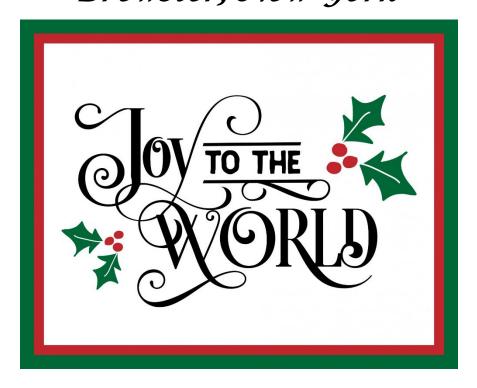
Tríníty Lutheran Church Brewster, New York



Chrístmas Day Servíce December 25, 2022 9:30 AM

**WELCOME** as we gather in the name of God! Whether we are physically present with one another or gathering remotely, we know that Christ is truly present in our midst.

We welcome our visitors today. If you are looking for a church home and want to know more about living together as Christians, please contact Pastor Boyd during the week.

If you know of others who are in need of signs of God's love and grace, who are curious and/or questioning, who would like to experience the peace of Christ – please invite them to join us for worship in person or through our social media channels. They may also contact the church office (trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com) and/or Pastor Jen (revjedyer1@yahoo.com).

You are invited to worship with us each week. There is a spoken inperson service on Thursdays at 12 noon and on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. as well as via Facebook Live on Trinity's Facebook page. The service will be posted later on our YouTube page. The weekly bulletin is posted on our website (links at the end of the bulletin)

**Precautions:** Wearing masks is now optional but we are encouraging you to wear them around children and if you are unsure of someone's health status. We do have extra masks for those who need them

The complete order for worship is printed in this worship folder. Congregational responses are in **bold**. Music for the hymns are in ELW (red hymnal) in the rack in front of you. If you require an enlarged print bulletin or an assistive listening device, please ask an usher.

**PARENTS:** *Please help your children follow the worship service, including standing up with the assembly. Thank you.* 

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, BREWSTER, NY NATIVITY OF OUR LORD CHRISTMAS DAY

#### PRELUDE

"A la Venue de Noel"

by Jean-Claude Balbastre

#### INTRODUCTION

In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the prince of peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of divine light to all the world.

The Assembly Stands

#### WELCOME

Now, may we all take a deep breath and center ourselves in this place. Christ is born. God has come. We are not alone. Let us celebrate that good news.

Let us dwell with God! Please stand in body or in spirit and join me in a responsive call to worship. With energy and joy, I invite you to repeat each phrase after me. We'll repeat these lines a few times, so please feel free to shout and fill our space with loud celebration. Repeat after me...

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

I have good news! I have good news! Christ is born! Christ is born! Joy is alive! Joy is alive! God is here. God is here. (Repeat 3x) Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. Amen. Amen.

# CAROL: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

# Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866 Music: German carol, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856 All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

# CALL TO CONFESSION

On a day like today we may want to skip the prayer of confession because today is a day for joy. Why should we pause to think and talk about the ways we as humans mess things up? I get that argument. However, I also believe that the joy of this day is even more joyful when we are honest about who we are. We humans tend to be messy, scattered, and full of doubt at times. Knowing that Jesus was born in a manger for us, and that Jesus loves and forgives us, is even better news. So let us confess together to God, knowing that the honest truth of our lives only makes this good news better. Let us pray...

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION + WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope. Liturgist snuffs out the candle of hope.

# Together we pray: Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace—both in ourselves and in our society—we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up.

Liturgist snuffs out the candle of peace.

Together we pray: Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

Holy God, too often we paint joy as naive—a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light. *Liturgist snuffs out the candle of joy.* 

Together we pray: Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we'll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly. *Liturgist snuffs out the candle of love.* 

# Together we pray: Forgive us for extinguishing love.

Family of faith, sin separates us from things like hope, peace, and joy. Sin wiggles its way between us and love, both love of neighbor and love of self. Fortunately for us, God had something else in mind. God sent God's only Son to this world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy—no matter how many times we let love burn out—God continues to light our way.

*Liturgist relights the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love from the Christ candle.* 

We are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved. The good news of this day—the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day—exists for you. **Thanks be to God! Amen.** 

# EXTENDED PASSING OF THE PEACE/ A TIME FOR CELEBRATION

Friends, we often wait to pass the peace until later in the service. However, in receiving the grace of God's forgiveness and Christ's healing that is birthed into the world, we share the fullness of God's peace with one another now! The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!** 

# CAROL: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

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Lo, how a rose e'er blooming From tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming As seers of old have sung, It came, a flow'r so bright, Amid the cold of winter, When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it The rose I have in mind; With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright, She bore to us a Savior, When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness ev'rywhere. True man, yet very God, From sin and death he saves us And lightens ev'ry load.

O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, Who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length, we pray, To the bright courts of heaven And into endless day.

Text: German carol, 15<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851-1934, sts. 1-2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845-1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876-1948, st. 4 Music: *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesange*, Koln, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius 1571-1621 All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As we prepare to hear the Good news, we seek the Spirit to open our ears and our hearts to receive this message that is may renew our lives: God of manger straw and swaddle cloth, God of silent nights and joyfully-chaotic mornings, we long to know you. The hustle and bustle of this time of year can be more than distracting, so for a moment, we pray, still our busy hearts. Quiet our minds. Help us to sink deeply into this day. Help us to pause here, to linger here as we hear your good news spoken over us. God, we long to know you, so speak to us now. With grateful hearts, we pray. With grateful hearts, we listen. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE POETIC READING OF JOHN 1:1-5

*Voice A*: Let us listen for God speaking to us through the ancient poetry of John 1, with contemporary poetic additions by Rev. Sarah Speed: In the beginning was the Word,

*Voice B:* way back, a long, long time ago, **before the stars, before the day,** before the rivers were carved out of clay.

Voice A: In the beginning,

Voice B: way back in that beginning,

Voice A: was the Word. And the Word was with God, And the Word was God. He, Jesus, was in the beginning with God.

Voice B: In other words, we cannot say that love was born in a stable that day, for love was born when the horizon was drawn. It was born in the dark, long before dawn. Love was born with the very first sea and when God breathed life into you and me. Long before Magi or shepherds or dreams, long before sheep or angels that sing, love was here building a way, then and now, and on Christmas day. *Voice A:* For all things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. And what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Voice B: And so Jesus shined. Like a light in the dark, or a star in the sky, Jesus walked into this world and opened our eyes, shining a light on social divides and loving the scars we try to hide. He lit up this world like it's never seen, the light of all people, Emmanuel, King.

Voice A: The light shines in the darkness, And the darkness did not overcome it.

*Voice B:* Hatred did not overcome it. **Fear did not overcome it.** Greed did not overcome it.

*Voice A:* A light shines in the darkness.

Voice B: Envy did not overcome it. Doubt did not overcome it. Scarcity did not overcome it.

*Voice A:* A light shines in the darkness.

Voice B: Death did not overcome it. Sickness did not overcome it. Grief did not overcome it. *Voice A:* For he was in the beginning with God,

Voice B: way back, a long, long time ago, before the stars, before the day, before the rivers were carved out of clay.

*Voice A:* And what has come into being in him was life.

Voice B: So we cannot begin with Magis and sheep, for this story begins at the brink—

*Voice A:* of creation and light,

Voice B: of you and me,

*Voice A:* of beloved and love,

*Voice B:* of being set free.

Voice A: For in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Voice B: He was in the beginning with God, and that light shines in the darkness. It always has, and it always will. *Voice A:* That is where our story begins with love for creation, from beginning to end. **Amen.** 

#### **RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

#### CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" 282

It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old, From angels bending near the earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heav'n's all gracious king." The world in solemn stillness lay To hear the angels sing.

Stil through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled, And still their heav'nly music floats O'er all the weary world. Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hov'ring wing, And ever o'er its babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low, Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow; Look now, for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing; Oh, rest beside the weary road And hear the angels sing!

For Io! The days are hast'ning on, By prophets seen of old, When with the ever-circling years Shall coe the time foretold, When peace shall over all the earth

# Its ancient splendors fling. And all the world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876 Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900 All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Like Mary, we believe in cherishing good news. Like the angels, we believe in singing God's praise. Like the shepherds, we believe that God's presence in our life is something worth talking about. Like generations before, we believe that God is with us. Like the generations to come, we believe that God is with us. God is here. God is here. God is love. We believe. Thanks be to God!

#### **CREATIVE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

In prayer we bring our words to God. We bring our thoughts and our feelings, bundled together like flowers in a jar. Sometimes those prayers are silent. Sometimes those prayers are written and sometimes those prayers are spoken out loud. No matter how they come into being, God hears our words and holds them close.

Trusting that, let us turn to God in prayer. Today we are going to engage in a creative prayer of the people. Today instead of lifting up pre-written prayers, we long to lift up each voice.

Friends, may we draw closer to God. May we offer up our prayers now. Let us pray...

Silence for writing our prayers

As our prayers are gathered together, we pray Holy God of candlelight and open doors,

#### God of tables and feasts,

God of holly and of ivy,

### we give you our prayers.

Like pennies shaken loose from our pockets,

we turn over every corner of our hearts to give you our truth through

# prayers of gratitude,

prayers of fear,

# prayers of peace

prayers of grief.

#### Prayers of hope

Prayers for self and others

#### **Prayers of love**

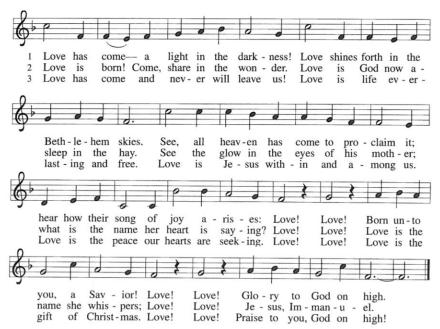
Receive them all and hold us close on this Christmas morning, for today, especially today, we long to feel you near.

With gratitude and joyful hearts we pray. Amen.

#### OFFERING

# ANTHEM: "In the Bleak Midwinter" #294

# **OFFERING SONG "Love has come"**



292

sung by Adult Choir

# **OFFERING PRAYER**

God with us: You came as a baby to a manger. You slept on straw and greeted shepherds. You come again in bread and wine. Remind us how good you are at blessing ordinary things. And then, through these gifts, help us to bless the lives of others in the strength of your holy name. Amen.

#### **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

The bread and wine we're about to share joins us to the people throughout history and across the world who have come to this meal in search of life. Just as Jesus' birth was for the whole world this bread and wine is for everyone for the hungry for the lost for those who search and those who are found for those who question and those who know peace this is bread and wine for everyone.

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world, for your promises to your people, and for the life we know in Jesus Christ your son. Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Leading his followers, he guides us. Dying on the cross, he loves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life.

On the night before Jesus died...do this, in remembrance of me. We pray, God of love, that you will

# send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here: that we and these signs, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world. Amen.

# LORD'S PRAYER

And so, remembering all that we have been given, we are bold to pray...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Heed the call of the angels, revel in the glory of Jesus revealed, and come with haste to the table of Christ to share in the feast of heavenly food. God prepares this meal just for you. **Thanks be to God!** 

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

Carol: "What Feast of Love"

487

What feast of love is offered here, What banquet come from heaven? What food of everlasting life, What gracious gift is given? This, this is Christ the king,

The bread come down from heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, What covenant from heaven? What hope of everlasting life, What wondrous word is given? This, this is Christ the king,

The sun comes down from heaven? Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!

# What wine of love is offered here, What crimson drink from heaven? What stream of everlasting life, What precious blood is given? This, this is Christ the king, The sweetest win of heaven. Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB., b. 1939 Music: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent. Text © 1993 Delores Dufner, admin. OCP Publications All rights reserved. Used with permission. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #734594-A.

# **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

#### BENEDICTION

Friends, for generations, God has been drawing near to us. Over and over, year after year, Christmas has filled people with hope and with joy.

Friends, before you leave, I remind you to grab a prayer from one of the baskets by the door. Allow this anonymous exchange of prayers to feel like an extension of this circle, and to feel like an extension of God's presence in your life. Cherish this prayer this week and know that someone else is praying for you.

Now, let us share this benediction: From generation to generation, **God keeps drawing near.** From generation to generation, **a light has shone in the darkness.** From generation to generation, **God's love has moved through the world** So may we celebrate that. **May we rest in the joy of this day, and may we allow it to change us.** And now may the Lord....Holy Spirit **Amen.**  HYMN: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

**Refrain:** 

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. Refrain

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

#### DISMISSAL

Merry Christmas! Go in peace. God is with you every step of the way. Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "Joseph est Bien Marie" by Jean-Claude Balbastre



# Worship Notes

Service was adapted by Pastor Jen from a service created by A Sanctified Art LLC. It is a collective of artists in ministry who create resources for worshiping communities. The Sanctified Art team works collaboratively to bring scripture and theological themes to life through film, visual art, curriculum, coloring pages, liturgy, graphic designs, and more. Their mission is to empower churches with resources to inspire creativity in worship and beyond. Driven by the connective and prophetic power of art, they believe that art helps us connect our hearts with our hands, our faith with our lives, and our mess with our God. Learn more about their work at sanctifiedart.org. @sanctifiedart | sanctifiedart.org | contact@sanctifiedart.org

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# SCHEDULED TO SERVE Sunday, December 25 9:30 AM Kathie Ruhs

**WELCOME VISITORS!** Please sign the guest register and complete a Record of Communion card.

**PARENTS OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN:** We cherish the presence of our youngest members at worship. Restless or unhappy children can be taken to the Narthex, where worship can be heard over speakers. You are welcome to move in and out of the sanctuary as needed. Busy bags with age-approriate activities are available for our youngest worshippers. Please return these at the end of the service.

# Poinsettias & Wreath decorating Nave are given by:

• Adam Rubin wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

• Barbara Roden in loving memory of Erich Roden, Ethel and Carl Moebis and Sophie Roden.

- Bill Rieg in memory of his wife, Sylvia Rieg.
- Bruce and Barbara Markert in gratitude for God's many blessings.
- Carol and Fred Fendt and family in memory of their parents and grandparents and in gratitude for God's many blessings
- Claire Brusie in loving memory of Elting Brusie, Barbara Keogh and the Brusie, Moser, Heinrich Families.
- Don and Joanne Icken in memory of William Goscinski.
- Dorothy Kafalas in loving memory of Patti Kafalas, departed member of the Rencken family and in honor of the birthdays of Dan and Howard.
- Emmy Curcuruto in gratitude for God's many blessings.
- *Florence Rothenberger in memory of all her dearly departed loved ones.*

• Franklyn and Mary Beth Commisso in memory of Frank and Elsie Commisso, Albert and Frances Jerry and gratitude for God's small creatures.

- Georgina Mareck in memory of her parents and sister.
- Halsey Tuthill, Ciaran, Carrie, Fiona and Ciaran James Coiffi in memory of Harold and Anna Schaller and Elaine M. Tuthill.
- James J. Yessian in loving memory of his wife of fiftyeight years Dorothy P. Yessian, who he thinks of always.

• Julius Cesare in loving memory of Carolyn Cesare and all deceased family members.

- Kathie Ruhs and family in loving memory of Larry Ruhs and her sister Carol Evans.
- *Laurie and Peter Bell in memory of all their loved ones who have gone on ahead of them.*
- Marílyn and Neil Platt in gratitude for God's many blessings.

 Mark and Kathleen Harpster in gratitude for God's many blessings  Pam and Fred Carlson in gratitude for God's many blessings.

Pat Wills in memory of Rose and Chester Stiles.

 Philip and Donyce DeRoberts in memory of Esther DeRoberts and Mary Langford.

• Susan and Michael Stringer and family in gratitude for God's many blessings.

- The Bertone Family in loving memory of Linda *Fitzgerald*.
- The Johnson/Zhang Family in gratitude for God's many blessings.

• The Sergio Family in memory of William, Elsie and Hedy McCloskey and Andrew and Dorothy Sergio.

Poinsettias may be picked up after service on Christmas day and during that week, any not taken will be delivered to shut- ins/nursing homes after Christmas.



# WORSHIP SERVICES — DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

Saturday, Dec 24, Family Service with Communion, 4:00 PM Saturday, Dec 24, Candlelight Service with Communion, 8:00 PM Sunday, Dec 25, Christmas Day Service with Communion, 9:30 AM Sunday, Jan 1, Lessons & Carols with Communion, 9:30 AM Sunday, Jan 8, Holy Communion, 9:30 AM Sunday, Jan 15, Service of the Word, 9:30 AM Sunday, Jan 22, Holy Communion, 9:30 AM Sunday, Jan 29, Holy Communion, 9:30 AM

The organ prelude and preparatory time for worship begins approximately ten minutes before each service.

A complete calendar can be found at <u>www.trinitybrewsterny.org</u>

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS:** To add a name to Trinity's prayer list, please complete a request form located in the pew and place it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. To update the list, please contact the church office: trinlutheranoffice@ yahoo.com; 845-279-5181.

**THE 2022 FLOWER CHART** is up. To donate flowers, please print your name and phone number next to the date you would like, and Kathie Ruhs, a Flower Fund Secretary, will be in touch. Thank you for helping to beautify our sanctuary.

**ANNUAL REPORTS** are due on or before Friday, January 6, 2023. Please e-mail them to the office or drop a hard copy off in the staff mailbox. If you need a copy of your report from last year, also email the office: trinlutheranoffice@yahoo.com

The cut-off date for 2022 contributions is December 31, 2022.

Please pick up your 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES in the narthex.

Annual Congregation Meeting, January 29, 2023, 10:30 AM In order to be a voting member of Trinity Lutheran Church, you must contribute once and receive Holy Communion here once a year. To ensure that our records are accurate in 2022:  ✓ If you wish to contribute to multiple funds in the same week, please mark your contribution accordingly, including General Fund, Mortgage, Building Improvement, or Festival Music.

**RECORD OF COMMUNION:** All members and visitors, each week before going up to receive Holy Communion, please complete a RECORD OF COMMUNION CARD and hand it to an usher on your way up. PLEASE PRINT. We keep these records primarily to accurately determine eligible voting members (confirmed members who, during the current or preceding calendar year to a specific congregation meeting, have communed and have made a contribution of record to this congregation).

Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Statement: As a people of God, we desire to experience the presence of God in our lives that we might be the presence of God in the lives of others. Trinity Lutheran Church 2103 Route 6, Brewster, NY 10509; 845-279-5181; www.trinitybrewsterny.org; Office Hrs: M-F, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Reverend Jennifer Boyd, Pastor: <u>revjedyer1@yahoo.com;</u> 845-279-5181 Charles A. Germain, Jr. and Dorothy R. Kafalas: Deacons Franklyn W. Commisso, Ph.D.: Minister of Music Sue Ellen Kelly, Office Admin: TrinLutheranOffice@yahoo.com Peter Donoghue, Council President Members of Trinity: Ministers to the Community & World **Website:** http://trinitybrewsterny.org Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-Brewster-NY-160570420670756</u>. YouTube:

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