

The Student Section

Ministries for Children and Youth

Children

December 2: Celebrating Christmas @ 3:30pm



Youth

December 2: Celebrating Christmas @ 5:00pm



Confirmation

December 2: Confirmation Class in the WBC 9:45am
December 7-9: The Living Christmas Story (6-8pm)
December 9: Confirmation Class in the WBC 9:45am
December 16: Confirmation Class in the WBC 9:45am

What Gift Shall I Bring?

Wise men from the East brought baby Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. What gifts should we bring?

On Christmas Eve, December 24th at 3:00pm we will celebrate Christmas Eve with a Living Nativity Worship designed to enable children an opportunity to be visually reminded of the meaning of Christmas.

What gifts should we bring Jesus?

“...for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’” - Matthew 25:35-40

Everyone that attends the Christmas Eve Living Nativity Worship is invited to bring gifts of non-perishable food items, wrapped in white. These will be the gifts we give to Jesus and as we feed the hungry we will touch the heart of Christ.

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December 5th at 6:40pm Join Us to Decorate the Chrismon Tree



Last year, several families and friends of Trinity UMC enjoyed starting a tradition of gathering together to share in the Beyond Sunday supper and then decorating the Chrismon trees in the sanctuary. Boxes and boxes of treasured white ornaments were gently unwrapped and hung. Each one, a unique piece of art based on one of over 40 different traditional designs.

The Chrismon Tree originated in 1957 at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, when Frances Kipps Spencer, a volunteer at that church, created a unique Christmas tree for her small church. She called the hand-made ornaments, "Chrismons" which is a compound of "Christ" and "monogram" (meaning symbol).

Early believers used symbols of their faith in days when it was dangerous to be a Christian. They resorted to secret signs to keep from exposing themselves unnecessarily to their foes, and they worshiped in secret in large underground passages. Visiting Christians would find their way to the worship center by simply looking at the fish symbol on the wall pointing in the direction in which they were to go.

Chrismon ornaments call for working with one's own hands in keeping with the spirit of the original volunteer who made the ornaments as an act of personal meditation on the person of Christ. One does not simply buy the ornament, but rather makes the ornaments according to his or her own abilities, local supplies, and the particular needs of a congregation. While working, the artist is encouraged to offer a simple breath prayer. The goal of the work is not just a pretty Christmas decoration, but rather to have a deeper understanding of the question, "Who are you, Lord?" at the end of the process.

Each ornament on the Chrismon tree presents a different symbol from the rich tradition of Christian art. They are the "sign language" of our faith. All the decorations are made in white or combinations of white and gold beads. The Chrismon ornaments that adorn the trees at Trinity were each made by members of Trinity with great care. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and refers to Christ's purity and holiness. Gold refers to Christ's majesty and glory. The evergreen tree symbolizes the growth of the Christian journey, and the tiny lights on the tree are symbolic of "Christ -- the Light of the World."

We hope you will make plans to join us December 5th at 6pm for dinner and 6:40pm for decorating of the Chrismon trees as we celebrate this meaningful spiritual family tradition!



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