

TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

TRINITY GRAND LEDGER

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DECEMBER 2011



Advent began the last Sunday in November. Once again, we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ at Christmas. Advent and Christmas together are one of the most important seasons of the church year. Let me try to anticipate some of the questions some of you might have about worship during the month of December and answer them.

The practical among you probably want to know what will happen when. The Greening of the Church will happen after church on the Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 18). There will be two services on Christmas Eve (7 pm and 10 pm). The choir will sing at the earlier service. Those who like to sing are invited to come early (6:30 pm) and join the choir in the singing of Christmas carols. There will be no Christmas Day service at Trinity. Instead, you are all invited to attend the 9:30 AM Christmas Day liturgy at Immanuel Lutheran Church. This will be Pastor Rick McKenzie's last time to preach at Immanuel Lutheran.

The sentimental among you are probably wondering about the candles. Yes, we will have the candles during Silent Night. Personally, I don't like this tradition for two reasons. One, I don't like holding a little candle while trying to hold a hymnal. Two, I don't understand the symbolism. At the Easter Vigil, the individual candles provide light in the darkness until the first service of Easter begins. However, for us, Christmas Eve is the first service of Christmas. Proclaiming Christ (The Light) is born and then turning off all of the lights to sing one song makes no sense to me. Still, I understand holding candles while singing Silent Night has become a special tradition for many at Trinity. This year, try reflecting on why this particular tradition is important to you. What does it add to Christmas Eve liturgy? Perhaps, our collective reflections will lead us to discover what the action means to us as a community.

The inquisitive among you probably want to know why we are using the high altar during Advent and why I cross myself so many times during the Trisagion. Advent is a time of anticipation and waiting. To me, having both celebrant and congregation face East during the Eucharistic prayer is a way of symbolizing that waiting and anticipation. Also, using the high altar sets Advent apart as being a particularly important part of the church year. I cross myself during the Trisagion because it is an Orthodox tradition to make the sign of the cross 9 times during the Trisagion. Why do I adopt an Orthodox tradition? Presiding at the liturgy can become monotonous. I find adding manual acts like the sign of the cross and bowing as a way of keeping myself focused on worshipping God instead of just saying the liturgy.

Wishing you a Blessed Advent,

Fr. Aaron

Food Donations during Advent

As we have done in the past we will be collecting non-perishable food for the Grand Ledge Food Bank during Advent.

To help in your decision in what to purchase each week we are suggesting:

November 27 Advent 1:

Breakfast foods

December 2 Advent 2:

Lunch foods

December 11 Advent 3:

Dinner foods

December 18 Advent 4

Paper products

As these are only suggestions any non-perishable

food or paper products are welcome.

Thank You Notes

Trinity received three thank you notes from children that received the back to school backpacks, that we supplied for SIREN's.

Be sure to check them out on the bulletin board in the undercroft.

2012 Kalendars

Our 2012 Episcopal Church Year Guide Kalendars are in. They are on sale for \$3.00 each in the undercroft.

Altar Guild

Altar guild members please remember to have your brass polished before Christmas Eve.

Flower Donations

If you would like to make a donation for the purchase of poinsettia's for Christmas, the envelopes for this are on the table in the narthex.

If you would like your donation in memory of someone, be sure and include that on the front of the envelope.

Place your envelopes in the collection plates.

Decorating the Church

The church will be decorated for Christmas after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 18th.

All are encouraged to help with this. The more hands the less time it takes.

Coffee & Cookies Christmas Eve

Last month I asked what your thoughts were on having coffee and cookies following the 7 p.m. service on Christmas Eve.

Well, I heard from no one. I don't know if that is because no one reads this or no one has an opinion.

So, I am putting it out there again. If someone would like to make coffee and put out cookies, that the congregation provides, please let me know, so I can put it in the weekly bulletins.

Christmas Tree

A special Thank you goes out to Denise Clarity for coordinating, again, the decorations and the delivering of our Christmas Tree to the Opera House.

Denise first decided that this year we would be providing cold and flu medicines for the decorations on Trinity's Christmas Tree.

She then, with the help of many elves, hung the "decorations" on the tree.

Then, coordinated with Sally Anderson and Marsha Smith that they would transport the tree and "decorations" to the Opera House. Where it will be on display the first weekend of December.

After that weekend the "decorations" will be donated to SIREN's in Charlotte.

Thanks to all who provided "decorations" for Trinity's Christmas Tree!

Judy Viles

After 3 1/2 years of donating her time to be our treasurer Judy has resigned.

Please be sure and give her a **Big Thank You** for all the work that she did during that time.

I personnel will miss working with her and wish her the best on her next endeavor here at Trinity!!

Dates and Information To Remember in December!

Food and paper products for the Grand Ledge Food Bank.

Prayer Shawl, Saturday December 10, 10 a.m. at the church.

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Log Jam Monday, December 12, 12:30 p.m.

Vestry, Wednesday, December 14, 7 p.m.

Decorate church for Christmas, Sunday December 18, 11:15 a.m.

January newsletter deadline, Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Christmas Eve services, 7 & 10 p.m. Saturday, December 24.

No service at Trinity, Sunday, December 25, 2011.

Service at Immanuel Lutheran, Grand Ledge at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Christmas morning, December 25, 2011

