometimes impatiently.

But you know the saying, “good things come to those who wait”? It's true for Christmases now, but it was true on the very first Christmas as well. You see, the day Jesus came to earth wasn't a sudden surprise. It was the first step in a long-awaited plan. In this series, we'll hear the Christmas story from the perspective of the prophets who foretold and then waited for the good things God had in store.

Christmas is a reminder of what the prophets proclaimed: that God has always had a plan, that Jesus completes God's plan, that God's plans bring joy, and that God's plans require sacrifice.

Greetings People of Trinity Church,



In this season of the holidays, it is time to remember and celebrate God's gifts and all that we have to be thankful for.

I am thankful for you, and how supportive you are to Matt's internship and his formation process. The internship team is very engaged and working well to encourage Matt in all areas of ministry. Many people have provided valuable feedback to Matt on his preaching in both weekend and youth worship. There will be more opportunity to provide feedback in the weeks ahead as Matt continues to focus on worship leadership and preaching. Please consider sharing your thoughts with Matt, it is a good way to be even more engaged with the message and what God is saying to you through it.

This quarter Matt is also focusing on Stewardship as the congregation receives financial pledges for the new year and develops a ministry plan (budget) for the new year. These are important conversations for Matt to have with the congregation and leadership as you focus and prioritize how you will live out your mission in 2022.

Starting in December, Matt will add a focus on Adult Education. He is making plans to lead a new small group. Please consider joining him to learn and grow your faith in community with others. Matt and I will discuss a resource on pastoral leadership and how it might help him work with the Holy Spirit to develop new and existing leadership at Trinity.

There is much to be thankful for, most especially the relationship of love that God offers to us in Jesus. Matt continues to be faithful and excited about developing skills and wisdom that will help him lead in the direction of Jesus' saving love for all. Let us be thankful for the blessing of the community of faith that is Trinity Church, a witness to Jesus' greater love for the world.

Pastor Ellen Stelzle
Internship Supervisor

Silent Quilt Auction Results: Thank you to all who so generously supported our quilt ministry at the auction. We raised \$1130. This will allow us to make approximately 175 more quilts to share with the homeless in our area.

If you have fabric or sheets you no longer want, consider donating them for our quilts. Simply bring them to the church office. We also welcome anyone who can tie a knot to join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m.



church center

the app to make church life simple

DOWNLOAD

FROM YOUR FAVORITE APP STORE

TODAY!

 directory

 groups

 giving

 calendar

 check-in

 registrations

web-based option available <https://trinitylifepapio.churchcenter.com>

Step 1

Open the Church Center app on your phone



Step 3

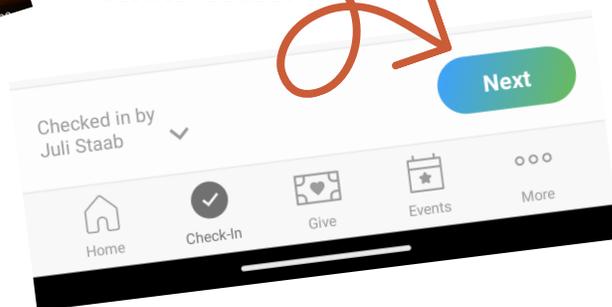
Select the people in your household worshipping with you

Step 2

Click Check-In at the bottom of the screen

Step 4

Click 'Next'



That's it! You are a check-in expert!!

Whether you worship online or in person, you'll want to check-in.

When you do, we can better care for one another.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 12/02 - Ann England
- 12/03 - Ed Niemann
- 12/10 - Eugene Ellefson
- 12/22 - Carol Gates
- 12/25 - Lois McClellan
- 12/28 - Otis Carr

Happy 50+ Anniversary

- 12/11/64 - Dale & Caryl Horton
- 12/19/64 - Jim & Shelly Petersen
- 12/22/68 - Jim & Nancy Thomas
- 12/23/56 - Otis & Marlene Carr
- 12/27/63 - Tom & Beverly Vitamvas

Baptized into Our Faith Family

- 10/31 - Weston Cash Brown, son of Sheldon & Diana Brown. Sponsors are Jennifer Judge and Lisa Fangman.
- 11/03 - Myles Eli Grady, son of Tom & Lindsey (Lamp) Grady. Sponsors are Andrew & Brittany Fahrenkrog.
- 11/28 - Madden Raye Zeisler, daughter of Derek & Kendyl (Reibold) Zeisler. Sponsors are Jared Reibold and Joel Zeisler

Health and Healing

- Betty Tollander
- Jim Petersen
- Nancy Thomas

Sympathies

- The family of Jeff & Kim Norblade on the loss of Jeff's mother, Judy
- The family of Barb Grell on the loss of her mother.

TRINITY'S VISION

**A place to belong
and become who
God is calling us to be**

TRINITY'S MISSION

**Connecting
People to Christ**

TRINITY'S STRATEGY

**Love God
Grow Community
Serve Others**

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

IN OCTOBER

Donation Offering Entries	
From Planning Center	316
From Cash & Checks	212
# of Donors	229
# of New Donors	4
# of Recurring Donors	90
Text to Give	0

OCTOBER ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ - 56,127

Building Fund: \$ 212,735

Endowment: \$ 408,958

GO Vision Initiative

Received Jan to print date \$328,410
of our \$1,200,000 goal.

5 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON

Place check or cash in the black box in the back of the worship center



Download the
CHURCH
CENTER
APP



TEXT TO GIVE

Text any amount to
84321



BY MAIL

Trinity Church
848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046



ONLINE

www.trinitylife.org/give

We have good work to do as we follow God's lead into 2022.



SCAN ME

←
to support the
General Fund in 2022