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Christmas is Here?

You may wonder why my front page article in our October newsletter is addressing Christmas. Well here's why: research and anecdotal evidence indicate that many people become overwhelmed with the season of joy sometime around the end of November. The season of joy and celebration starts to hurt people long before we even get there. Many are overwhelmed by the demands to uphold family traditions, meet unreasonable expectations over how one should celebrate, or are confronting a season without those loved ones and thus find this a season anything but joyful. These circumstances combine with our sad truce to contemporary culture that exempts us from observing a season of preparation before the celebration and lead to spiritual pain, and I am all about helping people who are hurt spiritually.

Most counseling suggests that the best way to deal with and potentially avoid impending anxiety and hurt is to prepare a plan, and hence this message to you from me.

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In the past I have been a staunch advocate for a complete ban on Christmas stuff during Advent. Like it or not the church's rules already strongly suggest this in how we design our worship services. But trying to abandon every element of our culture does not make a powerful witness; instead it just makes us a strange pariah in the neighborhood. This year, I instead want to offer a few things to adopt that will help us make a statement of faith in the midst of culture:

- If you are in charge of maintaining a family or work tradition that is becoming a burden, you have my permission to make it simpler so you can manage it. God loves you enough to want you to enjoy what you are doing. Within two years, your simpler approach will be the tradition everyone expects and you will be one step closer to the sanity and joy of God.
- If you have children or grandchildren, join me in having them select one or two gifts on Christmas morning to save for opening until the eve of Epiphany (the evening of January 5th). Help them stretch the joy out and not end up depressed that "Christmas is Over" at 2PM Christmas day.
- Plan one event, ministry, party, get together, sing-a-long, or something to happen during the Christmas season (December 25-January 5) that is actually a celebration of the season.

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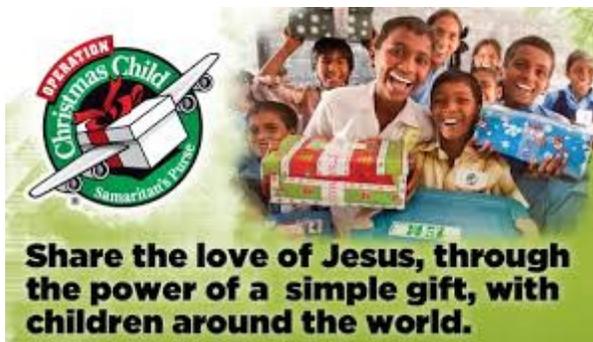
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Our culture is not always our friend, and we should be wary of befriending a culture that supports well over 40% of our neighbors in not pursuing a spiritual life in Christ. Popular culture may not be a great advocate for Christian disciple making. Make these simple statements, or others as you are creative, as first steps in reclaiming the spiritual power of a life lived in Christ,

observing the seasons of joy and seasons of expectation. That is who we are after all, a joyful and expectant band of disciples ministering as members of God's Kingdom, all waiting for when the darkness is banished once and for all. Advent and Christmas, well observed, can be a powerful support to our disciple life.

Matthew

Matthew +



Since 1993, more than 100 million boys and girls in over 130 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoe-box gifts from Operation Christmas Child.

Working with local churches and other ministry partners, Samaritan's Purse delivers the shoe box gifts and shares the life-changing Good News of Jesus Christ.

Plastic shoe boxes along with packing instructions and labels can be found in the narthex. Any questions, please see Addy Landrio.

Please return your Shoe Box by Sunday, November 16th.

Thank You!!



Communion during the cold and flu season

Fall brings us into the cold and flu season, and our fears of spreading infections is only heightened as we watch Ebola scare our communities and the world with its deadly nature. As a church that practices Communion with a common cup of wine, here a few things to think about so that we all can engage Christ fully and safely in our sacraments.

- Several medical studies have shown that when using a common cup for communion, the safest way is to drink from the chalice and then have the chalice bearer wipe the cup with a clean portion of purificator (the white cloth they carry). You might think the different forms of intinction (dipping) would be safer, but the evidence is clear that whenever any hand enters the cup, whether it be the chalice bearer or the communicant, the risk of infection spreading is far greater. Finger-



nails are not our friends! Please avoid intinction during the cold and flu season.

- Altar servers and clergy will begin using sanitizer on their hands during the offertory to prepare for their work.

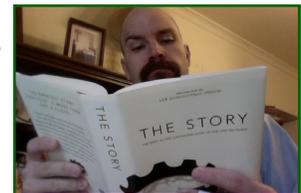
- Our faith teaches that communion is either form, bread and/or wine, is complete communion. Hence it is completely acceptable to not drink from the cup at all when receiving. A common practice held by alcoholics is to touch the base of the cup when it is offered as a way of symbolically accepting the gift without actually drinking. Please consider that option if you are concerned.

It is the philosophy of Trinity's leadership not to ban any form of taking communion, but we hope that all will consider their brothers and sisters and utilize safe methods of sharing the common cup as we travel through the winter together.

GROW

The Story Update

A unique way to journey through the Bible, entertaining videos the spark deep thoughts, and incredible conversations between fellow disciples, and over 25 people already involved: now that's what I call a fruitful ministry! Our journey through "The Story" has been a delight so far and the invitation stands for anyone to jump in. The main Wednesday night 7PM meeting, the Sunday morning 9:30AM gathering, and the Monday night 7PM Bible Study all offer you the chance to engage in this spiritually rich opportunity. Do not worry about missing some of the meetings, as every one is a stand alone time for reflection and learning. Adult and children copies of The Story are available at the office, but you can skip all that and just join us at any meeting to discover more.



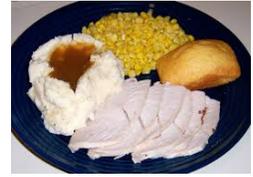
SHARE

Thanksgiving Food Bags will be distributed on Saturday, November 22.

Sign up in the narthex to assist with this outreach ministry.

This ministry is being funded from the proceeds of the 2013 Gift Basket Raffle.

Holiday Hot Meals



Trinity, along with partner churches throughout Warren

County, will once again feed hundreds of shut-ins and elderly around Warren and Forest County on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and Holy Saturday. If you have taken part in the past, get ready to enjoy cooking, packing, driving, and cleaning as we spread the love of God with a hot holiday meal. If you have not participated in the past, consider testing it out this year either by signing up for a shift at the kitchen or partnering with a seasoned driver to deliver meals. This activity is good for all ages and has led to some of the most meaningful spiritual experiences for congregants.

Sign up sheets for Thanksgiving will be out November 2, so make sure to stop by and add your name.



Mittens, Gloves, Hats

We are accepting donations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves (all sizes) which will be distributed with the Thanksgiving Food Bags.

Please place your donations in the basket in the narthex.

Altar Guild Annual Meeting

All members of the Altar Guild are invited to the Annual Meeting and Brunch on Sunday, November 2nd at the Holiday Inn following our worship service.

We will be reflecting on and celebrating the past year's work and praying for this coming year's ministry.

New members are most welcome, men or women. Please advise Mary Lou Campbell if you will be in attendance.



Treasurer's Report—Operating Fund to September, 2014

	Actual to 9/30/14	Budget to 9/30/14	2014 Budget
Beginning Balance	36,121		
Member Pledges	\$63,643	\$76,371	\$101,828
Other Regular Member Contr.	\$4,408	\$6,000	\$8,000
Miscellaneous Other Givers	\$1,455	\$750	\$1,000
Total Contribution	\$69,506	\$83,121	\$110,828
Other Income	\$12,284	\$7,500	\$10,000
Outreach Income	\$2,556	0	0
Plate Income	\$852	\$750	\$1,000
Sub Total Income	\$85,198	\$91,371	\$121,828
Endowment	\$78,226	\$78,226	\$104,554
Total Income	\$163,424	\$169,597	\$226,382
Expenses	\$157,310	\$158,162	\$226,382
Difference	\$6,114		
Ending Balance	\$42,235		

Birthdays & Anniversaries

November

- 2 - Jane & Pat Hesch
- 3 - Rachel Robertson
- 4 - Ashley Cunningham
- 5 - Stella Curry
- 6 - Peter Landrio
- 8 - Carolyn Lake
- 10 - Lana Creal
- 13 - Jane Hesch
- 17 - Maggie Bailey
- 18 - Katherine Bowley
- 19 - Teddy Whaley
Heather & Scott Madigan
- 20 - Halle Watson
Jill Lasecki
- 21 - Mickey Ettinger
- 23 - Rose Mary Landon

- 27- Rose Barney
Darlene & John John
- 28 - Karen Hoffman
- 30 - Janet Ely
Jane Ball

December

- 3 - Nancy Hahn
Anne & Tony Creal
- 10 - Barry Cunningham
- 14 - Tyler Madigan
- 16 - Lynda & Jim McCollough
- 18 - Bev Carlberg
- 23 - Marisa & Kurt Smith
- 31 - Diane Groszek



Coffee Hour



Thanks to *Mary Lou & Tom Watt, Carol Lake, Debby Hornburg, Rose Mary Landon and Besty & Jerry Bowersox* for hosting coffee hour.

Check out the table in the narthex for open Sundays for your opportunity to serve in this fellowship ministry.

Prayers



Illness/Surgery/Other Needs: Janet Ely, Terry Brant, Ed Brant, Scott Mitchell, Jeff Washburn, Brian Knisley, Kara Donaldson, Carrie, Reiner Peters, Ted, Peggy Skinner, Lacy Brant, Ellen, Rick S., Joe Wallo, Cathie & Merl, Betsy, Bill & Celia, Jake Glenn, Derek, Barb & Rosie, Burke Johnson, Ed Barlow, Cheryl, Peggy & Sam, Libby & family, Bill Nuhfer, Deb, Danielle, Christine, Heather, Rick Naill & Virginia Eberly, Jerry Bow-ersox, Gene Ely, Ed & Donna Ball, Jim & Lynda McCollough, Julius Stevenson, Denise Kingsley Joy, Dorothy, Steve Onuffer, Annette Drummond, Glotz Family, Patricia Shaffer, Martha Galbraith, Sally, Dave Harvey, Sandy Hall and Kite, Richard & Jennifer Barrett, Kathy Jimerson, Linda Abbott, Ruby, Alice Newman, Dolores, Bev Moore, Shannon Moore, Gale Hotchkiss, Scott Franklin, Jim & Patricia Franklin, Diana Baxter, Karen Williams Olson, David Thomson, Gavin Horner, Dave & Bonnie Dickson, Linda & Chad, Kevin Blakeslee, Rick Himes, Tom, Barb Rodgers, Laura Warner, Jeff, Joyce Grady, Armida Allen, Megan Grady, Kristi Eck, Sandra Withington, Justin Eck, Barb, Christian, Megan, Autumn, Colin & family, Middle East, Cara & all people of Afghanistan, Roger, Jean, Doug, Paul and Hiromi, Jim & Lynda, Ken H., Carol Moss, George Ball, Bob Arnold, Megan Sabat, Helenanne, Ruth Warner, Anne Mead, Christians around the world, Christy, Tom, Kelly, Dave

Thanksgiving for: All life's blessings, Tim, Andrew, Connie, Gary, Wednesday eve Contemplative service, our building team, unexpected visit for our son, Jed's safe return from Afghanistan, good doctor's report, safe trip Ashley & Stefan, Helenanne

Serving in the Armed Services: Curtis Delattre, Grant Brown, Parker Hahn, Cody, Toby, & Jeremy Williams, Jackie Shaw, Nathan Lake, Jed in Afghanistan, HT2 Jesse Sternberg in the Persian Gulf, Robert Barrett, Dan Schantz, Jonathon Fox, Andrew Horner, Stephen Miller, Patrick Schantz Abe Vansile, Bill Wencil, Bill Horner, Stephen Miller, Sondra Dew, T.J. Fera, Pete Ochucki, Stephen Battko, Cathy Fox, Rob Umbaugh, Adam Decker, Corey Traut, Troy Spencer, Pete Scobell, Jason Sweet, Natalie Neidrick Julin, Jolene Nobles, Aaron Heliker, Arick Heliker Matthew Wright, Matthew Lambert, Sean Jenkins, Krista Traut,

The Clergy: Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop; Sean Rowe, our Bishop; Matthew Scott, our vicar

Serving justice and peace: Christian Peacemaker Teams; House of Hope, Birds of the Sky, and Good Samaritan House in India; Asociacion Rescate

Prayer for the Diocese

O God, by your grace you have called us in this diocese to a goodly fellowship of faith. Bless our Bishop, Sean, and other clergy, and all our people. Grant that your Word may be truly preached and truly heard, your Sacraments faithfully administered and faithfully received. By your Spirit, fashion our lives according to the example of your Son, and grant that we may show the power of your love to all among whom we live; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Newsletter

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«MAILINGLBL»

Or Current resident

«ADDRLN1»

«ADDRLN2»

«CITY», «STATE» «ZIPCODE»

«B A R C O D E »

Trinity's Vision of its place in Christ's Mission

We

Celebrate God through enriching worship,

Grow through the transforming power of the Spirit, and

Share the healing we find in Christ.

Come witness the power of God's Love with us.

