

## **Sharing Christmas with Refugees**

This year at Trinity the Mission Committee hopes to collect gifts for newly arrived refugees. Last year we collected generic household goods for new arrivals. This year we are going to ask specifically for gifts for 40 newly arrived refugees from the Congo and Burma. These immigrants are pretty much in need of everything, having arrived in America with only what they were wearing. They have never lived in our winter climate, so warm clothing is very much appreciated. These folks celebrate Christmas, so we want everything at the church by Dec. 16 in order to have the gifts wrapped and everything delivered to USCRI in plenty of time. For gifts, we will want to provide new things, but they are accepting used items as well; these folks need everything. Several lists of possible items are available on the Bulletin Board in the Annex, including a list for a Burmese family of 5 for whom we are supplying Christmas gifts - the suggestions are on the bulletin board. Please bring all items UNWRAPPED.

### **Gift items:**

Socks – men’s, women’s, children of all sizes  
Toys for children under 3 years  
Stuffed animals  
Packages of white, unscented bath soap  
Rice cookers  
Twin sheets and/or blankets or towels

### **Household Items and clothing needed:**

Winter coats, hats, gloves for adults and children of all sizes. These items can be new or gently used.  
Household items: all kinds of cleaning supplies (preferably unscented if possible) – for example – laundry soap, bathroom cleaners, window cleaners, kitchen cleaners, mops and brooms.  
Children’s winter clothing for boys/girls in sizes 2T – 4T and sizes 5 – 14. These clothes can be gently used. SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR MUST BE NEW. ALL USED ITEMS SHOULD BE IN EXCELLENT (LIKE NEW) CONDITION.

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### More Upcoming December Events

Come celebrate Advent at Trinity's **Annual Potluck Dinner Sun., Dec. 16 at 5:00pm.** Advent Angels\* will be revealed and there will be a Christmas performance by the children. In the spirit of a traditional potluck, please bring one of your favorite dishes to serve at least 8 people. For hot dishes, please use 2 large aluminum pans that are available in the annex. Deacons will provide beverages and pizza to round out the meal. Chef Nicki has graciously offered to supply dessert. Sign up in the annex or email Louise Gundrum at Louise.gundrum@gmail.com by Thurs., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> if you plan to come. Any questions, please call 374-5169. Many hands make light work, so please also sign up to help with set up or clean up if you can. Join us for this always enjoyable time of community and celebration!

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\*Wondering what **Advent Angels** are? This is a Trinity tradition started many years ago, to help connect adults in the congregation with children who are not necessarily related to them. Each Sunday of advent, the adult writes a short anonymous note to the child, telling them about how they celebrated Christmas as a child, or what their favorite Christmas tradition is now, or a favorite Christmas carol, etc. The children are given their notes in Sunday School. At the Advent dinner, Christmas card pictures are used to help the children find their "Angel," and we usually take some pictures. This year, there will only be 3 Sundays before the "reveal" at the Advent Dinner . . . when that's happened before, sometimes the adults write another note, and sometimes, the children use that opportunity to write back! Angels for this year have been assigned, but see Melissa Peterson if you have questions for next year!

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On **Tues., Dec. 18, at 7 PM** we will be holding a **Blue Christmas** service. Blue Christmas acknowledges that for some, or maybe all of us from time to time, the Holiday season can be a time of sadness and increased loneliness and grief. See Kathy Gorman-Coombs for further information.

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