

This Week at Trinity

TODAY, SUNDAY, DEC. 5

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship & Communion, **9:30am**

Bread House Worship, **noon**

MONDAY, DEC. 6

Bread House Praise Practice,
7pm

Finance Team, **7pm**

TUESDAY, DEC. 7

Basketball, **6pm**

Bread House Bible Study, **7pm**

Deacons Meeting, **7pm**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

Men's Bible Study, **7:30am**

Wednesday Advent Family
Caroling & Cookies, **6pm**

WOW After Hours, **7:30pm**

THURSDAY, DEC. 9

WOW in the Morning, **9:30am**

Bread House Family Night, **7pm**

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

Worship, **9:30am**

Packing Christmas Cookies,
10:30am

Bread House Worship, **noon**

MONDAY, DEC. 13

Bread House Praise Practice,
7pm

TUESDAY, DEC. 14

Basketball, **6pm**

Consistory, **7pm**

Bread House Bible Study, **7pm**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15

Men's Bible Study, **7:30am**

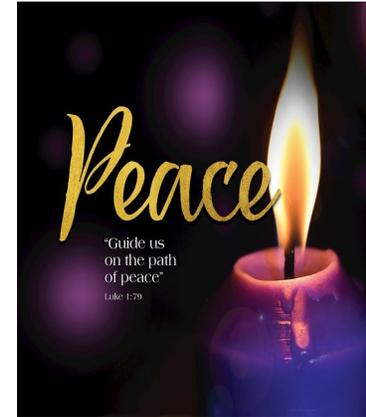
Wednesday Advent Family
Service Night, **6pm**

WOW After Hours, **7:30pm**

Welcome!

Trinity Reformed Church

Sunday, December 5, 2021



Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-10

Message

Peace On Earth. Really?

O Come All Ye Faithful (173)

What Child is This? (150)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (155)

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Worship Participants

Worship Leader - *Carolyn Pearson*

Advent Wreath - *Hope and Clara Ward*

Preaching - *Pastor Deb Yurk*

Scripture - *Gene Pearson*

Organist - *Deb Koopmans*

Trinity Staff

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Trinity Reformed Church

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Ministry Highlights

Family Christmas Tree - Once again this Advent, you are invited to hang a family ornament on the tree. If your family has already contributed to the tree, you do not need to bring another ornament. Questions? Contact Pastor Deb.

Next Sunday, December 12 immediately following worship, we will be packing cookies and sorting Christmas cards for our shut-ins and service persons. You are invited to participate in this fun and meaningful way to serve and bless others. Please sign up at the information table. Thank you!

Salvation Army Angel Tree is here! Choose a tag (or two!) from the tree, purchase the gifts and return UNWRAPPED by December 15. Questions? See Kim Schrottenboer or call the church office (1-616-396-6526). Thank you!

During Advent as we sing the familiar carols of the season, song sheets will not be included in the bulletins that are mailed. If you worship from home and desire a hymnbook, please contact the church office (1-616-396-6526) to arrange to get one.

Children and Worship will meet every Sunday in December.

December Connections Newsletter is in your church mailbox. Please be sure to pick that up after worship.

Mark Your Calendars for Friday, December 24 at 7pm for our Christmas Eve worship service.

Thank You

From John and Diane Taylor

Dear Trinity Friends, Thank you so much for 7 years of fellowship, and the privilege of worshipping our Lord together! Thank you too for your kind cards and amazing generosity, as we seek the Lord's guidance into the next chapter of His plan for us. Keep on praising HIM! In Christ' love.

Ministry Highlights

With The Recent Surge in Covid cases in our county and the resulting stress that is being put on our healthcare system and those patients unable to get the care they need, we have decided to close the church office to all visitors until further notice. In the meantime, staff will stagger their work schedules in order to take care of the business of the church. When not in the office, staff will be working remotely.

Masks Are Recommended when gathering as a group at Trinity. If you are ill, or a member of your family is ill, **please stay home.**

Senior Ministries Christmas Breakfast Potluck scheduled for Dec. 16 has **regrettably been cancelled** due to increasing Covid-19 numbers.

Wednesday Dinner is on pause for the remainder of December. Advent activities will still be held from 6:30-7:30 this week and December 18.

Adventures in Advent Family Nights - We will prepare our hearts together for the birth of our Savior through crafts, caroling and service Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30pm. ALL ages welcome. Children must be accompanied by their grownups. Please sign up at the information table so we have enough supplies. Dec 8: Caroling & Cookie Decorating, Dec 15: Service Project benefitting Holland Rescue Mission. VBS will resume January 12.

Christmas Cards and Cookies! Christmas card lists for seniors and military are available at the table under the "Welcome" sign. Sign up lists for the cookie ministry are on the information table. Cards & cookie deadline is next Sunday, December 12. Please see the insert for all the details. Thank you!

Peace On Earth. Really?

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them" (Isaiah 11:6).

"The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox."
(Isaiah 11:7)

"For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and
peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Can government bring peace? NO.

Can you buy peace on earth? NO.

Can you create your own peace? NO.

Only Jesus brings Shalom.

1. Jesus brings peace between me and God.
Romans 6:23
Hebrews 9:26, The Message

2. Jesus brings peace within MYSELF.
Matthew 6:26
Matthew 10:30-31
1 Peter 2: 9-10

3. Only Jesus can bring peace on earth.
-Jesus shows us that loving sacrifice wins the world to peace.
-Jesus shows us that God is on our side.
-Jesus shows us that we are all somebodies.
-Jesus points the way to reconciliation with the Father.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS FOR TRINITY SENIORS AND MILITARY

*Be a part of the true spirit of Christmas by
blessing Trinity's shut-ins.*

*You are invited to get involved
in the following ways:*

- * **Cookies** - Donate, help pack and/or deliver homemade cookies. Cookies need to be to church before worship on Dec. 12. Immediately following worship that day, the cookies will be arranged on individual plates to be delivered. Please sign up at the table by the office.



- * **Christmas Cards** - A list of Trinity shut-ins and military is available at the lighted mailbox in the Gathering Area. You may prepare your cards and return them by December 12. The cards will be sorted and delivered with the Christmas cookies or mailed to those out of town.



Merry Christmas

***Questions? See Pastor Deb or call
the church office (396-6526) Thank you!!***

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Ottawa County Department of Public Health raises level of concern on County's latest COVID surge and health system strain

November 18, 2021

Michigan is now the state with the highest number of new Covid cases in the nation

(HOLLAND, MI.) – The Ottawa County Department of Public Health (OCDPH) is today raising the level of concern about the current high level of COVID-19 transmission in the community, which is threatening access to health care systems. OCDPH is urging community members to do everything they can between today and New Year's Day to bring transmission down and preserve access to the County's already strained health systems. All Ottawa County healthcare responses are being challenged by the most recent surge and with a continued increase in cases, hospital capacity for all care could be exceeded. Schools and public health services are also under increased stress. OCDPH is urgently pleading with the community to assist in bringing the level of community transmission down before critical services are impacted any further, and before the educational and business communities are affected more profoundly.

Current test positivity is higher than it has been at any earlier point in the pandemic, and the rate of new cases is on pace to meet or exceed any previously set high. As of November 17, Michigan has the highest rate of new cases per population for the past seven days in the nation[1]. Ottawa County's combined test positivity and case rates are among the highest in the state[2]. Current case trends in Ottawa County continue to be on the rise.

- Weekly case positivity is 24.9%[3]
- Ottawa County is averaging approximately 330 cases each day[4]
- Last week, 484 positive pediatric cases were diagnosed, with 29 West Michigan pediatric hospital admissions at one regional health system[5]
- 85% of hospital beds are occupied; 25% of these are COVID-19 patients[6]

Although these numbers may not feel concerning considering the daily number of cases and deaths being reported in the United States, many of these statistics are higher than ever in Ottawa County. Without prompt and deliberate action from the community, people can expect decreased capacity at local hospitals for COVID-19 intervention, as well as for emergency and routine care for other health concerns. Furthermore, public health capacity to manage critical services like food safety, water safety and sewage management, and health care services for children will be threatened. Additionally, school and business closures due to widespread illness and staff shortages will be likely.

“We are asking our community to come together and do what we can to care for one another during another difficult time in this pandemic. The impact of this is not just about COVID anymore,” said Lisa Stefanovsky, Administrative Health Officer. “Our current situation impacts everyone, and what is at stake is access to hospital care for anyone who may need it, for any issue. In the absence of orders, we must rely on everyone to take this seriously and use precautions, none of which are perfect, but are effective when used together. Stay home when you are sick, mask up when you are indoors and around others outside of your household, and please consider getting a vaccine or booster if you haven't already.”

While 70% of Michiganders have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, this alone is not enough to stem the transmission of the highly contagious Delta variant which is sweeping through Ottawa County, and the rest of the state, as the highest amount of COVID-19 is still seen among those who are unvaccinated. In Ottawa County, an estimated 79.9% of COVID-19 hospitalizations are among unvaccinated individuals[7].

As people begin to gather indoors for the holiday season, OCDPH and local health care systems expect to see a further increase in cases, with increased deaths to follow. Getting vaccinated remains the best way to prevent serious COVID-19 related illness and to help reduce the number of hospital admissions.

It may seem as though vaccination is unnecessary if vaccinated people are still able to be infected with COVID-19. However, even though the vaccine is not 100% effective at stopping infection, it is effective at greatly reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.

OCDPH is asking each Ottawa County resident to do their part to help reduce the level of COVID-19 transmission in our community, and ensure timely access to health care for everyone, beginning today through New Year's Day, by doing the following:

- Get vaccinated. If you are unvaccinated, speak with your trusted healthcare provider about the benefits of vaccination. The vaccine is free, safe & effective, and is available from providers throughout the County. Vaccines are now available for children ages five and older. In Michigan, more than 5 million people have been safely and fully vaccinated[8].
- Wear your mask. With current COVID-19 transmission levels so high, OCDPH is urging all individuals to wear a mask indoors, at work, school and anywhere in public when gathered around other people, even if they are vaccinated. Masks provide an additional layer of protection from spreading and contracting the virus that causes COVID-19 and are primarily intended to reduce the spread of virus-laden droplets in exhaled air. This is especially important for individuals who may be infected without symptoms (asymptomatic), or infected but not yet having symptoms (pre-symptomatic), and who may be unaware of their infectiousness to others. Transmission from asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic individuals is estimated to account for more than 50% of COVID-19 transmissions.[9]
- Stay home if you are sick. If you have any symptoms of COVID-19, even minor symptoms, or if you think you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, get tested at one of the many testing locations around the County, and do not spend time with others outside of your household while awaiting test results.

OCDPH would like to thank the community for all it has done so far to help end this pandemic. It is because of the diligence of community members that we have not experienced more illness and deaths. It will take everyone working together to protect those who cannot be vaccinated or who are at greater risk of serious illness or death, and to help preserve Ottawa County's hospital and emergency care capacity.

To find a vaccine clinic or COVID-19 testing site, visit vaccinatewestmi.com. For more information, visit miottawa.org.

[1] CDC COVID Data Tracker, November 17, 2021, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days

[2] MI Safe Start Map, November 16, 2021, <https://www.mistartmap.info/cdc-indicators>

[3] MI Safe Start Map, November 16, 2021, <https://www.mistartmap.info/cdc-indicators>

[4] Ottawa County COVID-19 Data Hub, November 17, 2021, <https://covid-hub-ottawacountymi.hub.arcgis.com/>

[5] Ottawa County COVID-19 Epidemiology Report, November 18, 2021

[6] Ottawa County COVID-19 Epidemiology Report, November 18, 2021

[7] Ottawa County COVID-19 Epidemiology Report, November 18, 2021

[8] Michigan COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard, November 12, 2021

[9] CDC, May 7, 2021