

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH Buffalo, New York

Sunday, January 2, 2022 Second Sunday of Christmas Celebrating our 143rd Anniversary

Holy Communion - 8:30 &10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Trinity!

Holy Trinity recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation to all of God's creatures welcoming into our ministry persons of every race, culture, age, gender identification, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism and creating an anti-racist space through the protection against oppression internally, in institutions, interpersonally and structurally.

We believe that through our openness we all grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

For the love of one another, we kindly ask

- 1. that you keep your mask on during the duration of this service.
 - 2. that our members and guests fill out the blue sheet and leave at your seat in the pew.

We look forward to continuing to update our practices as we move forward.

We invite you to share your story and your worship experience!
Check-in and share on any of our social media platforms using #poweroftrinity.
You can find us on Facebook @holytrinitybuffalo,
on Instagram @holytrinitybuffalo or on twitter @holytrinitybuff

Large print bulletins are available at the entrance ways

INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE

Variations on "Das alte Yahr" (The Old Year Has Passed Away)

Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

RINGING OF THE TOWER BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

Angels We Have Heard on High "Gloria"



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who sends the word with angels, who is made flesh among all peoples, and who breathes peace on all the earth.

Amen.

In Christ, we are bold to name our sin and cry out for peace.

You are invited to kneel or sit, as you are able

Holy God,

we confess our sin before you. We replace compassion with competition. We seek what is mighty while ignoring the meek. We are quick to anger but slow to forgive. We have not put on love in harmony with you. Wrap us in the grace of your powerful Word. Swaddle our hearts with your peace, that all we do, in word or deed, may reflect your love born among us. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all people: God has come among us in the child born of Mary, Christ the Lord. + In Christ your sins are forgiven and you are clothed in peace.

Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Christmas is recorded in Jeremiah, the 31st Chapter.

⁷Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."

⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame,

those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here.

⁹With weeping they shall come,

and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,

in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;

for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,

and the young men and the old shall be merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SOLO

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

Robert MacGimsey (1898-1979)

Holly Holdaway, soprano

Sweet little Jesus Boy they made you be born in a manger.

Sweet little Holy Child didn't know who you were

Didn't know you'd come to save us Lord; To take our sins away.

Our eyes were blind we couldn't see, We didn't know who you were.

Long time ago you were born, born in a manger low sweet little Jesus Boy.

The world treats you mean Lord, treats me mean too,

but that's how things are down here: we don't know who you are.

You have told us how, we are trying.

Master you have shown us how, even when you were dying.

Just seems like we can't do right, Look how we treated you.

But please sir forgive us Lord, we didn't know 'twas you.

Sweet little Jesus Boy born long time ago,

Sweet little Holy Child and we didn't know who you were.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

The second reading for today is recorded in Ephesians, the 1st Chapter. ³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us.

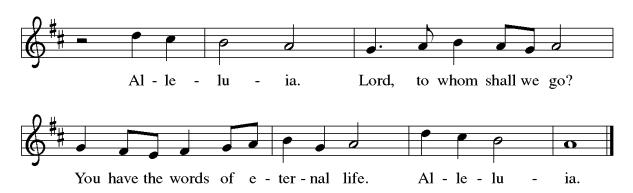
With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

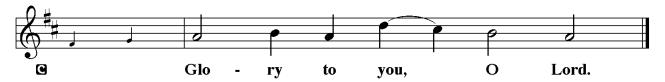
Please stand for the Gospel, as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John



¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.



Please be seated.

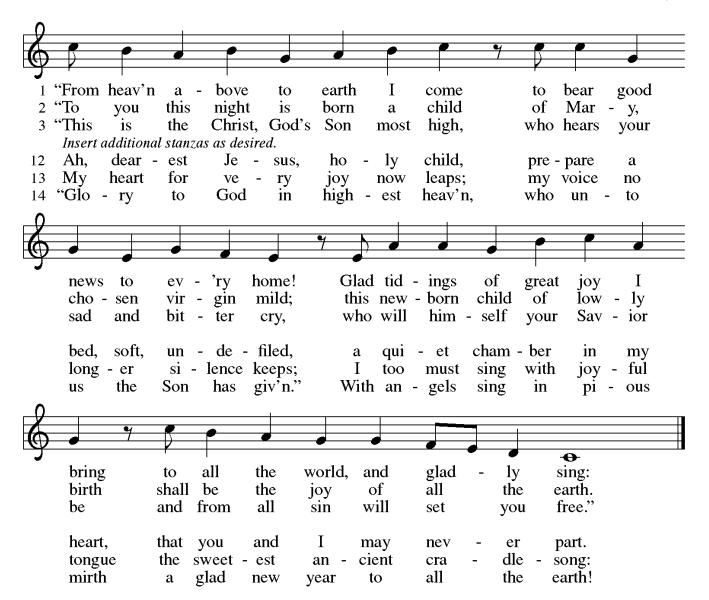
SERMON

Please stand as you are able.

SERMON HYMN

From Heaven Above "Von Himmel Hoch"

ELW 268 (vs 1-3, 14)



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, Geistliche Lieder, 1539 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You make yourself known in the gift of language in diverse forms. Draw our attention to those who communicate through sign, braille, and technology. Make your church a place where all methods of communication are celebrated. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Creating God, the sun greets us anew each morning. Thank you for waking us up today to witness and share your abundance. Awaken us always to your wisdom and deepen our care for your natural world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Emmanuel, in your name we are assured that you are with us. Train nations and peoples to honor and respect one another, especially those whose names and identities have been mistreated, neglected, or oppressed. We pray for those serving in the armed forces and their families. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You adopt us as your beloved ones. Accompany parents and children navigating the adoption process, especially those in the foster system. Sustain those struggling with infertility or pregnancy loss. Tenderly embrace all in need. We pray your daughters and sons, including the children of our community and especially Charlotte and Genevieve. We pray for those impacted by injustice, those on the front line of the pandemic, and all those we name out loud, or in the silence of our hearts and our minds... Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You journey with us through change. Guide those assuming new roles in this congregation or making transitions in their families, workplaces, or communities. As the seasons and the calendar change, equip us for unexpected challenges. We pray for our ecumenical and inter-faith siblings at VOICE Buffalo, the Network of Religious Communities and the Buffalo City Cluster: Grace, Parkside, Community of Good Neighbors, and Holy Trinity. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We give you thanks for all who modeled lives of loving service. Lead us in your grace until, with all your saints, we enter the fullness of your glory. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

We ask that you remain at your seat.

You may share the sign of peace
with a head nod or peace sign.

Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

THE OFFERING

Offerings and tithes may be left in the offering plate located at the exit.

SOLO AT THE OFFERING

Mille Cherubini in Coro

Franz Schubert (1797-1828) Arr. David Cullen (b. 1959)

Holly Holdaway, soprano

A choir of a thousand cherubs smiles down on you from heaven. A sweet song caresses you at your head. A gentle hand leads you through the gilded clouds, dreaming and keeping watch over you, my treasure, protecting you on your way Sleep, sleep, dream, my little love. Sleep, dream, rest your head on my breast. Close your eyes, listen to the little angels, sleep, sleep, dream, little love. Close your eyes, listen to the little angels, sleep, dream, little love.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth. As we offer ourselves and these your gifts, prepare us to receive the grace and truth you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

"Old Hundredth"

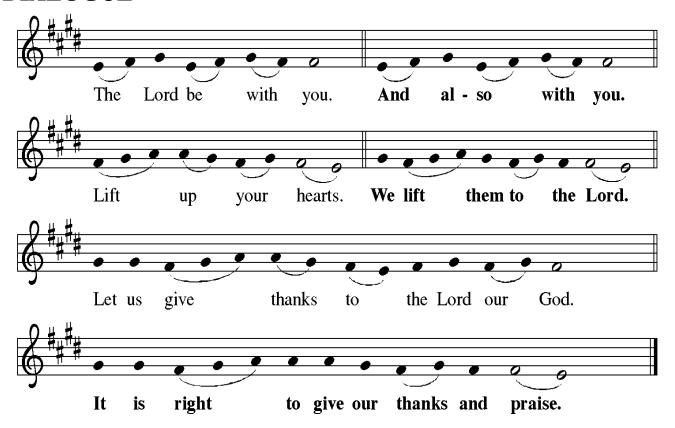
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

praise God, all creatures here below;

praise God above, ye heav'nly host;

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

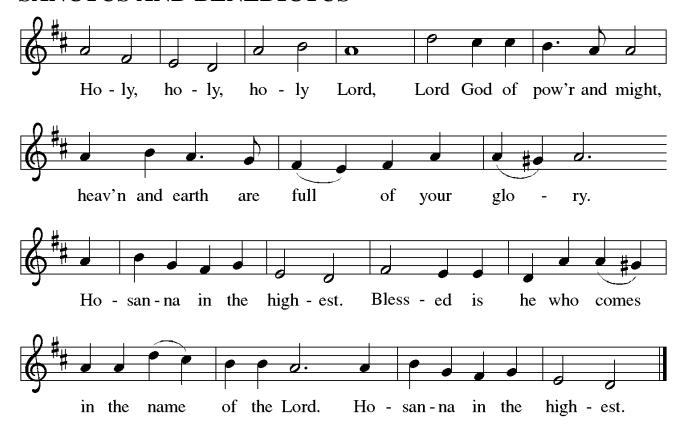
DIALOGUE



PREFACE

It is indeed right ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE COMMUNION

Please follow Pastor's instructions on the distribution of communion All are welcome to share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion at Holy Trinity. At this time we will be serving communion in a contact-less manner. Please take your prepackage communion cup that you received at the entrance (gluten free are available, please see an usher at the entrance). The wafer can be found at the top of the cup (lift up the top, clear layer) and you will be invited to eat the wafer at the word, "The body of Christ given to you." You may then open the grape juice and drink at the word, "The blood of Christ given to you." Please leave the used and unused communion cups in the pews.

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray together.

We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus, God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine. As we have shared this feast of love, strengthen us to share your love with all the world. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound or imprisoned. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

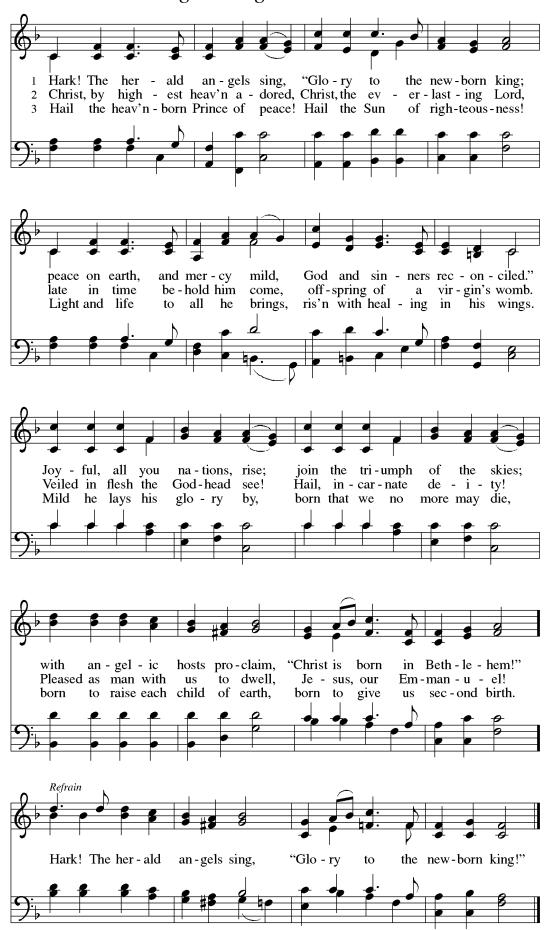
The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing "Mendelssohn"

ELW 270



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

Please feel free to be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Please remain at your seat until the conclusion of the postlude and the cross has returned to the chancel.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice in Christ our Savior. **Thanks be to God.**

Please continue to leave your bulletin, communion cup and attendance sheet at your seat.

We will collect everything following the service.

There is no coffee hour at this time, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



At 8:30 a.m. the announcer is Judy Kroll. Usher is Gail Camilleri. Altar guild is Gail Camilleri. Reader is Judy Kroll. Worship Assistant is Nathaniel Wareham.

At 10:30 a.m. the announcer is Jen Yap. Reader is John Girdlestone. Ushers are Doug Alderdice and Paul Bauchle. Worship Assistants are Justin Rojek, Alex Cialone, Natalia Bavaro, Oscar Guzzino, Avery Best, Henry Peterson and Max Peterson.

The flowers on the altar are given:

Starting 2022 with grateful prayers for the blessings of our wonderful family and our Holy Trinity faith community from Ron and Donna Leiser; and

In Loving Memory of Kermit and Blanche Benfer from the Flemings.

As part of the Cherish All Children ministries, today's prayers of intercession include Charlotte and Genevieve Leiser.



Office Staff may be reached by phone daily Monday – Friday.

Please call the church office should you need anything.

As always, the Pastors are available by appointment.

We will continue to share information regarding life and worship at Holy Trinity. You can always check out the website for up-to-date information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE will be closed tomorrow for the New Year's holiday.

MONDAY BIBLE STUDY will resume on January 10, 2022 at 9:30am and 7:00pm in the Fellowship Room.

HOLY CONVERSATIONS: In preparation for Holy Trinity's "Holy Conversations" (January 11th from 10–11:30am in the Fellowship Room; 7–8:30pm via Zoom). PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR THE ZOOM INFORMATION = you are invited to share YOUR perspectives regarding gifts/skills needed of the new pastor. THE WORK SHEET FOR THE CONVERSATIONS ARE ON THE MUSIC STANDS AT BOTH ENTRANCES OF THE SANCTUARY.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: Sunday, January 23, 2022 at the end of each worship service. Agenda items include: approval of the budget and candidates for council.

ALTAR FLOWERS Each Sunday, the beautiful vases of flowers gracing the chancel are often dedicated by members of our congregation in memory of or in honor of loved ones. Looking ahead, January 9 has one vase available and January 30 has two vases available. Please contact Linda Schmidt with your request for this or any other specific date during the year. She can be reached at msmarylschmidt@gmail.com or 716-835-3325. Vases are currently \$40.00 each.

POINSETTIAS: The Christmas flowers are available. Please feel free to take one for yourself, a family member or a friend. They will be available following today's service.

CHAPEL CLOSING: It is with great - disappointment that we inform you of the need to have the 8:30 Sunday Service held in the main sanctuary. The Mansperger Chapel is a beautiful and intimate place to worship — but its architecture is not conducive to the amount of airflow needed to provide a safe environment; as the Covid 19 virus surges in church and society. Thank you for your understanding and patience as your congregational leaders strive to get us through this public health crisis. We will continue to monitor the applicable County numbers.

AMAZON SMILES: Please continue placing your orders through Amazon Similes. Your purchases have resulted in \$382.17 for Holy Trinity since we started the program. Thank you.

CRISIS SERVICES: For anyone feeling down, lonely or depressed, Crisis Services is working around the clock to respond to and combat the impact COVID-19 has on our community. Their hotline number is 834-3131 and are available 24-hours a day. If you are looking for counseling services, we share a partnership with Pat Greene, LMHC, and he may be reached at 716-361-4615.



THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

SUNDAY, January 2, 2022 – Second Sunday of Christmas

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC) 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)

MONDAY, January 3, 2022

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, January 4, 2022

5:30 p.m. Burrito Project

THURSDAY, January 6, 2022

7:00 p.m. Story Time

7:00 p.m. AA/AL-ANON (RH)

SUNDAY, January 9, 2022 – Baptism of Our Lord

8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC) 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (MC)

12:00 p.m. De-greening of the church

 $\begin{array}{lll} CH = Mansperger\ Chapel & CI = Crib\ Room & CR = Conference\ Room \\ FR = Fellowship\ Room & FI = Fireside\ Room/Library & MC = Main\ Church \\ MR = Music\ Room & PS = Pastor's\ Study & RH = Redeemer\ Hall \\ SC = Sacristy & SS = Sunday\ School & YR = Youth\ Room \end{array}$

We would like to wish everyone a Happy, Healthy, Blessed New Year!

HOLY TRINITY LEADERSHIP

Congregational Council

Barb Wozniak, President Emily Notari, Vice-President Guy Huber, Treasurer Jennifer Yap, Secretary

Matthew Brown, Kathy Crissey, Eliana Perez, Juan Perez, Raúl Saona and Elizabeth Vihnanek

Staff Contacts for Programs and Services

Kristen Pomietlarz, Organist Justin Pomietlarz, Choirmaster kjpomietlarz@holytrinitybuffalo.org

Linda Lipczynski, Office Manager Carol Littlefield, Parish Accountant John Busch, Director of Buildings and Grounds Charles Ryniec, Steward of Buildings and Grounds

The Rev. Brenda Maynor, Pastor
pastorbrenda@holytrinitybuffalo.org
The Rev. Dr. Julius Carroll, Intentional Interim Pastor
drcarroll@holytrinitybuffalo.org

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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