

OPENDOOR

DECEMBER 2021



Will You Be Ready for Christmas?

There are many things to do as we get ready for Christmas. There are cards to send, gifts to buy, cookies to make, trees to trim, programs to attend, etc. The list can go on and on. Some of us may do very few of all of those things - perhaps some will do even more. The main question is – Will our hearts be prepared and ready for Christmas?

Isn't that the key? Soon we will hear someone mention how hectic the season gets the closer we get to Christmas. As we do all of the other preparations, will we remember to keep the Christ in Christmas? Will we remember that Christ came for you? For me? For all of us?



Jesus came into this world so that we, you, all of us, might know the grace and love of God. At Holy Trinity, there are ways to help getting ready for Christmas the Christ-centered way.

Of course, there are the usual Sunday worship services at 10 am with Sunday School at 9 am. In addition, we will have midweek services entitled "Unto You". These services will be held on December 1, 8, and 15, at noon (in person only) and 7 pm (in person and livestream.) This series will look at a key verse in Matthew 1, as well

as key verse of Luke 2 that remind us that Christ has come to each one of us. We will remember that as the children of God, we are part of God's lineage and that we have great joy because of God's firstborn Son.

Then of course, on Christmas Eve, at 7 pm, we will have our Candlelight and Communion service. Make plans now to be in worship on Christmas Eve whether you are in Lafayette or wherever you are. You owe it to yourself to do that.

How will you prepare for Christmas? That's the question. There are many ways that people try. Will yours keep the proper perspective? Be sure to see the full schedule on page 2 for all the activities that are happening at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church as we prepare for Christmas.

Jim Lichtenberger

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Preparing for Christmas

Wednesday, December 1 Midweek Worship “Unto You – Lineage”

12:00 noon In person only

7:00 pm In person and livestream

Saturday, December 4

11:00 am to 12:30 pm - Decking the Halls. Come and decorate our church!

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm—Game night in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 5 (Second Sunday in Advent)

9:00 am Sunday Church School

10:00 am Advent Service of Worship ([livestream also](#))

Wednesday, December 8 Midweek Worship “Unto You – Great Joy”

12:00 noon In person only

7:00 pm In person and livestream

Saturday, December 11 – Jubilee Christmas

9:00 am HTLC volunteers meet up with 20 parents from our community to shop for toys and receive resources for their family’s Christmas celebration.— see Jubilee information on page xx.

Sunday, December 12 (Third Sunday in Advent)

9:00 am Sunday Church School

10:00 am Advent Service of Worship (livestream also)

2:00 pm Gingerbread Bash – see article on page 10

Wednesday, December 15 Midweek Worship “Unto You - First Born

12:00 noon In person only

7:00 pm In person and livestream

Sunday, December 19 (Fourth Sunday in Advent)

9:00 am Sunday Church School

10:00 am Advent Service of Worship (livestream also)

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) – livestream also

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship...*carol singing, anthem, the reading of scripture, meditation on the birth of Jesus, the Savior, and Holy Communion make this celebration of Christ's birth a time of special joy and blessing. "Christ, the Savior is born!"*

Sunday, December 26

10:00 am Service of Worship (livestream also)





The United Way Office staff were delighted to get a big box, piled high of gloves, hats, mini book lights, socks and books from kind and thoughtful HTLC members.

These donations will make a difference to a seniors and veterans in our community,

PLM OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday December 7th from 4-8 PM

PLM House 330 W. Fowler Ave, West Lafayette

You are invited to stop by PLM on Tuesday Dec. 7th

and see our new updated space, meet out new

Intern Candice and feel the Christmas spirit.

Refreshments will be served. Parking available in the

Our Savior Parking Lot.



Although our ramp-up to Jubilee Christmas includes a good dash of humor and Hallmark Channel cliches, the REAL motivation behind this effort is to show the love of Christ to others.

Each family receives a message of love along with the tangible gifts of toys, quilts, food vouchers, toilet paper, soap, clothes, etc.

December 11, 2021

To our Jubilee Guests:

It is our pleasure and honor to host you today at our Santa's Express Jubilee! While we miss having you inside our building for the traditional conversation and shopping, we hope that this modified Jubilee will be a blessing to you and your family this holiday season.

In our Lutheran tradition, we observe the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas as the season on Advent. It is meant to give us time to reflect on the awesome gift we are about to receive – the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we will celebrate on December 25. We believe that Jesus came to the world to save us from our sins; Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday and His rising from the dead on Easter is God's promise of eternal life.

The giving of gifts at Christmas is an ancient tradition. We hope the gifts shared with you today warm your home and your family. We share them with you because we know that the greatest gift of all is the love of God through Jesus. Just as the Wise Men brought gifts to the baby Jesus, so these gifts come to you as a sign of God's love.

You may not share our beliefs – and that's OK! – but we want you to know why this time is so important for us. Yes, toys and presents and food and celebrations are important. And we hope that this Christmas season, after such a hard year, is filled with all those things. But we know that gifts and celebrations are soon forgotten. The deeper meaning of Christmas, for us, is everlasting.

You and your family will be held in prayer this Christmas season and in the coming year. If you would like to know more about us or to join us in worship in this joyous time, please check us out at www.HolyTrinityLafayette.com.

Peace,

The Congregation of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



LET'S CELEBRATE

December Birthdays

- 1 Linda Widmer, Walter Lott
- 2 Frances Lillo, Terry King
- 8 Jeff Greeley
- 18 Richard High
- 23 Mary Anderson, Elaine Miller
- 24 Elna Niezabitowski
- 25 Lloyd High, Helen Hoffman
- 27 Alice Mau
- 29 Noah Longdo
- 31 Gabriel Widmer

December Anniversaries

- 5 Doug & Julie Gustafson
- 22 Jim & Cheryl Schrier

Transitions

Gladys Fisher passed away November 4, 2021. She and Jim joined HTLC as they transitioned to retirement and were active members for many years. Her coffee hours were beautiful and tasty. Pastor Randy Schroeder presided at her service at HTLC on November 11th.

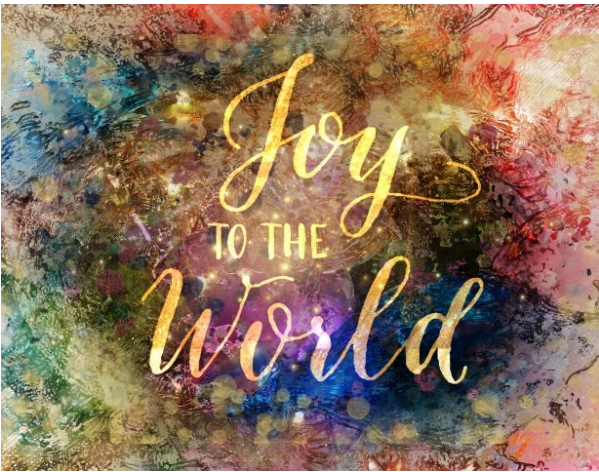
Bill Leburg was a familiar face at Holy Trinity although he and his wife Joyce were Methodists from Fowler. Bill passed away November 10th. The Leburgs were frequent visitors and liked all sorts of Christians, with Lutherans pretty high up on the list!



PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH

God of Promise and Hope,
We wait in anticipation for
what's next. Give us a
grounding in your word and
a faith to carry us into the
future. Bless us with
generous and loving hearts
and the patience to endure
uncertainty and change.
We thank you for sending us
your son, Jesus.

Amen



Which traditional Christmas carol is not really a carol at all?

That would be *Joy to the World*.

This 1719 song, which is based on Psalm 98, makes no reference to the standard images of Christmas and was originally intended to be sung year-round. But that dramatic phrase in the first verse – “The Lord is come!” – quickly made it a December favorite.

Its composer is Isaac Watts, who became known as the “boy genius” of hymn-writing in the 18th century. Today we might call him a snarky teenager.

Watts was 18 years old when he complained to his father about the wretchedly boring music of the Anglican Church. His dad promptly called his bluff: “You think you can do better?”

In no time Watts composed a hymn that so impressed his local church that they asked if he would be willing to write another one.

That he did. Watts composed a brand new hymn for 222 *consecutive Sundays*, despite a crippling illness that left him virtually an invalid.

Watts’ hymns – which were dismissed at the time by some people as outrageous “contemporary music” – are still being sung around the world 300 years later, including *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*.

The melody of *Joy to the World* was written by George Frederick Handel, widely celebrated for his *Messiah* and its “Hallelujah Chorus.” Here is Watts’ upbeat text:

***Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King.
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.***

***Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.***

Watts, who loved pushing the edge of the envelope in his own day, would no doubt appreciate [this version of his song](#) by the a capella five-some Pentatonix, who are rapidly becoming America’s go-to Christmas recording artists.

If holiday gift shops are now open all summer, and the Hallmark Channel begins to play round-the-clock Christmas movies a week before Halloween, shouldn’t we be able to sing this favorite “Christmas carol” any time we want?

Isaac Watts, for one, would offer a resounding Yes.



Glenn is an ordained Presbyterian minister, has 33 years of congregational leadership experience, and is the author of ten books on discipleship and spiritual formation.

From “Morning Reflections” written by Glenn McDonald.

NOVEMBER 8, 2021 COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

		In attendance?
President	Nita Cunningham (up for re-	Yes
Vice President	Kevin Letcher (up for re-	Yes
Financial Secretary	Floyd Garrott	Yes
Treasurer	Stan Harlow	Yes
Secretary	Elizabeth White	Yes
Members	Michele Russell	Yes
	David Krueger	Yes
	Bob Montgomery	Yes
	Jim Smith	Yes
	Vacancy	-
Pastor of Record	Pastor Randy Schroeder	Yes

Council Meeting Minutes



Topic 1: Greetings and Devotions –

Greetings– Hello from/to All

Called to order at 6:32pm by Nita Cunningham.

Quorum

Yes. 9/9 members in attendance.

Devotions

Floyd Garrott

Approve agenda

Amended as below (Topic 7 added)

Floyd Garrott moved to approve the amended agenda, voice vote to approve

Topic 2: Election of President and Vice President

President – Nita

Vice President - Kevin

Paper ballot for both.

Topic 3: Administrative Topics

Approve October minutes

Floyd Garrott moved to approve minutes. Approved by voice vote.

Pastor of Record report

Funeral tomorrow for HTLC member.

Confirmation class jointly with Our Savior and Holy Trinity. Going well.

Secretary request for information

Please provide contact information, and committee assignments and committee member names.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL CONTINUED**Topic 4: Treasurer's Report**

Sent via email. No questions were raised. Dave Krueger moved to approve the report. Approved by voice vote.

Transition from Al Davis (immediate past treasurer) to Stan Harlow beginning.

Resolution to add Stan to both checking and money market accounts. Signatories to be the Financial secretary, treasurer and immediate past treasurer, single signature only. First Merchants. Dave Krueger moved to approve, voice vote to pass.

Topic 5: Old Business***Masks***

Unanimous agreement to continue w/ masks. Worship and groups.

Parish Administrator

At a standstill. Reminder that last month council agreed to require a vaccine of all church employed personnel.

Call committee

See topic 7, below.

Monthly Blessing talks

On-going.

Synod Bishop election

See attached questions. Email Nita by end of month if one has suggestions.

Topic 6: New Business***Appointment of council member for vacant one year term***

As there is a vacancy, council can appoint a person to fill the one year term. Council president requests that council members discuss w/ church members to see if there is a volunteer.

Council installation

Council members and officers that were elected on the church meeting, 24Oct, need to be installed. Dave Krueger, Bob Montgomery, Elizabeth White (secretary) and Jim Smith need to be installed. Also Stan Harlow as treasurer. Tentatively scheduled for the 21Nov at service.

Devotions schedule

Done

Committee representatives

Council members took committee liaison assignments.

Think about is there a need for a Social Ministry or Social Justice committee?

LUM board – Jim Smith to take this seat.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL CONTINUED**Topic 8: Article 10 Reasons and SWOT analysis*****General discussion***

Postponed to next month.

Topic 9: Committee Reports***Oral reports supplementing written submissions***

Evangelism expanding postcard mailing to other neighborhoods.

Saturday is cleanup day (inclement date is next Saturday)

Jubilee on-track (outreach committee)

Walk-in topics

Topics from congregation members attending as visitors

None

Topic 9: Closing***Prayers***

Next meeting, Monday December 13, 2021 at 6:30pm

Meeting end, 8:25pm.

**Sunday School Subs Wanted!!**

We have added a third Sunday School class for our youth. It's great having new faces. We are looking for a few additional people to be substitute teachers when our lead teachers can not attend.

Please see Diane Longdo, 765 427 7365 or longdodiane@gmail.com if you are interested in helping with our Sunday School program. Thanks for helping grow our children in their faith.

Hi, Everyone! Come to the Gingerbread Bash!

Can you believe it? It's almost here—Christmas is right around the corner!

There is so much joy surrounding this season, but there can also be a lot of chaos! There are decorations to put up, parties to host or attend, and presents to purchase. It's so easy to let the entire month of December pass by and totally forget *why* we celebrate Christmas. We don't want that to happen this year, so we're hosting an event called "Gingerbread Bash!"

This is a fun and interactive experience designed for the whole family! Each household will build their own gingerbread nativity. We'll also play games, sing songs, hear the Christmas story from the Bible, and discover that sometimes the best gift comes in the most ordinary box. It's a truly sweet way for people of all ages to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

We'll be hosting this event on Sunday, December 12, from 2-4 pm at the church. This is for all ages!

You are absolutely not going to want to miss out on the fun. **Please register by Sunday, December 5, so we will have enough materials!** You can do that by calling 765-476-1318 or clicking on the QR code below.

I can't wait to see you there!

Merry Christmas!
Diane Longdo



A decorating blitz is planned for December 4, from 11am to 12:30pm. You are invited to help, as many hands will make for light (and fast) work! Please contact Michele Russell (414-4979) if you have questions or wish to RSVP your attendance. Help make our church festive and beautiful to celebrate our Savior's birth.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

1005 North 21st Street
Lafayette, IN 47904-2296
Phone: 765-447-4205

E-mail: office@htlcweb.org

Website: www.htlcweb.org

Open Door Editor: Susan Davis

Thank you

A big thanks to all who were at church Saturday 11-20-21021 and worked the fall clean up as well as Advent banner set-up (on 21st St. Entry.) We appreciate these folks who braved the cold to take care of our property:

Kevin Letcher

Dan Lokke

Bob Montgomery

Fred Feigel

Sue Davis

Mike Crawford

Floyd Garrott

Wayne Russell



Agnus Day

AS RADICAL AS JOHN IS, YOU'D THINK HE'D TELL THE TAX COLLECTORS AND SOLDIERS TO *QUIT* THEIR JOBS, NOT *CHANGE* THE WAY THEY *DO* THEM!



WWW.AGNUSDAY.ORG

PERHAPS THE FRUITS OF REPENTANCE GROW BEST WHEREVER WE'RE PLANTED.



I THINK I'M GOING TO NEED SOME *MULCHING*.



LUKE 3:7-18