

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

158 Vreeland Ave., Nutley, 07110 / (973) 667-0256
htlcnutley.org / email: office.htlcnutley@verizon.net

Pastor Nancy Truscott

Cell: (856) 745-0080 / email: ntruscott@comcast.net

Viktoriya Raufova, Director of Music / Tina Patti, Parish Administrator

Council Members:

Steve Oberndorf, President / Jeremy Boyer, Vice President / Ken Geiselman, Secretary
Sally Bayhi / Julie Franchino / Michael Palamara / Greg Sekula / Terry Graney (Treasurer)

Newsletter/ Advent & Christmas 2022

“Prince of Peace”

One of my favorite Christmas hymns is “O Little Town of Bethlehem”. The first stanza is:

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

We love the joy of the Christmas season. The lights on trees and houses. Decorations beyond compare. The music is brighter and merrier. It’s fun to sing the songs of the season. We share special memories of favorite stories or special loved ones. At the same time, we may also grieve the loss of a loved one or we may think of family members, friends, or others who can’t enjoy the holidays to their fullest extent.

In the midst of this, we daily live with a mix of hope and fear. As the hymn says, “The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.” Christmas reminds us that there is always hope no matter what we fear. Christmas reminds us that light truly shines in the darkness. As scripture says:

“The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy.... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given and the Government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9)

We need Christmas to remind us day after day and year after year that God sent hope into our world through the birth of Christ. God sent us our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. In Christ, God showed us that darkness will never be the final answer. In the midst of any fear or uncertainty you face, you have an everlasting Hope to turn to. Yes, the Light of Hope shines in our world! Remember, “Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.” (Bishop Desmond Tutu)

For unto us a child is born. God gave us the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace. He is our Light of Hope and Love.

May God shine the Light of Hope and Love on you!

Pastor Nancy Truscott

WORSHIP LIFE

In Person

We continue to hold in-person worship. If you attend in person, we continue to offer the Zoom/Phone-In/Facebook Live option; the information is located on our website at www.htlcnutley.org:

Join Zoom Meeting Video Conferencing:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552194898>

Phone Call for Voice Only: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID is: 825 5219 4898

Facebook: www.facebook.com/htlcnutley/

Worship Assistants Needed

We are in need of Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants (1 to pour wine & 1 for juice) & Lectors for in-person worship. You will be scheduled to serve



approximately once or twice a month (less if we have enough people scheduled for each position). Please see Pastor Nancy, a council member, or contact Tina in the office if you are interested OR if you're interested in assisting with our Zoom (remote) worship. Thanks.

LEARNING OUR FAITH



Intergenerational Sunday School

In September we started Intergenerational Sunday School on the first Sunday of the month. School begins at 9:00am and includes a light breakfast; worship follows at 10:15am. Our next Sunday School will be December 4th - please note that there will be NO school on January 1st. See Pastor Nancy if you'd like to help with lessons or provide any breakfast items needed; you may also contact Tina in the office. Thank you.

Confirmation Boot Camp Reminder

Introducing Confirmation Boot Camp -- CBC... It is a more condensed Confirmation program covering four primary areas of Confirmation education. The primary areas of study are Bible, Practical Spirituality, What Does It Mean to Be a Lutheran, and Community Service. From beginning to end, CBC is 2 months long and then, upon completion of required assignments, the student would be ready to be confirmed.

Interested? Call OR email the office to let us know:

973-667-0256/

office.htlcnutley@verizon.net

WELCA

The next WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Meeting will take place here at Holy Trinity on Tuesday, November 29th, 7:30pm. Please see Barbara Mascola with any questions.

Advent

Blue is the color of Advent—a symbol of hope. Think of a deep, bottomless, and rich blue. Advent's blue is the velvety dark blue of the late-night sky of dawn, the luminous blue of blessed Mary's robes in icons and late medieval and Renaissance paintings, the eternal blue of a winter sky after days of overcast, and the blue of immense ocean. Our banners remind us of action verbs from the lessons of Advent.



Advent

The Advent wreath is Lutheran in origin and is a beautiful symbol of the season. Here we see a circle of life, the circle of eternity, the circle of return, and the hope of renewal. The evergreen boughs in the ring proclaim life, even in winter's cold and dearth of light.

Advent is not a time of waiting for Jesus to be born. The Latin *adventus* is the equivalent of the Greek *parousia*: coming, presence. The coming of advent is not some past event fondly recalled that we then pretend to wish to come. It is the very real inbreaking of future and past into the present here. It challenges us to envision God's future and live it as a present reality. Advent does not mean wishing; advent means coming. "God with us"—the God who was, who is and who is to come.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



Each Sunday in Advent (11/27, 12/4, 12/11, 12/18), we light another candle on the advent wreath and say a prayer as we anticipate the coming of Christ, our Savior. If you'd like to light the

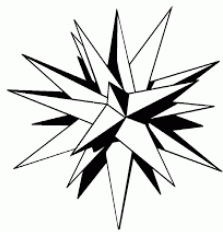
wreath and say the prayer, sign up in church or contact Pastor Nancy. December 4th and 11th are still available.

Advent Calendars

There is a supply of Advent Calendars here at the church – pick one up during worship.

The Moravian Star

The Moravian Star that will shine over the altar is a gift from *Steve and Evelyn Oberndorf*. The first Moravian star was made in the Moravian settlement at Niesky, Germany, about 1850. It is a reminder of the star that led the Magi from their home in the east to Bethlehem, where they presented gifts to the Christ Child. The Risen Christ, likewise, proclaimed himself as "the bright and morning star." It will shine from Advent through Epiphany.



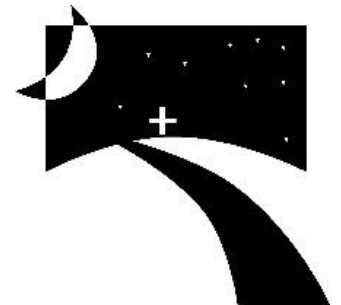
Hanging of the Greens Sunday, December 11th after Worship

After worship on December 11th, we will "Hang the Greens" and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas. This is a big project, so we need all the help we can get. Also, when you purchase your Christmas tree, please ask for any spare evergreen branches or hanging greens; keep the greenery in a cool place and bring them to worship on the 11th.



Christmas Solace Service, Dec. 21st.

Advent is the time we wait in hope for God to come into our world and transform us with new life. This time of year can also be difficult as we remember loved ones who are no longer with us, become overwhelmed with frenzy, or are affected by longer and longer nights. All who are in need of solace are invited to attend.



Please join us on **Wednesday, December 21, 7:30pm here at Holy Trinity.**

Christmas Worship Schedule

For Christmas we gather to worship and celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with Us. Please find the sign-up sheet to help with worship.

Saturday, December 24th

5:30pm Christmas Eve Worship

In person worship

Sunday, December 25th

10:15am: Christmas Day Worship

In person worship

Sunday, January 1st

(no Sunday School)

10:15am: 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Christmas Carol Hymn Sing

In person worship

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

2023 Offering Envelopes

Thank you to all who gave to the ministry of the church in 2022. Your gifts have enabled this congregation to worship every week, host faith-provoking discussions and studies, provide pastoral care in the community, form faith in all ages, and create faith-filled relationships among people of different ages and backgrounds. The 2023 Offering Envelopes will be available soon; please pick yours up in the church entryway or in your church mailbox. If you haven't received envelopes in the past and would like to start using them, please call the church office or see Elfrieda Fenton.



Stewardship & Donation Cards

You should all have the 2022 Stewardship Letter and Donation Information Card. If you do not, additional copies of both are located on the table in the church entryway – or please contact the office for a copy. We hope to see you on *Harvest Home Sunday, November 20th* to personally deliver your Donation Information Card at a special time during the service. Thank you!

Harvest Home Sunday

We will celebrate “Harvest Home Sunday” on November 20th. As part of our celebration, through November 20th, we will be collecting non-perishable food/canned goods to be distributed to The Nutley Family Service Bureau. Boxed stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, pasta sauce, canned or jarred mushrooms and olives would be appreciated. Thank you!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Serving at the Vincent Care Kitchen

The Kitchen provides nutritious meals to roughly 75 families. Located at Vincent United Methodist Church, 100 Vincent Place, Nutley. Everyone is welcome to come to the



Community Care Kitchen
Serving hot meals to the community.

Community Care Kitchen including families and seniors. If you would like more information or would like to help or contribute, contact the Vincent Church Office for more information at (973) 667-5440.

A word of thanks to Ruth & Greg Sekula for coordinating desserts to the Vincent Care Kitchen!

Nutley Family Service Bureau Pantry

Any Nutley resident who is experiencing food insecurity is eligible for NFSB Pantry enrollment. For more info:

The Nutley Family Service Bureau Pantry
169 Chestnut Street, Nutley, NJ 07110
Phone: 973-667-1884 Ext. 2

www.Nutleyfamily.org

Nutley Family Service Bureau & Shoprite of Nutley

NFSB is asking for your support to make this



Thanksgiving a special event for our Food Pantry patrons. You can sign up to donate your free Shoprite turkey through Tuesday, November 22nd. How this

works: 1. Visit the customer service desk or tell the cashier. 2. Present your Shoprite Price Plus Card. 3. Earned free turkey points will be deducted from your account and a turkey will be delivered to the pantry by Shoprite. 4. For online shoppers, call customer service at (973) 235-1213 to donate. Thank you!

“Giving Tree” Ornaments

Help decorate our “Giving Tree” with ornaments that represent the gift you are giving! You can help globally, by purchasing *ELCA Good Gifts*, OR help locally, by purchasing a *Shoprite* gift card(s) to help our neighbors, OR by contributing to the *Holy Trinity “Improvement Fund,”* to defray the costs of our many building improvements.



All gifts and gift cards will be purchased for you. Just fill out the order form included with this Newsletter or look for the hard copies at church. Orders accepted through Christmas.

Poinsettias for The Sanctuary

Would you like to beautify our sanctuary with a poinsettia? Each 6½” poinsettia plant costs \$11.00. Please return the order form included with this newsletter or contact the office to place your order by



Sunday, December 11th with your payment. Plants may be taken home after Christmas Eve Worship.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Nutley Thanksgiving Service



Community Thanksgiving Worship

The Nutley Community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on **Monday, November 21st, 7:30pm at Vincent Methodist Church, 100**

Vincent Place. The Nutley Clergy Fellowship cordially invites the entire community to join them in lifting thanksgiving to God for our many blessings. Area clergy will participate, and Rev. Pam Bakal will preach.

Nutley Tree & Menorah Lighting

The Township of Nutley’s annual tree and menorah lighting will take place on **Sunday, December 4th, with festivities from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.** Join them for holiday activities & music in front of the middle school. Once again, Pastor Nancy is delighted to be offering the prayer during the ceremony.



At the conclusion of the celebrations, all are **invited to visit the Living Nativity at Vincent United Methodist Church** (100 Vincent Place) at 6:35pm with performances every 25 minutes.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND



After taking a survey of the building, it has been decided that we need to make

considerable repairs and maintenance to the property. This is to ensure that we have a safe and well-maintained building. To make this project work we are asking you to consider donating. "Improvement Fund" envelopes are available; any monies should be notated as a "Capital Improvement Fund." Any questions, please speak to Steve Oberndorf or Ken Geiselmann.

CONGEGATIONAL BUSINESS

Annual Meeting / Reports

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 29th** after worship; everyone is encouraged to participate. The Annual Meeting is the time when we tell the story of how God has been at work in this congregation during the past year and look forward to how our hands will engage in God's mission in 2023. We'll vote on our 2023 Spending Plan and elect new church council members and Synod Assembly Voting Members.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

If you are the leader of a ministry area, please submit (preferably via email) your Annual Report to the church office no later than Sunday, January 8th as the reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 22nd. If not submitted in time, you will be responsible for printing & distributing your report. Thank you.

Call for Nominations

At our 2023 annual meeting in January, we will have elections for Congregation Council and for Voting Members of the NJ Synod Assembly. If you are interested in nominating someone or being nominated to serve in either of these capacities, please contact Steve Oberndorf, congregation president.

Council Members commit to attending monthly council meetings and being active and present in the life of the congregation. Current council members whose first term is expiring are eligible for re-election.

Synod Assembly Voting Members commit to attending the 2023 New Jersey Synod Assembly, May 13th, and representing our congregation in the decision-making processes of the business of the synod (regional organization of Lutheran congregations in New Jersey). Costs of attendance are covered by the congregation. Two, preferably one man and one woman, will be elected.



Thank you!

Thanks to Nancy Duhm for once again providing the wreaths that will hang on our front door. The wreaths are in memory of her husband, *Christopher Duhm*.

Thank you!

Thanks to those of you that have helped in any way since our last Newsletter – we could not do it all without you!

KEEP IN PRAYER

Joan E., Gail, Christine, Nicole, Keith, Margaret, Ginny, Evelyn, Sally, Leona, People of Ukraine, victims of weather disasters, Veteran's Day, Armistice Day, Anniversary of Kristallnacht, Kaylei, Lylah, Kenny, Richard, Cooper Family, Scott, COVID patients, Joey, Candi & baby boy, Sylvia, Tony, Constance, Rick, Emily B., Roberta, Tom C., Bob & Mia, Joe G., Irene, Mitra, Eyle, Angelika, Paul, the passing of Victoria Lorino, Bob, Family of Tucker Irwin, Dottie.

To add someone to the list, please fill out the form in the entryway, notify Pastor Nancy or contact the office. People are kept on the list for 3 months.

LivingLutheran

We have a congregational subscription to *Living Lutheran Magazine* that provides for every member to get it. The cost per household is about \$9.95 for the year. If you'd like to help defray our costs, please put your offering in an envelope (or send in your donation) marked "Living Lutheran" in the offering plate. If you no longer require a subscription, please let the office know. Thanks.

2023 Calendars



The 2023 calendars will soon be available; you are welcome to take one. Find them in the entryway or the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Calendars are a gift from *Brown Funeral Home*.

Snow Day?

We always prefer to gather as the Body of Christ on Sundays, but also try to keep everyone safe. In the case of inclement weather, check the phone message at the office: (973) 667-0256. The message will be updated by 8:00 AM.



There are hard copies of this newsletter available; pick one up during worship or please contact the office if you'd like one.

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GOOD GIFTS, LOCAL GIFTS & POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettia (Please return this form and your payment by Sunday, December 11th)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Poinsettia(s) at \$11.00 each = Total Paid \$ _____

Poinsettia In Honor of: _____

Poinsettia In Memory of: _____

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Gifts that Make a Difference (donations accepted through Christmas)

Give a gift card to our neighbors in need. OR you may choose to contribute to the Holy Trinity Improvement Fund, in honor or in memory of someone. **Donations accepted through Christmas.**

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$10 (write in how many \$10 cards)

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$15 (write in how many \$15 cards)

_____ Shoprite Gift Card, \$25 (write in how many \$25 cards)

_____ I'd like to donate to the Holy Trinity Improvement Fund in this amount: \$ _____

Gift In Honor of: _____

Gift In Memory of: _____

Total Paid for Gift Cards/Fund(s): \$ _____

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ELCA Good Gifts Tree Ornaments (donations accepted through Christmas)

Give a gift to make a difference in the world.

_____ Goat, \$50 (please write in quantity) _____ Pig, \$30 (please write in quantity)

_____ Honeybee, \$20 (please write in quantity) _____ School Supplies, \$10 (please write in quantity)

Total Paid for ELCA Good Gifts: \$ _____ **GRAND TOTAL OF ALL GIFTS PAID:** \$ _____

For office use only

(For Counters total paid: \$ _____ paid via: Check # _____ Cash _____)