The Trumpet
December *2020*
*INVITE * EQUIP * SEND*

Pastor Mike's Mash:

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel "since I am a virgin?"—Luke 1:34

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.—Matthew 1:18-19

When the magi had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," the angel said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."—Matthew 2:13

Two thoughts have continued to flood my heart and mind leading up to this Christmas.

The first is, WHAT A MESS!

I mean, neither Mary nor Joseph were married. Both the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, at the very least, flirt with, if not outright comment on the perceived shame-filled impropriety of that situation.

Joseph comes up with a plan that includes the Big D. (And I don't mean DALLAS, as the old country and western song goes.)

The Nativity Story movie imagines the disgrace that threatens both Mary's side, as well as Joseph himself for being involved with "such a woman." John's Gospel tells the story of a woman that the mob who has put itself in charge of maintaining good, decent morality is preparing to stone for the charge of adultery.

Then there's the birth itself: a small town bursting at the seams with humanity, all traveling on a journey they didn't choose to take, demanded by a government they don't support and would even not-so-secretly wish would come to a violent end, all so that the Roman occupying force will know what kind of taxable blood will be squeezed from those turnips.

The first cradle-side visitors aren't even the shepherds—they'll come later—but certainly livestock who are perhaps puzzledly annoyed at the contents of their manger.

Then there are the shepherds, who, if not outcasts as is sometimes implied by writers and preachers, still were likely rough around the edges and not the kind of visitors one would expect to be first in line with well-wishes and greetings. The citizens of Bethlehem—any who'll listen to what these guys have to say—are "amazed at what the shepherds had told them" in not-so-much a skeptical way as simply marveling that this kind of news of God's Advent-in-the-Flesh would come from, well, shepherds, babbling on about angels and God's peace and goodwill.

But Mary treasures all these things—this birth; the shepherds; the place of this birth; the whispers of the skeptics back in Nazareth and the shame they intend—storing them up in her heart as the lyrics of God's love song of promise to a messed up world, pretending that eventually it can pull itself together and be normal for once.

Oh.

Right.

Maybe you were thinking that I meant THIS CHRISTMAS is a MESS?!

Huh.

Well. Whatever.

The second thought that won't leave me alone centers around the precaution and the response that comes out of Matthew's part of the Christmas story and the Holy Family's flight to find safety in Egypt.

Of course, it would be *COMPLETELY* out of Joseph's character of quiet, conservative, protective responsibility to have done otherwise--this is the guy who, according to many interpretations of Jewish Law, would have had every right not only to break off the engagement with his suddenly-pregnant-and-I-didn't-do-it fiancée but also to denounce her publicly as an adultress. (Remember what can happen to women caught in adultery?)—but what if his response to the angel's warning was, "I choose to live by faith, not fear!"?

Of course, that's not what happens. Instead, given the warning of the impending threat to the child he is charged with protecting and watching over, a warning that comes from messengers who, presumably, know what they're talking about, and who give Joseph simple, specific directions about how to prevent the foreseen calamity from happening, Joseph gets up and flees to Egypt to find safety for his vulnerable family.

Herod wasn't looking for Joseph. What did he have to fear?

Matthew's Gospel records that the tyrant king Herod sent soldiers to seek out and to kill all the BABY BOYS in Bethlehem and its vicinity (2:13-18). Could it not have been that God could've, that God would've protected the infant Jesus against Herod? Sure. It *could've* been that way.

But it wasn't that way. Whatever God's place and role in countering the place and action of the brokenness and evil in our world, it appeared and was transmitted in and through a dream that gives, again, a warning of the impending threat, from messengers who know what they're talking about with simple, specific directions about how to prevent the foreseen calamity from happening. And Joseph's faith moves him to respond accordingly.

The story provides a laser-focused commentary on the value of life, both in Herod's reckless and murderous actions, as well as in Joseph's guardianship of the infant Christ.

May we, as well, remember the value of all life, even and perhaps especially the lives of the most vulnerable. And by faith, may we act in Joseph's way of quiet, conservative, protective responsibility.

See you worship.

Pastor Mike

CHRISTMAS EVE—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24:
3pm Livestream Service of Lessons & Carols w Drive-Up Communion
This will be our traditional service broadcast live at 3pm and posted for later viewing and worship on our Facebook page, our website, and our YouTube channel. (Please note if you subscribe to our YouTube channel—"Trinity Lutheran Church Princeton MN"—by clicking on the little bell icon, you will be notified the moment our services are posted and ready for viewing on YouTube.) Drive-up Communion will be offered immediately following the service, as we've grown accustomed, out on 6th Avenue North.

5 & 6pm In-person Parking Lot "Services of Light"
These services will be broadcast through an FM transmitter right to your vehicle that will include singing traditional Christmas carols; the Christmas Gospel and accompanying devotion; a Service of Light; and Holy Communion. **You are encouraged to bring a source of LIGHT to be used in your vehicle during the service—that could a candle from home, if you're comfortable lighting a candle in your vehicle; it could be a "candle app" on your phone; it could be flashlight; a lantern… Heck, it could be a Zippo if you wanted!** Jesus Christ is the Light of the World! The Light NO DARKNESS can overcome!!

CHRISTMAS DAY—FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25
9am Livestream Service with At-Home Communion

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27
9am Livestream—No Holy Communion

Advent & Christmas Thank You's

THANK YOU to everyone who has been so instrumental in putting together our Advent accoutrements and serving our congregation through the Advent and approaching Christmas seasons, especially… our accompanist-extraordinaire **Barb Larsen**, and our willing-and-able-accompanist-sub, **Judy Peterson**, who also helped coordinate our poinsettia display; our extraordinary quarantine worship assistants, **Olsen, Laura, Anna, & Eleanor Pancoast;** for our tree people and decorators, **Jeff & Kari Meyer; Wolcyn Tree Farm; Arlen & Sharon Schroeder; Chuck & Carol Warner, Chuck & Linda Zarns,** and **John Bowen;** our tech people, **Matt Barlage; Darcee Larsen;** and **Fred Street**; for our Christmas Eve construction guy, **Eric Strandberg** (you'll see!); for our Giving Tree coordinators, **Linda Zarns, Darcee Larsen**, **Liz Christensen** and for **ALL OF YOU** who responded SO GENEROUSLY in these most extraordinary circumstances; for our Building Trustees who have been watching over our building during these long days of vacancy, council member **Mitch Elness** and our custodian **Ken Henchen;** for our office admin **Liz Christensen** and her flexibility in juggling both our office and her kids' distanced learning; and **AND FOR ALL OF YOU** who have remained supportive, flexible, generous, and encouraging throughout this most unusual Advent & Christmas!! Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!! Had Mary & Joseph come knocking on your doors in Bethlehem, I am convinced, you would've figured out a way to make it work!!

Small Group Bible Studies

Will be taken place via Zoom – please contact the church office to receive the updated links for these events.

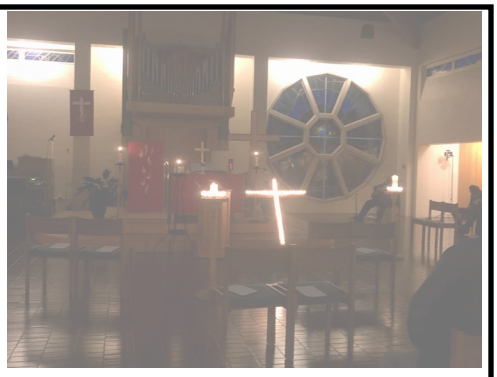
- **Men's Breakfast (2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8am)**—Our next Men's Breakfast will be held on Saturday, **December 12**.
- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study**—Each Tuesday morning at **10 – 11:30am** a group of anywhere from 3 to 8 men and women. Join us **TUESDAYS** as we talk about the next Sunday's Scripture reading
- **Wednesday Evening Adult Study – 7pm—**We are working our way through the book *Making Sense of* Scripture by David Lose, as well as the Gospel of Luke. The book invites us into questions like () What IS the Bible? () Is the Bible TRUE? () How is the Bible the Word of God? and more. You can order it on your own from any online book seller. Let Pastor Mike or Pastor Kari know that you want to be a part of this study, and we'll get you the link for our Zoom meeting.
- **Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study-** Postponed for now.

CARE OF CREATION

The Care for Creation Team is offering regular suggestions and information about how we can be stewards of our environment. Please use the information that is helpful to you to care for what God has given us.

- Do a home energy audit. You will be able to identify where you can patch air leaks, switch out light bulbs, or improve insulation. You'll conserve energy, reduce emissions that contribute to climate change, and save money!

Worship Reminders & Updates
All In-Person events Have Been Suspended



We have suspended all in-person gatherings at Trinity, including worship, studies, and meetings. For more information visit our website at www.trinity-princeton.org to see the pastors' letter. You will also find there some links to the data that is undergirding this caution and care for our community.

SUNDAYS:

- **9am Livestreamed**--right on our Facebook page.

Remember, our livestreamed service is recorded and available for later viewing and worship. That recording lives BOTH on our Facebook AND on our YouTube channel: HERE (If you "Like" the video recording there and "Subscribe" to the channel, you'll be notified when a new video is posted there.)

- **10:30am In-person**--**POSTPONED** Worshipers do need to be masked and physically spaced. Holy Communion is a part of this service, as well.

WEDNESDAYS:

- **6pm Livestreamed**—Advent Vespers: a brief, meditative service centered on our Lord's coming, as we anticipate the approaching celebration of his birth; as we look for his appearance among us now; and as we anticipate his promised return, once and for all.

Please make sure you check all our communication channels, as COVID-19 quarantining and testing has meant, at times, having to be flexible with our scheduling.

The church is not nor ever been closed! See you in worship!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY TO THE MISSION & MINISTRY GOD HAS GIVEN OUR CONGREGATION!!

We continue to be astounded and grateful for your generosity!
Our faithfulness to God's calling, even in this time, is to be responsible for our financial commitments, not least of which include our ministry partners (like the Synod and Camp Onomia); our buildings (including, of course, our mortgage on Trinity Crossing); and of course, our staff! Be we cannot be faithful to that calling without your trust and faithfulness in your generosity.

There are still any number of ways to give:

- **By Mail—**we have a reliable process for making sure that all offerings are out of the building every single day and deposited right way. It is safe, even with our mostly shuttered building.
- **Drop Off**—If you are out and about, there is a mail slot to the right of the front doors. You can safely and securely drop your gift off there.
- **On-line—**go to our website (www.trinity-princeton.org) and look for the picture of the offering plate like the one above. This is THE most efficient way of signing up for Simply Giving, which is administered by Vanco, one of the most secure e-commerce companies in the industry.
- **Automatic Withdrawal—**Contact your bank.
- **By App—**Both the Apple and Google Play app stores have a free app called "*GivePlus.*" Once downloaded to your device, *simply search for "Trinity Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN";* follow the directions for registering; and set-up your giving in whatever way works for your faithful generosity, one time, recurring, or whatever.

OFFERING REPORT—through November 2020

Income:	$ 347,136.64
PPP loan:	$ 46,800.00
Expenses:	$ 392,677.85
Difference:	- $ 45,541.21

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSI-

Prayer List

Members

Dorothy Bergstrom
Jim Dery
Susan Deyle
Katey Donais
Dale Dunham
Marlene Foss
Adolph Hamann
Jeff Hammer
Marlys Hanson
John Heins
Phil Knapp
Bruce Lacher
Tad Larsen
Del Liestman
Donna Liestman
Chellis Matz
Sharon Matz
Anikka Miller
Jean Miller
Emily Nelson
Kenny Neumann
Ed Peterson
Bev Reed
Warren Reed
Dina Scandinato
Carol Skare
Matt Skarohlid
Brenda Smith
Anne Stevenson
Patty Swanson & Family as they mourn the loss of Craig Swanson
Joyce Tessmer
Prudence Tessmer & family
Ardy Tourville
Carol Warner
Chuck Warner
Barb Wicktor
Russ Wicktor
Dean Winslow
Ginny Winslow

Family Members & Friends

Peter Berry (Mary Berry's son)
Isabella Borunda (Roger & Jan Gale's granddaughter)
Shirley Bosch (Heidi Street's mom)
Diane Boser (Friend of Dan & Jean Anderson)
Gene Brown (Pastor Mike's uncle)
Jean Carlson (Chuck Warner's sister)
Virg Carlson (Chuck & Carol Warner's brother in-law)
Caitlin Christenson (Kenny & Joy Christenson's daughter in-law)
Mike & Monica Clark (Helen Lundgren's brother & sister in-law)
Mary Davis (family of Mike & Linda Baumann)
David Doerfler (Pastor Mike's uncle)
Rachel Fadden(friend of Ron & Judy Peterson/Jim & Jan Dery)

Jan Gale's daughter Jamie
Joan Gessar (Courtney Hoppe's mother in-law)
Marian Grow (LaDonna Olson's sister)
Shirley Heyns (Chellis Matz sister)
Dale Kannegiesser (Elaine Storck's friend)
Evelyn Kingma (June Kunkel's sister in-law)
Carol Kint (Ron Peterson/Jan Dery's sister)
Barb Hater Klein (Judy Wnuk's aunt)
Mike Kopacel (family of Milke & Linda Baumann)
Randall Lundgren (Debi's Pederson's nephew)
Bryce Murphy (friend of Marlowe Miller)
Esther Neussendorfer (Danette Scepurek's grandmother)
Barbara Newton (Mary Newton's daughter)
Janice Omtvedt (Ingrid Bavier's mother)
Elliott Pancoast (Pastor Mike's dad)
Tracy Pidde(Princeton 3rd grade teacher)
Justin Poorker (Jim & Jan Dery grandson)
Amanda Ridout (friend of the Pancoast Family)
Rob Savage (Friend of the Keller family)
John Schmid (family of Mike & Linda Baumann)
Robin Schmidt (Jan Gerth's daughter)
Andy Struthers (Maria Barlage's brother)
Patty Thul's Sister Sheri
Stacy Turner (Marlowe & Jean Miller's daughter)
Scott Wallin (Char Kramersmeier's son)
Eric Webster (friend of the Morisset family)
Ronda Wetzel (daughter of Andrea & Ron Sandusky)

Serving in the Military

Andrew Anderson
Andrew Barthel
Claire Barthel
Jacob Benver
Brady Beauchamp
Eden Betzler
Lacee Broding
Riley Broding
Ronald Duresky
Riley Forland
Derek Hanson
Hunter Lestrud
Anthony Mandt
David McCarney
John McCarney
Zachary Morisset
Ben Noard
Parker Pedersen
Jaden Thimmesch

2020 December

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
29	**Nov 30**	**1** **10:00 AM** Bible Study--ZOOM **11:30 AM** Staff Meeting **6:00 PM** Eagle Scouts	**2** Bulletin Deadline **9:00 AM** TOPS **4:00 PM** Music & Worship Committee **6:00 PM** Worship on Wednesday--LIVESTREAM **7:00 PM** Adult Bible Study -- ZOOM	**3** **6:00 PM** Gateway Scouts * **7:00 PM** AA **7:00 PM** Faith5 with the Pancoast--Advent Devos	**4**
6 **9:00 AM** Livestreamed Worship **10:00 AM** NO Drive Up Holy Communion	**7**	**8** **10:00 AM** Bible Study--ZOOM **11:30 AM** Staff Meeting	**9** Bulletin Deadline **6:00 PM** Worship on Wednesday--LIVESTREAM **7:00 PM** Adult Bible Study -- ZOOM	**10** **7:00 PM** AA	**11**
13 **9:00 AM** Livestreamed Worship **10:00 AM** Drive Up Holy Communion	**14** **6:00 PM** Fellowship Meeting **6:00 PM** Finance Meeting **6:00 PM** Property Meeting **6:00 PM** Worship & Music Meeting **7:00 PM** Council Meeting	**15** **10:00 AM** Bible Study--ZOOM **11:30 AM** Staff Meeting	**16** Bulletin Deadline **9:00 AM** TOPS **6:00 PM** Worship on Wednesday--LIVESTREAM **7:00 PM** Adult Bible Study -- ZOOM	**17** Red Cross Blood Drive Trumpet Deadline **10:00 AM** Heartland Conference Pastors' Gathering **7:00 PM** AA	**18**
20 **9:00 AM** Livestreamed Worship **10:00 AM** Drive Up Holy Communion	**21** **7:00 PM** AA - District 5 Committee; Trinity Lutheran Church, 111 6th Ave N, Princeton, MN 55371, USA	**22** **10:00 AM** Bible Study--ZOOM **11:30 AM** Staff Meeting	**23** Bulletin Deadline **9:00 AM** TOPS	**24** **3:00 PM** Livestream Service of Lessons & Carols with Drive-Up Communion **5:00 PM** Parking Lot Service of Light #1 **6:00 PM** Parking Lot Service of Light #2 **7:00 PM** AA	**25** **9:00 AM** Christmas Day Worship Livestream
27 **9:00 AM** Livestreamed Worship **10:00 AM** Drive Up Holy Communion	**28** **5:00 PM** Laundry Love; Washboard, 804 S Rum River Dr, Princeton, MN 55371, USA	**29** **10:00 AM** Bible Study--ZOOM **11:30 AM** Staff Meeting	**30** Bulletin Deadline **9:00 AM** TOPS	**31** Trumpet is mailed. **7:00 PM** AA	**Jan 1**
3	**4**	**Notes**			