

# Trinity Newsletter December 2024



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## Good News Great Joy!

This Christmas time, go out at night  
To watch the stars that shine  
And think about the starry night  
God sent the Child divine.

The angel choir announced his birth.  
They came from heaven above  
To share the news with all the earth:  
God's greatest gift of love.

My Christmas tree shines with that light  
It has a heavenly glow.  
It, too, tells of our Savior's birth  
So all the world may know.

The tree points up to God on high  
Who loved the world he made  
So much he sent his only Son  
That we may all be saved.

God's gift wrapped in a manger box  
Beneath the sparkling heavens-  
May every gift beneath my tree  
Remind of what God's given.

(From Creative Communications)

## CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

1. On November 17th our congregation voted on and passed the proposed 2025 Budget. We then enjoyed the delicious Harvest Dinner...sauerbraten, ham, German potato salad, noodles, green bean casserole, squash, and rolls...organized and prepared by Sue Gatley and her crew of joyful assistants. Thank you all !! We were thrilled to have 12 people from 1st Presbyterian Church dining with us also, and a First Methodist member. Wonderful!
2. Olney's came to give our landscaping a much needed pruning, and new plantings.
3. Our windows and outer church walls and shed received a power wash, to get rid of remaining insulation and debris from the July tornado, now that the cracked windows had been repaired.
4. The two families from the Rome Rescue Mission that we are sponsoring for Christmas will feel very blessed! There are four children... two boys aged 4 and 7, two girls aged 5 and 13. Their specific gift requests have been purchased (see photos in another article), but we are collecting other small gifts for those ages, along with food items and hats, gloves, & scarves for adults at the Mission, until December 16th. Thank you for your generosity!!
5. We hope you can attend the events this month that are listed on the attached December calendar! The more, the merrier! Help spread the joy of the Savior's birth!

As always, contact any Council member with questions or ideas!

**Kathy Wood, Sue Gatley, Sarah Barcomb, Dick Kekis, Gerry Nelson, May Klepadlo, Danielle Klepadlo**

Andrew: age 4, hoped for learning toys (in box), puzzles, and play dough



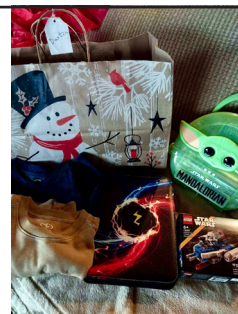
Kenzie: age 13, loves to read and loves history. She enjoys Hamilton the play (book), the musical SIX (shirt), and the Hobby Lobby store (gift card in envelope).



Hannah: age 5, asked for a bean bag chair, and a Lite Brite set



Dustin: age 7, wished for Pokémon cards (in binder case), anything Star Wars (building set and Yoda coloring kit), and 2 sweat-shirts





Below:  
 Our youth acolytes:  
 Brinley Barcomb  
 Robbie Brodock  
 Alaia Mason-Malone



Photo of church Choir.



### Community Event

Aaron Browka will be playing carols starting at 6:30 pm.

### set for Dec. 2

ROME — The city of Rome will hold its annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Monday, Dec. 2 at Veterans Memorial Park on North James Street, according to city officials.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with the Trinkaus Village display, food, fireworks and live music with Scott Rutledge & the Greater CNY Christmas Choir. The Rome Historical Society will be hosting Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus after the fireworks.

The tree lighting itself will take place between 6:50 and

Below: Holiday Penny Party  
 Winner of lottery tickets was Chris Carinci with Christopher Carinci.



Photos from Harvest Dinner  
 Above: Many enjoying the meal.  
 Below: Crew working on preparing the meal. Thank you to all!



St. Joseph's Presents  
 Its 38<sup>th</sup> Christmas Concert  
**On Christmas Night**  
 Friday Dec 13, 7pm  
 Directed by Scott Rutledge  
 Accompanied by Jennifer Evans Fitzgibbon  
 and Aaron Browka  
 With Chamber Orchestra and Special Guests  
**ALTANO MUSIC & THE STROUGH JUNIOR  
 HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**  
 DIRECTED BY SARAH ANDERSON

The Concert Is Free. A love offering will be accepted to benefit The Rescue Mission of Rome.  
 A Light Reception will follow in the Parish Center

You Are Cordially Invited To The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**MESSIAH SING!**  
 Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 3:00 PM  
 Zion Episcopal Church  
 140 West Liberty Street, Rome

Featuring the Christmas music of  
**G. F. Handel's *Messiah***  
 and the Hallelujah Chorus

Led by G. Roberts Kolb  
 Accompanist Sar-Shalom Strong  
 Soprano, Alice Riley  
 Alto, Natalie Scerbo  
 Tenor, Daniel Fields  
 Baritone, Aubrey Campbell

The program is free and a reception follows in Clarky Hall  
 \*a free will donation plate at reception  
 Loaner copies are available for use during the "Sing"

### January 1, 2025 Annual Sleigh Ride

Starting at 12:00pm  
 Location: 5243 Golly Rd.  
 Rome

Horse drawn sleigh ride thru the woods.  
 Followed by lunch and a sing along.



# Trinity Tidbits

As we reflect on 2024, we have had a busy church year filled with many activities for all to participate in as we joined our fellowship together.

For the Christmas season, we have a Chrismon Tree in Fellowship Hall. On the craft table we have supplies to make a Chrismon and add yours to the tree and also make one to take home for your tree.

## *History of the Chrismon Tree*

The Chrismon tree began as an offering to God in the Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 295 West Main Street, in Danville, Virginia, in 1957. God blessed the offering, and it has become a symbol of praise and thanksgiving to Him. Mrs. Harry W. Spencer, the originator of the Chrismons, said, "I realized Christmas was the birthday of the Christ Child. Let us honor the Child, the Person He is." After many weeks of research, Mrs. Spencer came across some drawings of designs called Chrismons. "Chrismon" (Kriz'mon) is a combination of parts of two words: CHRISt and MONogram. A Chrismon is just that, a monogram of Christ. The sketches found were copies of Chrismons designed and carved or drawn by some of the earliest Christians. The monograms were found in many places – some on jewelry and utensils, others on doors or in catacombs or in buildings. Early Christians used them to identify themselves to one another, to designate meeting places of the church, and sometimes, to show unbelievers where they stood. The designs were quite beautiful and would make lovely tree decorations. Mrs. Spencer said, "It occurred to me that by using these early symbols of our faith to decorate the tree, we would bring out distinctly the real reason we celebrate this day of the year. I hoped such a tree would not only be worthy of being placed in the Lord's house but would also contribute to the spirit of worship in this holy seasons." All Chrismon are made in a combination of white and gold. White, the liturgical color for Christmas, refers to our Lord's purity and perfection, the gold, to His majesty and glory. The evergreen tree, which symbolizes the eternal life which our Savior has won for us, is background for the tiny white lights. May these lights lead us to Christ— the Light of the world. May the symbols placed on our tree continually remind you of God's greatest gift to us all, Jesus Christ.

As 2025 approaches, we look forward to another year of exciting events and activities bringing our church family together as we share the good news of the Bible.

Merry Christmas!

Melody Kiepert Milewski

Holiday Penny Party

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## Pastor Karen's Korner December 2024

### In Search of Our Kneeling Places

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,  
an inn where we must ultimately answer  
whether there is room or not.

When we are Bethlehem – bound  
we experience our own advent in his.

When we are Bethlehem – bound  
we can no longer look the other way  
conveniently not seeing stars  
not hearing angel voices.

We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily  
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that the Lord has made  
known to us.

In the midst of shopping sprees  
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.

Through the tinsel

let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.  
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry  
chaos,

let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem  
and find our kneeling places.

(Ann Weems)

As we get ready for the birth, for Christmas this poem tells us that in each of our hearts there is a Bethlehem, a place, an inn and it asks the question is there room or not. As we are busy with so many things in our lives preparing for Christmas day are we leaving room in our hearts for the place where the child will be born? As we prepare are we preparing a place for the babe? This is the question that each of us need to answer as we get ready for the birth.

This poem speaks of our own advent, our preparing for the birth, and in ,doing this we need to slow down. We need to wait to anticipate and to ,as in the poem ponder the Gift of Gifts. There needs to be an experience during this time of not rushing but slowing down to take into our hearts the coming event of the birth of the child who will save us. So as we gather each Sunday of Advent may we all take some time to reflect, prepare and to slow down. To joyfully sing and take in the wonders of this advent. To take into our hearts the events and the times we share with each other. Most important may we slow down enough to experience this season, to make room in our hearts for the child. To find our kneeling places by the manger so we can also experience the wonder of the Gifts of Gifts.

During this holiday season please remember those who can't be with us, maybe send a card, call or visit them to help them through this time when loneliness seems to be harder.

I wish everyone a wonderful Advent season and Christmas. I thank you all for the gift I received several Sundays ago and all the love I feel here.

**God Bless, Pastor Karen**