

“Into the blue”

A poem by Pastor Chris

The sky shown with its darkness. The light of the stars illuminating our pathways. Upon the world we tread, awaiting the outcome of our ventures and adventures. Blindly we stumble forward, not knowing what to expect, trusting in each step, clinging to a hope beyond ourselves. The earth reverberates our footsteps as we tremble within ourselves upon this spinning top, we call Earth. To meet with others is our endeavor, fear, and our destiny. The safety of our aloneness echoing with doubt.

As we move forward, by foot, roadway, rail, or flight, we embark with love as our baggage, constant companion, and burden. To share or keep to ourselves is our dilemma. Others are in need, but scarce and precious is this gift we carry. Of simplicity and unimaginable value is the complexity of this love. Family, friends, and strangers all in need.

A crack in the night echoes across ourselves, time, and the illuminated darkness that flows from the sun. Warmth and light stinging with each passing ray. Our journey continues, in search of a destination unknown our footsteps lead. This crack again rippling in our minds. Stillness disturbed. Into the blue comes light, sound, and hope notwithstanding. Into the blue a child obstructs our way. Into the blue life dawns upon our journey home.





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Brothers and sisters in Christ,

I am often inspired, if you will, by artistic impulses. I've always look at it as a gift, but I do not know the value to others. I do not know if this is a good poem (I humbly leave that to everyone's discerning minds), and I have absolutely no idea if these words were ever written by anyone else...I would imagine not, but there have been a lot of people and writings prior to this little poem. But it is inspiration that brought it flowing from my mind, to share in this special "Christmas" edition of our newsletter.

Christmas is upon us and the love that comes through this time of year, in the form of this helpless infant child, will be fully realized from the empty tomb many years later, and still washes over us today, as we cling ever so tightly to Christ Jesus in every way we can and in every moment, God shines upon us.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit...²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife,²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Matthew 1:18,22-25 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now

to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Luke 2:1-16 NRSV

In the Gospels we see and hear...
the light of the star...
the words of the shepherds...
the singing of the angels...
the trust of a mother and father...
the Good News proclaimed through the Gospels of
Matthew and Luke...



...and the timeless confession echoed by Charlie Brown and Linus in “A Charlie Brown Christmas”

In the Gospels we find that when we made no room for God; God made all the room for us in Christ Jesus!!!

We invite you, one and all, to join us this Christmas Eve for our services either in person, or via our live-stream services Friday December 24th @ 5PM, 7:30PM, and 10PM

This Christmas season, and every day and season to follow, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas; a Happy New Year, and a wish to you and your families for love, happiness, and peace!

Peace be with you all,

Pastor Chris





**A Prayer from
Pastor Chris:**

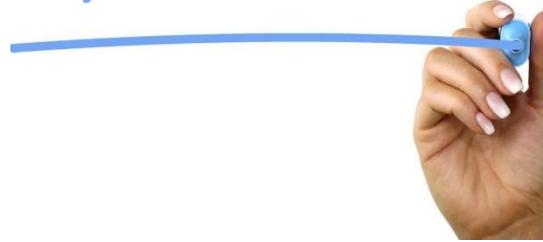
Most gracious and loving God, Advent brings much to our minds, especially this year. We have prayed long and hard for loved ones, friends, and even strangers all across this tiny planet we call home. This burden seems too much at times. We are in desperate need of hope, of peace, of something to look forward to as we continue our journeys in the darkness this year has brought to us. We feel we are not only separated from one another; we have been separated from our own lives. As Advent is upon us, we look to Your promised coming on Christmas Day. We look for Your return, anew, to help us find light; to help us find hope, peace, and comfort. In the season of Advent, we know the grace, love of mercy given to us at Easter begins it's journey, and so we can confidently find our hope, find our faith, and find the light to a new tomorrow, trusting in Your promises to deliver us once more. In Your most Holy and Precious name, we pray!

AMEN +

Peace be with you all!

Pastor Chris

GUIDELINES



Our current guidelines are following the CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines:

Fully vaccinated individuals (those who have received both vaccine shots or the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, and are two weeks removed from their vaccination date) are free to not wear masks should they feel safe to do so.

Those who have not yet been fully vaccinated are asked to continue to wear a mask for their safety and peace of mind.

For anyone who wishes to remain safe by continuing to wear a mask, they are certainly welcome to do so.

As always, we want everyone to feel safe coming back to church and we invite and welcome everyone back to worship in a safe and healthy environment!

**Thank you and
Peace be with you!**

Pastor Chris

**STATEMENT OF
CONGREGATIONAL MISSION**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church is a worshipping, learning, witnessing, and serving community of baptized Christians. It is a welcoming place where the Word is proclaimed and the Sacraments are celebrated according to the Gospel. As a community of believers, we challenge each other to respond to the call of our Lord to love and minister to persons at home and throughout the world. We encourage each other to share our time, our talents, and gifts to further the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ. In these ways, we bear witness to the love we have first received from God through Jesus Christ.

Adopted by the Congregation

January 25, 1998

RADIO MINISTRY

We invite you to listen on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am on

Pottsville AM/FM radio stations:

WPPA 1360 AM OR 105.9 FM to listen to our radio ministry.

*You can also sponsor the
radio ministry by calling the church office. (570) 622-9910*

\$25 for half sponsorship or

\$50 for full sponsorship.



"We are modifying the current format of our Radio Ministry ("*The Connecting Link*") in hopes that it will help enhance everyone's listening and worshipping experience and enjoyment. Our new format will more closely reflect the worship services that are currently available on Trinity's website. We thank everyone for tuning in and listening to our Radio Ministry services all these years. It has been, and continues to be our privilege to bring them to you."

TLC EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor Chris

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DIGITAL MINISTRY

**You can now sponsor the
digital ministry for \$30,
anyone interested can call the church office (570) 622-9910.**



Memorials:

Adopt-A-Child:

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Naomi Morrow Ost.

Bendle Scholarship:

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Leonard and Joyce Moser.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Dolores Barton.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Larry & Sharon Haffey.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Mr. & Mrs. Dennise Scheaffer & family

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Leah Brokhoff.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Delores Shollenberger.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Barbara Miller.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Cheryl Sninsky.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Cynthia McMurtrie.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by John & Cynthia McMurtrie.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Carl & Nancy Berger.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Conrad & Teresa Stoffregen & family.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Port Carbon Public Library.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Paul & Joann Buber and Edward & Leona Buber.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Nancy Fellows.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Marie and James Cairns.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Linda Rist.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Patricia Yaag & Molly Guers.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by James & Sharon Hoover.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Glenn & Sally Miller.

Rismiller Carillon Fund:

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by Dr. Ross Rismiller.

Elevator:

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Linda Rist.

In memory of *John & Marie Yaag* by Patricia & William Yaag.

In memory of *Gretchen Ebling* by Gene & Peggy Ebling.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Carl and Nancy Berger.

In memory of *Grace Schuettler* by TLC Circle 5.

Memorial Fund:

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Gary & Rosemary Brensinger.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Andrew & Colleen Lukach, Sr.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Paul & Betty Cordaro.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Joanne & Brandy Panchari.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Sharon & Jay Denapoli.

In memory of *Greg Lauresavage* by Jim & Brenda Duncan.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Thomas & Paula Ney.

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Paul & Susan Reznikov.

In memory of *our mother, Jean Neithamer who loved the members of Trinity and their commitment to her Lord* by Patricia & Stephen Klein.

Memorial Garden:

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Dolores Barton.

Sr. Coordinator Fund:

In memory of *Shirley Harkins* by Sharon & Larry Haffey.

In memory of *Tom Shollenberger* by wife, Linda.

Funerals:

Shirley Harkins
Service at TLC 10/25/2021

Kathleen Thompson
Service: 11/6/2021

Gretchen Ebling
Passed away 10/30/2021

Louise Dicus
Service: 11/9/2021

Grace Schuettler
Service at TLC: 11/27/21

Edward Hossler, Sr.
Service: 12/7/2021

Lamar Staller, Sr.
Service at TLC: 12/11/21

Baptisms:

Oliver Finn Umphrey

October 22, 2021

Barrett Raymond Thomas

October 24, 2021

Mason John Brigade

October 24, 2021

Carter Christopher &

Colby Gregory Stewart

October 30, 2021

Lily Rose Clark

October 31, 2021

Easton Jon Ward

November 7, 2021

Krew Thomas & Quinn Victoria

Evans

November 13, 2021

Eliza Sue Quinn

December 5, 2021



Christmas Eve Schedule

5:00 pm

7:30 pm

10:00 pm

No service on Saturday, December 25th

Lessons and Carols, Sunday, December 26th, 9:30 am



NEW MEMBERS CLASSES:

SUNDAY, January 16

Sunday, January 23



Following 9:30 service Calling all high school youth interested in a summer service adventure in June 2022. This week-long event will be held at Camp Frederick, Ohio and provide youth with an opportunity to participate in meaningful service to others, camp activities all while enjoying the beauty of God's creation. The event is designed for youth who will have completed grades 9 - 12 next summer. An informational session for youth and parents will be held later this summer.



**Adult Volleyball
Is
Back!**



**Mondays
6:30-8:30 pm
\$3.00 per player**



Adult Exercise

**Is
Back!**



**Tuesday & Friday
10-11:00**

**Come & have fun with us!
We have some new DVD's!**

Our Daily Bread

December 25, 2021

He made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

CHRISTMAS CHILD

Imagine the One who made cedars spring from seeds starting life over as an embryo; the One who made the stars submitting Himself to a womb; the One who fills the heavens becoming what would be in our day a mere dot on an ultrasound. Jesus, in very nature God, making Himself nothing. What an astonishing thought!

Imagine the scene as He's born in a plain peasant village, among shepherds and angels and bright lights in the sky, with the bleating of animals His first lullabies. Watch as He grows in favor and stature: as a youngster, astounding teachers with answers to grand questions; as a young man at the Jordan, getting His Father's approval from heaven; and in the wilderness, as He wrestles in hunger and prayer.

Watch next as He launches His world-changing mission—healing the sick, touching lepers, forgiving the impure. Watch as He kneels in a garden in anguish and as they arrest Him while His closest friends flee. Watch as He is spat on and nailed to Two wooden posts, the world's sins on His shoulders. But watch, yes watch, as the stone rolls away, and empty tomb ringing hollow, because He is alive!

Watch as He lifted to the highest place. Watch as His name fills heaven and earth.

This Maker of the stars who became a dot on an ultrasound. This, our Christmas child.

What would life and history be like had Jesus never been born?

What prayer or poem can you offer God to thank Him?

Jesus, thank you for making Yourself nothing so I could be forgiven.





www.trinitypottsville.com

We are constantly adding content, videos and services to Trinity's website, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Please continue to **mail** in your **offering** envelopes to the church or set up an online giving account on our website. You can choose to donate one time or set up recurring giving for weekly, biweekly or monthly options.

It's your choice! Get details on the GIVE page at:

www.trinitypottsville.com

or download the Give Plus APP on your smartphone.