

# Trinity



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## Some Christmas Reflections

Christmas is the season of the “The mystery of the Word made flesh.” But, this mystery is one that centers not around the question “How can this be?” – which is what the Blessed Virgin wondered out loud when told she was with Child – but lies rather in the answer

which was given to her in her wondering by the archangel, Gabriel. This is what he said:

“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy

One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible.” St. Luke 1.35-37

So then, the “mystery of the

Word made flesh” isn’t a mystery concerning the manner in which Christ Jesus was born of Mary – that issue has been settled quite clearly and for all time in the angel’s words to the Virgin – namely that the Christ would be conceived by the



Holy Spirit in her womb, and that He would then be born into this world the very same way as all other babies are born.

The mystery, then, is not “how” this all happened, but instead, “why?” Why did the Lord God choose this way of rescuing us from sin and death? Why did

God decide to send His Son into this world bearing the flesh of man? Why did God determine that in order to save us His Son would have to live as we do (but without sin), suffer in our place, and then endure the hellish death we rightly deserve? Why was it

that God felt this was the only way in which He could grant us His grace, His life, His mercy, His forgiveness – and ultimately, His eternal salvation?

That, you see, is “the

mystery of the Word made flesh” – not how it happened but that it happened at all – that God our Father continues to have mercy on us in spite of our desire not to heed His Word, live by His commands, worship Him as He desires, or love others as He requires – that He chooses not

simply to forgive us as we forgive others (with a quick “that’s okay”), but rather that He chooses to locate His forgiveness, His righteousness and His

compassion in the flesh His Son received from being born into this world in the womb of the Virgin – that’s the mystery.

Thankfully, Our Lord God doesn’t require us to understand or figure this mystery out before He

gives us its benefits. He doesn’t even demand that we believe it before He offers it to us. When He determines it best, Our Lord God simply “sends forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, to redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because we are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father!’ Therefore we are no longer slaves but sons, and if sons, then heirs of God through Christ.” (Galatians 4.4-7)

Faith, then, simply believes that this is all true. Faith simply receives the gift Our Lord Jesus gives and is. Faith might be curious about some of the details of this mystery, but in its curiosity faith doesn’t demand a full

explanation before it believes. Faith simply rejoices that, for whatever reason, Our Lord God has had mercy upon us and has chosen to extend His mercy and



blessing to us in this way. For “as many as receive Our Lord God in the flesh, to them He gives the right to become children of God – that is, to those who believe in His name.” (John 1.13)

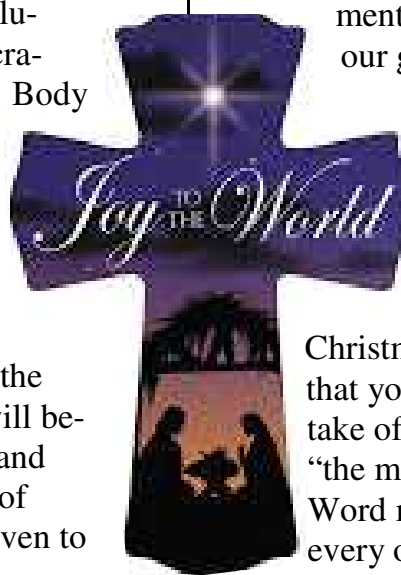
In the same fashion, the faithful Christian will also desire to receive for him or herself the “mystery of the Word made flesh” only through those means by which God the Father chooses to give it – in the Gospel and in the Sacraments. Holy Baptism, Holy Absolution, the Blessed Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood, the Divine Liturgy, and the preaching of the Gospel – these are the places where God has promised that “the mystery of the Word made flesh” will become real for you – and where the True Gift of Christmas is to be given to you.

To not attend Christ’s Holy Mass – that is, the Sacrament of His body and blood – or to put

it another way – to shrink from every opportunity God gives you to hear and receive the blessings of your faith – is tantamount to denying yourself the opportunity to benefit from the blessings Christ has already won for and presented to you. Consider this: if a person were to be given a large inheritance but then refused to make use of it, most would likely conclude that that person might be crazy. So also, those who refuse to partake of the Lord’s Supper or hear the Holy Gospel are likewise refusing to receive Our Lord Jesus as He comes to us for our good in His Body and His Blood – His medicine of immortality for sinful souls.

And that brings us to another mystery, doesn’t it – the mystery of why any Christian would not want to receive that which has already been accomplished for us – and is even now sacramentally present for our good in the suffering and death of our Savior.

My encouragement to you therefore during this Advent/Christmas season, is that you receive, partake of, and rejoice in “the mystery of the Word made flesh” at every opportunity. That happens whenever you attend the Divine Service – whenever you hear Christ’s Holy Absolution, and whenever

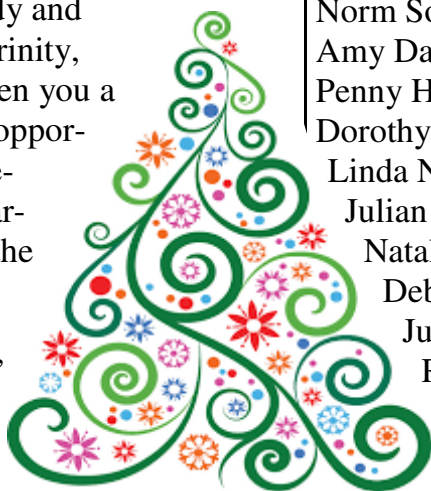




you taste the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. At Trinity, God has given you a great many opportunities to receive and participate in "the mystery of the Word made flesh." Don't make light of them or let them pass you by because you may be more involved in preparing for your family Christmas than you are in celebrating the True Meaning of the Season. Instead, take advantage of the many occasions you have before you to receive the gifts Christ desires for you (especially in the weekly Advent Services, which will be held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 PM, on Christmas Eve at 7:00 PM, Christmas Day at 10:00 AM, and then on Sunday, the 29th at the regular time, 9:00 AM). There is where you'll not only hear about, but commune in "the mystery of the Word made flesh." God's peace be with you as you joyfully celebrate the birth of and receive our Lord during this joyful Christmas season. God bless . . . Pastor

## Birthdays

Ken Meier ..... 12/1  
Mallory Swain ..... 12/1  
Sylvia Herrell ..... 12/4  
Mary Ellett ..... 12/5



Gretchen Mayes ..... 12/8  
Norm Sowell ..... 12/11  
Amy Davis ..... 12/14  
Penny Harris ..... 12/15  
Dorothy Riley ..... 12/16  
Linda Newman ..... 12/16  
Julian Goodroad ..... 12/17  
Natalie Carty ..... 12/20  
Debra Rhea ..... 12/22  
June Lueckert ..... 12/25  
Rebekah Chapman ..... 12/26  
Jonah Korondi ..... 1/3  
Carlee Luppess ..... 1/6  
Ellen Propst ..... 1/8  
Eli Ramer ..... 1/10

## Baptisms

Tom Clemens ..... 12/1  
Keith Wornson ..... 12/5  
Diane Schmidt ..... 12/6  
Bill Moore ..... 12/9  
Anthony Propst ..... 12/10



Zackery Schmidt .. 12/11  
Ken Meier ..... 12/12  
Sullivan Korondi ... 12/12  
Erma Altis . 12/13  
Mallory Swain ..... 12/17  
Sylvia Herrell ..... 12/19  
Julie O'Neal ..... 12/19  
Shirley Kueck ..... 12/21  
Kay Sowell ..... 12/22  
Sophia Fairhurst ..... 12/23  
Gretchen Mayes ..... 12/25  
Julian Goodroad ..... 12/25  
Colleen Jackson ..... 12/29  
Conner Mayes ..... 12/30  
Nancy Oldag ..... 1/1  
Mark Young ..... 1/1  
Leslie Young ..... 1/1

Natalie Carty ..... 1/1  
Rebekah Chapman ..... 1/3  
Tanner Mayes ..... 1/5  
Dorothy Riley ..... 1/8  
Linda Newman ..... 1/8  
Matthew Cuba ..... 1/8

## Anniversaries

*Ian & Blythe Larson*  
12/11/2004  
*David & Deann Benningfield*  
12/20/1986  
*Rob & Ardyth Stone*  
12/23/1978  
*Ken & Brenda Meier* 12/26/1970  
*Stacy & Nanette Stout*  
12/27/1997  
*Ryan & Laura Schmidt*  
12/27/2003  
*Jonah & Audrey Korondi*  
12/28/2018  
*Craig & Shari Schley*  
1/1/2011

## Elders

Dallas Hoffman  
Larry Goodroad  
Bill Moore  
Vic Edwards  
Ken Meier

## Acolytes

Dec. 1 ..... Jacob Wornson  
Dec. 4 ..... Joe Goodroad  
Dec. 8 ..... Colton Harris  
Dec. 11 ..... Simon Korondi  
Dec. 15 .. Andrew Swain  
Dec. 18 ..... Sam Wornson  
Dec. 22 .... Jacob Wornson  
Dec. 24 ..... Joe Goodroad  
Dec. 25 ..... Colton Harris  
Dec. 29 ..... Simon Korondi  
Jan. 5 ..... Andrew Swain  
Jan. 12 ..... Sam Wornson  
Jan. 19 ..... Jacob Wornson

Jan. 26 ..... Joe Goodroad

## Ushers

*Dec. 1*

Ken Meier, Norm Sowell

*Dec. 4*

Larry Goodroad, Jim  
Hargrave

*Dec. 8 & 11*

Dallas Hoffman, Nelson  
Hayes

*Dec. 15 & 18*

Jeff Lehning, John Luppés  
*Dec. 22*

Bob Marchert, Don Mayes  
*Dec. 24*

Don & Scott Mayes  
*Dec. 25*

Bob Marchert, Ken Meier  
*Dec. 29*

Ken Meier, Scott Mayes  
*Jan. 5 & 12*

Darrin Abend, Tony Alshouse  
*Jan. 19 & 26*

John Barth, Tim Brammeier

## Greeters

*Dec. 1*

Melvin & Erma Altis

*Dec. 4*

Harry Akiyama, Jackie Augur  
*Dec. 8*

John Barth, Mary Ellett  
*Dec. 11*

Rick & Karen Soutter  
*Dec. 15*

Tim & Connie Brammeier  
*Dec. 18*

Debra Rhea, June Ramer  
*Dec. 22*

Derek & Rebekah Chapman  
*Dec. 24*

Gary & Diane Schmidt  
*Dec. 25*

John & Carol Diaz  
*Dec. 29*

Vic Edwards, Julie O'Neal  
*Jan. 5*

Harry Akiyama, Jackie Augur  
*Jan. 12*

Melvin & Erma Altis  
*Jan. 19*

Tony & Jane Alshouse  
*Jan. 26*

Darrin & Debbie  
Abend

## Altar Guild

*Dec. 1*

Mary Ellett, Pat Owens  
*Dec. 8*

Leslie Young, Dee Hoffman  
*Dec. 15*

Kari Goodroad, Deanna  
Korondi  
*Dec. 22*

Phyllis Clemens,  
Sharon McCubbin  
*Dec. 24*

Phyllis Clemens,  
Sharon McCubbin

been meeting every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday for lunch and games following. This group was established very early in the congregation's history and has always had a lot of support.

Some of you may not be aware that we even exist, so we'd like to extend an invitation to join us for one of our meetings and enjoy the fellowship and fun we share each month. In December Hope you can join us!

## Advent/Christmas Schedule

Midweek Advent service will be on December 18 at 7:00 with dinner preceding the service at 6:00. So far we don't have a full schedule of meals to announce.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be at 7:00 on December 24, as if I had to give you the date for Christmas Eve, and the Christmas Day Service will be at 10:00, to give you time to have family time before you join us on the actual day of our Savior birth to remember the greatest Christmas Gift of them all, God's gift of life and salvation in Him who is born King of the Jews, Jesus Christ.



*Dec. 29*

Dawn Riley, June Ramer

## Top of the Hill

The Top of the Hill group has

## Board of Directors

**Minutes From 11/11/2019**

**Members Present:** Connie Brammeier, Tim Brammeier,



Mark Fairhurst, Michelle Fairhurst, Dan Goodroad, Emily Goodroad, Deanna Korondi, Pastor Newman, and Norm Sowell

Tim called the meeting to order. Pastor opened with prayer and we continued our study of the Augsburg Confession

**Minutes:** Mark moved we accept the minutes. Michelle seconded. Passed by vote.

**Pastor:** No admissions, removals or transfers of membership.

**Vice-President:** No report.

**Treasurer:** Mark moved to receive the treasurer's report. Norm seconded. Passed by vote.

**Elders:** Nothing to report.

**Properties:** Rob Stone is almost done with painting the Sanctuary. Norm has been working with Ameren and contractor for a rebate on the air conditioner. He is also getting estimates for replacing the parking lot lights rather than repairing the ones that are there. Larry moved that we replace the lights with LEDs. Deanna seconded. Passed by vote. Still working on a solution for the elevator.

**Evangelism:** Discussion was

held about military flags (left over from Jesse James Parade float) vs. banners in Fellowship Hall. It was decided that the



flags would be taken down.

**Education:** Michelle found some shelves to move forward on the library project. During Advent Sunday School will be focusing on lessons specifically devoted to the Advent season.

**Stewardship:** No report.

**Youth:** Nothing new to report.

**Public Relations:** Nothing new to report.

**Services:** Nothing new to report.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Elections:** Board positions open this year – President Mark Fairhurst/ Bill Moore; Secretary, Erma Altis; Public Relations, Derek Chapman; Planning, Tim Brammeier. Still looking for someone to fill Evangelism and Properties directors.

**Constitution Update:** Pastor will have printed copies available for the Voter's Meeting.

**Budget:** Budget is ready for presentation at Voter's Meeting.

**New Business:** Memorial funds: Larry moved that Memorial Fund money be rolled into a consolidated Memorial Fund after years, or once a particular project has been completed, whichever is

sooner. The Consolidated Memorial Fund would then be used for non-operating purposes, and decisions on the use of fund will be made at the Board's discretion. Deanna seconded. Passed by vote.

**Adjournment:** Larry moved adjournment. Norm seconded. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Emily Goodroad, Secretary

## 12 Things Pastors Can't Do

**Read Minds.** Everybody knows that, but many church members hold pastors accountable for unstated expectations.

**Be Everywhere.** No human being can be every place at once, yet some members still get angry when pastors have to say "No."

**Change Hearts.** Only God can do that.

**Know Everything.** Most pastors study hard, but nobody can



answer every question somebody asks.

**Please Everybody.** Even Jesus couldn't do that.

**Live Sinlessly.** Nobody can. Including you. And me. We're all sinners.

**Grow The Church.** If the church does grow, it's because God does it.

**Multiply Dollars.** That's too bad, too, since some churches don't pay their pastors well.

**Escape Mistakes.** All of us will mess up sometime, often unintentionally and even unknowingly.

**Avoid Favoritism.** Pastors minister to everybody, but having better (and best) friends is natural.

**Reveal Everything.** No matter how much you may want to know the details, pastors may not be in a position to tell you.

**Ignore Sin.** Pastors must address this issue, even when it's not popular.

## LWML

November 18,  
2019 (rescheduled  
from November 11,  
2019 due to weather)

**Call To Order:** Mary Wornson, President

**Opening Prayer:** Mary Wornson

**LWML Pledge:** Recited by all

**Attendance:** Janet Miller, Doris

Mann, June Lueckert, Carolyn Paterson, Dee Hoffman, Janis Bozarth,

Kay Sowell, Mary Wornson, Diane Schmidt, Marlo Howard, Joyce Lehning.

**Minutes:** October minutes were read and corrected (under Treasurer's report – Sylvia Herrell anniversary cakes for Pastor and Linda's anniversary \$40.06).

**Correspondence/Communications/Announcements:** Thank you from Pastor Matthew C Harrison for Our donation of \$100.00 to missionaries in Togo Africa.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance: \$482.52. October meeting offerings: \$24.00, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday treats: 47.00, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday treats: \$31.00, meeting mites for Oct: \$17.91. Expenditures: KC Zone

LWML/Contributions  
\$6.00 x 12=\$72.00,  
Mission Central/  
Gary &

Stephanie – missionaries

\$100.00, CPH/LWML Sunday; Supplies \$34.45. balance as of November 18, 2019 \$395.98,

(includes \$17.91 in mites plus \$133.51 for 2020). Senior quilts, leaving \$244.56 in available funds.) Contributions for each member is \$6.00 due now.

**Mission Grants Story And Mite Report:** Mites balance \$17.91. Mission story, #4 grant, LAMP Ministry Inc.: \$100,000 bringing the Love of Jesus to remote Canadian villages.

**Unfinished Business:** Fall Rally Report was given by June, Marlo and

Mary. It was a good day. Let's Celebrate" following our leader was held in Lee's Summit. Mary, Marlo and Joyce attended, brought back lots of information.

Spring rally here at Trinity is not yet final.

**New Business:** On Dec 18<sup>th</sup> for the Advent supper we will have a potato bar as a Thrivent fund raiser for Tom Goodroad who is in the seminary. June made the motion to donate \$50.00 to the Kearney Food Pantry. 2nd by Doris, motion carried. Kay made the motion to have our meetings in Jan & Feb to start at 1:00 Marlo 2<sup>nd</sup> it. Discussion was held Motion carried.

**December Meeting:** We will meet at La Fuente Mexican restaurant on December 9 for lunch at 11:00.



**Ronald McDonald House:**

Third Thursday of each month,  
November

**Third Sunday Treats:**

12/15, Marlo, Janet,  
Kay; 1/19, Mary,  
Kay

**Hostess Next****Month:**

January 13,  
2020:  
Janet

**Adjourn Business Meeting:**

**Bible Study:** The  
Pharaoh's Daughter from  
the Fall Lutheran Women's  
Quarterly was led by Mary. It  
will be continued in January.

**Refreshments** were served by  
Diane of delicious pumpkin  
cake.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Lehning

**Thank-You!**

Dear Friends,

Gifts such as yours of \$810.00 allow us to provide the finest theological education to the future pastors, deaconesses, and missionaries who will serve The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and our partner churches worldwide. I thank God for you and ask for your continued support. Together we partner in an essential mission of forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. Your servant in Christ, Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr., President, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

† † †

Dear Friends In Christ of Trinity Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous gift to Marlyse and me, it has helped tremendously to pay for my Biblical Greek class and living expenses while I live

on campus. I look forward to visiting with you soon. Blessings in Christ, Tom Goodroad

† † †

Dear Saints at Trinity Lutheran Church: The Fall Quarter ended on November 15 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. We ask for your prayers as we form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all. Thank you for your gifts of \$810 each we received in August and October. Your gifts help us meet the need to provide 100% tuition aid for our residential seminarians and deaconess students to reduce their out-of-pocket educational costs. Through gifts like yours,

we are seeing a significant decrease overall in the amount and burden of student debt. The Seminary has news and resources on [ctsfw.edu](http://ctsfw.edu) and on Facebook. The Lord Jesus continue to strengthen you in the faith during this Season of Pentecost. Yours in Christ, Rev. Mark Steiner

