

THE MESSENGER

Trinity United Methodist Church, Lapeer

December 2022

THE LOBBSTER TALE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us."

These words, which can be found among the first 14 verses of the Gospel of John (New Revised Standard Version), inform us of the great truth we declare and celebrate every Christmas Day = God became one of us, so we could become one of His! The theological term for this is **Incarnation**. God in the flesh. God with skin. God walking with us on this earth.

I often explain that one of the main differences between Christianity and other religions is that people involved in other religions strive and strain to try to reach "up" to the gods, whereas Christians know that God has reached "down" to be with us and change us! We are changed not because we deserve it, but because God's love and grace desires that for us. How great is that? We are indeed a blessed people!

What I am about to write is not at all original, but it bears repeating: in the midst of all of the busy-ness and crazy-ness of shopping and decorating and traveling and entertaining and celebrating in December,

PLEASE ----

DO NOT FORGET JESUS!!

THINK OF OTHERS!!

ATTEND WORSHIP!!

REMEMBER THAT HE IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!!

Pastor Grant



Trinity UMC General Budget Giving/ Spending Report

	January - October 2022
General Budget Contributions	\$ 343,642.73
General Budget Spending	\$ 379,211.15
Surplus/(Shortfall)	\$ (35,568.42)

<i>Surplus/(Shortfall) Jan - October 2021</i>	\$ (12,941.21)
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As we prepare to close 2022 and head into the New Year, please know that Trinity's General Fund has experienced a great shortfall so far this year. Trinity has previously had a reserve of funds for situations like this, however these funds have been heavily hit this year. The General Fund pays for utilities, wages, building maintenance, and other fixed costs needed to keep the building open and operating. A combination of a decrease in contributions and an increase in fixed costs has led to this shortfall. Please keep this information in mind as you prayerfully tithe and please pray for the financial health of Trinity Church.



Worship Schedule for Christmas

Christmas Eve:

7:00 p.m. Family Candlelight Service

Kid's special activities in the Fellowship Hall—(they will be dismissed during the service)
Hearing about Jesus Birthday, making a craft and having special treats!

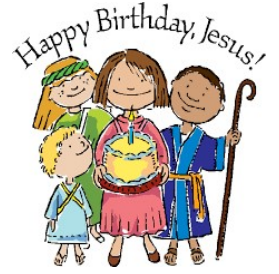
8:30 p.m. Christmas Caroling at the Manger

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

December 25th and January 1st

10 a.m.—One Service

All the children can join the fun on Christmas Eve at Trinity! During the 7:00 p.m. Worship Service the children will be dismissed to go to the Fellowship Hall where they will hear about Jesus' Birthday, do a craft and have a special treat. We will return to the Sanctuary so all the children can rejoin their families and participate in the candle lighting at the end of the service.



There will be a Christmas Eve dinner served from 4:30-6 pm. It will be served, sit down in the Fellowship Hall. This is not a fundraiser, it is a free meal for people in need as well as members. It is an opportunity for us to sit and break bread with people from the community that are less fortunate. We are asking for new coats of all sizes to be donated for gifts as well as new adult sized blankets. Please consider donating and attending this lovely meal that is "sponsored" by the youth. This means they have done the leg work leading up to Christmas Eve, but we need volunteers to do the work on Christmas Eve. I will be at the church at 11 am to start cooking and setting up. Anyone who wants to help in any way is welcome to come and be a part of providing this free meal to the community.

FROM YOUR STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Between now and December 11 we will be collecting a Love Offering for our Trinity Staff for all of the hard work they do in the name of Jesus Christ. It would be great if you could give a monetary gift of any amount that will be distributed to our staff the week of Christmas. Please use the white envelopes designated for Love Offering at the usher's stand, or the envelopes found in the pews and write "Staff Love Offering" on it. Then place it in the offering plate or drop off to the Church Office.

Thank you and God Bless.

TRINITY MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

The Trinity Men's Group will be meeting for dinner on Monday, December 5th at 6:30 p.m. at Leo's Restaurant. ALL men are invited to attend this night of eating and fellowship!

TRINITY CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S NEWS

Our December meeting will be held on **Monday, December 12th at 100 p.m. at the Parsonage.** We will be sharing in a luncheon and then having an ornament exchange. Please bring a new ornament or one that you have and would like to share with someone else. **ALL ladies of Trinity are invited to this luncheon!** We hope many of you can attend! There will be a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table the beginning of December.





Great Reads @ Trinity

By Jean Best

The title of this month's book is "Breakthrough." It is a nonfiction narrative written by Joyce Smith with Ginger Kolbaba.

After John Smith, a 14-year-old eighth grader sunk a basket in the last moment and led his team to victory, two of his teammates begged John's mom to allow him to spend the night at a sleepover with them. She finally gave in despite the fact that she had a "weird feeling" about it. The boys lived in St. Charles, Missouri, where frozen lakes are rare, but on the morning after the sleepover, they found that a local lake near them seemed to be solidly frozen and decided to run and slide on the ice. It wasn't solid. It broke and swallowed the boys.

John Smith was underwater for more than 20 minutes. He arrived at the emergency room without a pulse and with a body temperature that was incompatible with life. John lay lifeless in the ER for more than 60 minutes.

The rest of the story relies on the firm faith of John's praying mother. If you think miracles don't happen anymore, you need to read this book! Our Trinity library has both the book and the DVD of the excellent movie that was made from it. I highly recommend both for an experience you won't soon forget.

Notes from the Office:

The staff wishes all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Just a reminder that the finance books will be closing for the 2022 year on Sunday, December 25th after the service. Donations received after Sunday's service will be credited to your 2023 offering statement. Any questions, please contact Natalie Morey at business_mgr@trinitylapeer.org or 810-664-9941 ext. 102.

2022 Offering Statements will be mailed to your home by the end of January. If you are not sure if the office has your correct home address, please contact us at 810-664-9941 or email: trinumc@trinitylapeer.org.

2023 Altar Flowers

You can now reserve 2023 Altar Flowers!

Envelopes are available by the Outreach Bulletin Board across from the Church Office. Complete the information on the envelope with your name, date of the Sunday you want to reserve, and the name of the person to be honored by the flowers. The cost of the flowers is \$25. You can submit the completed envelope to the office or put it in the offering plate. The office will put you on the schedule to be posted near the envelopes.

Holiday Office Closures

The church office will close for the Christmas holiday on Thursday, December 22, 2022 at 3pm. Normal office hours will resume Monday, January 2, 2023.



CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS

12/02 Ron Best
 12/02 Wanda Harrand
 12/03 Sally Gillies
 12/03 Michelle Rasnick
 12/07 Lexie McCreedy
 12/08 Gordon Archer
 12/08 Doris Gross
 12/09 Jason Louwaert
 12/11 Joe Richard
 12/12 Kaleb June
 12/12 Barbara Niesen
 12/12 Cora Oxta
 12/14 Mary Kay Krozek
 12/16 Bayleigh Boose
 12/16 Mary Pieper
 12/16 Shirley Smith
 12/17 Janet Dye
 12/18 Ann June
 12/18 Sandy Noel
 12/19 Carol Cliff
 12/19 Sheila Smith
 12/20 Cynthia Olson
 12/20 Joyce Adams
 12/20 Sue Daveluy
 12/20 Heidi Matheny
 12/21 Kristen Camp
 12/23 Dyle Henning
 12/23 Dale June
 12/23 Pam Siivola
 12/24 Gordon Bade
 12/24 Joyce Carr
 12/25 Nancy Brinker
 12/25 Gail Orris
 12/25 Tom Terbrueggen
 12/25 Timothy Zeeman
 12/30 Gracie Wilson

CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARIES

12/13 Corbett & Linda McCoy
 12/20 Andrew & Olga Barnard
 12/20 Michael & Jennifer Nolan
 12/27 Thomas & Barbara Coon
 12/27 James & Carolyn Elzerman
 12/28 Jeanne & Steven McCorkle
 12/28 Dale & Mary Parsons

Please continue to pray for the following people:

The family of Bill Running
 The family of Carol Jack
 All of our shut-ins



Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy

The church office will be closed and all other activities and meetings canceled whenever the Lapeer Community Schools are closed for any type of inclement weather (temperature, snow and/or ice).



Meaning of the Song 12 Days of Christmas

The 12th day after Christmas (January 6) was chosen as the day to honor the visit of the wisemen to Jesus. It is called Epiphany. Anciently, these 12 days between Christmas and Epiphany were full of festivals. On the 12th night there was a large party. There is a legend that the song was written during the 16th century when the Church of England forbade all religious teachings not in alignment with theirs. So, the song disguises the true meanings behind it so the people could teach their children in secret. Each of the items in the song represents something of religious significance. While the truth of this legend is not proved to be true, it is a fun interpretation!



The "true love" in the song represents God who is the giver of all gifts.



The "partridge in a pear tree" was the greatest gift of all- Christ dying on a cross, made from a tree.



The "two turtle doves" were the Old and New Testaments. They could also symbolize the doves Mary and Joseph gave to the temple when Jesus was born.



4. The "three French hens" are faith, hope and love - the three gifts of the Spirit that abide. They also could be a representation of the three gifts from the wisemen.



The "four calling birds" are a symbol of the four Gospels which sing the song of salvation through Jesus Christ.



The "five golden rings" represent the first five books of the Old Testament also called the "Books of Moses".



The "six geese a-laying" symbolize the six days of creation portrayed in Genesis.



The "seven swans a swimming" were the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit". Like a swan you grow more beautiful as you grow in them.



The "eight maids a milking" are the eight beatitudes. Just as milk helps you grow strong, the Beatitudes strengthen your spirit.



The "nine ladies dancing" are nine fruits of the Holy Spirit. They bring you joy and make you want to dance!



The "ten lords a-leaping" represent the Ten Commandments. Lords were men to be honored and obeyed just as the commandments should be.



The "eleven pipers piping" symbolize the eleven faithful disciples. When a piper played music, people followed him around just as Jesus is meant to be followed.

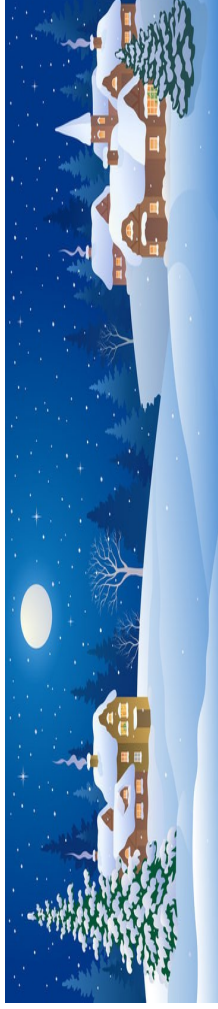



The "twelve drummers drumming" are the twelve points of the Apostles' Creed.

December 2022

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 9 - 3 p.m.

Preaching Schedule: December 4, 11, 18, 25—Rev. Grant R. Lobb

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 8:45a Worship 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00p Youth Group 2:30p LCCC Concert	5 9:00a TCW Exec. Board 10:00a Pantry Activities 4:00p Food for Families 6:30p TMM Dinner @ Leo's	6 9:00a MOPS 6:00p Trustees 6:30p Handbells	7 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p TCW Card Recycling 3:30p Kids Street 5:45p Night Time @ Kids Street NO CHOIR PRACTICE	1	2 9:00a In Stitches 10:00a Praise Moves	3
11 REFUGE 8:45a Worship 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00p Youth Group	12 REFUGE 10:00a Pantry Activities 1:00p Women's Christmas Luncheon at Parsonage 4:00p Food for Families 7:00p Administrative Board	13 REFUGE 9:00a MOPS Leadership 6:30p Handbells	14 REFUGE 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p TCW Card Recycling 3:30p Kids Street 5:45p Night Time @ Kids Street 7:00p Choir Practice	15 REFUGE	16 REFUGE 9:00a In Stitches 10:00a Praise Moves	17 REFUGE
18 8:45a Worship 10:00a Sunday School 11:00a Worship 12:00p Youth Group	19 10:00a Pantry Activities 4:00p Food for Families	20 9:00a MOPS 6:30p Handbells	21 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p TCW Card Recycling 7:00p Choir Practice	22	23 9:00a In Stitches 10:00a Praise Moves	24 7:00p Christmas Eve Service 11:00p Christmas Eve Service
25 10:00a ONE Worship 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00a Pantry Activities 4:00p Food for Families	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED 10:00a Bible Study 1:00p TCW Card Recycling	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 9:00a In Stitches	31

The Messenger

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Church Staff

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Natalie Morey, Business Secretary: Ext. 102 business_mgr@trinitylapeer.org

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Creg June, Youth Director: Ext. 105 Cell: (810) 730-4804 cregjune@gmail.com

Cheryl Burnside, Music Dir./Organist (810) 664-1565 cburnside@charter.net

Ann June, Nursery Coordinator

Velma Watson, Head Cook/Soup Kitchen: Ext. 107 Kitchen

Pat Schlaud, Custodian