



Trinity Team

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“Dave cooks the turkey” and other traditions

Soon and very soon ...I will be listening to one of my favourite Christmas stories again: Dave cooks the turkey. It is a story about Dave and his beloved wife Morley and a story about a promise: Dave promises his wife that he will take care of the Christmas dinner. But as it always happens (and I know about this phenomenon) - every year Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier and Dave realizes that he hasn't even remembered to buy a turkey, let alone defrost it. The result is a humoresques struggle to



beat all the odds and somehow get an unappetizing, frozen, and slightly scarred bird home and roasted in time. This story was written by Stuart McLean 1998 and since then he has told this story on every Christmas season broadcast of The Vinyl Cafe. Except two years ago when he changed tradition and broadcast another story – but a considerable number of letters and complaints convinced him to stick go back to his original story. We love our Christmas traditions, don't we? We have our Christmas family traditions and we have our Christmas church traditions. I don't know about you, but I don't want Christmas to ever change – Christmas evening without Silent night? Or the nativity story told differently? For many people Christmas is like “coming home”. Coming home to a place they know forever and where they have been known forever. “What does Christmas mean to you?” I asked a student. “Christmas means” she answered after thinking about it for a while, “Christmas means going home to a place I know very well, Christmas means the fragrance of

pinewood mixed with the smell of a turkey and festive music and family and food. Christmas means meeting friends after worship and reconnecting.” The world is changing rapidly and it seems that people are looking and longing for safe and well known places, places where they don't have to worry about changes. Well, Christmas time is here again and some things shall remain forever.

But when we don't want anything to ever change, we are, in fact, celebrating the greatest moment of change in human history. We are, in fact, celebrating a moment when God enters into history and nothing is ever the same after that.

Christmas means change. Mary, the mother of Jesus, knew that. The evangelist Luke tells us that she began to sing after the angel had told her that she would give birth to the savior of the world. And what a song it

is: God totally changes the order of things. God takes that which is on the bottom; God turns everything upside down, and puts the bottom on top and the top on the bottom. God revolutionizes the way we think, the way we act, and the way we live. God turns it upside down. The poor are put on the top; the rich are put on the bottom. It is a revolution; God's revolution. (Luke 1: 46 – 56). Some years later John will ask Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come” and Jesus will answer: “The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead raised and

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Christmas (Continued from page 1)

the poor have good news brought to them.” (Luke 4: 16 – 19) Christmas means change.

And for some of us Christmas means more than change. For some of us Christmas means a challenge. At the same time that we celebrate beauty and wonder, we carry with us the deaths of loved ones, and deep grief grips our hearts. At the same time that we celebrate this "family" holiday, we are aware of the brokenness of families. At the same time that we toast each other's good health, we are aware of those whose health is not good, those who carry the burden of illness.

We are waiting for a child to be born. This birth changed the world. God is revealed in a human body. God is revealed in flesh. God became a child and a child became God.

God does not exist as a thought, as a spirit only. God came to us as a child, with a body, with a nose, a mouth and ears, with feet and hands.

Who can really understand what this means for us? Since that night God knows all about the circumstances of

human life. Since that holy night God knows, really knows, what it means to have fear, to feel alone, to grieve, to be an outcast, to be pursued, to be in jail, to be tortured, to be killed. But he also knows what it means to have friends, to love and to be loved, to laugh and to enjoy life. All our images of a distant God are destroyed by the cry of the child born in Bethlehem. A child called Jesus Immanuel – God is with us. God is with us – in all our messes, in all the circumstances of our life. God is with us in our joyful, sad, happy, desperate colourful lives. Because he knows all about the circumstances of human life – since he was born as a child.

So let us wait – with patience and with prayer. Let us sing old and learn new songs. Let us think about things we may want to change and let's talk. Let's talk about what Advent and Christmas really might mean to us. Let us ignore the "Holiday season" and really wait for Christmas, when the "word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14).

Yours, Pastor Ingrid Doerschel

Bishop's Message for December 2011

In spite of the *sturm und drang* (translated "storm and stress") that continues to preoccupy us as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Synod of Alberta and the Territories in the wake of the National Convention's decisions in July, invariably life goes on. We rest in the faithful hope that nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 8:39) The human tendency is to wring our hands and wonder where God is in all of this. The answer, of course, is that God is where God always is: alive and at work in the midst of his world, in the midst of his people. Sometimes the revealed God (*deus revelatus*) seems for all the world like the hidden God (*deus absconditus*), but that is simply our failure to see God where God is. In those moments, when we feel God is absent, we have to walk by faith and not by sight.

In my devotional readings, I have recently discovered vignettes from Pastor Edmund Steimle (1907 – 1988), who at one time taught homiletics at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. I find some of his thoughts very salient, especially as we – seemingly mired in chaos – nevertheless enter Advent and the impending feast of the Incarnation. Steimle writes (in his book FROM DEATH TO BIRTH): "Perhaps we can be on the alert to hear the voice of God coming to us in the turmoil and change of the big problems around us. But not only in the big affairs of hu-



mankind and of nations that puzzle and perplex and horrify. In the common, in the trivial, in what we might consider the inappropriate moments to recognize the presence of God...coming to us. The whole world is alive with God's comings – quite literally! Advent [and Christmas] opens our eyes to the wonder that God keeps coming, entering into dialogue with us, to speak in love, where [and when] we least expect.... In the big, overbearing problems of a world in radical change, or in the simple delights of daily life, God's literally all over the place hoping that we'll have the eyes to see and the ears to listen to his coming." (As found in *For All The Saints, Vol. III, pg. 11 and 12*).

The story of Christmas is a living metaphor for the living of our days. Humanity was not standing "all in their places with bright shiny faces" when the Christ of God burst forth from the Blessed Virgin's womb. The world was messy. In no way was it ready for the Savior of the world. Ready only in this sense: KAIROS! ... the fullness of time, God's suitable moment, had come. A Holy Advent and a Blessed Christmas to us, each and all!

*+Ronald B. Mayan, Bishop
Synod of Alberta and the Territories,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada*

Saying Goodbye

Saying goodbye is always difficult and this is the case for me, too. I will be leaving Trinity at the end of December after working here for almost 15 years. They have been years of learning, teaching, planning, organizing, and using all the gifts that God has given me. I have met so many wonderful people and have formed some friendships that will last a lifetime. I have especially loved my time with the youth and young adults as they kept me on my toes and young at heart.

Life is about change though and my life is about to change as well. After many heartfelt conversations and many quiet hours spent in prayer, I along with council feel that this is the best time for me to say goodbye.

Trinity is filled with so many gifted people and I know that it will always be a wonderful congregation to be a part of. I thank you all for your friendship and am looking forward to coming back to say hello from time to time.

*Yours in Christ
Karen Triomphe*

The cradle wherein Christ is laid...

Pastor Markus Wilhelm

This Advent, why not take a few minutes each day to dig deeper into the Bible?

"But where to start", you say? "The Bible is a big book!"

Martin Luther compared the Bible to a cradle which holds the Christ Child. A good image, especially for Advent and Christmas. And so when reading the Bible keep that image in mind. Bible reading is not so much about getting to know the text word for word, verse by verse. (For that you'd have to learn Hebrew and Greek, which might be asking too much in the time you have till Christmas.) Bible reading is about getting to know God's gift of salvation in Christ.



And, as Luther explained, there are things in the Bible that are more clearly about Jesus than others, just as there were crooked boards and rusty nails, hay and straw in the manger in addition to the child. The key is to look for Christ.

The readings listed below are taken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book and there's a neat thing about them: they help you prepare for Sunday's readings and sermon (Thursday to Saturday), and they help expand on what you heard in worship (Monday to Wednesday). And don't think you need to read all of these lessons every day to start with. You could start with just one reading per day, maybe just the Psalm, which is repeated three days in a row. As with physical exercise, it's wise to start with small steps, otherwise your spiritual muscles just cramp up and you'll end up abandoning the practice.

Take a moment to reflect on what you read. Why might this text have been chosen for this week? Does it tell you something about Jesus? Does it help you understand better the meaning of Advent and Christmas? Does it give you guidance, or hope for things that you need to do or that happened to you?

If you find this guide useful and would like to continue in the new year, please let me know. You can also find the list in the ELW (red hymnal) starting on page 1132.

Daily Lectionary (Year B)

Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 Psalm 79 Micah 4:1-5 Revelation 15:1-8	Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:13-19 Matthew 21:28-32	Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011 Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:8-13 Romans 10:5-13
Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2011 Psalm 79 Micah 4:6-13 Revelation 18:1-10	Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 - Advent 3 Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Friday, Dec. 23, 2011 Psalm 96 Zephaniah 3:14-20 Romans 13:11-14
Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2011 Psalm 79 Micah 5:1-5a Luke 21:34-38	Monday, Dec. 12, 2011 Psalm 125 1 Kings 18:1-18 Ephesians 6:10-17	Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011 - Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Eve Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14[15-20]
Thursday, Dec. 1, 2011 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Hosea 6:1-6 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10	Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2011 Psalm 125 2 Kings 2:9-22 Acts 3:17-4:4	Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011 - Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7]8-20
Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Acts 11:19-26	Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011 Psalm 125 Malachi 3:16-4:6 Mark 9:9-13	Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 - Stephen, Deacon and Martyr Psalm 148 Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15 Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 Ezekiel 36:24-28 Mark 11:27-33	Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:1-11 Hebrews 1:1-4	Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011 - John, Apostle and Evangelist Psalm 148 Exodus 33:18-23 1 John 1:1-9
Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 - Advent 2 Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Friday, Dec. 16, 2011 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 2 Samuel 6:12-19 Hebrews 1:5-14	Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011 - The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Psalm 148 Jeremiah 31:15-17 Matthew 2:13-18
Monday, Dec. 5, 2011 Psalm 27 Isaiah 26:7-15 Acts 2:37-42	Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011 Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26 Judges 13:2-24 John 7:40-52	Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011 Psalm 148 Isaiah 49:5-15 Matthew 12:46-50
Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2011 Psalm 27 Isaiah 4:2-6 Acts 11:1-18	Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011 - Advent 4 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	Friday, Dec. 30, 2011 Psalm 148 Proverbs 9:1-12 2 Peter 3:8-13
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011 Psalm 27 Malachi 2:10-3:1 Luke 1:5-17	Monday, Dec. 19, 2011 Luke 1:46b-55 1 Samuel 1:1-18 Hebrews 9:1-14	Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011 Psalm 148 1 Kings 3:5-14 John 8:12-19
Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 2:1-5 Philippians 3:7-11	Tuesday, Dec. 20, 2011 Luke 1:46b-55 1 Samuel 1:19-28 Hebrew 8:1-13	
Friday, Dec. 9, 2011 Psalm 126 Habakkuk 3:2-6 Philippians 3:12-16	Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011 Luke 1:46b-55 1 Samuel 2:1-10 Mark 11:1-11	

Thoughts from Across the Lane

By Nowlane Milner

I have given a lot of thought about what I wanted to write about. There was one event that touched my heart this past year and it has stayed with me. HELP PORTRAIT is a group of volunteers that show and give love freely.

Let me explain. Last year Bill and I went because this was the first time that we would have our picture taken together. It became much more. When we arrived there was a woman in front of us who was also registering to get her portrait taken. The first thing we were asked if we would like to get our make-up and hair done. This woman, I'll call her Mary, and my-self, went and sat next to each other. She began to tell me that she recently lost her job, after 20 years, because of downsizing and that she just got out of the hospital after being hit by a car which fractured her hip. She was trying to get disability insurance and it was taking so long. Her rent was going to increase in January and she didn't know what she was going to do. Mary spoke with such sadness you felt the pain she was in and I just wanted to let her know that there were ways to get the help she needed.

I told her about the Food Bank and about looking into AISH or the Alberta rent subsidy. I reassured her that she was not alone because I've been there and that there was help.

As we were sitting there I began to see her face change and she began to speak with more self confidence. There was the first smile. To me she looked like they had taken 20 years of stress off her worried look. We had been pampered and made to feel so special. I told this to Mary and our wonderful volunteers. Mary had to agree. One of our volunteers was a stay at home mom and the other was student at NAIT. Each of us had our own story to tell and we laughed as we had been told not to cry. The incredible volunteer that did our hair was a professional hair dresser who took the day off to help out. Mary looked so amazingly beautiful. It was as if you had just witnessed her true beauty. You could see her self-esteem and confidence come through as her true authentic self was being shown for the first time. For my-self having my hair done was mind blowing because I never thought that my short hair could be curled or look so great. I asked her what she used and she told me she had used a half inch curling iron. I must admit I had tears of great gratitude, even Bill was completely surprised. We were asked if we wanted to look at the rack of clothing and choose a new outfit, to see if there was something we would like. Bill and I declined as we already had matching outfits in purple of course. Mary found a blouse in her size and after trying it on she looked like a million dollars. It was like she had been given a chance to start over and all the pain she had been feeling was gone. From there we each went to our assigned pho-

tographer and the fun began as our portraits were being taken. We had so much fun with the photographers. We were made to feel as if we were at home and one of our friends just grabbed their camera and took our picture. I think we had about 16 photos in all to choose from.

As we waited for our choice to be printed we wandered around and watched others having their portraits taken. We met 3 brothers who I wish to call the "Three wise Brothers". I learned that they had been living on the streets for years. They were so filled with love and laughter as they helped one another and it looked like they protected each other as they lived on the streets of Edmonton. Every photographer wanted to take their picture as they interacted with each other. As we sat and ate together, thanks in large part to the donation of hot chilli and Christmas baking of every kind, Bill and I had a slice of banana bread and the brother ate the hot chilli. I just sat in awe and took in everything that was going on around me. God was here and the Luther centre was filled to the rafters with joy and laughter and more importantly with love. I watched a grandfather and his grandson get their portrait done and the grandfather asked "what would you like to do with his picture". The 6 year old's reply was "I want to give it to mom and dad for Christmas." As he smiled from ear to ear his two front teeth were missing. You could not help to smile yourself.

I caught up to Mary as she waited to get her portrait, she began to cry, I asked her what was wrong. She told me that "I now have Christmas present I can send to my daughter in British Columbia." I told her that her daughter would love it. I gave her a big hug as we said good bye and wished each other Happy Christmas. The Three wise Brothers were still laughing at their portraits, staying warm from the cold winter day as the temperatures continued to drop, showing each of us that no matter what you can find the joy and laughter in every day moments. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words. I was a witness to that moment last year. As for Bill and I. we still look at our portrait and it still fills us with love.



Last year there were 4 locations for Help Portrait throughout the greater Edmonton area, with over 200 volunteers and 300 portraits taken. At Trinity Church they had over 80 volunteers, with the majority coming from Old Strathscona Vineyard Church along with photographers. This is a worldwide event with 10,000 pho-

Help Portrait - from page 4

tographers, 12,000 volunteers, taking over 100,000 portraits.

The portraits are **FREE** and everyone is invited to come. Anyone can have their hair, make-up and portrait done and in most cases it is done by a professional artist. The portraits can be; Family photos, Passport photos, Christmas photos, or any type of photo of a person or group.

We are looking for volunteers to help this year. You could help by donating food, clothing, your personal time, printer ink cartridges or photo paper (or make a donation to HELP PORTRAIT so that Ron Manke may buy the ink and paper. This bill alone reached over \$250.00)

I would like to thank Ron Manke for his help with the background information and for giving me incredible memories from last year.

A message from Ron Manke from *Help Portrait* Edmonton. The photos are a good way for us to show love to the community and people to feel good about themselves for one day. It's not just for the disadvantaged. People should feel like they are contributing to their community by coming in and sharing the experience, and their love, with others that may not be in such a good situation.

Ron would like to invite people from the congregation to come in and have their photos taken, along with their

friends, neighbours, or just someone that could use a kind gesture to their life.

On December the 10th from 10:00am – 5:00pm you can come and get your portrait taken at three locations in Edmonton, no appointment necessary.

Downtown Edmonton

City Center Church - Paramount Theatre
201-10275 Jasper Avenue

Old Strathscona

Trinity Lutheran Church - Fellowship Hall
10014 81 Avenue

Alberta Avenue

Alberta Avenue Community Centre
9210 – 118 Ave

If you wish to make a donation then **PLEASE** contact Ron Manke at ron@oldstrathconavineyard.org

Also if you would like to learn more, you can view a video. Help Portrait worldwide at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?_60yF6KvHk&feature=player_embedded&noredirect=1

I would also like to invite you to this amazing event. You can fill your heart with the love that you will experience and see all around you. That what happen to me last year, and please help to volunteer in some way, I know I will.

Advent and Christmas — How do we observe it?

By Andrea Wilhelm

Every year as Christmas approaches, two things happen to me. On the one hand, I become happy and excited because I love this special time in the church year. I love the opportunities Advent provides to prepare for the coming of Christ, and, well, Christmas is such good news, such a happy time: God visiting us, coming among us as a human, showing his love and solidarity with us in this unmistakable way. In the church and at home, alone and with others, we can turn our minds and hearts to this good news.

On the other hand, I become stressed out. There are cookies to bake, decorations to put up, presents to buy or make, concerts and parties to go to or to throw. These expectations about the external trappings of the season, while they are well intended, sometimes take over. If they create stress rather than joy, perhaps we should ignore them. I am also worried about the pressure to buy expensive presents for people who already have more than enough — or getting such presents myself.

So I am a bit torn. Since the body of Christ is here for mutual support, I decided to ask some of our members how they observe Advent and Christmas. Perhaps they feel the same tension, perhaps they have some inspiring ideas or customs. Here is what I learned (last Sunday):

Is there something you like to do, or a tradition you have, for Christmas or Advent?

- Since our relatives do not live nearby, we celebrate in our nuclear family. We are still building our own family traditions. What we do (so far) is: We have a Christmas tree, we open presents on Christmas Eve, and we go to church.

- Being in church. Other than that, all I do is put a tree up on Dec. 6, because that is my son's birthday. My family was not religious and Christmas was a very ordinary day when I grew up. I am happy that now, because of my faith and I can go to church, Christmas is special for me.

- Every year my whole family gets together for caroling. We go around to family friends and sing, and afterwards we have chili and cider. We have a good time singing together.

- Decorating the house with the family, being with friends and family.

- At home, during Advent we bake and do crafts with the children/grandchildren, and sing lots of carols. Growing up in Germany, I always went to the Weihnachtsmarkt, a place to meet friends and be happy together. Christmas brought out the best in everybody, people stopped being grouchy about the weather. Here in Canada, on Christmas Eve we go to the German service, then we have a light

...see *Observing Christmas* on page 6

Observing Christmas from page 5

meal at home, read the Christmas story again, open presents, and visit with family.

- This year I want to start a new tradition, based on a story I read: I want to put up an empty manger on the first Sunday in Advent, and as the people in your family do something nice for someone else, they are allowed to put one piece of straw in the manger. So they're building a bed for the baby Jesus.

- We have a family Christmas concert. Some people perform, and then we do carols together. Also, for us Christmas is really about Jesus' birth and the incredible gift to us. So we have really scaled down Christmas. We come to church, and we each have a stocking, and we each just put something little in each other person's stocking. So we just have a little stocking that we open after church on Christmas Eve, and that's just the right thing for us.

- At Christmas, Jesus was born for us. He died for us. He taught us how to live, and to sacrifice. We are to help other people, poor people, homeless people—that is the real celebration of Christmas.

- Tobogganing!

- Have presents!

- Christmas Eve candlelight service. And for three years now we have been going to our neighbour's daughter's mother-in-law who does the traditional Christmas Eve meatless dishes – delicious.

- We go to the Catholic church on Christmas Eve, then to my granddaughter's place for Christmas festivities, and we come to church here on Christmas Day.

- Baking, before Christmas. I enjoy the baking and sharing it. Also, we spend Christmas Eve with my mother and go to her church, and Christmas Day we spend with the whole family.

- I enjoy the foods and goodies that you only eat at this time of year.

Some of those are really special favourites. Also, my family gathers a week before Christmas at Camp Kuriakos on Sylvan Lake, and we have an early Christmas there. Everybody brings food, and there is enough room for all the grandchildren, indoors and outdoors, it is wonderful.

- Our TLW (Trinity Lutheran Women) Christmas Program, and you are welcome to come!

Is there something you are wishing for for Christmas this year?

- I have everything I need. I desire health for people that are dear to me and suffering. And I desire peace.

- No. I'm just happy to be spending Christmas in a northern country where there is snow at this time of year.

- Hmm...I don't know.

- Time to read, time to have a break.

- Not really.

- I don't need anything, I don't desire anything.

- Looking forward to the next time the family will be all together (which won't be this Christmas). Also world peace, even if that's a cliché.

- I want everything to be good, people, the church, and people coming to church. I'm always praying for more people to come to church, and younger people, in order to know Jesus.

- My parents are Hindu and do not know about Jesus' love. I will invite them to come visit me here this Christmas, and I will invite them to come to church with me.

- Lego!

- I'm wishing for this small seal that is in a small box, and it has grey polka dots on it.

- Peace on earth and a white BMW.

- Peace on earth, and I hope that everyone who has health problems gets over them. I don't need any other presents.

- Good health.

- An e-book reader, i.e. a tablet.

- I wish people good health and happiness. That's listening to God's word and knowing God loves us all.

Do you already have a "gift idea"—something you will give someone, or do for someone, this year?

- No, I have had an unusually busy fall, and Advent has sort of "snuck up" on me.

- I enjoy giving presents. Because my monthly budget is limited, I start buying presents in October already. But the giving is not the main part. The main part is the church and the meaning behind it.

- I'm not sure yet. Toys for the kids and stuff like that.

- Going out to Victoria to see my family.

- Yes, I have some ideas already. Also, we have a daughter overseas, and we will mail our parcel to her tomorrow [Nov. 21] so it arrives in



time.

- No.

- Yes, but I can't tell. It's for my sister and she's right beside me.

- Yes, but it's for my brother, who is right beside me.

- We usually give organic vegetables from our garden, and we also give presents to people in need that we know. We actually do that all year.

- I usually choose one family in the congregation, maybe where someone has a health problem, and share my baking with them.

- We'll probably give some money to the Children's Fund.

- I would like to bring some food or other things to poor or homeless people. But I am new to Canada and do not know how to do this here. If you show me how to go about it, I will do it.

Called into Worship

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

Upcoming Worship Opportunities

Christmas Pageant:

Sunday - December 18 - 11:00 AM (English service)

Christmas Eve Services - Saturday - 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 - Sunday - December 25:

9:30 AM - German Christmas Day Service

11:00 AM - English Christmas Day Service

New Year's:

Saturday - December 31

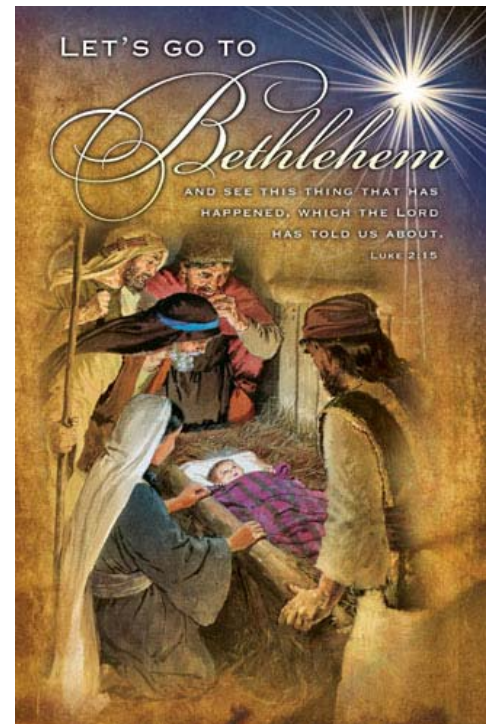
5:00 PM - German New Year's Eve Service

Saturday - January 1

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

Come for a Champagne celebration following the services.

All are welcome!



Trinity's 5th Annual St. Martin's Day Lanternfest stays indoors

For the 5th year in the row, Pastor Ingrid has put out the invitation to Edmonton-area German speaking families with young children to take part in a commemoration of St. Martin here at Trinity. St. Martin, the namesake of

Jährliches Laternenfest zieht ein Dutzend Familien an, dank der Unterstützung der Bilingualschulen und der Sonnabendschule, die unsere Einladung verbreitet haben.

Martin Luther, was a Roman soldier born around 316 AD. At age 18 he was baptized and later became a bishop in France. Each year at Trinity, Pastor Ingrid has led a little reenactment of the deed for which St. Martin has come to be best known in the eyes of children – that of cutting his winter coat in half to share with a poor, homeless man freezing in the winter. As word spread of his generosity, the townspeople

rushed to invite him to become their bishop. This was too much for the modest young man, so legend has it he went off and hid in a farmer's barn with the geese. The townsfolk lit their lanterns to search for him. This year, due to the cold weather, the procession of approximately 20 children with an array of homemade decorative lanterns remained indoors going up and down various staircases and through dimly lit rooms. Children, parents and grandparents sang Lantern songs until the child playing the role

of Martin was found. The evening ended with hot chocolate and various types of cookies and cakes brought along by the parents.

We are grateful to the teachers and administrators of all four of the Edmonton area German Bilingual schools as well as at the German Language School for passing along the invitation to this annual event. Without their support, we would not have been able to reach the dozen or so families who attended despite the cold. Thank you also to Leo Kissau for creating just the right atmosphere with his accordion music throughout the evening.

Hannah Noerenberg
Co-organizer



Called Into Worship

Reconciliation and Healing on the Eve of November 11

Hannah Noernberg

On the evening before Remembrance Day, a number of members of Edmonton's Holy Trinity Anglican and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Churches met in order to share life and war experiences and to pray for reconciliation and healing. Melida Kunz, who was born in the former German province of West Prussia and Walter Scott, whose family has been living in Alberta for many generations, both spoke of the losses within their families and of the subsequent effects on their lives. And the end of her speech, Melida Kunz expressed her gratitude for the possibility to live in Canada as a free and peaceful country. Scott stress that despite the loss of his father as a result of war injuries, he did not develop feelings of animosity towards German speaking people. Stephen Gallard from Holy Trinity shared that he had been working as a military trainer in the Canadian Armed Forces since the 1980s. Even though he did not personally serve on the battlefield, he often received reports from Bosnia, Ethiopia and Afghanistan about the deaths of some of his trainees. Rosanne Thede, from Trinity Lutheran placed a picture of Private Joel Wiebe next to the candles near the altar. Wiebe was her daughter's fiancé who died in Afghanistan in 2007 and whose funeral service was held in Trinity. Thede shared that she personally, before her daughter had met and fallen in love with a young soldier, had joined in the peaceful demonstration protesting the war in Iraq. Through the relationship of the two young people, she got to know Canadian military families for the first time. She continues to seek and pray for peaceful ways to address injustice.

The Rev'd Dr. Christopher Pappas from Holy Trinity addressed the topic of reconciliation and shared the story of a goldsmith from London whose father had served in the British Royal Air Force and was involved in the firebombing of Dresden. This father later regretted his actions. His son, Alan Smith, later fabricated and set up the cross on the dome of the Church of Our Lady when the famous Dresden monument was reconstructed. Along with Fr. Pappas, Pastors Ingrid Dörschel and Markus Wilhelm from Trinity Lutheran led the reflections prayers and songs which had been put together by Rev. Jonathan Crane. Pastor Wilhelm's guitar accompaniment of the Taizé songs was especially fitting. Taizé is a Christian community of faith in France, which was founded at the end of WW II as a place of reconciliation. Christians of all confessions pray jointly here for the reconciliation of peoples who stand opposed to each other. Finally, each of the participants was allowed to symbolically take a load off of his or her shoulders in that everyone placed down a stone that they had been holding all evening. These stones symbolized the unspoken thoughts and inner turmoil that many people carry related to the topic of war. The evening ended with a general sharing of God's peace. A number of participants expressed their thanks for the opportunity to address the topics of war, peace, remembrance and reconciliation.

Versöhnung und Heilung am Vorabend vom 11. November

Am Abend vor dem kanadischen Volkstrauertag trafen sich mehrere Mitglieder der Holy Trinity Anglican Church und der Trinitatis Evangelisch-Lutherschen Kirche in Edmonton, um gemeinsam Lebens- und Kriegserfahrungen auszutauschen und um Versöhnung und Heilung zu beten. Melida Kunz, die in Westpreussen geboren wurde, und Walter Scott, dessen Familie schon seit Generationen aus Alberta kommt, sprachen beide von den Verlusten innerhalb ihren Familien und deren Folgen für ihr Leben. Melida Kunz drueckte ihre Dankbarkeit darueber aus, frei in einem Land zu leben, in dem es 60 Jahre keinen Krieg mehr gab. Scott betonte, daß er trotz des Verlustes seines Vaters durch den Krieg, keine feindlichen Gefuehle den Deutschen gegenüber habe. Stephen Gallard aus Holy Trinity teilte mit, daß er seit den 80er Jahren innerhalb des Kanadischen Militärs als Trainer gearbeitet habe. Obwohl er selber nicht in den Kampf eingesetzt wurde, bekam er desöfteren Berichte aus Bosnien, Ethiopien und Afghanistan, daß mehrere seiner jungen Rekruten gefallen seien. Rosanne Thede, aus der Trinitatis Gemeinde, brachte ein Foto von Private Joel Wiebe mit. Wiebe war der Verlobte ihrer Tochter Anna, der in 2007 im Alter von 22 Jahren in Afghanistan gefallen ist und dessen Beerdigungsfeier an der Trinity Kirche stattfand. Thede erzählte, daß sie persönlich, bevor ihre Tochter sich in den jungen Soldaten verliebte, zu den Menschen gehörte, die friedlich gegen den Krieg im Irak protestiert haben. Durch die Beziehung der beiden jungen Menschen habe sie zum ersten Mal kanadische Militärfamilien kennengelernt. Sie wird nicht aufhoeren, sich auf friedvolle Weise gegen Unrecht jeglicher Art einzusetzen.

Der Pastor aus Holy Trinity, Rev'd Dr. Christopher A. Pappas, sprach das Thema Versöhnung an und las die Geschichte eines Goldschmied aus London vor, dessen Vater in der Britischen Luftwaffe gedient hatte und an der Bombardierung Dresdens beteiligt war. Dieser Vater bereute später seine Taten. Sein Sohn, Alan Smith, war später derjenige, der bei dem Wiederaufbau der Dresdener Frauenkirche das Kreuz auf die Kirchenkuppel geschmiedet und aufgestellt habe. Gemeinsam mit Dr. Pappas leiteten Pastoren Ingrid Dörschel und Markus Wilhelm aus Trinity die Andacht, Gebete und Lieder, die von Rev. Jonathan Crane zusammengestellt wurden. Besonders passend war die schlichte Gitarrenbegleitung der Taizélieder durch Pastor Wilhelm. Taizé, eine christliche Glaubensgemeinschaft in Frankreich, wurde Ende des zweiten Weltkrieges als Ort der Versöhnung gegründet. Hier beten Christen aus allen Konfessionen gemeinsam für Versöhnung von Völkern, die gegeneinander stehen. Letztendlich durfte jeder der Teilnehmer sich symbolisch "einen Stein vom Herzen ablegen" denn Steine symbolisierten die vielen unausgesprochenen Gedanken und Zwiespaltigkeiten, die viele Menschen in Bezug auf Krieg mit sich herumtragen. Der Abend endete mit einem allgemeinen Friedenszuspruch. Mehrere Teilnehmer bedankten sich für die Gelegenheit, die Themen Krieg, Frieden, Erinnerung und Versöhnung innerhalb der Kirche anzusprechen.

Called into Learning

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

Living up to Our Name: Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

Like a young child given a whole string of long first, middle and last names, we at Trinity often are unsure of our various names. While at first a theological puzzle upon reflection, we get the idea of “Trinity.” We usually learn about the meaning of “Lutheran” when we hit Confirmation class and learn about the legacy of Martin Luther – who did NOT want any church named after himself, by the way. “Church” looks easy enough to explain. But what to do with the “Evangelical” part of our name? That has been problematic for many of us. Somehow, due to society’s response to various famous or infamous television preachers over the past few decades, we are hesitant to align ourselves with anything “evangelical.” We don’t want to come across to our friends and family as “Bible thumpers” etc. and so we go about like those people in one of Jesus’ parables who proverbially hide their light under a bushel instead of letting it shine in the world.

The Church Health Team recently took our congregation to the doctor for a long overdue check up. The results are in. When compared to other congregations who also consulted the good folks at Natural Church Development, we have a strong showing when it comes to Sunday mornings as well as to our sense that our own gifts have a place for use in the church. However, we fall much lower in the area of “Evangelism.” We shy back at the idea of talking about God outside of the sanctuary. We don’t often bring God up in our daily conversations, whether at home or with our closest friends. We leave the sharing of the Gospel to the professionals instead of recognizing ourselves as God’s voices in the wilderness.

When asked, some of the people who came together to review the results of our congregation’s check up stated that they feel uncomfortable inviting friends to our church or talking about God’s works in our own lives. And this despite a lifetime of regular Sunday attendance. How many of us tell our neighbours about the many things going on inside this church? Do we phone our friends (or even relatives) and ask them to come along to worship with us? One man at our table had done just that and invited a set of new neighbors to Trinity, and presto... there is now a new three generational family coming through these doors on Sundays. Unfortunately, when they sat down at one of the tables at a recent congregational event, people already seated got up to leave and sit with others at another table, leaving these new visitors feeling less than welcome. So in addition to working at improving our practice of “Evangelism”, we also need to revisit what it means to be “Church.” Fortunately, this set of new neighbours does not give up easily and has continued to be present in our midst. But we must ALL realize that the mission field begins in the atrium and it is up to each of us to shine God’s love and share His Word with all we meet. The New Testament is full of ordinary people who passed along the news of Jesus themselves. That was the secret of church growth then and still is now.

One way to increase our comfort at sharing the Good News is to think back to a SINGLE example of something God has done in our lives and then to practice telling it around the family dinner table or with very close guests. How many facts or statistics do we and our children or grandchildren know about a specific sport or line of car or movie character or favorite band? Let us find ways to build up our factual knowledge about Bible people. On a longer car trip for example, we could turn off the radio, the CD or DVD players, the DS or other gadgets and challenge the family as a whole to list as many people named in the Bible as possible. On the return trip, we could start again and see if the list can be made longer.

We can always be on the lookout for opportunities with our children to practice God-talk, to bring God into the conversation. While setting up the bird feeder for the winter, we can remark for example: “Isn’t it amazing how God made each kind of bird have a different kind of beak for just the kind of food their bodies need?” When our children and grandchildren are older, we can make reference to Biblical characters who faced decisions in their lives as we help our young people find direction for example. As gifts, we can give books or films in which God plays a role. We should read or view them first and then discuss them together afterwards.

We tend to think that our family members and friends and neighbours will eventually come to an understanding about the role God can play in their lives. Nowadays, where people’s lifespans are almost twice as long as in Luther’s time, we feel less of an urgency to reach out and make sure everyone is prepared to “meet their Maker.” Most of the traditional (German) hymns in our book come from times such as the Thirty Years’ War when life was truly “brutal, nasty and short.” For us in Canada today, that is not the case. So we may find ourselves thinking that there is no rush and that someone else will come along who is better at sharing the Word in our circle of people. Like Moses, we have excuses: “I am not that good at talking to others, etc.” Most of us, as we drive to work or take the kids to sport practice assume that life will go on and bring many more opportunities. Unfortunately, the news of the Edmonton teen suddenly killed by a puck in hockey practice, or the father and his two girls killed at a train crossing on the way to school reminds us that we cannot simply stay quiet and wait. We never know which day will be someone’s last. It could be that God needs US to be the evangelists to the people we care about or those whose life search has led to our doors.

After this checkup, it is time to make the small daily changes that will improve our overall health. Let’s practice what it means to be Evangelical, Lutheran and Church here at Trinity.

Called Into Learning

Unserem Namen gerecht werden : Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

In dieser Gemeinde geht es uns manchmal wie einem kleinen Kind, das bei der Geburt einen langen, komplizierten Namen erhalten hat. Das Wort "Trinitatis" mag zwar theologisch kompliziert sein, aber wenn wir darüber nachdenken, ist es doch verständlich. Über Martin Luther lernen wir meistens im Konfirmandenunterricht, und somit verstehen wir auch das Wort "Lutherisch", obwohl wir wissen, daß Luther niemals eine Kirche wollte, die nach ihm benannt wurde. Das Wort "Kirche" erscheint ja selbstverständlich. Aber was soll aus dem Wort "Evangelisch" werden? Ja, auf die Evangelien gegründet. Aber in unserer Gesellschaft, in der es über die letzten Jahrzehnte mehrere berühmte und berüchtigte Fernsehprediger gegeben hat, zögern wir, da das Wort "evangelical" (besonders auf Englisch) einen bestimmten negativen Ton mit sich bringt. Wir wollen vor anderen nicht wie ein aufdringlicher Bibelfritze auftreten und somit tun wir gerade das, wovon Jesus uns gewarnt hat – wir verstecken unser Licht unter einem Scheffel statt es vor aller Welt leuchten zu lassen.

Neulich ist unser "Church Health Team" sozusagen mit unserer Gemeinde zur ärztlichen Untersuchung gegangen. Es war schon höchste Zeit und nun stehen die Ergebnisse vor uns. Verglichen mit anderen Kirchengemeinden, die sich bei den lieben Leuten der Organisation Natural Church Development haben beraten lassen, steht es Sonntag morgens gut mit der Gemeinde. Auch gut ist das Empfinden der Befragten, daß wir in Trinity allerlei persönliche Begabungen anzuwenden verstehen, was auch ein wichtiger Faktor des gesunden Gemeindelebens ist. Aber, in dem Bereich der Evangelisation stehen wir viel weiter unter dem Strich. Wir schrecken uns zurück vor Gelegenheiten, ausserhalb des Altarraumes über Gott zu reden. Wir ziehen Gott auch nicht in unsere Alltagsgespräche mit hinein, sei es zu Hause oder im engsten Freundeskreis. Wir überlassen die Weitergabe der Guten Nachricht den Profis anstatt uns selber als Gottes Stimme in der Wildnis zu erkennen.

Mehrere Leute, die neulich dabei waren, um die Ergebnisse der Umfrage zu überprüfen, gaben zu, daß sie davor zögern, ihre Freunde zum Gottesdienst bei uns einzuladen, oder von Gottes Werken in ihrem eigenen Leben zu reden. Und dieses trotz lebenslanger Gottesdienstbesuche. Wieviele unter uns erzählen unseren Nachbarn von den vielen guten Ereignissen in Trinity? Rufen wir unsere Freunde oder Verwandten an, um sie einzuladen sonntags mitzukommen? Ein Mann, der an unserem Tisch saß, hatte gerade dieses getan und eine neue Nachbarfamilie eingeladen, mal zu Trinity zu kommen. Und siehe da! Nun gibt es eine neue Drei-Generationenfamilie, die sonntags durch die Tür kommt. Leider, als sich diese Familie bei einer Gemeindeveranstaltung an einen Tisch setzte, an dem schon Leute saßen, standen diese prompt auf und schauten sich nach einem anderen Tisch um. Da fühlten sich die neuen Nachbarn nicht gerade willkommen! Daran sehen wir, daß wir uns nicht nur bemühen müssen "evangelischer" zu werden. Wir müssen uns auch darin üben, besser eine "Kirche" zu sein, und einem jeden, der zu uns kommt, wärmer entgegen zu kommen, um eine "Kirchengemeinschaft" zu bilden. Zum Glück ließ diese neue Familie nicht so schnell nach und ist noch weiterhin unter uns geblieben. Aber wir müssen es uns ALLE klarmachen, daß das Missionsfeld bei uns im Atrium beginnt und daß es an uns liegt, Gottes Liebe widerzuspiegeln und Sein Wort mit allen zu teilen, denen wir begegnen. Das Neue Testament enthält viele Geschichten von alltäglichen Menschen, die Jesu Gute Nachricht selber

weitergaben. Das war das Geheimnis des Kirchenwachstums damals, aber das ist es auch noch heute.

Was können wir tun, um uns daran zu gewöhnen, Gott vor den Menschen zu bekennen? Wir könnten uns an EINE Begebenheit in unserem Leben erinnern, als wir gemerkt haben, dass Gott in unserem Leben tätig war, und dann mehrmals üben, sie nachzuerzählen, vielleicht während einer Familienmahlzeit oder wenn mal die engsten Freunde eingeladen sind. Wieviele Fakten oder Statistiken wissen wir oder unsere Kinder und Enkelkinder über eine bestimmte Sportart, Automarke oder einen bestimmten Filmstar oder Musikgruppe? Lasst uns Wege suchen, um unser Bibelwissen aufzubauen. Man könnte zum Beispiel bei einer längeren Autoreise das Radio und alle ähnlichen Geräte – CD, DVD, DS Spieler usw. – ausschalten und die Familie herausfordern gemeinsam aufzulisten, wieviele Leute sie aus der Bibel kennen, die beim Namen genannt wurden. Auf dem Rückweg vom Reiseziel könnte man nochmal versuchen, sich gemeinsam an noch mehr Leute mit ihren Namen zu erinnern.

Wir müssen immer Ausschau auf Gelegenheiten halten, bei denen wir mit unseren Kindern und Enkeln Gott ins Gespräch ziehen können. Beim Aufstellen eines Vogelfütterers kann man zum Beispiel bemerken "Ist es nicht wunderbar, wie Gott jedem Vogel eine andere Sorte Schnabel gegeben hat, damit er genau das Futter fressen kann, das sein Körper braucht?" Wenn die Kinder oder Enkel älter werden und nach einer Richtung für ihr Leben suchen, kann man zum Beispiel mit ihnen über Menschen in der Bibel sprechen, die vor einer großen Entscheidung standen. Als Geschenke können wir Bücher oder Filme kaufen, sie erst selbst durchlesen oder anschauen, dann verschenken und später gemeinsam besprechen.

Wir glauben meistens, dass unsere Angehörigen, Nachbarn und Freunde eines Tages zur Erkenntnis der Rolle Gottes in ihrem Leben kommen. Heutzutage, da die durchschnittliche Lebenserwartung fast doppelt so hoch ist wie zu Luthers Lebzeit, bemühen wir uns nicht so dringend, daß unsere Lieben frühzeitig für die Ewigkeit bereit sind. Zu der Zeit, als die meisten Lieder in unserem deutschen Gesangbuch entstanden, in der Zeit des Dreißigjährigen Krieges zum Beispiel, war das Leben wirklich brutal und kurz. Das ist für uns heute hierzulande wirklich nicht der Fall. Deshalb glauben wir es eilt nicht so, und daß jemand anders auftreten wird, der besser dazu geeignet ist, die Gute Nachricht in unserem Kreis weiterzugeben. Wie Mose, finden wir unsere Ausreden. "Ich kann nicht so gut vor anderen reden." usw. Wenn wir zur Arbeit oder sonstwohin fahren, oder die Kinder zur Sportprobe bringen, dann nehmen wir an, das Leben geht weiter und wird uns viele bessere Gelegenheiten geben, mit jemandem tiefe Gespräche zu führen. Die zwei tragischen Unfälle, von denen in Edmonton neulich die Rede war, als ein Schlag am Hals den jungen Hockeyspieler sofort tötete und als der Vater mit seinen zwei Kindern auf dem Weg zur Schule an der Eisenbahnkreuzung vom Zug angefahren wurde, erinnern uns daran, daß wir nicht einfach schweigen und warten sollen. Wir wissen nie, welcher Tag für jemand der Letzte sein wird. Es kann tatsächlich sein, dass Gott gerade UNS als Evangelisten im Leben eines anderen braucht, den wir lieben, oder dessen Lebenssuche ihn zu unserer Tür gebracht hat.

Lasst uns nach diesem ärztlichen Befund die nötigen kleinen Änderungen machen, um die Gesundheit der Gemeinde zu fördern. Lasst uns hier in Trinity üben, was es heißt, sowohl lutherisch als auch evangelisch und kirchengemeinschaftlich zu sein.

Called into Giving

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

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Legacy Fund

Empowering Congregations, Growing Joyful Givers

“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it, for no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ” -1 Corinthians 3: 10-11

What is the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Legacy Fund?

The Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Legacy Fund provides a way for the church to receive and hold gifts for specific causes and is separate from regular weekly offerings of church members. Assets given to the Legacy Fund are available to the church for specific purposes and are protected from any creditor claims against the church. By setting up a Legacy Fund, Trinity can set aside large gifts that are used to fund extraordinary ministry projects and programs that otherwise would be unfulfilled because of a lack of money in the budget. Having a Legacy Fund can also dramatically reduce the pressure to 'pick a project' when a major gift is received. Many congregational members of Trinity Lutheran Church want the mission of the church to continue long after they themselves have passed away and having a Legacy Fund gives members the confidence to direct their gift through Legacy Fund agreements according to their wishes.

How does Trinity's Legacy Fund receive assets?

Donations to the Fund can come from a variety of ways. From estate gifts of cash, life insurance, or property, from immediate cash gifts or gifts of securities (e.g. shares) and from planned giving structured around a sale of significant assets (e.g. house, public securities, RRSP/ RRIF).

Features of the Legacy Fund.

A structure is in place to receive and administer estate gifts of cash and property using conservative investment strategies of the Fund assets. Ongoing information and regular accounting and reports are provided on a timely basis to the church congregation. Gifts given to the Legacy Fund are not spent but rather invested to generate the income that will be used for special needs, projects and programs that the church would like to accomplish but probably would not be able to do without alternate fund-

ing sources.

Examples of how the Legacy Fund may be used.

Income from the Legacy Fund could be used for mission work, to support long-term and short term Mission activities sponsored by the church. Money could also be used to support Christian education, capital building projects, support special ministries that increase local community impact and also the Fund could be used for local and national emergency disaster support or individual benevolence needs as deemed necessary by the church.

“As each has received a gift, employ it for one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace” 1 Peter 4: 10

Building a local church Legacy Fund today is one of the best stewardship decisions Trinity Lutheran Church can make. The Legacy Fund concept benefits churches by offering members opportunities to provide a future legacy for their church and their families. The Trinity Legacy Fund offers hope and stability for the future of our congregation.

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

We, Paul Ellison, Michael Kant, Herald Noerenberg, Marvin Davis, Ursula Meyer and I would like to inform the congregation that the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Legacy Fund is now available to process donations. All gifts are accompanied by the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Legacy Fund Agreement Form, outlining the method and administration of your gifts. We have established a Legacy Fund Committee, which will report on the progress of the Legacy Fund to the Church Council as required. Performance and accounting of the Fund can be found in the Church's Annual Report. The Trinity Legacy Fund offers hope and stability for the future of our congregation. For further information for interested members feel free to contact the office.

Blessings,
Dorothea Pfalz

Called Into Giving

Are You a Tipper?

You've had dinner at George's Steak House, and the bill comes. It's probably more than you thought it should be, but then you add on 15-20 percent for the tip, a personal reward for your server.

Tippling is an accepted social practice. But sometimes there are church people who may view their giving to the church as something like giving a "tip" to God for good service. (Incidentally, the word "tip" is an acronym for "to improve performance.") If I feel like God has been particularly good to me this week, if the weather was good and the work wasn't too much of a hassle, and the kids stayed out of trouble, I'll go give generously. But if God has not served me well this week, then the church better not count on me to put much in the offering plate.

The offering you give is not a tip. You don't give because

God needs the money. God really doesn't depend on your offering. You give because you need to give. Giving touches a need in you to express your gratitude for the blessings of your life.

As you give your money out of gratitude and thanksgiving, so also you give of your time and your ability. God has made us a diverse people with diverse skills and interests. There are gifts that you have that no one else has. How will you use them to the glory of God?

Gleaned from Stewardship for the 20th Century

By Rev. Steve McKinley



Our Church Family

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

Christmas Calendar

Mitten Tree - contribute new or gently used gloves, scarves, hats, socks, winter coats and boots for adults or children and blankets. Items will be given away at the community supper, Food bank evenings, or by the group that travels through Old Strathcona, caring for the homeless. The tree will be set up after the Advent Fair on Nov 27.

Tree Decorating - Come join the fun and help decorate our Christmas Tree on Wednesday December 14th at 6:00 pm. There will be Christmas carolling and hot chocolate and a time of fellowship.

Advent Sing-A-Long - The Trinetten/Mannerkreis invites you to come to their annual Advent Sing-a-long on Monday December 5th at 1:30 pm. There will be lots of music, laughter and great food to enjoy.

Congregational Pageant Service - Our Christmas pageant will be held on Sunday December 18th during the 11:00 worship service. This is a special service which involves the Sunday School, the choirs and members of the congregation. Our pageant this year is based on the well known book "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever"

We will have a time for goodies and fellowship following the worship service in Luther Center. We would like to ask you to bring along a goodie to share. We will also take this opportunity to say goodbye and "Thank You" to Karen.

Youth at Trinity

New Year's Gala Event - Saturday November 26th at 7:00 pm. Clay-Edm is having a New Year's Party and all our youth are invited. This is a formal evening of dancing, eating, and worshipping together with the Lutheran and Anglican Churches in Edmonton. Our Youth leaders will be attending and they want to be the church that has the largest amount of participants so look on the board for details.

Youth Retreat - December 2 7:00 pm - Dec 3rd 12:00 pm. This is an open invitation to all youth between the ages of 12 - 18. Join the youth leaders for fun, food, and worship together. The cost is \$10 and we ask that you bring a snack to share. Bring your sleeping bag, pillow, toiletries, and Bible and get ready for The Blob and other activities planned by the Youth Leaders.

Tree Decorating - The Youth Leaders invite you to join them to help decorate Trinity's Christmas Tree on Wednesday December 14th at 6:00 pm.

Watch the bulletin for further get togethers.

Our Church Family

Individual Privacy Protection

Many of you may have been wondering why, in recent years, our bulletins on Eternity Sunday and TEAM listings of our deceased members no longer state their ages alongside their names. Here is the reason for the omission:

Trinity has to comply with regulations enacted January 1, 2004 under the *Personal Information Protection Act of the Province of Alberta*, which governs the collection, use and disclosure of personal information by organizations in a manner that recognizes the right of an individual to have his or her personal information – such as a person's age – protected. This Act applies to every organization, including private and non-profit organizations. It also states that an organization shall not collect, process and use personal data of an individual unless the individual consents (primarily in writing) to the collection of that information. All our publications, and especially our web pages, are subject to these regulations. Trinity has therefore issued a *Name and Photo Publication Authorization Form*. Please familiarize yourself with this new form, printed on the following pages of this issue, as Trinity will start using it next year. A copy of the form and a letter explaining its purpose and when and how to complete it will be sent to every member with the 2011 financial statements next February.

Persönlicher Datenschutz

Manch einer unter uns mag sich auch jetzt wieder, am Ewigkeitssonntag, gefragt haben, weshalb die Auflistung unserer verstorbenen Mitglieder im Blättchen und TEAM seit einigen Jahren keine Altersangaben mehr enthält. Dies geschieht aus folgendem Grund:

Am 1. Januar 2004 trat das sog. Datenschutzgesetz der Provinz Alberta, the *Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA) of the Province of Alberta*, in Kraft.

Es regelt die Erhebung, Verarbeitung und Nutzung von personenbezogenen Daten, wie Altersangaben, und gibt jedem das Recht auf persönlichen Datenschutz. Alle Geschäfts- und Privatorganisationen, so auch Trinitatis, unterliegen diesem Gesetz.

Das *Verbotsprinzip mit Erlaubnisvorbehalt* besagt, dass die Erhebung, Verarbeitung und Nutzung von persönlichen Daten nur dann erlaubt ist, wenn die betroffene Person ausdrücklich (meist schriftlich) ihre Zustimmung dazu gegeben hat. Diese Vorschrift trifft für alle Veröffentlichungen zu und veranlasste uns, ein *Name and Photo Publication Authorization Form* herzustellen, mit dem wir Sie auf den folgenden Seiten dieser Ausgabe vertraut machen möchten, da Trinitatis es im neuen Jahr einführen und gebrauchen wird. Jedes Mitglied wird mit dem Steuerbescheid im Februar ein Probeformular mit den dazugehörigen Erklärungen bekommen.

News from Mulhurst Camp – November 2011

You may not be aware that Trinity is one of about 30 churches that make up the Mulhurst Lutheran Church Camp Association, and as such, is a part owner of the camp. Mulhurst camp serves as an extension of our ministry at the church by providing the venue for outdoor ministry. Have you ever noticed that when you see any kind of reference made to serenity, peace, calm, beauty, splendour that the picture associated with the frame of mind or mood that is being suggested is ALWAYS depicted by something in nature, a beautiful sunset, a majestic waterfall, a calm lake, or perhaps raindrops on leaves. It is never the scene of downtown traffic, congested shopping centres, a crowded LRT train. Mulhurst offers that setting in nature that can bring peace, quiet, reflection, meditation, a real opportunity to connect with God. Many people have shared that being at camp, in nature is a place where they can really experience God.

The Mulhurst Board has written to our church council to request that they consider putting Mulhurst into the church

budget as a line item. Currently, we pay the annual \$100 membership fee, but the intent of the request is that we commit more fully to the mission of the camp. It is always a challenge to find the funds to fulfill our budget requirements, but we must consider the value the camp offers.

Pastor Doug Heine from Hinton was the leader at the recent Men's Retreat. A handful of men enjoyed great food and fellowship, and most of all just the time to "hangout". Don't miss this event next year!

The second annual Mulhurst Christmas Gala will be held right here at Trinity on Saturday Dec 3. This fundraising event bring operating fund to the camp for next year.

In just a few weeks the 2010 program will be announced and there will be opportunities for everyone of every age to spend time at the camp – your place in the Son.

Darlene Schindel
Trinity Mulhurst Representative

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Limited Authorization to use Name / Photo in Trinity Publications

The purpose of this form is for individuals to instruct Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (Edmonton), hereafter referred to as Trinity, to limit the use of their Names and/or Photographs in any publications produced by Trinity. These include the weekly Sunday bulletin, the quarterly newsletter (Trinity Team), the congregation's Web site, and any other promotional materials designed by Trinity (eg. brochures, flyers, posters).

BACKGROUND:

The weekly Sunday bulletin consists of two parts, the announcement section and the order of service. Typically, the names of congregational members appear in the announcement section under headings related to Prayer and Donations. As well, names of members may come up within the context of a celebration (births, baptisms, confirmation, weddings, anniversaries, and funerals). The announcement sections of the bulletin will not be posted on the Web site. The names of congregational members are listed in the order of service if they participate in the worship service (as readers or musicians, for example). The order of service will be posted on the Trinity Web site.

Trinity Team is a quarterly publication that highlights congregational activities. A copy of each Team will be posted on the Trinity Web site for a period of up to one year. Articles in the Team are sometimes accompanied by photographs. Generally, congregational members' names are included with the photograph unless they are part of a group shot. Once a year, a listing of members' names appears in the form of a summary of special celebrations for that year (baptisms, confirmation, weddings, and funerals).

The Trinity Web site is an outreach instrument. It is intended to encourage congregational members to become more active in the life of the congregation. As well, it is meant to encourage visitors to consider joining the congregation for worship, service, and other activities. Photographs included on the Web site are meant to be representative and will not usually include the congregational member's name.

There is a possibility that in future Trinity church services may be filmed and posted on the Web site for access by shut-ins and others wishing to experience a typical worship service at Trinity. While most of the filming will concentrate on the altar area, some portions of the congregation might be filmed from time to time.

Promotional posters, flyers and brochures will be developed for a specific target audience and time frame (e.g., Sunday School, KinderKirche, VBS). As with the Web site, photographs included in these publications are meant to be representative and typically do not include individuals' names.

PERMISSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS:

The Trinity church office and the Communications Committee will keep three lists of church members as follows:

Members who do NOT wish their photographs to be published. When Trinity's publications are put together, care will be taken not to include photographs in which the member is clearly visible. The member may still appear in a group shot where people are not easily identifiable. When attending special church activities at which photographs are being taken, individuals wishing not to have their pictures taken and used are asked to let that be known to the photographer in attendance.

Members who do NOT wish their names to be mentioned in any of the Trinity publications posted on the Trinity Web site (or included in any publication distributed electronically). Their names may still appear in the announcements and the Order of Service section of the printed Trinity bulletin and in the printed version of the Team. All documents posted on the Trinity Web site will be edited so that there will be no record of these names through the Web site.

Members who do NOT wish their names or photographs to be included in ANY Trinity publication. These names will not appear in any bulletin announcements, any order of worship, the church newsletter nor in any other document published by Trinity.

All materials published by Trinity will be edited to respect the requested restrictions.

RESTRICTION:

I _____ (please print name) hereby provide the following instruction (please check desired restriction):

I do NOT wish my PHOTOGRAPH to appear in any publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church (print or electronic).

I do NOT wish my PHOTOGRAPH to appear in any publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church AND I do NOT wish my NAME to appear on the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Web site (or in any publication distributed electronically).

I do NOT wish my NAME nor my PHOTOGRAPH to appear in ANY publication of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

If the individual is under the age of 18, the parent or legal guardian is obliged to provide a signature on his/her behalf. The same holds true for adults requiring a family representative, trustee or legal guardian.

Signature of Parent/Guardian, etc.: _____

These restrictions may be changed at any time by filling out a new Restriction of Use form and delivering it to the church office at Trinity.

Did You Know

Did you know that The Nutcracker was written by Ernst Theodor Wilhelm Hoffmann (January 24 1776 born in Königsberg, East Prussia – Died in Berlin, Brandenburg, Prussia June 25 - 1822) and is best known under the pen name E.T.A. Hoffmann, he wrote The Nutcracker and the Mouse (Germany *Nussknacker und Mausekönig*) in 1816

Ihr Kinderlein kommet (English; O come Little Children) written in 1798 as a poem, by a Catholic priest Christoph von Schmid (1814 -1875) “Die Kinder bei der Krippe” (“The Children at the Manger”) had originally eight verses and was first published in 1811.

O Tannenbaum (English; O’ Christmas tree) the best known version was written in 1824 by Leipzig, organist, teacher and composer Ernst Anschütz. The melody is a traditional German folk song, the lyrics date as back as 1550.

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht (English; Silent Night) The original lyric of the song “Silent Night” were written in German by the Austrian priest Father Joseph Mohr (1792 - 1842) and the melody was composed by the Austrian headmaster Franz Xaver Gruber (1787 – 1863). Then in 1819, the 2nd Bishop (Episcopal Diocese of Florida) John Freeman Young published the first English version that is most frequently sung today.

I know that there are many more Christmas carols, first written in German that I have not listed. “Maybe next year!” For more information check out “Wikipedia”

Help Portrait would like to invite everyone to come and have your portrait, passport photo, Christmas photos, or any photo of a person or group, for FREE on December 10th in Trinity’s Luther Center from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm. We are also looking for volunteers to help out this year. You can help out by donating Christmas Baking, clothing or your personal time, printer ink cartages or photo paper. (This bill reached over \$250.00)

Please contact Ron Manke at 780 966 5066 or ron@oldstrathconavineyard.org

B’s Dinner 8th annual Christmas Dinner will be held on Tuesday December 13th in the Luther Center everyone is welcomed to come and have a meal. Starting at 11:30 am – 8:00 pm. Brenda and Bob are looking for volunteers to help serve meals. We are also looking for donation winter clothes for adults and children in all sizes, or personal grooming products. Looking for entertainment a person or groups to entertain all who come. Please contact Brenda at z_ab_ka@hotmail.com

Comings, Goings and Celebrations

Baptisms at Trinity:

Jan 2 –
 April 3 –
 June 5 –
 June 12 –
 June 30 –
 July 17 –
 Aug 28 –
 Oct 9 –
 Nov 6 –

Confirmation,

October 30th, 2011

5 New Members

Weddings at Trinity:

Jan 15 –
 May 14 –
 July 2 –
 July 9 –
 July 16 –
 July 23 –
 July 30 –
 July 30 –
 Aug 13 –
 Aug 20 –
 Aug 27 –
 Sept 10 –
 Sept 10 –
 Oct 8 –
 Nov 5 –
 Nov 5 –



Burials - Nov. 22, 2010 to Nov. 20, 2011:

Nov 27, 2010 –
 Dec 20, 2010 –
 Jan 3, 2011 –
 Jan 14, 2011 –
 Feb 3, 2011 –
 March 2, 2011 –
 March 4, 2011 –
 March 10, 2011 –
 March 11, 2011 –
 April 25, 2011 –
 May 9, 2011 –
 May 23, 2011 –
 May 31, 2011 –
 June 3, 2011 –
 June 9, 2011 –
 July 1, 2011 –
 July 19, 2011 –
 July 29, 2011 –
 Aug.1, 2011 –
 Aug 23, 2011 –
 Aug 27, 2011 –
 Sep 16, 2011 –
 Sep 22, 2011 –
 Sep 22, 2011 –
 Oct 19, 2011 –
 Oct 29, 2011 –
 Nov 9, 2011 –
 Nov 18, 2011 –

Looking Ahead

Christmas Pageant

Sunday - Dec 18 - 11:00 AM service
 Fellowship and Farewell for Karen to follow

Christmas Eve Services - Saturday - Dec 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 - Sunday - Dec 25:

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

New Year's:

Saturday - Dec 31
 5:00 PM - German New Year's Eve Service
 Sunday - Jan 1
 11:00 AM - English New Year's Day Service

Join us for a Champagne celebration following the New Years services.

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, 2012.
 Deadline for submissions for next issue - February 23, 2012
 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
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