

WE ARE JOYFULLY GATHERED TOGETHER BY GOD'S GRACIOUS LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST TO WORSHIP HIM, TO GROW IN FAITH AND TO PROCLAIM JESUS BY WORD AND SERVICE.

Celebrating God's Story

Throughout the year 2015 we are going to celebrate 75 years of Trinity Lutheran Church being rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ here in Vancouver and witnessing to God's great story throughout history.

A 75th Anniversary Committee is busy planning events for the year, including an open house event in the spring, a block party event in the summer and a sanctuary banquet celebration in the fall.

We want to be intentional about making ourselves (Trinity)

known in the neighborhood as well as intentional about telling God's story. Starting in Epiphany (after the twelve days of Christmas) we will be using some of the great stories from

you to be involved in different ways to help celebrate God's story and our 75th year together. And we look forward to the burden of expectation, that through this effort God will speak something new and fresh into our ears. By His word, He always does. So, get ready to hear the great stories of Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses, David, Daniel and such, all bearing witness to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus!

I am excited, can you tell?!

Pastor Ruth

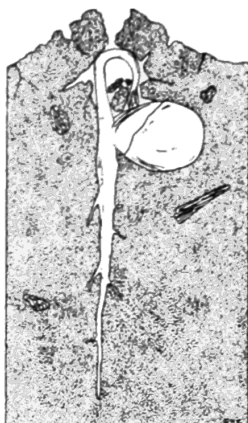
"God will speak something new and fresh into our ears. By His Word, he always does."

the Old Testament as well as the New Testament in our worship to tell God's story.

We look forward to the creative opportunities for all of

Inside this issue:

"Reaching the unreached for Christ" Proposals from the Gathering Steam Committee	Pg 2
TLC's Financial Report moving into 2015	Pg 3
Fellowship Opportunities	Pg 4
TLC cares for you!	Pg 5
Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity 1 Timothy 4:12	Pg 6
Do you know when to plan for Vacation Bible School?	Pg 7
Stay Active this Year	Pg 8



*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, **so shall** my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that for which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11*

Special Congregational Meeting

"Reaching the unreached for Christ"



On December 7, 2014 Trinity held a special congregational meeting to consider what the Lord would have us do with the gift we received from the sale of the cell tower lease. This sale resulted in a \$615,000 windfall which was invested in a Vanguard account until we could determine how to use these proceeds. In parallel with these deliberations the council had been working on an overarching vision for Trinity based on the work that had started with the 5-year plan and accumulated in the Gathering Steam meeting. This resulted in what we have called the "Big Idea" – Reaching the unreached for Christ. In addition, the council recognized the need to assure the church could continue to be financially sound. We had been using the lease proceeds in the past to augment the operating budget by \$40,000 a year. With the sale of this lease that annual revenue would no longer be available. However we did take approximately \$55,000 to support the annual budget this church year and part of the prior budget. The two

efforts, along with concern about the loss of the funds received from the lease, had come together in three proposals which were presented at this congregational meeting.

The congregation approved the following proposal:

To divide the remaining \$560,000 three ways: between Local Mission, Global Mission and Congregation Support. Local Mission and Global Mission would each have \$100,000 of the proceeds initially and the remainder would be available for Congregation Support. The Congregation Support account would allow us to continue the use of the proceeds to augment our operating budget. A task force would be formed for each of the three mission areas. The goal of the congregational support task force would be to work over the next 24 months to establish a sustainable budget model.

So what does that mean to you and me? Well, I believe this seed money will allow each of us to continue to grow in God's calling to bring His word to those who have not heard of His saving

grace. Whether it be locally through after-school programs, assisting the elderly or our continued effort to assure the homeless a warm place to sleep. Globally it means we may be able to bring others who have never heard His Good News to Christ. We will do this by getting our financial house in better order over the next 24 months. SO, does one of these areas excite you? We hope so, because this action only provides the money to begin these efforts. To be successful, we need you to bring your time and talents to one or more of these mission areas. After the first of the year you will have the opportunity to join one of these task forces. I would ask that you pray about how the Lord can use you to reach the unreached for Christ!

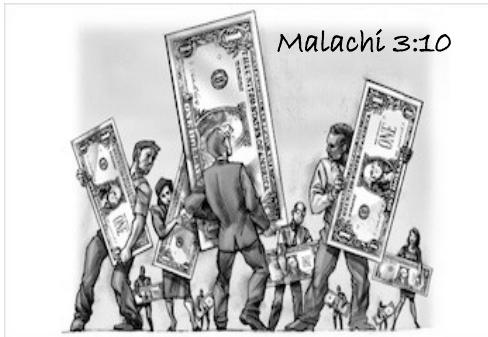
TLC Council President,

Fred Johnson

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Financial Report: December 2014 By Robert Ellingwood



On December 7, 2014 a special congregational meeting was held to discuss the disposition of the remaining proceeds from the sale of the cellular tower lease contract previously held with AT&T. A motion was made and passed to dedicate \$350,000 to continue to support the Operating Budget, while \$100,000 each is allocated local and global ministries. A Task force will be appointed for each of these three areas to establish goals, and objectives and help implement programs. Common to each area is the goal to establish within a 24 month period a solid financial plan to address the continuing deficit in giving income to meet

established expenses. Currently, TLC is utilizing \$40,000/year in proceeds from the sale of the cellular contract. In addition, the balance of the Rainy Day fund has been utilized, requiring liquidation of invested funds received a number of years ago from an estate bequest to meet current expenses. We are currently projecting to finish the fiscal year with a deficit in income of \$20,000 to \$25,000 based upon the current rate of giving.

As part of the goal to reach financial stability within the next 24 months, TLC would be extremely grateful to receive your year-end gifts to offset the current shortfall in income. Typically, year-end gifts have helped TLC to achieve a balanced income vs. expense outcome. This did not happen the last fiscal year and is trending to repeat a deficit without additional giving. Even though giving income at this time has increased over the same time period of last year, TLC's expenses have risen and are significantly contributing to the shortfall in giving income. Wherever the Lord leads you in your commitment to stewardship will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your consideration of the needs of TLC.

Children's Christmas Program Success!

Many thanks to all of those who participated in this year's Children's Christmas Pageant: Just a Little Christmas. The congregation really enjoyed the play and songs, and the children's efforts really paid off. Thank you, kids! Kudos go to Maddie Stevenson for her creative direction of the play, and to all the helpers who made it happen.



Adopt a Family

The Giving Tree is a partnership between Salvation Army and Trinity Lutheran Church, where the church has an opportunity to bring joy to families in need during the holiday season. Thank you big time to Sharon Swanson, Pat Swiercinsky, Jean Mellesdal, David Haas, Bob Ellingwood, & Fred Johnson. A big thank you to all of you that bought gifts and food for the Trinity Giving Tree. Also a big thank you to Dominique Shelton and David Miller. I really do appreciate your support.

Mary Ann Olson



Happy Lunch Bunch

Everyone available for a daytime fellowship is invited to our Happy Lunch Bunch January potluck on **January 20 at noon**. First timers come as guests and others bring one item to complete the meal. We will enjoy eating good hot turkey soup made by Sue Pechacek. Our special speaker will be Bill Miller from LERC. LERC is connected with *The Lions program* that collects used eye glasses. He will tell us how these useless glasses are turned in gifts of sight for people around the world. If you have any old eyeglasses stuffed in a drawer someplace, bring them to our luncheon.

Fellowship!

*Iron sharpens iron, and one
man sharpens another.*

Proverbs 27:17

Trip for Fun



Our January TFF will go to the Mochitsuki Japanese New Year Celebration at the Portland State University Student Union building on **Sunday, January 25**. This annual event is sponsored by the

Japanese/American society. There will be a Japanese food court, arts and crafts demonstrations, tea ceremony etc. There will be stage performances of Taiko drummers, folk dances etc. We will leave

after church, at noon. For a seat on the church van add your name to the sheet on the sign up board.



TLC Book Club

The Trinity Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month, January 27, at 7 pm. Anyone interested in reading books and then sharing conversation about them would enjoy this congenial small group of men and women. Come and see.



January Companions All

The small group dinners in homes called Companions All meet the weekend of January 10 (or whatever date the host home chooses.) People sign up for these dinners in the fall, but each dinner invites one extra couple so some others may be included. Host homes for the January dinners are: Jim/Sande Spence, Bob/Donna Ellingwood, Ginni Christensen/Solway Mickelson, Jerry/Barbara Clark, Duane/Peggy Lansverk.

FRIENDSHIP

*A friend loves at all times,
and brothers are born to
share adversity.*

Proverbs 17:17



WELLNESS CORNER by Sue Hoeffner



Hospitalizations

If you become hospitalized and would like your church

family to know, please call—or designate someone else to call—the church office @ 695-1221. We need your permission to be placed onto the prayer list. Also, please let us know if you would like a Pastoral or Parish Nurse visit while in the hospital. Hospitals no longer automatically

notify patients' churches due to the Privacy Act.

Trinity's Medical Device Lending Closet



If you find yourself in temporary need of an assistive de-

vice such as a walker, cane, crutches, or wheelchair, please contact Sue in the Parish Nurse office @ 695-1221,

ext. 28. Lending is on a first come-first served basis. We accept lightly used equipment for the lending closet, with the exception of commodes.



EnhanceFitness Classes



Make plans to start out 2015 on the right foot! Come join our fun exercise classes held every Mon-Wed-Fri, 1-2 pm in Trinity's Stolee Hall. Classes are led by Laurie Porter, a certified instructor, and participants get a great head-to-

toe workout! Laurie leads us through exercises (chair or standing) to improve balance, aerobics, and strength. There is no set fee, but donations are accepted to help cover the cost of the instructor's time and equipment.

Suggested donation is \$1 per class.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5

2015 Blood Drives at Trinity—Your Community Needs Your Help!

Please make note of the upcoming Blood Drives at Trinity (all are on Wednesdays, 1-7 pm)



February 25

August 5

May 13

November 18



The Blood Drives are administered through the Puget Sound Blood Center—Oregon & Southwest Washington Blood Program. The Blood Center sets up shop in the comfort of our own Memorial Chapel. Donors make lifesaving contributions every time they give blood. The entire process takes less than an hour from start to finish, including time to relax with cookies and juice after donating. Students ages 16 & 17 can donate blood with parental permission. There is no upper age limit.

Trinity Lutheran Church

TIDINGS

trinityvancouver.org

HS Winter Retreat!

Don't miss our annual snow trip to Sunriver, OR! We will be going **Friday, Jan. 9th—Sunday, Jan. 11th**. Snow sports, tubing, ice skating, Bible Study, and lots of fun together! Even if you don't ski/board it is still a lot of fun.

Cost is free for the retreat but activities are your own cost. More details coming via e-mail.

Weekly Activities:

- **Confirmation**—
Wednesdays
6:30—7:45 PM.
- **HS Youth Group**
Youth Nights
6:00—7:30 PM
- **Worship**
Sunday
10:30 AM
- **Sunday School**
All Ages
9:30 AM

Cake Auction 2014



Youth Cake Auction!

Our annual event is on **Sunday, Feb. 8th at 5 PM!** This is our big fundraiser that supports our summer trips for both MS and HS youth. Please plan on attending/helping with this great event! We will be having a Scandinavian theme this year!

HS National Gathering

We are registered! It will be July 14th—20th. You can still register to attend this incredible once every 3 years event! Just talk to Brian for more details ASAP!

Upcoming Events!

- Middle School Movie Night (TBD)
- Cake Auction (Feb. 8th)
- MS/HS Winterhawks Hockey Game (TBD)
- Middle School Multi-Church Lock-in (March 13th)
- High School Lock-in with Messiah (TBD Late Spring)

High School Christmas Party 2014



CHILDREN'S NEWS *By Kellie Gordon*

Fourth Annual Parents' Night Out = Great Time Had By All!

If you missed it, fear not! Another is coming!

On Saturday, December 7th, fifteen children ages 4 through 12 enjoyed dinner, crafts, Advent Bingo, games and a movie while their parents went Christmas shopping or on a date



(some parents report wrapping gifts or napping as well, but we won't say who!). We've had such interest and participation in our Parents' Nights Out that we thought we'd add another, sooner than usual, as a fundraiser for Children's Ministry. On Saturday, **January 17th**, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m., we will have another Parents Night Out. Children can be fed and en-

tertained for hours, for a mere donation of whatever you see fit. Win for kids! Win for parents! And a win for Children's Ministry!



Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.
Proverbs 11:25



Nursery News

The nursery could use some diaper wipes, goldfish crackers, animal crackers and Clorox Wipes. If you are

able to supply any of these items, please deliver to the office Monday through Friday, or on Sunday. Many thanks! We've also updated the nursery library with several new Christian-themed

board-books, and are willing to accept more if you have any around that are no longer used. They need not all be Christian-themed. Any appropriate preschool book is welcome.



Save the date! VBS/Day Camp July 6-9

It takes a good number of volunteers to make Day Camp and VBS a success, so please prayerfully begin considering how you might be of service during this important week of outreach and faith-building. We will need teachers and teacher helpers, music leaders and pho-

tographers, craft leaders and preparers, painters and decorators, group leaders and registration helpers, cooks and meal planners, sports leaders, mission leaders, Parent Night helpers, and more. Our first meeting to discuss VBS and Day Camp will be **Sunday**,

April 19th. If your child will be attending Day Camp, please plan to attend. Also, if you don't have a camper attending, but would simply like to lend a hand, please come! Many hands make light work. And we generally have lots of fun while doing it.

January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 930a Education Hour 1030a Worship 6p Youth Night	5 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR 7p Sal Creek Study/HM	6 930a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR	7 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 130p AA/AR 630p Confirmation 630p The Grace Notes/S 730p Adult Choir/Loft	8 10a Lydia Circle/MC 7pm Sandwich Sister/CR	9 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR Youth Snow Retreat	10 Companions All Youth Snow Retreat
11 930a Education Hour 1030a Worship Youth Snow Retreat	12 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR 2p Ruth Circle/CR 2p Alz Support /TH, MC, SH, AR 7p Sal. Creek Bible Study/HM	13 930a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 345p Lincoln School MTG 530p Foundation/CR 630p Ester/Eliz Circle/HM	14 10a Staff Meeting/CR 10a FortVancouver/MC 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 130p AA/AR 630p Confirmation 630p The Grace Notes/S 730p Adult Choir/Loft	15 9a Mission Sowers/TH	16 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR	17 8a Men's Breakfast/TH 930a Women's Cancer Group 5-9p Parents Night Out
18 930a Education Hour 1030a Worship JaMers Event	19 OFFICE CLOSED	20 930a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 12p Happy Lunch Bunch 2p Knifty Knitters/CR 7p TLC Council/MC	21 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 130p AA/AR 630p Confirmation 630p The Grace Notes/S 730p Adult Choir/Loft	22 9a Faith-Based Coffee/SH	23 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR 7p Middle School Movie Night/AR	24
25 930a Education Hour 1030a Worship 1200p Trip for Fun 6p Youth Night	26 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR 7p Sal. Creek Bible Study/HM	27 930a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 6p Spinning Wheels/SH 7p TLC Book Club/CR	28 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 130p AA/AR 630p Confirmation 630p The Grace Notes/S 730p Adult Choir/Loft	29	30 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 130p AA/AR	31

January Birthdays

Eric Mellesdal	01/01	Kenneth Ellertson	01/17
Rodney Swanson	01/02	Mark Ellertson	01/17
Timothy Gordon	01/03	Gregory Collins	01/18
Manuel Montoya	01/04	Keith Collins	01/20
Yeshia Montoya	01/04	Keith Molyneux	01/21
Eric Nelson	01/04	Betty Morrison	01/21
Doug Smith	01/04	Gretchen Pfeifer	01/21
Reese Unruh	01/04	Adam C Bauman	01/23
Pastor Gary Larson	01/05	Mary Walker	01/23
Thomas Selfride	01/05	Abbie Wisch	01/23
Elaine Gammell	01/06	Lillie Hale	01/24
Emerson McGill	01/06	Hannah Larson	01/26
Don Sailer	01/09	Jean Alexander	01/30
Penny Collins	01/10	Kacie Dill	01/30
Lars Olson	01/10	Solway Mickelson	01/30
Samuel Niedner	01/12	Ann Townsend	01/30
Paulie Schenkelberg	01/12	Matt Case	01/31
Jon Anderson	01/14	Lynn Miller	01/31
Jonathan Unruh	01/15	Greg Schmitt	01/31
Greg Wagnild	01/15		

KEY

TH: Trinity Hall

SH: Stolee Hall

CR: Conference Room

AR: Activities Room

S: Sanctuary

NW: North Wing

MC: Memorial Chapel

HM: Home of Member

TO ROOM ABBREVIATIONS:

L: Library

NX: Narthex

YR: Youth Room



Trinity Lutheran Church. . . building bridges to our community. . . providing opportunities for growth.

Community Groups Meeting at TLC:

AA: M,W,F 1:30 pm/AR & AA55+ T 10 am/AR

Alzheimer's: 2nd Monday, 2:00 pm / TH, AR, MC

Lutheran Community Services, Wed. 1 pm, /NW

Spinning Wheels: 4th Tues., 6 pm/SH

EnhanceFitness: Every M, W, F in SH 1-2pm

Van Driver Schedule:

04...John Mudge 695-7582
 11...Sean McGill 571-4120
 18...Tim Gammell 509-205-2795
 25...Bud Ferderer 576-0127
 ...Brigham Lambley 503-519-3345

Church office: 695-1221

Pastors: ext. 15

Kellie (Children): ext. 13
Sue (Parish Nurse): ext. 28
Janet (Finance): ext. 11
Brian (Youth): ext. 14



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
JANUARY 2015 VOLUME 54 NUMBER 1
309 W 39TH STREET ♦ VANCOUVER, WA 98660-1959
360.695.1221

IN THIS ISSUE:

Cover: Celebrating God's Story	Page 1
TLC News	Pages 2-4
Wellness Corner.....	Page 5
Youth News.....	Page 6
Children's News.....	Page 7
Calendar, Birthdays	Pages 8-9

May God give you the desires of your heart and make all your plans succeed. Psalm 20:4

Happy New Year 2015!



Return Service Requested

Trinity Lutheran Church
309 W 39th Street

TIDINGS