

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:

Michael Palamara, President / Steven Oberndorf, Vice President / Jeremy Boyer, Secretary
Julie Franchino / Evelyn Oberndorf / Greg Sekula / Terry Graney (Treasurer)

Newsletter/ Advent & Christmas 2023

Divine Royalty

“Hark! The herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the new-born king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.’
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’
Hark! The herald angels sing, ‘Glory to the new-born king!’”

I remember watching much of the glorious splendor and tradition of King Charles III’s coronation last May. The traditions of crown and scepter, symbols of power and authority. The magnificent royalty of it all.

King Charles III took the throne as sovereign monarch because of the hereditary line that spanned generations. You could say it was all in the family!

In the same way, the ancestry of Jesus comes through the hereditary or family line of King David. Yet, Jesus was not born in the midst of magnificent royalty. His first throne was a manger, a place where animals ate their food.

From those humble beginnings, Jesus was born to be a different kind of king. In fact, much more than a king. He was born a “Savior, who is Christ the Lord”. He is our Sovereign King of Heaven and Earth! For this King, all the magnificent choirs of angels, filled with splendor, illuminated the night sky singing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Let us join the angels in singing praise to Jesus and inviting him to rule in our hearts. Especially these days, let us praise the new-born King who brings peace on earth. Jesus, the new-born King of mercy and love, who brings us to the throne room of God’s grace!

Wishing you Joy in celebrating the birth of Christ, the King of our hearts!

Pastor Nancy Truscott

WORSHIP LIFE

In Person Worship

We continue to hold in-person worship. If you cannot 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

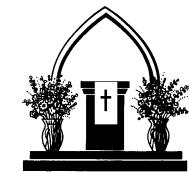
We are in need of Assisting Ministers, & Lectors for in-person worship. You will be scheduled to serve approximately once or twice a month (less if we have enough people scheduled for each position). Please see Pastor Nancy, a council member, or contact Tina in the office if you are interested. Thanks.



Confirmation Classes

Confirmation Classes began in October – we meet multiple times per month on Sunday evenings via Zoom & periodically in person.

Altar Flowers



Altar Flowers

If you would like to honor or memorialize someone or a special date with altar flowers, the cost is \$35; the sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the front entryway, or you may call or email the office. We have many available dates.

Whole Wheat Communion Bread

All are welcome to make bread for communion here at Holy Trinity. Here is the recipe we use. This recipe is courtesy of Jay Rochelle and takes less than 45 minutes from start to finish. If you prefer to make yeast bread, please bake a basic white or wheat loaf. Pastor Nancy has a single-rise, round loaf recipe if you would like to try it.

Ingredients:

1 ½ cups whole wheat flour

½ cup white flour

¼ teaspoon salt

¾ teaspoons baking soda

2 heaping teaspoons oil

¾ cup cold water

3 tablespoons molasses or honey or a mixture

Mix dry ingredients. Add oil and blend well. Add water and honey/molasses and mix. Knead about 2 minutes. Flour pastry board/sheet and hands. Hand knead first until dough does not stick to surface. With floured rolling pin, roll out to ¼ inch thick. Cut or hand-form into 6-7-inch rounds (making 3-4 flat loaves). Bake about 15 minutes at 350° on an ungreased cookie sheet.



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

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



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.

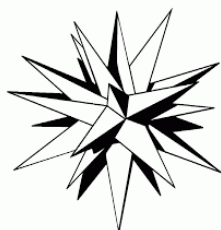
Each Sunday in Advent (12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24), we light another candle on the advent wreath and say a prayer as we anticipate the coming of Christ, our Savior. If you'd like to light the wreath and say the prayer, sign up in church, contact Pastor Nancy or contact Tina in the office. Thank you.

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.

WELCA

The next WELCA (Women of the ELCA) Meeting (Christmas party) will take place on **Thursday, December 14th at noon at Evelyn Oberndorf's home.**

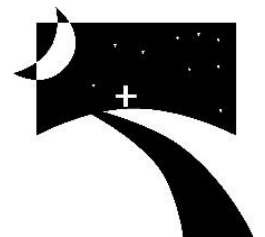
Hanging of the Greens

After worship on December 17th, we will "Hang the Greens" and prepare the sanctuary for Christmas. Please plan to stay and help if you are able. 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 17th.



Christmas Solace Service

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 **Thursday, December 21st, 7:30pm here at Holy Trinity.**



Worship and Music Committee



All of the signs of Winter are upon us! We are quickly approaching the holiday season, and Worship and Music has planned out the rest of this year and

beyond. We look forward to decorating for Advent after church on November 26, followed with our Christmas decorating after church on December 17. In support of anyone for whom the emotions of the holiday season are turbulent, we will hold our Winter Solace worship service on Thursday, December 21st, 7:30pm.

Advent may feel short this year, since the fourth Sunday of Advent also happens to be Christmas Eve. We know many folks have Christmas Eve traditions, family events, and traveling on their minds, so we have decided to hold one service on Sunday, December 24, which will be at 3:30pm. We will not have our normal 10:15am worship that morning. Then, on Christmas morning, we will have our 10:15 worship via Zoom only, which will be a pre-recorded service and music.

On December 31, we will be back to our 10:15am worship time, but with a carol and hymn-sing! Wrapping up the holidays in the new year, we will be undecorating the church after worship on January 7 and celebrating the New Year with our first potluck lunch in several years. Hooray for food!

In addition to special services and planning, we continue repairs on the organ. I am relieved to announce that the first round of repairs was successful, and the organ is more reliable as a result. The second round of repairs will include replacing some of the organ's speakers and external components so that we can bring the instrument as up-to-date as possible for coming years.

I am also going to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Worship and Music Committee for their time and talents this year. Going back to my earlier statement, we are already planning special events for 2024, and I very much look forward to sharing more details with everyone as we move into HTLC's 100th Anniversary year!

In His Service,

Jeremy Boyer, committee chair

Christmas Worship Schedule

For Christmas we gather to worship and celebrate the birth of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ, God with Us.

Thursday, December 21st

7:30pm, Christmas Solace Service

In person worship

Sunday, December 24th

3:30pm, Christmas Eve Worship

In person worship

Monday, December 25th

10:15am, Christmas Day Worship

Zoom Only (not in person)

Sunday, December 31st, 10:15am

In person worship

Carol & Hymn Sing



After worship on **Epiphany Sunday, January 7th**, we will undecorate the church and celebrate the New Year with a potluck lunch! More details to follow.

STEWARDSHIP & GIVING

Stewardship Letter & Donation Cards

You should all have the 2023 Stewardship Letter and Donation Card – extra copies are available on the entryway table at church. If you have not yet delivered your Information Card, please do so at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

2024 Offering Envelopes

Thank you to all who gave to the ministry of the church in 2023. 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 2024 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.



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Serving at the Vincent Care Kitchen

Located at Vincent United Methodist Church, 100 Vincent Place, Nutley, the Kitchen provides nutritious meals to roughly 75 families and seniors. For more information, contact them at (973) 667-5440.



Community Care Kitchen
Serving hot meals to the community.

Holy Trinity donates 75 packs of desserts (cookies/cake/candy, etc.) on the last Saturday of the month.

We need (3) volunteers (25 packs each) per date to be delivered by 9:30am on your scheduled date. Please contact Tina in the office or find the sign-up sheet to volunteer.

A word of thanks to *Ruth & Greg Sekula* for coordinating desserts to the Vincent Care Kitchen! Another word of thanks to all the volunteers who graciously provided desserts!

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 is located at 169 Chestnut Street, Nutley. Phone: 973-667-1884 Ext. 2 / www.Nutleyfamily.org



"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*, help locally by purchasing *Shoprite* gift card(s) OR contribute 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 \$12.00. Please return the order form included with this newsletter or contact the office to place your order by **Sunday, December 10th with your payment.** Plants may be taken home after Christmas Eve Worship.

Winter Coat Collection

Back by popular demand! *Rod Leith* is coordinating our collection of winter coats again. Please bring gently used/new men, women's and children's coats to church. We will be collecting through the end of December.

Cub Scouts Pack 142

Cub Scout Pack 142 welcomed boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade to their Open House here at Holy Trinity. They also hold their meetings here at least once a month. Cub Scouts is a year-round program that combines fun and adventure with personal fitness, character development and leadership skills. They are a nonsectarian Family (coed) Pack.

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Nutley Tree & Menorah Lighting

The Township of Nutley's annual tree and menorah lighting will take place on **Sunday, December 3rd from 4:30pm – 6:00pm.** Join them for holiday activities & music in front of the middle school.



At the conclusion of the celebrations, all are **invited to visit the Living Nativity at Vincent United Methodist**

Church (100 Vincent Place) with performances every 25 minutes, starting at 6:10pm.

CONGEGATIONAL BUSINESS

Annual Meeting / Reports

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday, January 28th** after worship; everyone is encouraged to participate. This 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 we will



engage in God's mission in 2024. We'll vote on our 2024 Spending Plan and elect new church council members and Synod Assembly Voting Members.

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 14th as the reports will be distributed on Sunday, January 21st.

Call for Nominations

At our 2024 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 *Michael Palamara, 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 2024 New Jersey Synod Assembly, Saturday, May 11th, at *Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton, N.J.* 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.

Congratulations!

Morgan Elise Thomsen was born on August 4, 2023, at 2:29pm. She weighed 6 lbs., 14oz and was 19". She is the daughter of *Emily and Austin Thomsen*.

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

Brother Paul, Kim G., victims of gun violence, natural disasters, war & political unrest, Leona, Sally, Evelyn P., Margaret, Ginny, Scott, Veterans, Sue M., Dottie D., Becky, Richard, Paul T., Mascola Men, Family of Bruce T., Judy, Jeff, Howard, Bruce, Annie, Susan, Christians being attacked and persecuted in Pakistan, Angelika, Amir, Mitra, Bonnie, Barbara, Constance, Robert, Steve O., Judy E.

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.

2024 Calendars



The 2024 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*.

LivingLutheran

Living Lutheran Magazine will now only be published electronically (no hard copy subscriptions). Please go to their website at: Livinglutheran.org/subscribe to fill out the form to get the latest and most popular stories from Living Lutheran delivered to your inbox.

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 8:30 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

(Please return this form with your payment by Sunday, December 10th for poinsettias and through Christmas for the Gifts)

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Poinsettias (poinsettias must be ordered by Sunday, December 10th)

_____ Poinsettia(s) at \$12.00 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. **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: \$ _____

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



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ELCA Good Gifts Tree Ornaments

Give a gift to make a difference in the world. **Donations accepted through Christmas.**

_____ 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)

Gift In Honor of: _____

Gift In Memory of: _____

Total Paid for Gifts: \$ _____ GRAND TOTAL OF ALL POINSETTIAS & GIFTS PAID: \$ _____

For office use only

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