



# Trinity Team

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

**December 2017**

## Soli Deo Gloria To God Alone be Glory

He was a man who was difficult to work with. He had to change jobs frequently. He worked as a composer and as a church organist. While he was a great organist, the pieces that he composed were often considered too showy to be played in church, and he himself was considered too pushy and so eventually the church would grumble and he



would grumble and they would move on.

For example, he was appointed as organist in a city in East Germany, at a church called "New Church." Light duties were expected, a relatively generous salary given and a fine new organ provided. But soon he was dissatisfied with the standard of members of the student choir and called one of them a "jerk of a bassoon player." Late one evening that same student went after him with a club. The musician filed a complaint against the offender, but the authorities released the student with a minor reprimand and ordered the musician to be more moderate regarding the musical qualities he expected from his students. Some months later he upset his employer by a prolonged absence: having obtained leave for four weeks, he was absent for around four months in order to visit another organist and composer.

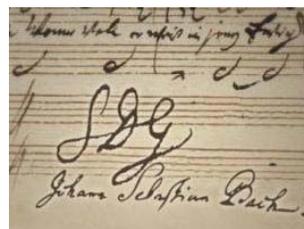
Years went by and he was promoted to concertmaster in Weimar, but eventually fell out of favour and was jailed for almost a month before being unfavourably dismissed: "On November 6, the quondam concertmaster and organist was confined to the County Judge's place of detention for too stubbornly forcing the issue of his dis-

missal, and finally on December 2 was freed from arrest with notice of his unfavourable discharge."

Later he was appointed cantor and church musician at the St. Thomas Church in Leipzig, conducting the leading church choir in Lutheran Germany. He stayed for twenty-seven years until his death, though he frequently disagreed with his employers who he thought were "penny-pinching".

His name is Johann Sebastian Bach and he is the one of the great composers of all times. Bach not only influenced the music of contemporary composers, but also some of his works have been tackled by a huge range of musicians in recent years. It seems Bach's influence stretches far and wide...

His name came to mind when I was asked to write an article about the Latin phrase "Soli Deo Gloria – Glory to God alone." When Bach finished his church compositions, he signed them with the three words *Soli Deo Gloria* (abbreviated *S. D. G.*). Once when the pastor of one church was relaying the concerns of the congregation, Bach responded by saying: "The main purpose of my music is to glorify God. Some people do this with music that is simple. I haven't chosen to use a simple style, but



my music comes from my heart as a humble offering to God. This honours God no matter what musical style I use."

"The main purpose of my music is to glorify God." Can we say that about what we do?

The main purpose of my ministry as a pastor is to glorify God. That sounds easy (but it is not, believe me). The main purpose of my work as a lawyer, nurse, retiree, teacher, doctor, volunteer, mother, father, farmer, musician, hockey player, engineer,

...see **S.D.G.** - page 2

### Inside this issue:

Reflections	
• Soli Deo Gloria	1
• Bishop's Message	2
• Thoughts from Across the Lane	3
• A Decade of Teams	3
• God's Glory and Our Lived Experience	4
Called into Worship	
• Perspectives on the Interfaith Worship	6
• Candles, Crib, Cross, Crown	7
• Comings, Goings & Celebrations	8
• Worship Opportunities	11
• Church Family Christmas Dinner	11
Our Church Family	
• Financial Update	10
• Council Update	10
• Looking Ahead	12



**S.D.G.** (Continued from page 1)

student, blue-collar worker, white-collar worker, person without employment, home worker, old person, young ... is to glorify God. Or in a nutshell: The main purpose of my life is to glorify God. A God who created us for companionship and shaped us for love; who asked us to care for creation, who sent prophets to teach us justice and, when we failed and forgot, came as a human being to us and lived with us and died for us. And isn't this what's at the heart of it all?

That whoever you are or wherever you stand or whatever you hope, what you do or don't do, God loves you fiercely, vulnerably, courageously...and unendingly. Whether you have just come to know God, or aren't even sure God really exists, yet God loves you deeply. Whether you act like a jerk or really, really try your best, God loves you. "Liberated by God's grace" is what we Lutherans say about God's fierce love. Liberated to fearlessly be God's love in this hurting world.

S.D.G.

Pastor Ingrid

P.S. The Christmas Oratorio, one of Johann Sebastian's Bach most beautiful works (for me) will be performed at the Winspear on Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m.

<https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/shows/concert-listings/bachs-christmas-oratorio>

P.P.S. "On land, on sea, at home, abroad, I smoke my pipe and worship God." (Johann Sebastian Bach)

**Last but not least:**

I am so grateful about the many ways we have at Trinity to honour God through music: German Choir, English Choir, the (Youth) Band, Trinity Instrumental Ensemble, Youth Wind Ensemble, once in a while English Sunday



School Choir and German Sunday School Choir.

I am grateful for other special opportunities we have to honour God through music: Special musicians in the summer, occasional guest choirs, and an Easter Brass Band

We are so fortunate that, with the exception of the Easter Brass, we do not financially compensate our musical guests.

I understand there has been some misunderstanding about this, so please talk to Pastor Jason or myself if you need clarification about this matter.

## Bishop's Message

Dear Beloved of God –

As we enter the season of Advent I have been thinking of Joseph and Mary journeying to Bethlehem. The gospel writer tells us that as the hour of birth drew near they tried to secure lodging and they found no room in the inn (Luke 2:7).

Founded in this verse *Las Posadas* (literally "the inns") developed as a tradition based on the unavailability of shelter. For nine days (usually occurring nine days before Christmas) *los peregrinos* (the pilgrims) walk through darkened streets carrying candles to accompany the Holy Family. They travel from house to house requesting lodging and singing carols. The procession is invited inside to enjoy food and drink before they are turned away by someone posing as *los mesoneros* (the innkeepers).

*La comunidad* is invited to partake in the pilgrimage and await the birth of the child; but for many walking in solidarity with the Holy Family means more than simply re-enacting the familiar biblical story. The re-enactment reminds participants of the challenge of providing a home for all and of the millions who have journeyed from home and land to refugee camps or to other countries. The re-enactment remembers a God who calls us to hospitality, lest we, too, leave Jesus out in the cold.



To remember involves more than abstract thought; it involves praxis. Re-enacting *Las Posadas* signifies the risk-taking and life-seeking migrations of millions. Participating in *Las Posadas* reveals the most basic understanding of who God is and what acts we are called to enact. Dr. Ana María Pineda reminds us that when we participate in this annual Advent practice, we "ritually participate in being rejected and being welcomed, in slamming the door on the needy and opening it wide. [We] are in this way renewed in the Christian practice of hospitality, the practice of providing a space where the stranger is taken in and known as one who bears gifts" (Ana María Pineda, "Hospitality," in *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*, ed. Dorothy C. Bass [San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1997], 29-42 [31]).

This Advent, though we may not ourselves participate in *Las Posadas*, I invite you to ponder with me and then to move to action as we consider the Christian practice of hospitality. Who is that stranger for whom we are called to provide a space? How might we share and receive, and learn from, the gift of hospitality? How might we experience the stranger as gift...les we, too, leave Jesus out in the cold?

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,

+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

*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*

## Thoughts from Across the Lane

By Nowlane Milner

**Glory to God - I had to think about what it means to Glorify God.** I listened to the feedback from the communication committee as the ideas about articles went around the table. When Pastor Jason explained *to Glorify God*, he said "dignity, honour, praise and worship God means to give glory to Him. For example Fellowship is an example of glorifying God. Looking at all Fellowship creates, at all the hard work everyone does in preparation for Advent and helping others in need throughout the year."



I placed the question on one of my crochet facebook pages that allows prayer requests; "How do you Glorify God through Crocheting?" The first reaction I received to the question was "How do we do this?"

This is my answer after I had time to think about it. God has given each one of us creative talents that we may glorify God.

Ephesians 2:10 God has made us who we are, and in our union with Jesus Christ he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for you to do.



With each project I start, it's always a mystery to me whether the pattern will work or not. So I have to place my trust in God that He will inspire me; as I crochet a piece I fill with prayers, love, and with the hope of spiritual

healing for everyone who receives the project that was created with them in mind.

Whether Fellowship makes hats, scarves, mittens, slippers, lap blankets, baby blankets, prayer shawls, beanies for newborns or preemies, booties, baptismal crosses, or décor pieces, know that each piece has been prepared in God's Glory and donated to several locations throughout the city, for example health care centres and members of Trinity.

## A Decade of Teams

By Hannah Noerenberg

How quickly the years have passed! Just before I drove to church for the planning meeting for this issue of the TEAM, I pulled out my personal archive of past issues and surprised myself that our little committee has now been bringing you the Trinity Team in its current format for over 10 years. I hadn't realised that first issue was published for Christmas way back in 2006! The core group of Andrea Wilhelm, Frank Thede, Nowlane Milner and I first worked on the streamlining of the design of the weekly bulletin and since then has been planning, assembling, editing and printing out these issues of the TEAM three to four times a year since 2006. We have been very grateful to everyone who has contributed articles, ideas and submissions as well as to the various people who have also served alongside our core group from time to time including those who have translated key articles from English to German. (Margarete, we miss you!) We are thrilled that Pastor Jason and Leah Johnson have now joined our Communication Committee and we invite anyone else with an interest in "getting the word out" to join us in the future. We are especially grateful to Frank Thede for working wonders when it comes to layout and visual design as it is he who takes the individual articles and aligns them into a continuous and visually pleasing format. In addition to working on our quarterly print newsletter, it has been the Communication Committee who launched our church website (which is due for some major overhauling within the coming year). As well, we are grateful to Monica Grove for her initial work on Trinity's Facebook page.

Here are a few moments from ten years ago as documented in the Trinity Teams of 2006 and 2007. Enjoy!

- The "old" **Lutheran Book of Worship** was "retired" on Sunday November 30, 2006 and replaced with the hymnal we use now, **Evangelical Lutheran Worship**.
- The Handbell Choir performed for the first time in the Advent season of 2006.
- Our Refugee Sponsorship Committee which had been supporting Flora and Moses Borneyi from Sudan since 2001 was able to reunite the family in that Flora's brother Joseph and Moses' son Harry arrived in Edmonton in November 2006.
- Our current youth leaders, Julianne Watson and Andrew Lotz were confirmands in 2006 alongside of many others. We had 18 young people in first and second year confirmation class and confirmed another 8 that year. Around that time, Ian Watson, Megan Broomhall and Guillaume Morency were our youth leaders working under the guidance of Karen Triomphe.
- In September 2007, we announced the retirement of Faye Breda from her position as Trinity's Music Director and welcomed Jordan Van Biert into the position.
- Anna Thede (currently pastor at Hosanna Lutheran) was a theology student at The King's University College.

We as the Communication Committee believe that the Good Lord will give our congregation what we need. We are also honoured and humbled to be working on and producing the TEAM as a way of sharing God's blessings among us.

# God's Glory and Our Lived Experience

Ellen Weber

Few Christians have a problem grasping *Soli Deo Gloria* or the fact that glory belongs to God alone. Much harder to visualize is our lived experience within that divine glory. How are we transformed by God's extravagant and life-changing gift of grace? This dual reality calls into question a puzzling tension, that impacts daily choices and either works for or against a life lived from within the unconditional love and goodness of God. How so?

A fierce tug-a-war often ensues between celestial extravagance, or a divine *growth mindset*, and human reality that too often awakens fears and insecurities that lock us into a *fixed mindset* of defeat. Without a lived experience of God's unconditional love, any crisis we encounter can appear to loom far bigger than our talents or tools to respond. Ephesians 2:1-10 (Good News Translation)

From Death to Life

2 *In the past you were spiritually dead because of your disobedience and sins. 2 At that time you followed the world's evil way; you obeyed the ruler of the spiritual powers in space, the spirit who now controls the people who disobey God. 3 Actually all of us were like them and lived according to our natural desires, doing whatever suited the wishes of our own bodies and minds. In our natural condition we, like everyone else, were destined to suffer God's anger.*

4 *But God's mercy is so abundant, and his love for us is so great, 5 that while we were spiritually dead in our disobedience he brought us to life with Christ. It is by God's grace that you have been saved. 6 In our union with Christ Jesus he raised us up with him to rule with him in the heavenly world. 7 He did this to demonstrate for all time to come the extraordinary greatness of his grace in the love he showed us in Christ Jesus. 8-9 For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. It is not the result of your own efforts, but God's gift, so that no one can boast about it. 10 God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do.*

## An artist's view

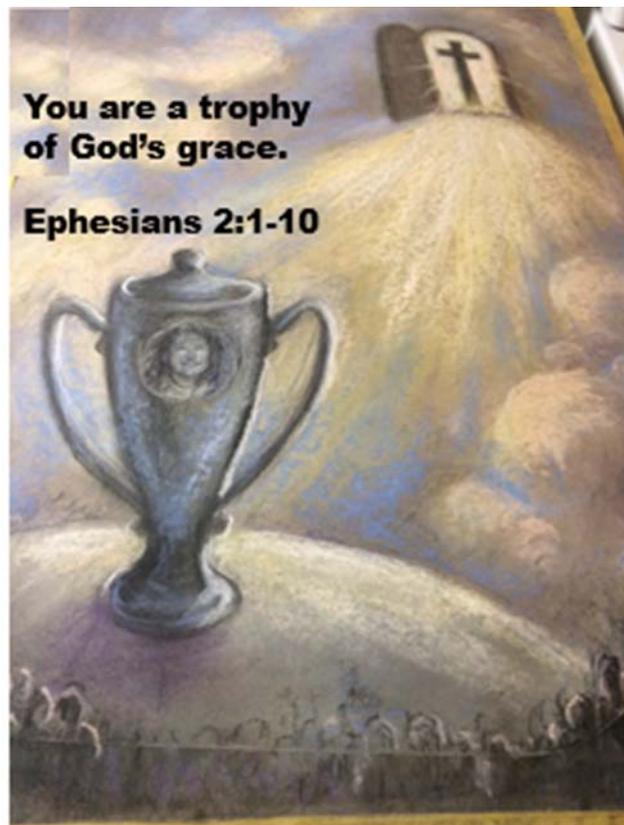
In one leadership retreat several of us grappled to illustrate the practical role grace plays in our broken reality, where demands often exceed our capabilities to cope. We wrestled with God's hold on divine glory, and our human struggle for answers.

Throughout our quandary, an artist in our group quietly sketched the visual essence of God's extravagance expressed in human lives. The artist captured *Soli Deo Gloria* alive within each of us as a free trophy-infused gift. In other words, the human reward of God's eternal glory is a tangible freedom evidenced in bold human choices based on divine championship – rather than human confines. Why such tension then, between human actions and divine enablement?

## A brain's equipment to choose

Our brains produce *serotonin*, a wellbeing chemical that adds an *aha* element whenever we act in alignment with divine grace. The opposite is also true. Choose to go it alone when life hits back, and your brain kicks in with *cortisol* hormones, its "dangerous stress" chemical. Simply stated, when God's glory flows as inner fuel, our actions work for glorious awakening in our daily reality. So where does the tension emerge?

The human brain comes equipped with a *basal ganglia*, a part of the brain that lets us perform many routine tasks



without conscious attention. While this is enormously helpful for navigating a complicated world, it has a propensity to lock us into a *fixed mindset* that sometimes separates us from the benefits of God's glory for our daily lives. Opposite this stuck place lies a *growth mindset*, where we can risk stepping forward with our hand gripped safely in His. Amazingly, one simple choice repositions God's role and helps us to risk eternal benefits, in spite of challenging stressors. We can choose to step confidently in trophy-like acceptance of grace, secured by God at the cross and given freely to humans. In neural terms, we can operate the brain's *working memory* to drive renewal and arouse curiosity about a loving God who offers divine glory in spite of human imperfection.

**Reboot for a divine growth mindset?**

...see *Lived Experience* - page 5

## To God Alone the Glory

“Life isn’t fair and there will always be someone better than you,” is what my real-life father has told us kids all our life. Not the most empowering messages for a kid to hear while growing up. And yet in a weird way these observations are the best gifts of wisdom my dad has given us kids – it has kept all of us connected to humbleness while still pursuing goodness in life. Life is not fair but yet we still expect it to be. Why? And a further mystery, despite life not being fair there is something in us internally “longing” to make life fair and our internal “discontent” in the unfairness of life continues to drive us to strive to make life fair despite the odds.

God has given our souls’ a life here on earth. Can we, in response to God’s gift of Life, say a deeply heart-felt “YES” to **love** a life on this earth despite our daily lived experience of continuous unfairness? Can we bring these opposing forces of our ‘longings’ for a fair life together with our ‘discontent’ when our expectations are not met? Simply, YES we can, once we release and surrender to God, our expectation of life being fair based on our limited perception.

God is the Great Creator. We are children of God and through God we also have the ability to create. Our body and brain together provide us with the earthly materials from which our soul consciously learns how to create. A new pattern is emerging in our world today. We are being called to ‘co-create’ with God to live a better life personally and to help the whole world to live in Peace, Love and Harmony (the Great Dream).

To purposefully co-create a better world, we need to understand the principal of ‘paradox’, which is the basic teaching Jesus gave us through the parables - to be in the world but not of the world. Brain research has shown how we have a left logical rational side and a right intuitive imaginative side. Does Christ not sit on the right-hand side of God?

From my conscious experimentations and experiences, here are some basic realizations I have come to that help me understand how we are to live life via paradox and co-create with God:

- live in the world of the left rational sense outer world (material) while operating from the right intuitive imaginative inner world (our connection to God)
- accept the friction (discontent) of life experiences while reshaping your life from the discontent to create a better life (longing)
- keep a strong passion (longing) for improving while knowing you are already successful (unconditionally loved by God)
- create clear dreams and intentions (our job) while releasing, actually surrendering, prescribed expecta-

tions of how life should unfold (this is God’s job – To God Alone the Glory) J

Co-creation with God is a dynamic relationship, which operates through our breath and passion (a passion rooted in love and truth). We breathe life into a dream, set it into action and then give it to God. God manifests events (further insights, people, money, coincidences, etc.) From these events, we assess if the dream needs some reshaping (needs tweaking or letting go) or revalidating (needs to hold true to the course) or a bit of both and then passionately breathe back out the dream to God. God manifests events... and so on. Until viola – the dream happens way beyond one’s expectations and one sits in awe and wonder! And before long another dream arises within and one moves through the cycle again with joy, love, passion and harmony with God. This is the relationship I have come to know as living a life full of love, truth, co-creation and trust in God.

**Thanks be to God! To God Alone the Glory!**

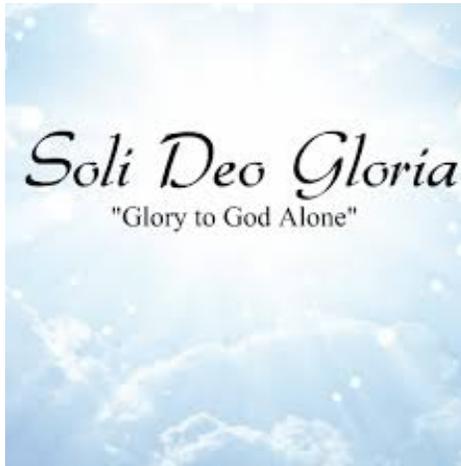
*Barbara Ritter*

### ***Lived Experience*** from page 4

We now know that humans also come equipped with *plasticity* or the brain’s ability to change itself – based on our actions. How does that work in relation to *Soli Deo Gloria*? Choose to run today with God’s grace to fuel your actions, and *plasticity* rewires the brain for more of the same. Our brain completely recharges nightly during REM’s deep sleep and reorganizes itself based on our actions on the previous day. This mental and spiritual reboot is more connected to grace than once understood.

So what’s the problem? Why then do we not leap to God’s wonder in our lives, rather than stick to limiting choices tethered to past failures or anxieties? Sadly, that *fixed mindset mode* may be stored in failed emotional responses to our past challenges or stressors. How so? Our *amygdala*, our brain’s emotional storehouse holds more tamed emotional responses when God’s grace paves our way forward. The opposite is also true; more untamed emotional frustrations stockpile in our brain when we choose to rely on our human abilities, without God’s grace. Have you experienced it?

, Then, considering that we tend to make mental choices to go it alone and end up busted rather than benefit from accepting God’s free gift of Grace, why does God offer us choice in the first place? That is another question for another roundtable and another artist’s help.



# Called into Worship

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

## Perspectives on the Interfaith Reformation Service October 29

Andrea Wilhelm

On Reformation Sunday, to commemorate 500 years of Reformation and to identify areas of ongoing or future reform, Trinity invited members of other faiths [and denominations](#) to participate in our 11am worship service.



Roman Catholic, Anglican, Orthodox, Muslim, Mennonite and Lutheran representatives read Bible lessons, led prayers, or distributed Communion, and the sermon was shared between Dr. Irma Fast Dueck from Winnipeg (Mennonite), Dr. Muhammad Shomali from London (Islam), and our own Pr. Ingrid. Special guest Chronos Vocal Ensemble and our English choir sang many pieces of sacred music as part of the liturgy.

I came out of that service deeply moved, and heard from a visitor that he "truly worshiped today." I was curious what others thought, so I randomly interviewed some of you on a following Sunday. Here is what I heard (edited & abridged) - with many thanks to the interviewees!

"Die Musik war wunderschön, und was ich auch ganz toll fand war, dass wir die erste lutherische Kirche [in Kanada], die so etwas gemacht hat, sind. Das hat uns Pastor Jason im Konfirmandenunterricht erzählt. Was ich doch interessant fand: Ich hätte gedacht, dass die Katholiken eine größere Rolle in dem Gottesdienst spielen würden."

Alexander Thielmann

### Translation:

"The music was truly beautiful, and what I also found really great was that we are the first Lutheran church [in Canada] who did this.

Pr Jason told us this in confirmation class. What I found quite interesting: I would have thought that the Catholics would have a larger role in the service." [Note: The ecu-



menical officer of the Catholic Archdiocese was present, read a lesson and said a prayer, but did not preach.]

"Ich war wirklich *impressed*, dass jemand von der Muslim-Gemeinde auch gekommen war, obwohl die ja nicht an Christus glauben, und hat das angenommen - die Gemeinschaft. Dass Menschen doch wieder mal miteinander reden können. Das Singen war einmalig, und ich war froh, dass ich gekommen war. Es ist gut, dass diese Sachen so gemacht werden, wie sie heute gemacht werden. Ich bin nicht so groß geworden... Ich hab mal von den Muslimen gelesen; ihre Religion, fand ich, war nicht schwer anzunehmen, nur dass dann die Sitten für uns etwas schwer anzunehmen sind, z.B. dass die Frauen so wenig Rechte haben. Aber ihre Religion spricht auch von Vergebung und von einer dem andern Helfen, und unsere Religion, alles was Jesus gesagt hat, war ja immer dem Andern helfen, dem Armen helfen, und das haben die meisten Religionen. Bloß die Sitten [sind anders]." - Ella Hoyer

Translation: "I was really impressed that someone from the Muslim congregation also came, even though they don't be-

lieve in Christ, and accepted this - the fellowship. That it's possible for people to talk to each other once again. The singing was unparalleled, and I was glad that I came. It's good that things are done the way they are done today. I didn't grow up like that... I once read something about the Muslims; I found their religion not hard to accept, only their customs are hard for us to accept, e.g. that women have so few rights. But their religion also speaks of forgiveness and of helping one another, and our religion - everything that Jesus said - was, always help others, help the poor, and most religions have that. But the customs are different."

"I thought the music was absolutely beautiful. I thought it was very interesting to have the different voices speaking, the dialogue/trialogue. I realized it was more one person speaking at a time; it would have been interesting to have the three talk back and forth with each other. But it was a very special service, and I thank everyone for organizing it." - Hannah Noerenberg

"First of all, I loved the Chronos because it made a difference with the songs and everything. And then we heard a speech from each of those faith representatives. I think it's good to have that kind of discussion, although I am not

...see Room INN Your Heart - page 9



# Candles - Crib - Cross - Crown

Here is an idea for a craft that anyone can make, courtesy of our German Sunday school, also known as Kinderkirche. We realized that the high points of the Jesus Story could be summarized in 4 crucial words (that all start with C in English and K in German). They could also make up the 4 sides of a simple table lantern.

During Advent, we often light **CANDLES** on Advent wreaths to count down the Sundays before the Coming of our Lord. Week by week an additional candle is lit. By Christmas Eve, all four candles burn to light the way to the stable. (*Die Kerzen auf dem Kranz erinnern uns, das Jesu Geburt immer näher kommt.*)

On Christmas Eve, we celebrate Je-



sus' birth in the rudimentary **CRIB**, the manger used by the animals in an out of the way stable, given that there was no 'room at the inn.' God chose to have His Son be born among the very poor and marginalized as a way to illustrate that His coming is not just for the well off in society, but for everyone who lives and breathes. (*Jesu Babybett war eine Krippe, aus der Tiere Heu fressen, so arm waren seine Eltern. Gott schickte seinen Sohn zu den Armen, damit alle wissen dass er sich für sie interessiert.*)

At some point as Jesus was growing up, He must have realized that the parts of the Scriptures that prophesized of the coming Messiah must apply to Him. Perhaps, when Mary and Joseph found him in discussion with the High Priests at the Temple, He was trying to get a sense of His future mission. When He gave up His life for all of humanity on

the **CROSS**, He paved the way for our salvation. (*Jesu Tod am Kreuz hat für uns die Türen des Himmels aufgemacht.*)

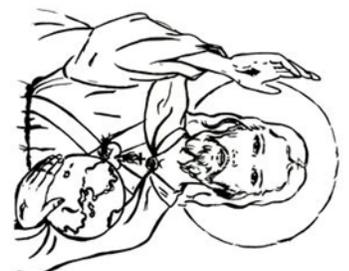
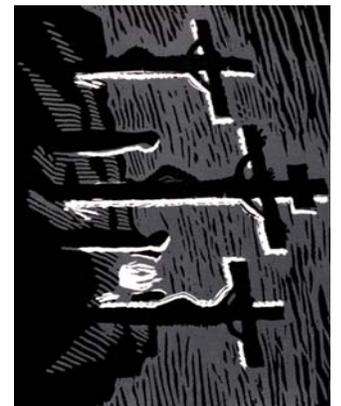
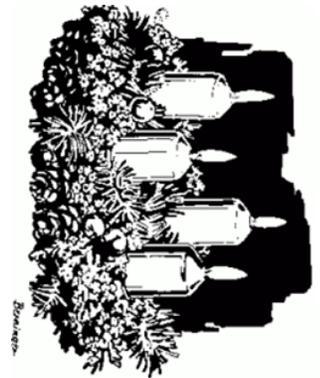
After His death and resurrection, Jesus remained among His followers for another few weeks. During that time He often spoke of the Kingdom of Heaven. The last image on our lantern shows Him wearing a halo-like **CROWN** in recognition that He is our Lord. He can reign in our hearts today just like he will reign in heaven for ever. (*Als unser Herr und Heiland trägt Jesus eine Krone, denn er kann jetzt schon in unseren Herzen regieren, wie er es später im Himmel auch tun wird.*)



To make the four sided lantern, cut out the strip of images, color them (wax crayon works best) and then fold them into four even sections, leaving a little strip to overlap between the Crown and the Candles. This strip can be fastened with tape or glue. Stand the lantern on the table, place a tea light in the middle and enjoy seeing the light shine through all four images.



Fold



## About this Issue

### *Soli Deo Gloria*

The theme of this issue of the Team is *Soli Deo Gloria* - Latin for "to God alone the glory." We chose it because it ties together the Reformation with the seasons of Advent and Christmas. A key discovery in the Reformation was that anything good, and above all our salvation, is not our own doing but God's. As Professor Rev. Gordon Jensen said in his Reformation sermon here in October, "it's not about us, it's about God." And in Advent and Christmas we see so clearly that it's not what we do but what God does: God chose to come into this world as a human being, in order to redeem us and all of creation. We cannot not overcome ourselves, but God can. We cannot save the world, God does. We cannot create peace, God can. We cannot do miracles, God does. How liberating is that! And how it makes us and earth and heaven sing, "Glory to God!"

The theme *Soli Deo Gloria* also allows us to look back at the wonderful things that happened at Trinity in the past months, and again to say, "Glory to God!"

It's our hope that the articles in the Team, those in this issue and those in previous issues this year, might help you to see God at work in us and through us. At this time of preparation and celebration may we always be mindful of the wonderful gift God gave us in the birth, life and death of His Son.

Happy reading and Advent blessings,  
*Trinity Communications Committee*

## Comings, Goings and Celebrations

### Baptisms

Dec 11, 2016  
April 9, 2017  
April 9, 2017  
July 23, 2017  
Sept 23, 2017  
Sept 24, 2017  
Sept 24, 2017  
Oct 8, 2017  
Oct 8, 2017  
Nov 5, 2017 **Blair**

### Weddings

Dec 17, 2016 **Joy Berg & Joseph Gerard Desrosiers**  
May 27, 2017 **Miranda Schubert & Mike Patmore**  
July 8, 2017 **Karlen Hutlet & Zachariah Barr**  
July 22, 2017 **Luen Su & Alexander Kushee Thaw**  
August 19, 2017 **Stacey Hanson & Connor Loades**  
Nov 4, 2017 **Vanessa Pinto & Andrew Robinson**

### Funerals

Nov 20, 2016 **Florence Breier**  
Nov 21, 2016 **Hedwig Erisman**  
Nov 22, 2016 **Camilla Witt**  
Nov 23, 2016 **Wendy Jill Allen**  
Dec 19, 2016 **Werner Sternhagen**  
Jan, 5, 2017 **August Friedrich Lenz**  
Jan 5, 2017 **Arthur Polej**  
Feb 12, 2017 **Daniel Eidick**  
Mar 27, 2017 **Sina Lotz**  
May 13, 2017 **Krista Rachel Smith**  
June 21, 2017 **Else Bosse**  
June 30, 2017 **Otto Kurtz**  
July 6, 2017 **Sam Hemmerling**  
Sept 6, 2017 **Gina Hamblin**  
Oct 23, 2017 **Austin James Anderson-Evans**  
Nov 4, 2017 **Eduard Marks**  
Nov 7, 2017 **Erhard Jede**  
Nov 22, 2017 **Alice Schmidt**



**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: February 2016. 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: Trinity Office (office@trinity-lutheran.ab.ca) or drop them off at the church office - Attn: Trinity Team  
© Trinity Lutheran Church, 2015  
Source should be acknowledged if material reproduce in whole or in part.

## Called Into Worship

### *Thoughts - continued from page 6*

sure sure whether, for example, the time was too short maybe for engaging the discussion. For example, one of my things is, as Christians we are used to being open-minded, we are used to being open to other religions etc., so for us interfaith is nothing really new, we understand it. But I noticed the Muslim speaker, I didn't see that he actually started from inside, countries where Muslims are the majority, talking about interfaith there as well. My personal experience when I was in Indonesia, they don't have that kind of mentality, to be interfaith. So those are the countries where that preacher should go. But I don't think he will dare to go there, to be honest, because he may be persecuted for talking like that. It's brave of him to come here, but it would be even braver if the discussion started from those countries first. So we also have to have a deeper discussion, asking what is the reason you see us [Christians] as infidels for example, why some of them think they can basically sacrifice the blood of infidels - some of them talk like that back home. So I want deeper discussion for sure. It [the service] was a good start, but we shouldn't stop there. It was like a celebration, the next one should be more important, how to talk deeper into this and to understand each other." - Erwin Simanjuntak

"It was quite a moving service, the music was great, very interesting to hear the different perspectives. I thought it was very brave of the Imam to be here and speak in our service, knowing that this was a Christian service and that the conversation would be about Christ, and yet he was willing to be here and tell us that the Father is the same God. His message about connecting face to face, so don't judge from afar, get up close and personal and make it face to face just like God does, was quite a message. I thought it was a wonderful service." - Frank Thede

"It was a very interesting service, and it is always interesting when you bring so many different people to a table of sorts, and I think that has to be the future of where we're all going, because I think divided we fall, and so we have to unite people, and we have to unite them for the right reasons. So I thought it was wonderful, and I thought the music really enhanced things, and the readings by the many different people enhanced things. It was very good for me ... it is about reform and continuing reform. The future isn't predictable, maybe what we've always done isn't gonna keep working, and we have to continue to challenge ourselves. Having challenges gives you hope, and that really stuck with me. It might force us to do things we are not comfortable with and that is what a challenge is, not a pretend challenge but a real one." - Anne Campbell

"It was great. It really highlighted the diversity and the inclusiveness of it all, that we don't have to be a silo as Christians or even other faiths. We celebrate together. The thing that struck me is that maybe not that many years ago there would have been members of this very congregation who would have resisted having people from other faiths speak at a service and now it seems to be that people have grown up and realized that no-one can claim to have the way up the mountain, that we all have a way up. But to relate it to the Reformation, nothing strikes a bell there for

me. The connection was probably there, but for me it didn't jump out. [...] It was great, and for everyone who was involved in organizing it, my hat's off to them. I'm sure there was a lot of work behind the scenes for it." - Ken Nelson

"I really liked it, I thought it was powerful and moving and I liked the focus on how we can work together. - I loved that the church was full; I would love to see that every Sunday. And the singing was wonderful, wonderful music. - Awesome. That's what I think was part of what made it such a powerful service, all the people, and new people too. And the number of people that were interested in the topic, the whole idea of coming together, it wasn't just Trinity folks. - And all three speakers were really good and had really powerful messages, sort of almost aligning with each other. - Yeah, that was really clear to me, that everyone was thinking the same thoughts; that we need to work together and focus on what unifies us instead of what turns us apart. - I would love to continue that sort of an interfaith dialogue on a semi-regular basis, maybe once or twice a year. - I agree, I would like to see that too, and now that we've just put a toe in that door, maybe we'll open a little wider and encourage and invite more people to come here. I like that this is a leadership component of our church and outreach and so on, it shows that we're in step with what it seems that most people want. - Well, society is I guess moving in that direction to try to bridge gaps. - I would like to see more of that, and even to celebrate their holy days as well, for example the end of Ramadan, so to have something to commemorate what that means to them and how it ties into our own beliefs and so on. - Yeah, and what does fasting mean, because we also have fasting in our tradition but we don't really talk much about it." - Peggy Boss & Eileen Hay (& me)

"I thought it was very interesting actually, I enjoyed it. First of all, I enjoyed being exposed to the different faiths, having them all in our church at the same time was certainly a new experience. - I thought it was very enlightening what the other speakers, the other religions, thought about peace and how it relates to all of us, not just one religion, and that the wars shouldn't relate to religion. I found the Muslim speaker really very interesting. I think it was enlightening for all of us and the whole service was very real. - I had no problem with it happening at Trinity. - Why not Trinity? - The choirs, that was fantastic, the voices were fantastic. - Having them up around the top, that was really awesome. It was a little on the loud side for the size of Trinity, but awesome, awesome. And I hope that the speakers got something from Trinity, as being able to open up and be an all-inclusive service like that, I hope they took that away from us." - Reuben & Sonja Marinoske

*If you have additional or different perspectives on the Interfaith Reformation service, we would like to hear from you. Please contact one of the pastors, Karen, or a member of church council. Thank you.*

All are invited to a follow-up conversation about the Interfaith Reformation Service with David Goa on Jan 21, 2018, at 12:30pm at Trinity.

# Our Church Family

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

## Financial Update

Winter is upon us and we are grateful to the property committee for sharing their time and talents to get the new furnace for the atrium area installed and operational. We will now be able to keep our atrium warm as it gets colder outside.

It is now time for us to **do our part**. If you recall, at the AGM back in February it was decided that the cost of the furnace and the flooring that was installed in the hallway and offices would not be included in our budget but rather we would create a **Building Fund** and rely on donations to cover these expenditures. So far we have received \$10,920 towards the Building Fund. We still need an additional **\$5,600** to cover the cost of the new flooring in the hallway & offices, plus **\$45,200** already spent to purchase the new furnace and an estimated additional **\$14,000** still to be paid for its installation and other related costs.

In addition to this we need to cover 2017 budgeted expenditures. Financial information on our 2017 budget to the end of October is as follows:

Total current operating revenue (Jan - Oct)	\$350,973
Revenue required * (Jan - Oct)	\$376,903
<b>Shortfall at Oct 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>\$ <u>25,929</u></b>

\* This amount is calculated taking into account the seasonal nature of giving at Trinity.

In total we need an additional \$90,000 over and above regular giving in order to cover the cost of the flooring, the furnace and budgeted expenses. While this number may seem daunting, I am confident that we can raise the required funds over the next several months.

It always seems **impossible** until it's done.

*Nelson Mandela*

Paul teaches the early church that each person should give as God leads his conscience. Through prayerful submission, they are each to determine how much of their income they should *keep*. This is a reversal of how most of us think about giving. The question isn't "How much of *my* money should I give?" but "**How much of God's money should I keep?**" Remember that we are not the owners but have been trusted with resources and the care of everything—Creation, gifts and talents, money, time, the gospel—for the sake of God's purposes in the world.

*Eileen Hay*  
*Treasurer*

## Council Update

### From the Chair's Chair

If you've ever been part of an organization, company, a branch of government, a board or council, you've likely been involved in creating a vision and/or a mission. And perhaps, like me, you've thought to yourself, "Here we go again!"

If the process of creating a vision and mission ends there (with simply a couple of statements written, no matter how well-crafted), the exercise has been in vain. On the other hand, a visioning process that is thoughtfully led and consistently sustained can be the driving force for impactful change in an organization, as well as engagement, connection, commitment and a sense of common purpose among members.

A vision and a mission statement, once carefully and collaboratively (and in a church's case, prayerfully) developed, should reflect, at that particular point in time, that organization's goals, its culture, its passions, its priorities, its values, its faith, its enduring purpose, its shared belief in what defines the ideal future. The mission, a living statement, needs to be at the centre of everything the organization does and says, used as a gauge to measure every decision. It should be everywhere, understood by everyone, discussed often, used a compass in difficult times, "a beacon for tomorrow" (Jensen, *Visioning: An Essential Business Process*). Consider these visions:

- To be the best service organization in the world. (IBM)
- To make everyday life better for our customers. (Ikea)
- To give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected. (Facebook)
- To help people save money so they can live better. (Walmart)

- To make people happy. (Walt Disney)
- To be our customers' favorite place and way to eat. (McDonalds)

If you had to describe your church, what words would you use? Who are we? What are our priorities? Do you know what the mission of your church is? Can you recite it by heart? Do you see it printed on every publication? Is it used to make decisions in the church?

Trinity Church Council began their year by refocusing on vision and mission. On every Church Council meeting agenda, we see our vision (Found by Grace, Called to Love) as well as our missions (that we call our cornerstones):

- Integrating Christian education and opportunities for spiritual growth
- Building caring relationships within the congregation
- Maintaining the quality of Trinity's worship and music
- Maintaining Trinity's social justice outreach ministries

It's a step toward highlighting our common purpose, that which brings us together as members of this unique congregation and members of the body of Christ.

At Council's September Retreat, our pastors challenged us to illustrate our church's vision. What I initially thought would be an impossible task, turned out to be one that brought us closer together as a council, helped us realize our unique gifts, led to a rich discussion and resulted in a pretty good painting (thank goodness for people with artistic gifts!). This painting is now mounted and hung in the hallway of the Luther Centre as you make your way toward the Social

...see **Council**— page 12

## Called Into Worship

### Worship Opportunities

**Sunday, December 3: Advent Fair.** This annual Craft and Bake Sale starts at 10:30 and continued after the 11:00 service. Coffee, cake, Cinnamon Buns, as well as pre-ordered Poinsettias and wreaths will be available, plus lunch and family activities. Proceeds of the cinnamon bun and floral sales support the youth trip to this summer's youth convention while the remainder supports Trinity in general.

**Sunday, December 17: Combined Worship Service with Christmas Pageant.**

10:30 AM joint service

**Sunday, December 24: Worship services:**

11:00 AM Advent 4 Service for All, followed by Church Family Christmas Dinner

4:00 PM Family Christmas Eve

6:00 PM German Candlelight

8:00 PM Candlelight Service

**Monday, December 25 Worship Services:**

9:30 AM German Christmas Service with Holy Communion

11:00 AM Christmas Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 31 Worship Services:**

9:30 AM German Christmas service of Hymn of Lessons

11:00 AM Christmas Service with Hymns followed by a reception in the Atrium

**Sunday, January 8 Worship Services:**

9:30 AM German Epiphany Service

11:00 AM Epiphany Service

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018**

7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service

Every Wednesday until holy week 7:00 PM Lenten Service

**Friday, March 30, 2018 Good Friday**

10:00 AM German Good Friday Service

3:00 PM English Good Friday Service

**Saturday, March 31, 2018**

7:00 PM Youth Led Easter Vigil

8:00 PM Traditional Easter Vigil (alternative) - Holy Trinity Anglican Church

**Sunday, April 1, 2018 Easter**

7:30 AM Sunrise service followed by breakfast

9:30 AM German Worship Service with Communion

10:00 AM Easter Breakfast - second sitting

11:00 AM English Worship Service with Communion



### Church Family Christmas Dinner

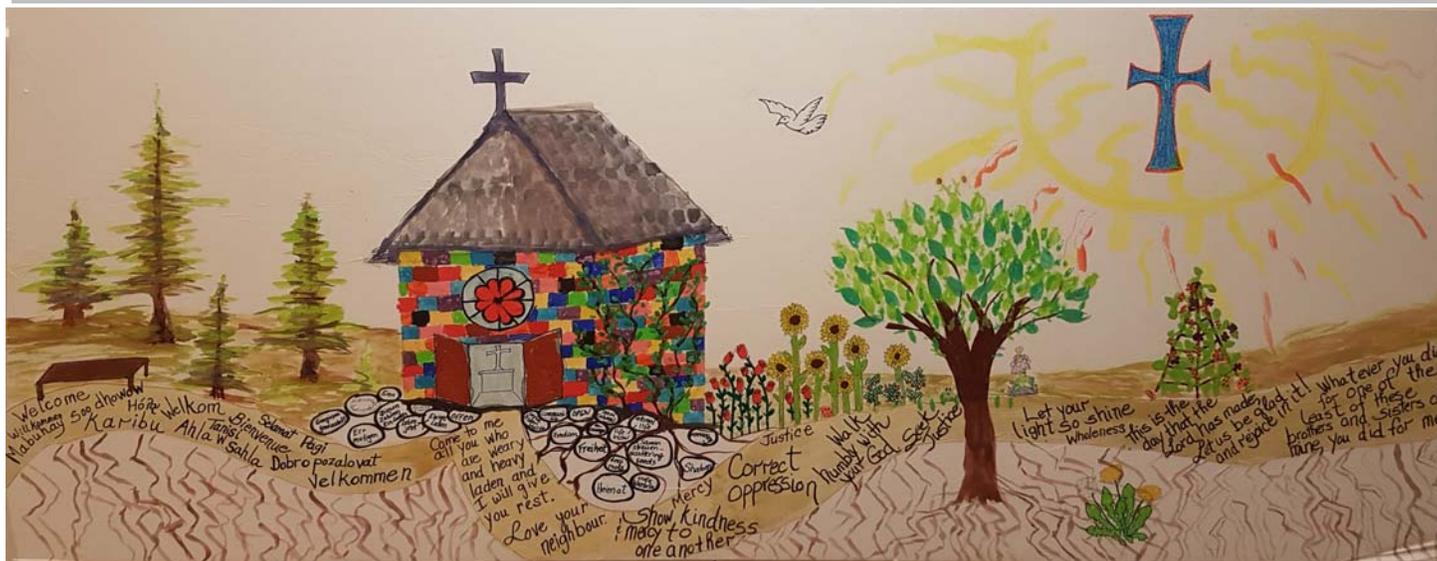
Would you or someone you know want to be part of a Family Christmas Dinner on Dec 24? This potluck dinner after the 11:00 service is ideal for those living alone, international students, people with family living far away etc. Sign up to bring your favourite traditional foods (Turkey will be provided). Also bring a wrapped gift (hand made or less than \$10) for a fun gift exchange. You can even stay until the Christmas Eve services (naps on the youth room couches are permitted after all the turkey). RRSP to Karen or sign up in the Atrium.



### Sunday, December 17

#### 10:30 AM Joint Service

Join us for a special combined worship service on December 17 which will feature our annual Christ Pageant involving both choirs, Sunday School and members of the congregation. Please speak to Pastor Jason if you would like to participate in presenting the pageant.



### **Council** - continued from page 10

Room, on the right side. Stop by to take a look. Can you see what we see in Trinity – both in its present state and in what we hope it can move toward?

- That we are called to be part of this world and bring the Kingdom of heaven closer to the earth
- That our doors remain open and that we come **IN** to find healing, grace, joy, peace and wholeness and that we **GO BACK OUT** to live out our faith in the world with mercy, justice and love
- That both the path leading to the church and away from it are life-giving and that both the coming and the going are important
- That our strong German heritage helps define who we are; that we have deep **ROOTS** that ground us in Christ and make us strong

- That we are a church for all seasons and have the capacity to bear fruit and grow among the struggles of life
- That we are a diverse, rich community with many gifts (illustrated in the multi-coloured bricks) to share with each other and the community
- That we are Christ-centered, built on a strong foundation of scripture (that we are built on “good soil”)
- That we are inviting, welcoming, accepting
- That the “Son” gives us life and sustains us

Pictures can be powerful ways of communicating. What is your picture, your vision, of the ideal church? What is our (or God’s) vision for the ministry of Trinity? Are we living our vision? As we hopefully continue to talk about and revise our vision and our mission to be responsive to the community and world in which we live, may Jesus’ example always be our light.

## Looking Ahead

**Tuesday, December 5: Community Dinner** at 6 pm prepared jointly by neighbouring congregations. All are welcome.

**Thursday, December 7: Trinity Lutheran Women (TLW) 55+ Christmas Social.** This annual gathering is a lovely place to connect/reconnect with others. Call the office for ticket information. Starts at 11:30.

**Tuesday, December 12: German Trinetten Annual Weihnachtsliedersingen.** Christmas Carols and so much more. German speaking friends and neighbours and those from other congregations are most welcome to join. Kaffee u. Kuchen provided. Starts at 1 pm.

**Wednesday, December 13: Christmas Caroling at Trinity Lutheran House.** All are welcome to join us from 6:30-7:15 PM.

**Sunday, December 17: Combined Worship Service with Christmas Pageant.** This joint service starts at 10:30 and involves both choirs, Sunday School and members of the congregation

**Sunday, December 24: Worship services:**

- 11:00 AM Advent 4 Service for All, followed by Church Family Christmas Dinner (no 9:30AM service)
- 4:00 PM Family Christmas Eve celebration
- 6:00 PM German Candlelight Service
- 8:00 PM English Candlelight Service

**Church Family Christmas Dinner.** Would you or someone you know want to be part of a Family Christmas Dinner on Dec 24? This potluck dinner after the 11:00 service is ideal for those living alone, international students, people with family living far away etc. Sign up to bring your favourite traditional foods (Turkey will be provided). Also bring a wrapped gift (hand made or less than \$10) for a fun gift exchange. You can even stay until the Christmas Eve services (naps on the youth room couches are permitted after all the turkey). RRSP to Karen or sign up in the Atrium.

**Monday, December 25 Worship Services:**

- 9:30 AM German Christmas Service - Holy Communion
- 11:00 AM Christmas - Holy Communion

**Sunday, December 31 Worship Services:**

- 9:30 German service of Christmas Hymns and Lessons
- 11:00 English Service with Christmas Hymns followed by a New Year’s Eve reception in the Atrium

**Sunday, January 7 Worship Services:**

- 9:30 German Epiphany Service
- 11:00 Epiphany Service

**Sunday, January 21, 12:30pm**

- Follow-up conversation with David Goa about the Inter-faith Reformation Service