



IDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH VANCOUVER, WA

DECEMBER 2015 VOLUME 55 NUMBER 12

WWW.TRINITYVANCOUVER.ORG

**CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT: 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.**

TLC ADVENT EVENTS

- December 4** **TLC Kids' Night Out**
Friday, 5:00-9:00 pm
- December 5** **TLC Women's Advent Brunch at the Hostess House**
Saturday, 9:00 am
- December 6** **Preparation for Children's Christmas Program During Education Hour**
- December 6** **High School Christmas Party**
Sunday, 6:00-7:30 pm
- December 12** **Children's Program Dress Rehearsal, in the Sanctuary**
Saturday, 10:00-12:00 pm
- December 14** **Children's Christmas Program followed by Gingerbread Houses**
Sunday, 4:00-6:00 pm
- December 15** **Happy Lunch Bunch Christmas Celebration**
Tuesday, 12 pm in Stolee Hall
- December 16** **Middle School Christmas Party**
Wednesday, 6:30-7:45 pm
- December 19** **Men's Christmas Breakfast with their ladies**
Saturday, 9:00 am
- December 20** **Christmas Caroling**
Sunday, 5:00-7:00 pm
- December 24** **Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**
Thursday, 5:00 pm and 10:00 pm



Joy to the earth! The Savior Reigns!

To hearts that haven't heard. Good News is here! To the broken down in spirit, those filled with grief and mourning, for those challenged by disease or disability. Good News is here! For those discontented, for those who have lost hope, even for the lonely or despairing that troubles and conflict and affliction will not end. Good News is here!



For those sitting in darkness, in deepest darkness, notes of a new song can be heard in the prophet Isaiah long ago. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of darkness—on them light has shined (Is. 9:2). "A child ... given to us ... authority rests upon his shoulders ... Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace ... endless peace ... his kingdom ... with justice and with righteousness from this time on and forevermore."



A little child's voice can be heard, not the Peace Child, but a voice in a boys' choir in soprano like notes cries out, a clarion call to all humanity on earth, a signal that the Messiah Child of Promise has indeed come to earth. And what does he cry and sing in highest ballad?

All is well, all is well, angels and men rejoice, For tonight darkness fell, into the light of love's light, Sing A-le, Sing Alleluia.

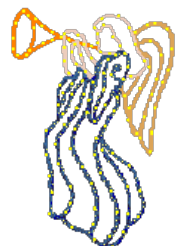
All is well, all is well, let there be peace on earth, Christ is come go and tell, That He is in the manger, Sing A-le, Sing Alleluia.

All is well, all is well, lift up your voice and sing, Born is now Emmanuel, Born is our Lord and Savior, Sing Alleluia, Sing Alleluia, all is well. (YouTube- Michael W. Smith)

May the new song of God's advent on our lips and in our hearts bring you news that all the earth is filled with the Prince of Peace's Kingdom, Joy for our world, and all the wonder-filled Gospel for all. In Songs, in traditions old and new, in inspiration old and renewed, let us bring news of the Peace Child, whose love shown on a cross still sets us free. In the manger, love's light has dawned. Joy to the earth!

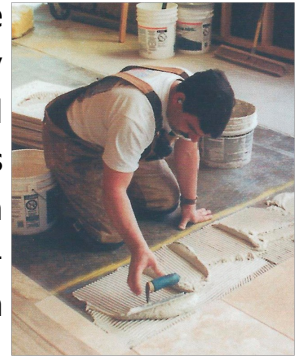
Pastor Gary

INVITATION : *Pastors' Christmas Open House December 20 2-4 pm at 1707 NW 104th Street, Vancouver (Christmas cookies, Coffee, Tea, Cider and good cheer) Please come and celebrate with us!*



Our Year of Celebration Comes to a Close

As Trinity approaches the end of 2015, our congregation also brings to a close our celebration of 75 years of mission and ministry doing God's work as Trinity Lutheran Church. The activities reached an apex on September 27 as we hosted numerous persons from near and far who played important roles in our past as members, including some of our pastors. Special thanks to Rev. Gordon Braun who traveled all the way from Moscow, Idaho to be with us! On that day a wonderful full-color booklet was made available, a great video collage was shown and a splendid celebratory meal was served.



Throughout the year, we were provided weekly glimpses of our past in the worship bulletin, on the big screen in the sanctuary and on a large bulletin board—as well as seeing photos posted in the narthex from our members. All in all, it was great; and it deserves recognition of staff and members who worked diligently behind the scenes to make it happen.

A core group on the Anniversary Committee worked especially long and hard throughout the year and deserve special mention: **Tammy Eshom, Kellie Gordon, Peggy Lansverk, Georgia Larson, Crystal Johnson and Sue Pechacek.** Other Committee members included Jacque Bauman, Ken Ellertson, Kathy Selfridge, Kathleen Molyneux, Esther Windover, Sue Hoeffner, Jack Johnson and our pastors. Special thanks go to Tim Gordon, MC of the 9/27 program; Ole Olson, creator of the 9/27 video; Rod and Del Swanson plus Mary Walker, who set up the photo board in the narthex; and Diane King and Fred Johnson who were key helpers with the meal; and, of course, many others who pitched in at critical times—such as the Celebration Brunch's setup, take-down, serving and cooking—so that Trinity's 75 Year Celebration would be the wonderful event that it was! Thanks to all who helped, attended as special guests as well as all of you who joined us for the celebration!





Dear Trinity,
What a magnificent celebration.
Thank you for inviting me to be part of
it. I saw a lot of people I knew and
wished I could have visited with them
instead of just a few words of greeting.

The celebration was awesome.
Everything was special: worship,
choir, the banquet and all the former
pastors. The organizers did a super
job. It was particularly special to have one
of the original members present and
speak - Ken Ellerson who has been
one of the pillars of the church from
the beginning.

I pray for the continued
ministry of Trinity to the
Vancouver community and far
beyond.

Sincerely,
Pastor Linda L. Braun



THE GIVING TREE 2015

Again this year Trinity Lutheran Church is "adopting" local families in need for Christmas. This year our goal is to provide for 25 families! Each adopted family will receive a complete Christmas dinner and gifts for each family member.



Here are several ways you can help:

1. Please take tags from The Giving Tree in the narthex. Tags identify gift items to be purchased for each member of each family. Take a tag, follow the simple instructions and place the gift under the tree by/on **December 9th**.
2. A list of needed food items will also be placed near the giving tree. Bring as many of these nonperishable grocery items as you can and place them under the tree by **December 9th**. Even if you don't take a gift tag you can still participate in the project by donating food. We need a lot of groceries to feed 25 families.
3. **Cash gifts are also welcome.** Cash gifts will be used by volunteer shoppers to purchase perishable food items and additional gifts. Please endorse your check to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and designate "Giving Tree" on the memo line.
4. Please keep your Giving Tree turkey in your own home freezer. Bring your turkey to church on/by **Sunday, December 6**. If you have questions or would like to help, call Mary Ann Olson at 256-4056, or Sharon Swanson at 225-5653

Light of the World Children's Offering



During the Advent and Christmas season, the children's special offering in worship will be used to purchase sleeping bags, tarps and bus passes to help with the immediate needs of the homeless in our community. If you have extra sleeping bags at home and would like to offer those, feel free to give to the children to place near their offering basket and these will be distributed within the week through Share House.

Annual Gingerbread House Making 2015



The Gingerbread house making event following the Sunday School Christmas program is Dec. 13th. We ask that you bring candy to potluck with everyone. Houses are pre-sold for \$4.00 each. Do not let the cost keep you from decorating a house. Everyone is welcome to do a house. See Crystal Johnson if you have questions or need assistance. Construction workers needed to make dough, bake & assemble houses as follows:

Dough preparation (5 helpers)	Sun. Dec. 6 th	12:00 – 2:00
Baking (two shifts of 5)	Wed Dec. 9 th	12:00 – 4:00 5:00 – 9:00
Assemble Houses (3 helpers)	Fri. Dec. 11 th	9:30 – 11:30
Frosting / Assemble (6 Helpers)	Sat Dec. 12 th	10:00 – 12:00 during SS rehearsal
Photographer for Sunday Dec. 13 th needed		
Clean up Crew 5 helpers needed		
Candy receivers and sorters before program Dec. 13 th 1-½ hours before program		

See Crystal in the Narthex to sign up or call her at 574-2973/ 901-1546

Happy Lunch Bunch

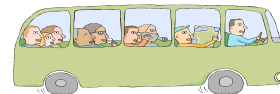


Join a group of Trinity men and women who are available to enjoy a daytime potluck lunch, an enjoyable program, and good conversation with friends. **Tuesday, December 15, we will meet at noon** with ham provided for our lunch and you bring one item to complete the meal. We plan to enjoy good Christmas memories and good Christmas music.

a home-cooked
• MEAL •
is a labor of love



Trip for Fun



We are invited to tour Fogelbo, the log cabin homestead home of Ross Foglequist in Portland, OR **on Friday morning, December 18**. This home is furnished with antique Swedish furniture and will be decorated with Swedish Christmas decorations. Following our home tour, we will walk to the nearby new Scandinavian Heritage Cultural Center for lunch. Except for the \$5 van fee, the only cost will be your order for lunch, but we may decide to make a donation to the Scandinavian Center. **Meet at 9AM on the 18th and sign up for a seat on the bus.**

FRIDAY
DECEMBER

18

2015

7PM

A Season of Song

MUSIC TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

FEATURING MUSICIANS AND CHOIRS
OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church
309 West 39th Street
Vancouver, Washington 98660
360.695.1221

Britta Hobbs, Director
Lyn Craig, Accompanist
Doug Munson, Bells Director
Martha Natiuk, Organist

\$10 suggested donation gratefully accepted at the door



WELLNESS CORNER

By Sue Hoeffner



Holiday Health and Safety Tips

The holidays are a great opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends, celebrate life, to be grateful, and reflect on what's important. They are also a time to appreciate the gift of health. Here are some holiday tips to support your efforts for health and safety this season.

Wash your hands often

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps you can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. Wash your hands with soap and clean running water, and rub them together for at least 20 seconds. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve or elbow, not your hands.

Stay warm

Cold temperatures can cause serious health problems, especially in infants and older adults. Stay dry, and dress warmly in several layers.



Manage stress

The holidays don't need to take a toll on your health and pocketbook. Keep your commitments and spending in check. Balance work, home, and play. Get support from family and friends. Keep a relaxed and positive outlook. Make sure to get proper sleep.

Travel safely

Whether you're traveling across town or around the world, help ensure your trip is safe. Don't drink and drive, and don't let someone else drink and drive. Wear a seat belt every time you drive or ride in a motor vehicle. Always buckle your child in the car using a child safety seat, booster seat, or seat belt appropriate for his/her height, weight, and age.



Be smoke-free

Avoid smoking and breathing other people's smoke. If you smoke, quit today! Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW or talk to your health care provider for help.

Get check-ups and vaccinations

Exams and screenings can help find potential problems early, when the chances for treatment and cure are often better. Vaccinations help prevent diseases and save lives. Schedule a visit with your health care provider for needed exams and screenings. Get health insurance through www.healthcare.gov.

Source: www.cdc.gov



WELLNESS CORNER

By Sue Hoeffner



Holiday Health and Safety Tips

Watch the kids

Children are at high risk for injuries. Keep a watchful eye on your kids when they're eating and playing. Keep potentially dangerous toys, food, drinks, household items, choking hazards (like coins and hard candy), and other objects out of kids' reach. Learn how to provide early treatment for children who are choking. Make sure toys are used properly. Develop rules about acceptable and safe behaviors, including using electronic media.



Prevent injuries

Injuries can happen anywhere, and some often occur around the holidays. Use step stools instead of climbing on furniture when hanging decorations.

***Most residential fires occur during the winter months. Keep candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees, and curtains. Never leave fireplaces, stoves, or candles unattended. Install a smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector in your home. Test them once a month, and replace batteries twice a year.**



Handle and prepare food safely

As you prepare holiday meals, keep yourself and your family safe from food-related illness. Wash hands and surfaces often. Avoid cross-contamination by keeping raw meat, poultry, seafood, and eggs away from ready-to-eat foods and eating surfaces. Cook foods to the proper temperature. Refrigerate promptly. Do not leave perishable foods out for more than two hours.

Eat healthy, and be active

With balance and moderation, you can enjoy the holidays the healthy way. Choose fresh fruit as a festive and sweet substitute for candy. Limit fats, salt, and sugary foods. Find fun ways to stay active, such as dancing to your favorite holiday music. Be active for at least 2 ½ hours a week. Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day.

Source: www.cdc.gov



Children's News

By Kellie Gordon

Children@trinityvancouver.org

360-695-1221 Ext# 13



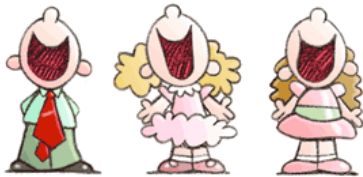
Children's Christmas Program!

Newsflash From Bethlehem

Please join us on **Sunday, December 13th** for the Children's Christmas Program: Newsflash from Bethlehem. The production will feature reporters stationed in Jerusalem and Bethlehem, reporting live on the birth of Jesus and the impact on the surrounding area, from the point of view of the shepherds, angels, wise persons, Mary and Joseph. The musical promises to entertain and inspire.



Seeking: musicians to play during the prelude to the Children's Christmas Program. Do you play an instrument? Do you sing? Have you written a poem that you'd like to share with us? We'd love to hear from you! Please talk to Kellie about securing a slot in the prelude.



Christmas Program Details:

Kids' Night Out (AKA Parents' Night Out!)

Friday, December 4, 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Children are invited to come rehearse their parts for the Christmas Program, eat dinner, do a craft, and if time allows, watch a movie. A fun time for all! Donations welcome. Donations will go toward the purchase of Godly Play materials.

DRESS REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 12, 9:00 a.m. to noon: Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal! All participants are expected to be present for this rehearsal. **Little children who are singing only can come at 10:30 a.m.**

WANTED: Sound board operator, set assistance, props and costume help.

Newsflash From Bethlehem

Sunday, December 13

- 3:30** Christmas Program Prelude. Children and youth musicians and artists will perform
- 4:00** Children's Christmas Program
- 4:30-6:00** Gingerbread House Making



HS Snow Retreat!



Our annual HS Snow Retreat is coming up soon! We will go either Jan. 8th—10th or 22nd—24th. We will travel to Sunriver OR and spend the weekend discovering our spiritual gifts, skiing, tubing, and doing other snow activities. If you are interested in going please contact Brian.

Confirmation Dinner



Christmas Program

Sunday, December 13th will be our annual program. Don't miss out on the gingerbread houses either. Any MS/HS youth interested in being a part of the Christmas Program talk to Kellie ASAP.

Summer Dates!

Confirmation Camp will be July 24th—29th and the HS Mission Trip is July 10—16. The mission trip will be to either Idaho (Nez Perce Tribe) or San Francisco. Sign up now with your \$100 deposit; it should be a great trip!

Christmas Parties!

Leaf Raking!




It's almost Christmas again! We will be having our HS party on Sunday, December 6th and the MS one on Wednesday, December 16th. There will be a White Elephant Gift Exchange, Christmas goodies, games, and a Bible Study. This is a perfect time to bring a friend!

Upcoming Events!

- HS Snow Retreat (January)
- Cake Auction (February)
- "Agape" Concert (March)
- MS Lock-in (TBD in March/April)

Weekly Activities:

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR	2 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 1:30p AA/AR 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p The Grace Notes/S 7:30p Adult Choir/Loft	3 9a Mission Sowers/TH	4 1:00p EnhanceFitness/SH 1:30p AA/AR 5-9p Parents Night Out	5 9a Women's Advent Breakfast / Hostess House
6 9:30a Education Hour 10:30a Worship/S,N 1p WOKBC Worship/MC 6p HS Christmas Party	7 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1:30p AA/AR 4p Health Workers/MC 7p Salmon Creek Bible Study/MC	8 9:30a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 3:45p LSM/Lincoln School 6p Foundation/MC	9 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 1:30p AA/AR 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p Grace Notes/S 7:30p Adult Choir / Loft 6:15p Adult Choir/Loft	10 10a Lydia Circle / HM	11 1:30p AA/AR	12 9a Children's Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
13 9:30a Education Hour 1030a Worship/S,N 1p WOKBC Worship/MC 4p Christmas Program/S Gingerbread Making/ SH/TH	14 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p ALZ Support Group/S, NX, L, MC 1:30p AA/AR 2:30p Trinity Kids' Club/SH,TH 4p Health Workers/AR 7p Salmon Creek Bible Study/MC	15 9:30a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 12p Happy Lunch Bunch/SH 2p Knifty Knitters/CR 6:30p Esther/ Eliz/ HM 7p TLC Council/MC	16 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 1:30p AA/AR 6:30p Confirmation 6:30p M.S. Christmas Party 6:30p The Grace Notes/S 7p Adult Choir/Loft	17	18 9a Trip for Fun 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1:30p AA/AR 7p Seasons of Songs/S	19 9a Men's Breakfast/TH 5p Ellertson Lefse Party/SH
20 9:30a Education Hour 1030a Worship/S,N 1p WOKBC Worship/MC 2-4 Pastors' Open House 5-7 Christmas Caroling	21 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1:30p AA/AR 7p Salmon Creek Bible Study/MC	22 9:30a Women's Bible Study/HM 10a AA/AR	23 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 1:30p AA/AR	24 OFFICE CLOSED Christmas Eve Service 5pm 10pm	25 OFFICE CLOSED 12p-4:30 WOKBC Christmas Worship /SH 	26
27 9:30a Education Hour 10:30a Worship/S,N 1p WOKBC Worship/MC	28 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1:30p AA/AR 7p Salmon Creek Bible Study/ MC	29 9:30a Women's Bible Study/CR 10a AA/AR 3p TLC Book Club/HM 6p Spinning Wheels/SH	30 10a Staff Meeting/CR 1p EnhanceFitness/SH 1p LCS/Cit/NW 1:30p AA/AR	31 9p WOKBC New Year's Eve Worship/SH,N	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	

December Birthdays



12/14	Brigham Lambley	12/02	Mike Baylous
12/14	Richard Utterback	12/02	Reva Rae Gardner
12/15	Kristin Case	12/02	Audrey Preston
12/15	Fern Erickson	12/03	Edward Swiercinsky
12/16	Penny Baxter	12/03	Taryn Pfeiffer
12/17	Benjamin Huff	12/03	Sean McGill
12/17	Cora McGill	12/03	Morgan Wisch
12/18	Kayla Wagnild	12/03	Gabby Miles
12/18	Mike McGuiness	12/04	Clancy Morgan
12/18	Rene Wisch	12/04	Pat Rushford
12/21	Bev Ullman	12/04	Donna Wagnild
12/22	Pam Rasmussen	12/04	Wanda Bringman
12/22	Brenda Snyder	12/05	Laurie Diment
12/25	Robert Vaught	12/06	Savanna Johnson
12/26	Natalie Miles	12/06	John Rolfe
12/27	Sandra Easterly	12/06	Sande Spence
12/27	Spencer Hamilton	12/11	Dorothy Nicley
12/27	Susan Pechacek	12/11	Jim Spence
12/27	Ian Tommerup	12/12	Steve Jones
12/28	Angela Vahsholtz-Anderson	12/12	Jeffery Kuter
12/30	Anja Haas	12/12	Jonah Larson
12/30	Marlene Swanson	12/13	Clarice Mattson

Celebrate Your Birthday with Your Trinity Family!

Please sign up for a coffee hour after the Sunday Worship service during your birthday month. The sign up sheet is posted near the Chapel in the Narthex. If you have questions, call the church office at 695-1221 or Carol Jensen at 256-3496.

KEY TO ROOM ABBREVIATIONS:

TH: Trinity Hall	S: Sanctuary	L: Library
SH: Stolee Hall	NW: North Wing	NX: Narthex
CR: Conference Room	MC: Memorial Chapel	YR: Youth Room
AR: Activities Room	HM: Home of Member	



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

Community Groups Meeting at TLC:

AA 55+: M,W,F 1:30 pm / AR & T 10 am / AR

Alzheimer's: 2nd Monday, 1:00 pm / S, L, MC

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

Faith-Based Coffee: Every 4th Thursday 9am / SH

Lutheran Community Services, Wed. 1 pm, / NW

SpinningWheels: 4th Tues., 6 pm / SH

TRUST
in the
LORD
with all
your heart
and
on your own
understanding.
Proverbs 3:5

Van Driver Schedule:

06...John Mudge	695-7582
13...Sean McGill	571-4120
20...Tim Gammell	509-205-2795
27...John Mudge	695-7582

Church office: 695-1221

Pastors: ext. 15

Kellie (Children): ext. 13

Sue (Parish Nurse): ext. 28

Janet (Finance): ext. 11

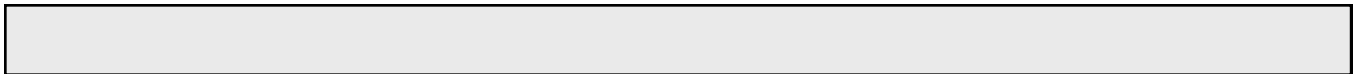
Brian (Youth): ext. 14



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TIDINGS
Trinity Lutheran Church
309 W 39th Street
Vancouver WA 98660-1959
Return Service Requested