

PATHWAYS

Monthly communications from Trinity Presbyterian

December 2016

Message From Pastor Deb



Dear Trinity Friends,

Advent, which begins the church year, is a season marked with yearning, longing and waiting in darkness. Truth be told, we don't like waiting... especially in the dark. We rush Christmas celebrations into Advent, damping out the dark with twinkling lights, music and parties. But despite our efforts, the nights grow colder and longer.

In Advent, we wait in the darkness.... We wait for light in an unjust world where children are abused and enslaved by traffickers. We long for peace in a world where families are forced to flee war and refugees are left homeless and hungry.

We long for healing in our relationships and for our families to be restored. We wait for our overwhelming sorrow to lighten after the loss of a loved one. We long for our bodies to be healed. We yearn for a baby... We long for a job... We wait for a future.

In this darkness, we wait... we long... we yearn... but we do not despair.

Each week, we light another candle on our Advent wreath in worship. We listen to the voices of the ancient prophets, looking forward in hope and faith to the coming of the Christ child.

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

And, we look forward to the day when Christ will come again in glory. We listen to the prophets voice, foretelling the day when war, sickness and death will finally cease.

"He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4)

In the midst of our waiting and longing we do not despair, but cling to by faith with hope in the One who will come again and set all things right. "God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into partnership with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

This Advent, it is my prayer that you find peace and hope in the midst of your darkness - knowing that "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5)

Pastor Deb

December Worship Schedule -



Dec 4 - "Hannah's Hope" Communion

Dec 11 - Christmas Pageant

Dec. 18 - "Standing Tall, Falling Hard"

Dec. 24 - 5 PM: Family Christmas Eve Service

Dec. 24 - 9 PM: Candlelight Service with Communion

Dec. 25 - 10 AM Christmas Day Lessons and Carols



Christmas is Coming...

Alternative Christmas Market - Dec. 4 & 11 @ 11 AM

Christmas Pageant - Dec. 11 @ 10 AM

Christmas Caroling Party - Dec. 18 @ 3 PM

Family Christmas Eve Service - 5 PM

Candlelight Christmas Eve with Communion - 9 PM

Christmas lessons and carols - Dec. 25@ 10 AM

New Pianist and Music Coordinator

We are excited to introduce you to our new music coordinator and pianist, Jane Wasiluk. Jane is a talented musician with formal training and years of experience teaching, performing and coordinating sacred music..Jane officially begins on January 1, 2017, but will also accompany us at the 9 PM service on Christmas Eve.



Jane introduces herself below:

Greetings! I consider it a privilege to begin a worship journey with you at Trinity Presbyterian. My name is Jane Wasiluk, and I grew up in Erskine - a small town in northern Minnesota. After graduating from Concordia College in Moorhead, MN, I graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a Masters in Church Music. I have twins - Brooke & Mark - who are 25 years old. Mark is in his last year of medical school, and Brooke is a physical therapist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. I work full-time at Travelers Insurance Company in St. Paul, and had a private piano studio for 21 years. For 40 years, I've been a church musician. I was the Music Director at St. Matthew's Lutheran ELCA in the Midway area of St. Paul for 18 years, and have been at Zion Lutheran ELCA in South Minneapolis for the last 4 & 1/2 years. While at St. Matthew's & Zion, I directed the vocal choir, the handbell choir, played piano & organ for worship, etc. My husband, Rick, and I were married at Trinity Presbyterian in August of 2014, and we live only a 1/2 mile away. I look forward to meeting the people of Trinity, and am excited to begin!



PASTOR
NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Good News from the Pastoral Nominating Committee!

The Ministry Information Form, the job description for our next pastor, has been accepted by the Committee on Ministry. The next step will be to post the Ministry Information Form on line and wait for profiles from potential candidates to arrive. We look forward to a busy time and possible interviewing as the profiles come in. We will keep you all posted!

Children & Youth

In December, our children's and youth programs take a break from regular programming. Instead, we focus on special events such as the Children's Christmas Pageant, the Youth Christmas Eve service, and the youth cookie decorating and gift exchange party (we are still in need of 3-4 rolling pins, if anyone has an extra!)



We also evaluate our fall program, looking at what went well, and what needs re-vamping, as well as prepping for the upcoming winter semester of children's and youth programming (that will start in January). This is also a time for working on long-term projects and wanted-but-not-necessary projects (that regularly seem to fall through the cracks!)

One thing we are working on is to name the Children's and Youth programs (so we don't have to continue to be "Children's" or "Youth"!) We have nailed the Children's programs new name, and are working on the Youth name. Look for the big reveal in January
!

Mission Notes



Mission and Action Committee Update ...

HOLD THIS DATE!

Join us January 4, 2017 at Trinity at 6:30pm

Pete Orput, Washington County District Attorney will present information on the status of Sex Trafficking in Washington County.

The presentation will focus on the emerging trends of sex trafficking in the Twin Cities, behaviors of those who are trafficked, the laws penalizing those responsible for the trafficking and providing services for those trafficked. The presentation will also examine recent cases of sex trafficking in Washington County and child exploitation through digital means. Pete will share information on his office's major initiative to combat sex trafficking and partnerships with other agencies.

Trinity's Human Trafficking Task Force is presenting this educational opportunity so we all can learn about the problem and what each of us can do if the need arises.

Wonderful news from Niger ...

Our Trinity children's offerings have been providing school fees for Balkissa Issoufrou of Niger to receive her elementary education. School is not free in Niger and the number of children who attend is very low. The result is children who have very few options for breaking out of extreme poverty. For girls, it typically means becoming a wife and mother at 12 or 13 years of age.



We are thrilled to announce that Balkissa has passed her national exams with a very high score, thanks to her hard work and the excellent education she received at her school supported by Remember Niger Coalition. Her family, realizing how Balkissa's life can be changed, has found a way to provide her middle school fees. As a result, we are now able to begin sponsoring a new student who would not otherwise be attending school. In addition, there is enough offering money to provide other needed school material. We hope to have our kids help decide what other supplies they would like the schools to receive from their offerings.

We'll keep you updated on our new student and school support. Let us give thanks that we have been God's hands and feet for Balkissa and her family!

The Wondrous Gift is Given ...

This Advent and Christmas season, we reflect on God's great gift in the birth of Jesus, given to all of us. Supporting the **Christmas Joy Offering** is one way we can celebrate and grow that gift, by faithfully supporting church workers in times of need and the development of the future racial ethnic leadership of the church.



Half of the Joy Offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have given their lives serving the church, disbursed through the Board of Pensions. The other half is used to create opportunities for education and leadership growth at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Joy Offering will be collected until Christmas. Please be sure to write "**Joy Offering**" on the memo line of your check or place cash in an envelope marked "Joy Offering".

Thank you for supporting past and future leaders of the Presbyterian church.



Alternative Christmas Market

December 4th and 11th

The Mission and Action Committee invites you to consider a different way of gift giving this Christmas. At the Alternative Christmas Market you will be able to make donations to a variety of charitable causes in honor of your friends and family members. These gifts offer significant impact on the lives of those in need as an alternative to shopping for that "perfect gift" from the big box store or specialty shop.

To help you plan your shopping list, here is a list of the giving opportunities:

- **Christian Cupboard** - support of our local food shelf
- **Equal Exchange** - Fair Trade chocolate bars and tea
- **Joseph's Coat** - providing socks/undies for the neediest in St. Paul
- **4th-5th graders** - ornaments to raise money for their service projects
- **Human Trafficking** - food mixes to support efforts of the Task Force
- **Medical Benevolence Foundation** - providing training, clinics, medical equipment while sharing the Gospel in developing countries
- **Presbyterian Giving** - providing farm animals, seeds, tools, emergency kits, training and more through the Presbyterian Church USA

If you give a donation in honor of a loved one, you will receive a card explaining the donation that can be given to your honoree.

The Market takes place in Fellowship Hall both Sundays after worship. Come and check it out!

MISSIONARIES SUPPORTED BY TRINITY



Check out our blog

at: <http://www.holminafrika.blogspot.com/> .

You can subscribe to e-mail updates of our family blog on weekly work and life in Malawi by entering your email into the box "Follow by Email" and then confirming your e-mail.

Thank you for faithfully following our family in praises and prayers each month.

Contact Rochelle: rochelle@rochelleholm.com

Contact Tyler: tyler@tylerholm.com

To support us financially: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200532/>

To visit our weekly family blog: <http://www.holminafrika.blogspot.com/>

Grace and Peace,
Tyler, Rochelle and Mphatso Holm
Presbyterian World Mission
Mzuzu, Malawi

From the Deacons ...

by Lori Anderson



Thank you to the members who were able to stop by at the Deacon Meet & Greet in September. Members had the opportunity to update an information sheet on that day that included service areas of interest to them.

The Deacons maintain a service list of members to call upon for greeters, member visitations, meals, funeral services, and transportation. If you have interest in serving in any of these ways and did not fill out a form, please contact Lori Anderson at 651-578-9367 or lbande@comcast.net to be added to the list.

If we can support you or a family member at any time, please let us know.

We wish you all Joy and Peace at Christmas and throughout the year.
