



HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



[Events](#)

[Bulletin &
Server
Schedule](#)

[Outreach](#)

[Online
Service](#)

[Online
Giving](#)

Trinity Messenger

December 2022 Issue 2

Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Luke 3:4, 6

Deadline for 2022 Contributions

All in-person or mailed contributions intended for 2022 records must be **received** by December 25.

Online contributions will be credited if received by December 31.

Who is worthy to receive God's love?

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live. ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend." ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise." (Luke 10:25-37)

Recently, a ministry colleague and I were discussing this theological question of worthiness that is the title of this article. Obviously, if we claim to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, the answer to the question is "everyone," without exception.

However, I feel it is safe to say, if we are honest with ourselves, that at times our innate prejudices and naturally judgmental minds take over, and we begin compiling mental laundry lists of why this person or those people are not worthy for whatever reasons. We forget the example that Jesus displayed for us in his life and ministry when ministering to those in need. Instead of being the Good Samaritan we become the lawyer in Jesus' parable, who was looking for a loophole to justify his less than inclusive thinking so he could feel good about himself while keeping his reputation intact.

Jesus never held back in giving to people who were in need. His ministry to God's beloved children was not guided by judgement, and Jesus always gave without questioning the validity of the need of those who asked or didn't ask for help. He simply gave out of his love and concern for others. When he turned two fish and five loaves of bread into enough to feed thousands of people, he did not interview each to determine if they needed the food or not—if they were worthy. Instead, he gave generously out of an abundance to all who were present that day. He did so without judgement. Jesus sincerely loved his neighbor, not matter who they were, and that was that.

A different type of king, Elvis Presley, once said *don't criticize what you don't understand, son. You never walked in that man's shoes.* The financial crisis of 2007-2008, which was caused by the greed of a few and permanently effected many, placed many people in difficult shoes, and served as a reminder to us that each of us is only one or two steps away from financial disaster if the wrong circumstances would present themselves. Most of us are fortunate to have secure employment that pays us well, so we do not have to worry about buying groceries, paying the bills, keeping our car or cars running so we can get to work, and making sure we and our children are safe, healthy, and well cared for. This reality is not true for all people. There are times when God's children find themselves in difficult circumstances due to no fault of their own. Yet, no matter in what circumstances they find themselves or how they got there it is not our place to judge or evaluate their worthiness when they are in need and we have the resources, the abundance, to assist them and by doing so alleviate their distress.

Jesus said, ¹*Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. ²For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. ³Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? ⁴Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? ⁵You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.* (Matthew 7:1-5)

The season of Advent, this season of waiting with which we have been gifted by the church calendar, invites us to take seriously our faith life and consider how we are or are not faithfully living the gospel of Jesus Christ. It invites us, as disciples, to take the log out of our eyes so that we can clearly recognize our trespasses against others and repent from our sinfulness. I strongly encourage each of us to honestly consider how we look at others and in response strive to live out Jesus' calling to love our neighbor without judgement and prejudice as he did.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mark

This Week At Holy Trinity: December 4-10

Sunday, December 4	
Advent 2	
9:00am	Sunday Worship
10:00am	December Congregation Meeting
10:00am	Coffee Hour After Worship
2:00pm	Trinity Game Day
Monday, December 5	
10:00am	Women's Prayer Group
6:30pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Evangelism
Tuesday, December 6	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Bell Choir
7:00pm	Fellowship Committee Meeting
7:00pm	Finance Committee
8:00pm	Executive Council
Wednesday, December 7	
6:00pm	Bell Ensemble
6:30pm	Mazon: Middle & High School
6:45pm	Senior Choir Rehearsal
7:30pm	Evening Prayer
Thursday, December 8	
3:30pm	Trini Mini
7:00pm	Yoga
7:00pm	Thursday Worship
7:30pm	Council Meeting
Friday, December 9	
9:00am	Evangelism Door Hangers
Saturday, December 10	
7:30am	Walking Group

[View This Month's Calendar Here](#)

Office Hours: Dec. 5-9

We recommend you call the office prior to stopping in to ensure hours have not changed.

Day	Sue	Pastor
Monday	8:00AM- 4:00PM	9:00AM- 12:30PM
Tuesday	8:00AM- 4:00PM	9:00AM- 12:30PM
Wednesday	8:00AM- 4:00PM	9:00AM - 12:00PM
Thursday	OFF	9:00AM- 12:30PM
Friday	8:00AM-Noon	OFF



**Trinity Game Day
/ Cookie Exchange
December 4th
2:00 - 4:00PM**

- Cookies & Games will also be for the whole family
*Please bring your favorite 24 (2 Dozen) Cookies to exchange with others. Also include 24 recipe Cards of your Cookies Recipe.

* We will have Snacks / Hot Chocolate / Coffee / Cookies * Sugar Cookies to Decorate *Plenty of games to play * We will be playing Christmas music to help get you in the mood.

**Congregational Meeting
this Sunday, December 4
at 10AM.**

Kitchen Use

Use of the kitchen is open to all Holy Trinity committees for events being held at the church. If you plan to use the kitchen, please let the office know and we will inform the kitchen tenant in advance to ensure everyone's needs are met.



**ELM Homeless
Support Initiative**

As usual, when asked to step up, the members of Holy Trinity responded in caring and giving fashion. The ELM initiative to provide underwear and socks to the homeless who are taking advantage of the showers provided by Refresh Lancaster has been a huge success . . . so successful, in fact, that the folks from Refresh Lancaster are now telling us that the need for underwear and socks is no longer as urgent as the need for thermal wear. The box marked ELM will remain in the back of the church, and while we'll still accept donations of underwear and/or socks, any donation for warm clothing as we approach the colder weather will be greatly

Reminder

Advent Evening Prayer begins
Nov. 30 @ 7:30PM



**Presents for
Neighborhood Santa**

Christmas will soon be here and this year we will be collecting gifts for the Neighborhood Santa Program which supports area children through EASS. We were given 60 ornaments. Please take an ornament from the display located in the Gathering Area. Place your wrapped gift with the ornament in the Gathering Area by December 4th. See display for more details. If you have any questions, please call Rob Gilbert

We invite everyone to join us Sunday, December 18 to go **Christmas caroling** to some of our shut-ins (as time permits). We will gather in the social hall at 1:00PM.

**Special Advent sessions for
Tuesday Mazon**

(preschool and elementary ages) will be held Tuesdays December 6 & 13 from 6:00-6:45 Pm upstairs in Donna's classroom.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS & TREES

POINSETTIAS CAN BE ORDERED BY RETURNING THIS FORM
VIA MAIL OR DROP OFF TO THE CHURCH OFFICE. **ORDERS
WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN CHURCH THIS YEAR.**
DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

NAME _____

PHONE _____

_____ Poinsettias (\$8.00 each) 6 ½ in. Pot

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

OR

**I WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS THE
PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS TREES.**

\$5.00 _____ \$10.00 _____ \$15.00 _____ \$20.00 _____

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF:

Looking for more information not included in this week's newsletter?

Be sure to checkout our website!

Thanks for reading! Have a great week ahead!

