



THE WITNESS

Happy New Year!

“Come Celebrate With Us”

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BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

SUNDAYS AFTER THE EPIPHANY

January – 2024

*“You are my Son, the beloved;
with you I am well pleased!”*
(St. Mark 1:10)

Dear friends,

What a wonderful celebration we enjoyed on Christmas Eve as we were blessed to be able to celebrate once more the birth of our Savior, Jesus, the Christ-child of Bethlehem. The turn out was good and the worship service was very beautiful. Great music, great participation and wonderful fellowship as we gathered at the manger once again. The Sanctuary never looked better! Many thanks to all who helped to make it so. To God be all the glory!

December was a very busy month as we made preparations during Advent for the grand celebration noted above. The Nativity Walk on December 2nd was a great addition to our December calendar this year. Many thanks to Judi Luken and her friends for putting that together and to all who brought Nativities to display and share. What a wonderful display it was! The WELCA groups had a very successful Christmas Tea on December 3rd. We had a good turn out on December 6th for our Advent Event as we decorated the Sanctuary, shared some pizza and learned a little bit about St. Nicholas. Thanks to all who helped with that most important task! To God be all the glory!

On Sunday, December 10th, we were treated to a very special presentation by our Sunday Church School and their friends of “The True Spirit of Christmas”. Many thanks to Barbie Ramsland for writing and directing this wonderful telling of the true meaning of the birth of Jesus among us. The participation of the children and their older friends was special indeed. Even Donkey Dave made an appearance! Many thanks to all who participated. To God be all the glory!

On Sunday, December 17th, it was Ms. Lorraine's and my pleasure to host the annual Congregation Christmas Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. We always have a great time doing this and were

treated this year to some wonderful food from the East Shore Café in Daphne. The Christmas Cookies created by Jean Patterson were a true delight. Thanks Jean! Many thanks also to Terry Tate for creating the beautiful table center pieces. Terry also donated her Nativity to be raffled off as a fund raiser for next year's Christmas outreach project. The raffle raised over \$200.00, and the winner was Ronda DelFavero. Congratulations, Ronda! To God be all the glory!

One other very important and significant event in December was the annual Congregation Meeting on December 10th. There was a good turn out of voting members who participated as we adopted the 2024 Ministry Spending Plan, elected Congregation Council Members and heard various reports of ministry and mission carried out by Holy Trinity. There are still some vacancies on the Council to be filled by appointment by the Council. Please prayerfully consider serving if you are approached to fill one of the vacancies. To God be all the Glory!

2024 promises to be another year of God's abundant blessing and grace poured out among us and through us as we take up the opportunities for mission and ministry that are set before us. We look forward to reaching out and serving in the communities where we live as we bring the good news of the Christ-child to all by what we say and especially by what we do. We begin this journey together for 2024 with the celebration of the Baptism of Our Lord. On this day we recall our own baptism into the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus and hear the same declaration that Jesus heard in Jordan's river that day: "You are my beloved child! With you I am well pleased!" To God be all the glory!

As beloved children of God, God is well pleased with us as well, not because we get this "child of God" thing so right, but because God declares it as we are washed and restored in the waters of Holy Baptism. By God's grace and to God's glory we are given opportunity time and time again to live into the wonder and mystery of what it truly means to be a child of God. As part of God's family of faith, we are never alone. The gift of faith given sustains us and makes it possible in all circumstances for us to pray, praise and give thanks for all God's gifts and abundant blessing. To God be all the glory!

A MOST BLESSED AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO US ALL!

See you in Church and Community!

Peace, Pastor Rich



A Thank You to All

As our Parish Administrator, my sincerest thank you to our Church Council and to all of our worshipers for the generous Christmas gift I received from the church. I did not expect anything and am very grateful, especially considering we have experienced so many unexpected expenses in recent months. God's peace, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!

Steve Horlebein



Announcements

BAPTISM CELEBRATION!

On **Sunday January 7th**, the Baptism of Our Lord, we will celebrate a baptism of our very own. On this day **Taylor Louise Oldam**, daughter of Erica and Sam Oldham will be received into the Kingdom of God's everlasting grace by the water and word of Holy Baptism. This washing will take place during the 10:00am Service of Holy Communion. A special time of fellowship and hospitality will take place in the Gathering Place Fellowship Hall following the worship service. All are welcome to participate in this occasion as we welcome our newest and youngest member into our Holy Trinity church family.



Sojourners Circle will meet on **Tuesday, January 9th at 9:30 am**. Please join us to work on quilts.

Tommie Morgan

Phoebe Circle

Phoebe Circle will not meet in January but will resume meeting in February.

Linda Veren

Pics of the Month



New Members November 26, 2023



Donna Thorsrud's birthday sign



Our most Senior and youngest members, **George Eckinstaler & Taylor Oldham**, chilling together



Sandy Vontroba with aids for a children's sermon



Cyndi Howell led our Annual Congregation Meeting on 12/10/23



Sarah Grace Howell

Sarah Howell's College Graduation



Another delightful children's sermon



Eva Veren with her birthday sign just in time for Christmas



Children's sermon on Christmas Eve



December's Prodissee Pantry Crew



Dave Howell's birthday sign



Annual Christmas Luncheon sponsored by Pastor and Lorraine



Birthday sign for Sophie Smolik



Gage Foxworth's birthday sign



December's Lunch Bunch



Women's Christmas Tea decorations and assorted goodies

Our First Annual Nativity Walk & Open House



Thanks to **Judi Luken** for coordinating this event! Our First Annual Nativity Walk was enjoyed by our members and passersby as well!



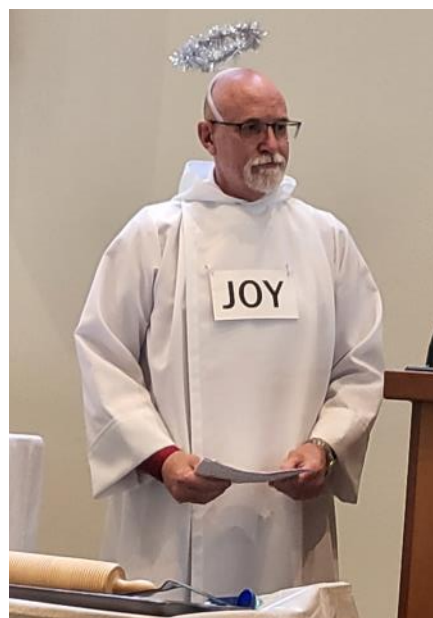
Ronda DelFavero's winning scene

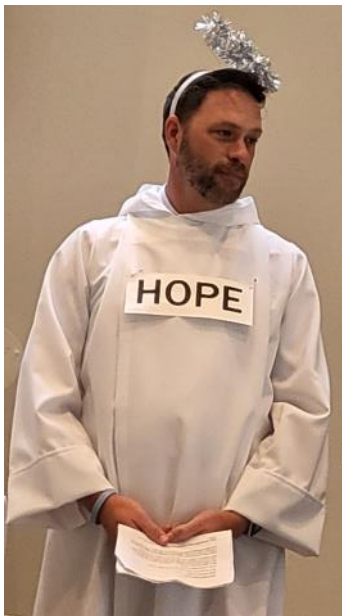


WELCA's Christmas Tea



2023 Children's Christmas Program





Special thanks to **Barbie Ramsland** for writing, directing and coordinating this year's production. It was absolutely delightful!

December's Lunch Bunch



Braveheart Hellen



Reminders

HOLY TRINITY GOES LIVE! Our Sunday morning Service of Holy Communion is now being live-streamed and recorded each week at 10:00a on our [Holy Trinity Facebook Page](#). If you are not able to be present in person, you are invited to join us on the internet. We also continue to provide a copy of the sermon text and the bulletin with music links via email. Many thanks to those who have volunteered to operate the camera on Sunday mornings. **Volunteers are always needed.** If interested in helping out in this way, please contact **Debi Horlebein**.

Donating Altar Flowers: Please keep in mind that your normal offering contributions do not pay for altar flowers. If you would like to donate a particular Sunday's flowers, the cost is \$35.00. Simply use the sign-up sheet on the corkboard located in the narthex, and as the Sunday approaches place your donation in the offering plate. Make checks payable to Holy Trinity, noting "*Altar Flowers*" on the check. Please note there are no flowers at the altar during Lent.

Current vs. Building Fund Reminder: Specify how you want your offering split between the Current Fund and the Building Fund. If you do not specify on your envelope, it will by default go to the Current Fund. Anonymous cash (without an envelope specification) will all go towards the Current Fund. Checks without an envelope or notation on the check will by default go 100% towards the Current Fund. If you wonder about the percentage split that best services both funds, try directing 65% towards the Current Fund and 35% towards the Building Fund. Ongoing mission activities and Synod/ELCA funding is sourced from the Current Fund.



JANUARY AT HOLY TRINITY

Lunch Bunch

We will meet on Tuesday,
January 16th @ Noon



1506 Main St in Daphne
(251) 625-0055



<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>
Eric Veren	01/05
Tom Young	01/12
Chris MacShane	01/13
Jackie Foxworth	01/24
Kara Lavin	01/28
Phyllis Buchholz	01/31

Men's Breakfast

8 AM Saturday, Jan 6th

Gathering Place

Fellowship Hall



We will volunteer at **Prodissee Pantry** on **Wednesday, January 17th @ 5:30pm** followed by dinner and fellowship.



Curtis & Lisa Manicke
01/25/2003 21 yrs

Worship Leadership Assignments for January

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Worship Leader Assignments				
	January 7, 2024	January 14, 2024	January 21, 2024	January 28, 2024
Assisting	Toni Fassbender	Linda Veren	Jeff Ramsland	Dave Kummer
Acolyte	Dave Kummer	Diane MacShane	Cait Manicke	Nic Bogle
Lector	Joan Micelli	Ginny Peterson	Kevin Burkey	Andy Veren
Cantor	Phyllis Buccholz	Randi Patterson	Debi Horlebein	Debi Horlebein
Children's Sermon	Pam Burkey	Cyndi Howell	Sandy Vontroba	Linda Veren
Altar	Linda Gregg	Joan Micelli	Linda Gregg	Judi Luken
Greeter/s	Lorraine Studt	Jerry Driskell	Manickes	Phyllis Buccholz
Usher	Fred Fassbender	Dave Howell	Curtis Manicke	Dave Howell
Teller	Fred Fassbender	Dave Howell	Lisa Manicke	Dave Howell
Teller	Kevin Burkey	Phyllis Buccholz	Jerry Driskell	Diane MacShane
Camera Operator	Diane MacShane	Andy Veren	Nate Manicke	Nate Manicke
Hospitality	Oldham	TBD	TBD	Linda & Toni
Altar Flowers	Oldham in Honor of Taylor's Baptism	TBD	TBD	Manicke's 21st Anniversary

If you are unable to do this assigned worship leadership responsibility, please trade with a person with your same responsibility assigned to another date



If you have a prayer request for the e-prayer group, you have a few options on relaying this information to the congregation.

Option 1: Write it on the yellow attendance sheet in your bulletin and place it in the offering plate.

Option 2: Send an email with your request to

holytrinityprayers@googlegroups.com.

Option 3: Email, text, or call Erika Oldham: erikaramsland@gmail.com or (256) 404-2975.

Like Us on Facebook!! Search for [Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Daphne, AL](#).



Prayers for our People

We continue to pray for the following:

Ministries in the Church

Those who are serving in leadership roles at Holy Trinity, including Congregation Council

Martin Luther Lutheran Church – Mobile, AL and Rev. Claïressa Dais

Those who are seeking Christian Community may find Holy Trinity to be a welcoming place

Those who are new to Holy Trinity that they may find opportunities to grow in faith.

Those worshipping for the first time at Holy Trinity

Those Who Serve & their Families

Those serving in military, firefighters & law enforcement, including Marc Alverson, Daryl Bogle, Colter Burkey, Adam and Cathryn Cormier, Steve Duke, Shawn Ethington, Brent Massey, Jordan Miller, Christopher Mueller, Titus Nissen, Rich Peacock and Dylan Winslow.

Those Who Are Ill/Injured/Hurting/Hospitalized, Recovering: Tammy Cain, Milissa Collins, David Durant, Jay Fassbender, Elsie Lamb, Dot Peterson, Sheila Ross, David Scott and Charles Sharp.

ELCA LEADERS: SE Synod Bishop Kevin Strickland, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Pastor Rich Mueller

PURPOSE STATEMENT

God's purpose for Holy Trinity is to grow faith that moves us beyond ourselves.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. Faithfully living with Christ at the center.
2. Prayerfully listening with open hearts and minds.
3. Selflessly welcoming all without preconceptions.
4. Courageously bearing our neighbor's burdens
5. Relating to one another with respect and honesty
6. Boldly sharing our blessings with others.

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(251) 298-3147 tonystinnett0@gmail.com

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(630) 209-1336, judiluken@gmail.com

OTHER CONTACTS

E-Prayer Chain

E-mail prayer concerns to
htlcdaphne8271@gmail.com, 251-621-2968

Women of the ELCA: Tommie Morgan

tommie456@gmail.com, 251-591-1019



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An ELCA Congregation Serving the Eastern Shore

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Conveniently located 1/4 mile east of the Daphne YMCA

Please visit our Holy Trinity Lutheran Church website at:

www.holytrinitydaphne.org.

Any comments or suggestions, please email the church office at htlcdaphne8271@gmail.com.

The deadline for articles and information for the July issue of *THE WITNESS* is **Wednesday, January 23rd**. If you wish to discontinue receiving this newsletter, please contact us at (251) 621-2968.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

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