



Trinity Team

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 10014 81 Avenue
 Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8
 Phone: (780) 433 1604
 Email: trinityedmonton@uniserve.com
 Website: www.trinity-lutheran.ab.ca

December 2012

“O Lord, how shall I meet you”



“Rocking around the Christmas tree... So this is Christmas... Jingle bells... I saw mommy kissing Santa Clause...”. Have you been shopping lately? I went out to buy groceries yesterday and what did I hear? Christmas songs. Every store you enter plays them. Christmas is all around, wherever you look. You see the decorations and hear the songs wherever you go. The radio stations start their holiday program now and we start to prepare ourselves for Christmas Day.

But what does it mean to prepare ourselves? Is it about decorating our houses or playing Christmas music all day long? That is an important part for most of us, I’m sure, but I think to prepare for the arrival of Jesus Christ takes a little more than that. This Sunday we will celebrate the first of Advent (lat: *adventus* – arrival). We will start our new church year with a season of waiting and preparing. We have four weeks of Advent before we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. Four weeks to think about what it means for us and how we want to receive this great gift from God.



Receiving and giving – that is the topic of this *TEAM*, so what is more fitting than to think about how we receive Jesus, and what we give because of this gift.



A hymn that comes to mind is: “*Wie soll ich dich empfangen – O Lord, how shall I meet you*” by PAUL GERHARDT. It is an

Advent hymn that talks about preparations to receive the son of God, and what it means for us to meet him.

Advent is a time of self-reflection and of listening. We are reflecting on what we are

doing in our lives, how we are telling the good news, and whether we are living the way Jesus wants us to live. We are listening because if we want to prepare for the birth of God’s son, we want to hear what God has to say to us. So actually the period of Advent should be a time in the year when we can pause and focus. But usually this is a time where we are especially busy.

Every year I try again to get a few moments to focus and pause and to think about the importance of Christmas. What does it mean for us; what does it mean for me that Christ was born? The Child of



hope and comfort, of peace and freedom, of love and joy came to earth to save us. He came to earth to give us hope, comfort, joy, love, peace and freedom. Do I feel that?

Preparing for the arrival of Jesus Christ means taking the time of Advent seriously, as a time of waiting, pausing and preparing.

Taking some time in Advent to think about Paul Gerhardt’s question “*O Lord, how shall I meet you*” is one way to prepare. At the same time we should keep in mind that the arrival of Jesus in this world is a gift from God. Nothing we can do would stop God from giving his son into our world. We receive Jesus Christ as a gift from God.

But how to receive God’s gift, or in Paul Gerhardt’s words: “*O Lord, how shall I meet you?*”

Mary Jo Leddy is the founder of Romero House, a temporary shelter for refugees in Toronto. If we asked her about Gerhardt’s Advent hymn, she probably would say that

...see **How Shall I Meet You** - page 2

Inside this issue:

Reflections	
• Oh Lord how shall I meet you	1
• Receiving, Giving and Deaning	2
• Bishop’s message	3
• Much to be Thankful for	4
• Current staffing	5
• My Job	5
Called into Worship	
• Worship Opportunities	6
• Here we come a caroling	
Called into Learning	
• Justice in a coffee cup	7
Called into Giving	
• Alternate Gift Guide	10
Our Church Family	
• Trinity Community Garden Update	8
• A New Mental Image of God	9
• News from Mulhurst	11
Comings, Goings, Celebrations	12
Looking Ahead	



How shall I meet you (Continued from page 1)

searching for the right answer has changed her life. "O Lord, how shall I meet you?" How to meet Jesus? How to meet Jesus in the stranger? How to meet people bruised and battered from all over the world? At Romero House she was challenged to consider her attitude towards foreigners again and again. She decided to welcome the stranger. She decided to be open to what is new and different. She decided to treat each refugee with dignity and respect. She began her work as a kind of caretaker and outreach worker, but soon, very soon she discovered, that she was about to change. She not only opened her home, but also her heart to the strangers. She listened, learned, changed. She became a good neighbour, a friend sometimes. But it was not only about her. As Mary Jo Leddy wrote: "In time you both change. In time, you are both transformed in your heart, your mind, your moral imagination. In time, you become neighbours." The neighbourhood around Romero House changed. People accidentally living in the same area became neighbors by caring for the newcom-

ers. They received more than they had expected to receive and were able to be more compassionate than they had expected to be. "It takes a neighbourhood to welcome a refugee, it also takes a stranger to summon a neighbourhood."

"O Lord, how shall I meet you?" How do we welcome the newcomer, the stranger at Trinity Lutheran Church? How to we welcome the homeless person? How to meet Jesus in the stranger? Are we willing to receive the newcomer and the stranger as a gift from God? Isn't it the one who needs us who summons us to become the church of Christ? Advent is a time of self-reflection and of listening. We are reflecting about what we are doing in our lives, how we are telling the good news and if we are living the way Jesus wants us to live. Advent is a time to receive and to give...grace.

Yours in Christ.

Pastor in training Indra Grasekamp and
Pastor Ingrid Doerschel

Mary Jo Leddy. *The Other Face of God: When the Stranger Calls us Home*. Published by Orbis Books, Maryknoll, 2011.

Receiving, Giving, and "Deaning"

As many of you know, in October 2011 I was elected "dean" of the Northern Conference of our synod. Over the years Trinity has received support from the synod through former deans of the conference. Now I am taking a turn being a leader among the pastors and congregations of the Northern part of our church family, giving back to the synod on your behalf, so to speak. Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), as you may know, has five synods, each with a bishop, and our synod of Alberta and the Territories has five conferences. Our Northern Conference extends north from Edmonton all the way to Yellowknife and Whitehorse. There are 38 congregations spread across this vast area and about 65 pastors and diaconal ministers, including a number of people working in care homes or other institutions as well as retirees. The dean is elected from among the rostered clergy for two years, on a renewable term, to give regional assistance to the bishop and other synod leadership in a pastoral and administrative role.

One of the most joyful parts of my work as dean is the installation of new pastors in congregations. This usually involves preparing a sermon and sometimes considerable travel, such as to Trinity Church in Whitehorse in August, as well as spending Saturday or Sunday afternoon with that congregation. So far I have conducted 6 installations. Another is planned for November 9th at Grace Lutheran in Edson, and one for January 6th at New Life Chinese Lutheran in Edmonton. It is a joyful thing to be able to give some of my time and encouragement to another pastor and congregation in transition. It is also an opportunity to show that as a congregation they are not isolated from the rest of the body of Christ. We receive from and give to each other.

Another part of my work as dean is to conduct an exit inter-

view with the pastor and church council when a pastor is leaving a congregation, and to prepare a report for the synod records. This helps in the "closure" of a pastor's ministry and in the move to a new chapter in the congregation's life, as it prepares for the call process.

Furthermore, I encourage pastors to take part in monthly cluster meetings and seek the fellowship of colleagues. Last, not least, I spend some time offering pastoral care to pastors and congregations as needed.

The word *dean* comes from New Testament Greek. It is related to *deacon* and means 'servant'. The German word *dienen* ('to serve') apparently comes from the same root. To take a turn at "dienen" or "deaning" means to give what one has received. As Christians we give what we have first received: our time, our talents and our possessions, signs of God's gracious love. None of us can serve out of our own strength. And as we share what God has given us, we show others that they too do not have what they have from themselves. We point them to God.

At Christmas we remember the great gift of God's own Son. God gives himself to us in Jesus, the son of Mary, who said "I am the servant of the Lord". She received the baby, and she gave birth to the Saviour. This is the pattern for the Christian life: to receive and to give, always in that order.

As you can see, there is quite a bit of work involved in being a "dean". However, as I remind myself of what I have received, and continue to receive day after day from God through the people around me, including you, the people of Trinity, it becomes for me a joy and a privilege.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Markus Wilhelm

Bishop's Message

It is with profound humility and gratitude to God that I write to you as Bishop-Elect. My experience of our recent Special Synod Convention was one of incredible affirmation and encouragement, as well as of a unity of spirit mindful of our past, aware of our present and ready to journey together into God's future.

Since the Special Synod Convention I have appreciated your emails, telephone calls, cards and expressions of support, including sharing that in several congregations the covenant shared at the Special Convention was spoken together during Sunday worship (available on the Synod website). Continue to pray for me. Continue to pray for our Synod staff. Continue to pray for discernment, wisdom and courage.

Following the Special Convention one of the Deans asked if I might prepare a bit of a biography to share with you, including the core values and mission which I identified and by which I seek to live and serve. So, here goes:

I was baptized, confirmed and ordained at Valhalla Lutheran Church in Valhalla Center (north-west of Grande Prairie). Raised on a farm with an identical twin brother (I am the eldest by twenty minutes!) and three younger sisters I learned firsthand, through the modeling of my parents and of others in the farm and faith communities, the gift of servanthood – of people reaching out to one another in care and respect and love.

My life has been shaped by the themes of service, community and of sharing the stories of faith. Many people, key events, and experiences have fashioned my focus in life and in ministry: to engage, empower and equip – the community of faith – the baptized people of God – through Word and sacrament – to live out faith in service and in action in every aspect of life by using the gifts that God has given.

In the past years journeying to Mexico with youth and adults, and most recently of journeying with youth and adults to Colombia and our Companion Synod I have experienced anew the significance of gracious hospitality and welcome, of great joy in the gift of family and of community, of deep deep faith, and of the importance of relationships and relational ministry.

Core values for me are servant-leadership, affirmation and involvement as I seek to engage, empower and equip the people of God.

As a child and youth I was regularly involved in our community of faith through Christian education, choirs, youth group and as a musician leading congregational song beginning at an early age. Following High School I enrolled in the Bachelor of Music program fully intending on performing and teaching the piano – the call to ordained ministry was always in the back of my mind, however. My mother tells the story that I announced that I was going to be a Pastor when I was four years old.

After my first year of studies (which included 6-8 hours of practice per day) one of my hands went numb – a long and pain-filled story – and my piano performance career was over. But in the midst of this painful life change I sensed the Spirit of God at work and I enrolled at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute (CLBI) in Camrose to study and seek God's will.

It was there that my eyes caught sight of an alto in the choir, Cathy Wig, and we were married in 1983. Cathy is a wonderfully gifted woodworker; she loves crafts, music and organizing. She is an exceptional caregiver.

We are parents to four children: Paul (soon to be 26), Matthew (24), Anna (soon to be 22) and Jordan (soon to be 19) whose lives have greatly enriched our own. It is a gift to us that our home includes a "revolving door" where our children, family and friends are welcomed and blessed on their journeys.

Following two years at CLBI I enrolled at the University of Alberta, Augustana Campus (at that time Camrose Lutheran College) and was a member of the first graduating class with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music and Psychology in 1985. I entered Lutheran Theological Seminary in Saskatoon in 1985 and graduated with a Master of Divinity degree in 1989. In 2008 I graduated from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies, Florida, with a Doctoral of Worship Studies degree where my doctoral thesis focused on renewing baptismal spirituality.

I have been blessed to serve with and among the people of Bethany Lutheran Church, Dickson (1989-1993), Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lethbridge (1993-2002) and Ascension Lutheran Church, Edmonton (2002-2010), and as Assistant to the Bishop (beginning August 2010).

I am grateful for the call extended to me to serve as Bishop and I am excited about beginning this new ministry with and among you. I am deeply appreciative of your prayers. And I hope that you are able to join me in the Service of Ordination, Saturday, January 26, 2013, 2pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ: *The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).*

In Christ Jesus –
Shalom,

Larry

Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer
Bishop-Elect

Synod of Alberta and the Territories
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



Standing Ovation for our newly elected Bishop at
Special Synod Convention - Oct 27, 2012

Photo by Rev. Michael Wellman

Much to be Thankful For

*Faithful preaching, loving witness.
 Life, family, music, but above all, God's love!!!
 ...for the church community.
 Enjoy the leadership at Trinity! Thanks.
 A congregation that has welcomed
 me with open arms. Tack!*



Efforts to help the homeless, the depressed and the mentally ill. God bless.



Thanks to our Lord for he is good and his mercy endures forever!



...ich auf deutsch an einem Gottesdienst teilnehmen kann.

God bless Trinity! God bless the congregation, God bless the destitute and the mentally ill.

...dass Gott hier durch viele verschiedene Menschen wirkt!

...this Christian family.



...for our beautiful sanctuary and all facilities.

...every living thing.

...many memories, married here 44 years ago, and was a member before this! Children baptized and confirmed here. Oma & Opa, Jakob & Sophie members here, as well my parents, Julius & Alma.



...für die Freunde in der Kirche.

...that Trinity has given me a spiritual home.

For health, family and friends.

I am thankful for good, God-fearing people.



I am thankful for the love of Jesus, the grace of God and the community of the Holy Spirit.

...stained glass windows.

...für unsere Pastoren.



Trinity = 110 years strong. And still going strong!

Current staffing at Trinity

By Andrea Wilhelm

As you may remember, in 2012 Trinity lost two of its staff members: Diaconal Minister Karen Triomphe left us at the end of December 2011, and Church Secretary Monika Mischke resigned when she returned to Germany in April, 2012. Karen Goldstone-Friedrich came on board in January as interim Faith-Life-Coordinator and has been doing a wonderful job. In October, I came on board as Parish Manager, and in November, Judith Reissner joined us as Church Secretary. We thought you would be interested in how the work is divided up between us.

First, let me point out that one full-time and one $\frac{3}{4}$ time position have been replaced with three $\frac{1}{2}$ time positions or less: Karen works 16 hours/week, Judith and I both work 20 hours/week. No money is available for overtime. This reduction in hours is a consequence of the 2012 budget, which was approved at the 2012 Annual Meeting.

In practical terms, this means that there has been a reduction in office hours. Judith is our "front woman" at the office; many of you have already encountered her friendly presence. The office is open when she is there, except that she has one extra hour a week to get things done without distractions (remember, there is no overtime pay). The office is open 19 hours/week: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9am - 1pm, Wednesday 9am - 4pm. Judith handles phone calls, the mail, emails, faxes, and visitors that come to the office. This includes people in need, for example, providing emergency food to homeless people. Judith also handles donations and many other money matters in the office (working closely with Trudy Davis), is learning how to do the bulletins, does paperwork for weddings, funerals, and baptisms, photocopying, distributes committee minutes and reports, orders office supplies, and does a million other things. She has only been at Trinity a short time and is mastering a steep learning curve with gusto.

Karen G. and myself are working mainly behind the scenes. One way to make sense of our positions is to think that Karen Triomphe's position has been divided in two: One ministry position and one administration position. Karen is the "ministry" person: She is working with groups and individuals in the church, supporting them, and ensuring that ministry happens, be that Sunday School, Youth Group, the preparation of the Communion table at English worship services, or our Anniversary Banquet. Please read Karen's article "My Job" (below) for more information.

I am the "administration" person. I supervise the secretary and the facility contract staff. For the first two months, I have been getting to know the various people, groups and events that happen at Trinity in a given week or month, training Judith on the computer and other office tasks, chairing staff meetings, and attending committees and council meetings. And there are lots of jobs that fall under "other duties" in my contract. To mention a few: If the snow is not being cleared, I am the one to phone our snow removal contractor. I collected subscriptions for the Canada Lutheran. I give out keys and security codes. I helped track down a 2012 confirmation picture for our archives. I negotiate with groups that want to use our church and make recommendations to Council. Last week I made numerous phone calls to get a reference for one such group. However, I would say that my main areas are communication and coordination. I am heavily

involved in creating the content of the bulletin (announcements part), *TEAM* newsletter, monthly calendar, and I am the main person looking after the website (check out the new calendar feature under "News & Notes/Aktuell!"). I also want to make sure committees, staff and Council know what each are doing and don't duplicate or cross efforts (still learning how to do that ...). Overall, my goal is to create effective, transparent structures suitable for the 21st century, and to empower staff and council to determine and pursue the mission of Trinity.

Trinity is fortunate to have highly motivated staff (this includes our musicians and pastors), who always strive to do their best. We also need your support, not only financial compensation, but sharing information with us, *constructive* criticism, prayer, forgiveness, and lending us a helping hand so we don't overwork ourselves. I want to thank all of you for having welcomed us with open arms and a friendly, encouraging smile. I want to thank in particular Trudy Davis for being a go-to person with questions, and the people who have graciously volunteered to staff the office occasionally, for example, when we need to meet as staff: Sieg Donadt, Betty Rost, Dolores Niederhaus-Zurawell, Christine LeBlanc, Kosmas Dörschel, Nowlane Milner. This is an invaluable support – thank you!

MY JOB

by Karen Goldstone-Friedrich

Many people have asked me what I do as the Faith-Life Coordinator at Trinity. That isn't an easy question to answer. When I was first asked almost a year ago, I answered "anything that needs to be done that doesn't seem to fit into anyone else's job description". Over the last few months with the hiring of an administrator, I have been able to cross off some of the things I used to be responsible for. It is so nice not to be the go-to person for the security system, or other facilities questions. What has remained is mostly related to people.

The majority of what I do can be summarized by "helping, connecting and supporting people", primarily people who volunteer at Trinity. Whether it is supporting the Fellowship Group in organizing special events like the Anniversary BBQ, helping the Sunday School teachers have the resources and support they need to teach, being a go-to person for the Youth, or supporting the Leaf Groups, I have had some role. Potlucks and special events, the Christmas pageant, or The Seder Meal, I am behind the scenes helping the volunteers as they need it.

The topic of this *TEAM* is "giving and receiving". I don't think one can evaluate effectively what one gives to others. In my experience I can give something that I think is deep and meaningful, only to realize later it wasn't what was needed. Likewise I can give something which seems minor to me, but later find out it had lasting impact. I will look back, I imagine, on my experience at Trinity in a similar way; only over time will I know what I have given and received. In the meantime, I do know that I am grateful for the privilege of working at Trinity, the grace people have shown me, and the satisfaction of working on a team of wonderful staff and committed volunteers. It is my hope I have given out of the abundance of mercy and grace that I have received from the Lord.

Called into Worship

Come, praise the Lord - Psalm 134:1-2

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Holden Evening Prayer in Advent:

Wednesdays - December 5, 12, 19 - 7:00 PM

Regular Advent Services:

Sundays—December 2, 9, 23 at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Weihnachtsfeier der Trinetten/des Männerkreises

Tuesday December 11th, 1:00 PM

(German Christmas Celebration)

Christmas Pageant:

Sunday - December 16 - **10:30 AM** - Combined Service

-- Followed by pot luck lunch, decorating the Christmas Tree and the annual Advent fair

Christmas Eve Services - Monday - December 24:

4:00 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service

6:00 PM - German Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

8:00 PM - English Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Christmas Day - Tuesday - December 25:

9:30 AM - German Christmas Day Service (with communion)

11:00 AM - English Christmas Day Service (with communion)

Sunday - December 30

9:30 AM - German, 11:00 AM - English

New Year's Eve: Monday - December 31

5:00 PM - German New Year's Eve Service

New Year's Day: Tuesday - January 1

11:00 AM - English New Year's Day Service

Come for a Champagne celebration following the services.

Epiphany: Sunday, January 6, 2013

9:30 AM - German, 11:00 AM - English

Installation of the Bishop:

Saturday - January 26, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Trinity

Ash Wednesday:

February 13 - 7:00 PM English Service

All are welcome!



Here We Come A-Caroling

Trinity's focus is Need-oriented Evangelism. The Church Health Team has been discussing the importance of evangelism, particularly in our increasingly secular society. An enjoyable way to share the "Good News" or to evangelize is through song, especially at Christmas time. The Church Health Team would like to revive the tradition of caroling. Anyone interested in participating is asked to meet at the church on Sunday, December 9th at 5:30 pm to pick up music, divide into groups and choose an area around the church in which to carol. Please bring your family (including children), relatives, friends and neighbors. Dress warmly and possibly bring a flashlight in order to see the words to the carols. The Church Health Team has prepared Christmas fliers which can be distributed at the same time. The groups will carol for approximately one hour or until the members feel chilly. Following the caroling, everyone is invited into Luther Center for a warm beverage. We are hoping for a good turnout so we can fill the community with song. It should be an evening of fun, fellowship and, most importantly, evangelism.

Your Church Health Team



Called into Learning

As I learn your righteous rulings, I will praise you with a pure heart. - Psalm 119: 7, 15, 130

JUSTICE IN A COFFEE CUP? TRINITY WILL NOW BE SERVING FAIRTRADE COFFEE

WHY FAIRTRADE COFFEE?

It is an unfair world. FAIRTRADE can make a difference.

Fundamental to Christian practice is caring for people who are poor and hungry. We live in a complex world and many factors influence why there is an extreme gap between rich and poor. It can be overwhelming to hear of famine, starvation and inequities around the world. We can support organizations, like Canadian Lutheran World Relief, that work to provide relief and sustainable development. We also have an impact on the poor in the world by how we participate in the marketplace.

Coffee is one of the most traded commodities on world markets and yet the majority of local coffee farmers and workers live in poverty. Most of the coffee-dependent workers worldwide are in the global South, especially in Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia, and Mexico. Small family farmers grow over 50% of the world's coffee and they are extremely vulnerable to the volatile international market. It takes four years for a coffee plant to yield fruit – making it very difficult for farmers to respond quickly to fluctuating market prices. As a result, they often have to sell to intermediaries for low prices.

Fair Trade certified coffee is changing that by providing a guaranteed minimum price, social and economic premiums, and much more.

The international standards for fairtrade coffee are:

A floor price of US\$1.40 per pound for Fairtrade certified washed Arabica coffee, and US\$1.35 for natural Arabica. The floor price for washed Robusta is US\$1.05, while that of natural Robusta is \$1.01. In all of these cases, if the market price is higher, farmers receive the market price.

A Fairtrade Premium of US\$0.20 per pound is added to the purchase price. The premium is used by producer organizations for social and economic investments at the community and organizational level.

An additional US\$0.30 differential is paid for coffee also



purchased as organic.

Producers are organized in co-operatives (or associations) which they own and govern. There is democratic decision-making and everybody has an equal right to vote.

The application of environmental standards restricts the use of agrochemicals and promotes sustainable agriculture.

Pre-harvest lines of credit are given to the co-operatives if requested, of up to 60% of the purchase price.

(Reference - www.fairtrade.ca)

Trinity will now serve FAIRTRADE coffee. FAIRTRADE coffee is comparable in price to quality coffee and even though it is about twice as expensive as regular grocery store brands, the cost for FAIRTRADE coffee is about 10 cents a cup. You can also enjoy “justice in a cup” at home or your place of work. FAIRTRADE coffee is available at Earth's General Store (82 Ave & 96 St) and Ten Thousand Villages (82 Ave & 104 St). Most grocery stores and shops where you buy retail coffee carry FAIRTRADE coffee – look for the FAIRTRADE logo.

The Fairtrade Mark appears on products that have been independently verified to meet credible Fair Trade standards.

Purchasing FAIRTRADE coffee makes a difference to local farmers and their quality of life. Choosing FAIRTRADE is one way of acting for justice.



DID YOU KNOW: In one year, a two-cup-a-day drinker of coffee will consume the annual harvest of 18 coffee trees.

Our Church Family

How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together like brothers and sisters - Psalm 133:1

Trinity Community Garden Update: Tomatoes & Junipers & Lasagna Gardening

by Andrea Wilhelm

Tomatoes: In the fall, we completed harvesting and processing all our vegetables. I particularly remember one day early in October when Phil and Frank, two homeless men, stopped by the church. I got talking with Phil, who had helped in the garden before, and he asked if there was anything to do now. This was a godsend, since we still had an abundance of cherry tomatoes that needed to be picked before the arrival of night frosts. So we went, armed with ice cream buckets, and started harvesting. There were more tomatoes than buckets! As we were working, we chatted, Phil shot the breeze as usual, Frank remarked how that was his first time picking tomatoes and how much he enjoyed it. I enjoyed it too! At the end we tore out the finished plants, and Phil - very practically - used a shopping cart to take them from the brick raised beds across the street to the compost bin. When we were done, Phil and Frank wanted to invite me for a coffee. I had had the same impulse, being so grateful for their help, and convinced them to let me make them some coffee in the church. I consider these men my friends now. On that day, they were a blessing to me and I to them.

Later that week Hanae and I sorted the tomatoes. The unripe ones went into the basement for ripening. The ripe ones were part of our Thanksgiving display and lunch. Since then, we have served tomatoes at Tuesday Community Dinners; the last ones, now also red, were cooked and served at the Nov. 27 dinner.

Junipers: On October 6, we had a workbee during which we prepared the garden for winter - and removed the junipers in front of the church! The volunteers from our congregation were joined by four people from the city's community garden organization, Sustainable Food Edmonton. I believe Phil was also there and helped. And boy, did we get busy: from digging the raised beds, to wielding shears and power saws, to going to the landfill. You should have seen how high Michael Kant's truck was piled with juniper! I would have thought it impossible.

But before we even started cutting down the junipers, we gathered in a circle for a prayer. We remembered all the people associated with this garden, from Margarete's mother, who had donated one of the junipers, to Walter Lotz, to us today, to the unknown person who had built a shelter there. After that prayer, I felt that even as we cut down healthy plants, we did it with respect and reverence.

Lasagna Gardening: On October 23, we had one last, small workbee. During this time we removed the juniper roots - Ernie Lotz had borrowed a truck, and with much

yanking on a chain and squealing of tires, and hacking and digging, the roots came out. Then we started amending the soil, using a no-till method called *lasagna gardening* or *sheet mulching*: We soaked the ground, covered it with cardboard, and then with layers of carbon (leaves, straw) and nitrogen (compost, rotted manure from the U of A farm). The layers will compost. At the same time, the grass under the cardboard will die and the cardboard will also decompose over time. The result, after a few months, will be continuous quality soil ready for planting. However, by the time we started all this, it was already quite late in the year: The water did not only soak the ground, it also froze on the sidewalk. As we shoveled compost and spread straw, snowflakes were flying. We were only half finished when it got too cold and dark to work. And a few days later, snow covered the ground! We postponed completion of the soil amendment to the spring. I also expect that the decomposing won't start in serious until the spring. But I hope that by May or June we will be ready to plant.

Future plans: We have undertaken steps to become an "official" community garden of the city. This has the advantage that we can apply for a grant (which we are in the process of doing), and that it forces us to reach out into the neighbourhood in an effective way. In January and February we will be knocking on doors, asking what kinds of gardening needs people have, and at the same time recruiting gardeners. By March we hope to have a first "AGM" (Annual General Meeting) of a core group of gardeners, during which we establish our own little constitution and board. This type of structure will ensure that the garden will have permanence even if one of us three instigators (Sylvia, Hanae, myself) for some reason drops out of the picture.

Other plans include slight expansion of the garden in the park, a public sign and a garden shed, also in the park. To cover the cost, we will be applying for a grant from Sustainable Food Edmonton.

In summary, let me say that this garden project continues to bless me with connections: deeper connections to other church members, connections with other gardeners and garden advocates in the city, and connections to people in the neighbourhood. I see it as fitting well within our priority of "need-based evangelism". And not the least among those who need the Good News am I. I have been receiving it in wonderful ways through this project.

(see pictures - page 9)

TOYING WITH A NEW MENTAL IMAGE OF GOD

By David Rust

The Bible gives pictures or metaphors of God; God as owner of a vineyard, God as a good Shepherd, God as a Farmer sowing his seed, or as a Farmer harvesting His crop. These are images which do not always register with me because I am not a shepherd, or a farmer.

I am a banker – have been for the past 30 years. I don't relate necessarily to shepherds and farmers.

In my (what seems to be a constant, and sometimes frustrating) search for a framework under which I can understand God, the universe, and everything, I have come up with the analogy below:

I am the junior partner in "Father, Son & Holy Spirit LLP - David Rust Division."

The Board oversees the operations of FSHS-DR. As junior partner I have input into the decision-making, and I am certainly involved in the implementation of policy decisions. Ultimately, the decisions are left to the senior partners of FSHS-DR. I am in a mature relationship with the Board, who listen to me intently, and take my input into the decisions that are made. But the final decision always resides with the Board. The Board can, but is not obligated to, disclose the reasons for any decision, but the Board will always act in the best interests of FSHS-DR.

I can choose to do what the Board decides, or I can do other than what the Board authorizes. But if I do act without the proper authorization, then I bear the consequences of being a "rogue trader". The Board will set out guidelines for me to follow, and certainly wants to be apprised of my take on life situations and problems. The Board is always at hand for me to approach with daily problems, but they will leave the implementation of decisions to me, even if I act in an unauthorized manner. As a junior

partner, I do a lot of the "grunt" work. The Board may let me "work things out", if the Board perceives that this will help in the promotion and growth of me, the junior partner.

The Board also has the option of directly intervening in any problem, but generally will leave me as junior partner to consider alternatives and bring these alternatives to the Board. The Board may offer suggestions of their own, but do not insist on the implementation of these suggestions, leaving implementation to me, the junior partner.

I sent a copy of this to my brother and sister for their comments, and their additions are below:

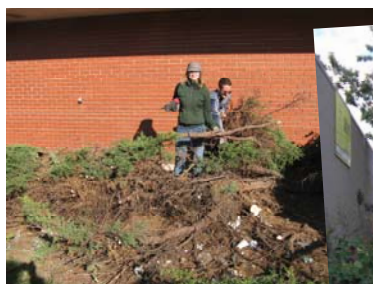
My brother replied:

The more you grow your relationship with the Board, the more frequent, informative, and detailed the e-mails received from the Board can be...not to mention how much less awkward the end-of-the-year Christmas Party will be.

My sister replied:

The Board is fully aware of the serious risks and pitfalls involved in the market. They share in the loss when it is experienced by the junior partner, but they are confident in the strength of the FSHS-DR to withstand those losses. In fact, it was so vital to the Board that they understand the extent of those losses, that a member of the Board took on the role of junior partner to better understand the risks and pitfalls at an experiential level. It is this shared experience that allows for such a close relationship between the Board and the junior partner.

This has been a very satisfying new image for me, and puts things into an order that I can relate to. I am grateful to the God who wants me to understand Him and will offer new metaphors to me to deepen a relationship with Him.



Called into Giving

Happy is the person, who is generous - Psalm 112: 5 & 9

Alternative Gift Guide

by Andrea Wilhelm

Last year, my daughter Ella gave me a pair of goats for Christmas. No, they are not in my back yard – they are somewhere in Africa. There they provide milk, manure for the garden, baby goats and, eventually, a nice roast. Ella could not have given me a better present. Really, I have everything I need. And I love animals, gardening, making food from scratch. So these two goats, even though I don't own them, are completely in my spirit, and I am very happy that somewhere out there a family gets to keep and benefit from them.



A pair of goats is just one of the many *Gifts from the Heart* that Canadian Lutheran World Relief offers. You can also give a mosquito net, a soccer ball and pump, a fuel-efficient stove, a medical kit, and so on. Their catalogues are available in the church, on the table across the office.

And there are many other "alternative" ways of giving at this time of year. In the church, we collect mittens, scarves, socks and gloves on the *mitten tree*. These items are especially needed right now by our homeless neighbours, and we will stock our care closet with them. Also in the atrium you will find the *Share Project*, through which we collect items for a Christmas delivery to a low-income family here in town.

Many city agencies are looking for donations at this time. Check out the *Bissell Centre's* online giving guide at <http://bissellcentregivingguide.org>. Also through the Bissel Centre, you can make a donation to the *Inner City Pastoral Ministry* (<http://artworksfour.com/wordpress/>), a unique interdenominational Christian ministry (started by Lutherans) downtown.

On Dec. 18, we have a *community Christmas meal* all day at the church (10am - 9pm). It will be run by the people from B's Diner across the alley, and many low-income neighbours will come. You are invited, too. Perhaps this will not be your only chance to eat turkey, but it will be a chance for you to "donate" your presence, your smile, and your listening ears, and to receive something unexpected in return.

But perhaps you really do want to give someone in your

life a tangible present. Then why not shop local, or fair trade? There are many locally-owned businesses on Whyte Ave, and *Audreys Books* (Jasper & 107 St) is Edmonton's last independent bookstore. *Earth's General Store* (also on Whyte) has an amazing assortment of environmentally-conscious products, from writing paper to lunch containers, to teas, to shampoo. It is a fascinating place to browse. There is also *10,000 Villages*, where you can buy beautiful fair trade ceramics, linens, jewelry, toys, musical instruments, and home decorations. All these businesses are in walking

distance or a short bus ride from the church. And, of course, there are the local farmers' markets and craft markets (including our own on Dec. 16!).

When I was a teenager, I often made presents for people. One year I made small candles for all my friends. That resulted, among other things, in a small, sweet poem of gratefulness. Even some homemade cookies or a thoughtfully written card speak volumes. The New Light Circle offers a craft opportunity tomorrow evening (7:30pm).

Thinking back to my youth, I also remember the worst presents: The "obligation presents", where a relative had given me something that I did not want or even like. For example, candy. (Yeah, I admit it, I don't like candy.) Such presents revealed that the giver did not know me well, and in my pragmatic mind I considered them a waste of money. I guess I was pretty ungrateful – those relatives still cared about me, they just did not know how to show it. But in the interest of all those kids out there who will have to say "thank you" no matter what they get: Why not ask them, or their parents, what they would enjoy? Why not spend a little bit of time with them, perhaps even at their house? Often that will give you an idea.

Finally, Advent and Christmas are also times to remember your congregation, Trinity. You may not support, or benefit from, all the things that happen here. But it is your faith community which you would like to continue to exist. So consider giving Trinity a Christmas present, too. And trust that even though you are giving to an imperfect human institution, it is also God's church, and God will bless you and your gift.



First Things First



imagine trying to change your life if you were hungry all the time.

Our Church Family

News from Mulhurst Camp – Trinity’s connection to outdoor ministry

December is the last month of our calendar year, and the first month of our new church year. The New Year is a time of reflection and also anticipation for what could be. That is how I feel about Mulhurst Camp. Looking back, it has been a year of changes and challenges, but most importantly, it has been a year with great stories of personal growth in faith, love and leadership.

On November 24/12, the 3rd Annual Mulhurst Fundraising Christmas Gala was held right here at Trinity. It was a festive evening, well attended by our Trinity members and raised over \$10,000.00 for the work of the camp. Thank you all for your support.

As the MC for that evening, I mentioned something called ‘Nature Deficit Disorder’ (NDD) and how this concerning phenomenon leads us to see the important role the camp plays in all aspects of growth and development of our children, as well as nurturing us as adults. The problem of NDD is actually an unwanted side effect of the electronic age. The term was coined by author Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods* in order to explain how our societal disconnect with nature is affecting today's children. Because we live in such a ‘plugged in’ culture it draws kids (and adults) indoors; children actually play less outdoors. There are claims now that this lack of routine contact with nature may result in stunted academic and developmental growth. The problem, as Louv describes it, is that the human brain is not quite ready for all this overstimulation. For some of us, especially children, they adapt, but very often there may be problems with attention both at school and at home, obesity, anxiety and even depression. Think about this: is it better to learn about ants researching them on a computer or lying in the grass watching them in action?

To take this concept one step further, nature is often where most of us connect to God. In God’s creation we see his handiwork, connect with what is real and true, to “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Mulhurst Camp is a place that can fill that need in all of us.

Our congregation has strong ties to Mulhurst Camp. This year, Julianne Watson and Lenea Becker were on summer staff. They worked hard, with a small staff and juggling multiple responsibilities. It was heart-warming to attend Wednesday evening worship this summer, which was open to anyone who wanted to spend a little time in creation, and hear campers and adults alike express their thanks for the patience and helpfulness of both these young ladies.

Many of our church members spent time at the camp this year.

- Our pioneers were out in full force in June to kick off the summer with the summer staff, just back from Joint Staff Training.
- Family camp was attended by some of our families – ask Wayne and Diane Pantzer, Sam, Rachel and Sarah about their experience.

- Vacation Bible School was relocated from our church to our camp for the first time. Ask Karen Goldstone and Gina if being at the lake for VBS was more exciting than staying in the city.
- Women’s retreat provided a great opportunity for women to connect as we explored Psalms and Songs.
- Men’s retreat lead by Joe Stolee and his sons provided what he called ‘a get-away with God’ which men don’t often take the time to do when they have such huge responsibilities on their plate.
- Confirmation retreats are available three different dates, and how much more engaging to learn about God and your personal faith by actually connecting with and being in God’s creation. Ask Pastor Ingrid about the workout she got at the Trinity confirmation retreat.
- Fall clean-up involved 26 teenage students from Edmonton Christian School, who came out and worked for two days on all kinds of service work, painting, wood chopping, creating wood bundles, removing the pier, stacking picnic tables, general winterizing. It was a blessing to have them, and as Jake Lange stated, “If I can help teach just one kid something they didn’t know before and they feel good about themselves and their contribution, I will have succeeded.”

The stories go on and on and I encourage you to share your story with one another. The best news is that the 2013 Program is hot off the press and you can pick up your copy in the atrium NOW! The theme for the year is “All Things New”. There will be many opportunities to use your skills and talent at the camp. Find out what and how you can serve, perhaps as a SIT (servant in training – if you have finished Grade 9), a summer staff member, a summer resource person, working in a clean-up crew, volunteering for committee work or as a board member. The possibilities are limited only by your creativity. Let God use your talents at the camp in 2013! See you at Mulhurst!

Darlene Schindel
Trinity Mulhurst Representative



Comings, Goings and Celebrations

Baptisms at Trinity:

Feb 5 –
 April 15 –
 April 22 –
 May 20 –
 June 17 –
 July 29 –
 Oct 7 –
 Nov 18 –

Confirmation, October 28th, 2012

Weddings at Trinity:

Feb 17 –
 April 14 –
 May 19 –
 May 26 –
 July 21 –
 Aug 25 –
 Sept 1 –
 Sept 2 –
 Sept 22 –
 Sept 29 –
 Oct 6 –



Deaths - Nov. 22, 2011 to Nov. 27, 2012:

Dec 10, 2011 –
 Dec 15, 2011 –
 Dec 19, 2011 –
 Jan 1, 2012 –
 Feb 6, 2012 –
 Feb 17, 2012 –
 Feb 17, 2012 –
 April 15, 2012 –
 May 19, 2012 –
 June 30, 2012 –
 July 16, 2012 –
 July 29, 2012 –
 July 29, 2012 –
 Aug 23, 2012 –
 Aug 27, 2012 –
 Oct 1, 2012 –
 Oct 5, 2012 –
 Nov 9, 2012 –

We also remember God's littlest children who died before being born:

Looking Ahead

Holden Evening Prayer in Advent:

Wednesdays - December 5, 12, 19 - 7:00 PM

Regular Advent Services:

Sundays—December 2, 9, 23 at 9:30 and 11:00 AM

Weihnachtsfeier der Trinetten/des Männerkreises

Tuesday December 11th, 1:00 PM

(German Christmas Celebration)

Christmas Pageant:

Sunday - December 16 - **10:30 AM** - Combined Service
 - followed by pot luck lunch, decorating the Christmas Tree and the annual Advent fair

Christmas Eve Services - Monday - December 24:

4:00 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service
 6:00 PM - German Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
 8:00 PM - English Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Christmas Day - Tuesday - December 25:

9:30 AM - German Christmas Day Service (communion)
 11:00 AM - English Christmas Day Service (communion)

Sunday - December 30

9:30 AM - German, 11:00 AM - English

New Year's Eve: Monday - December 31

5:00 PM - German New Year's Eve Service

New Year's Day: Tuesday - January 1

11:00 AM - English New Year's Day Service

Come for a Champagne celebration after the services.

Epiphany: Sunday, January 6, 2013

9:30 AM - German, 11:00 AM - English

Installation of the Bishop:

Saturday - January 26, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Trinity

The Trinity Team is a publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta. The Team is published 3-4 times a year - in August, in December, in February, and in May under the auspices of the Communications Committee. Next publication date: March, 2013. Deadline for submissions for next issue - February 24, 2013. The Team is intended to serve the members of Trinity Lutheran Church as a comprehensive communications tool. The editors welcome your comments or questions. Please submit all Team articles, information, comments or questions to: TrinityTeam@shaw.ca or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team © Trinity Lutheran Church, 2012 Source should be acknowledged if material reproduce in whole or in part.