

FROM THE PASTOR

On Sunday mornings we read and listen to the scriptures. Based on those scripture passages we craft prayers both at the table and from lectern, and we sing songs and hymns to match. And we don't do it alone – many churches around the world are using the same set of scriptures on any given Sunday. The pattern of scriptures is called the lectionary (a lection is a short passage of text) – we follow the Revised Common Lectionary. The pattern has a three-year cycle following the Gospel books; Year A – Matthew | Year B – Mark | Year C – Luke. The Gospel of John is used within the three years also. The readings also follow our liturgical calendar for the year starting with Advent (the 4 Sundays before Christmas Day).

This year (Advent 2017 to Christ the King in November 2018) is Year B – the Gospel of Mark. This was the earliest of the four Gospels to be written down. How do we know that? A lot of the text in Matthew and Luke follows what Mark has – details, order, wording. So much so that these three Gospels are known as the synoptic Gospels – because they 'see **with** a similar **eye/view**'. But both Matthew and Luke add other details and stories – the idea being that the later books would not remove stuff, but would only add stuff to the earlier book. For example, Matthew adds the Jesus birth story with the magi and Herod, and Luke adds Jesus' birth story with shepherds, angels and the manger scene. From the details in Mark's book, biblical scholars reckon Mark was written somewhere in the 50s or 60s before the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD.

"Mark's Gospel is a simple, succinct, unadorned, yet vivid account of Jesus' ministry, emphasizing more what Jesus did than what he said. Mark moves quickly from one episode in Jesus' life and ministry to another, often using the adverb "**immedi-**

ately". The book as a whole is characterized as "The beginning of the gospel" (1:1). The life, death and resurrection of Christ comprise the "beginning," of which the apostolic preaching in Acts is the continuation."

The International Bible Society - Introduction from the NIV Study Bible <https://www.biblica.com/>

I bolded the word **immediately** in the above quote – it is a good word for us today. The world is changing around us – book shops, record stores, printed newspapers, farming, and churches for example. We are in times of change. Things ain't the way they used to be. We do need to prepare for change. I don't know what all the changes to the church will be - and I mean the bigger idea of church – not just Trinity & Lutheran. I don't think anybody really knows how and what is going to change.

However, doing nothing and ignoring the world changes that surround us is not a preferred option. With that said, Trinity's Visioning Group has been working and praying these past 12 months to discern directions and ideas for a Vision and Strategic Plan. We plan to share this with the congregation before our Annual Congregational Meeting (Feb 11th.) However, what I do know for sure – is that the Holy Spirit will not let God's church fail – change it might – but not fail. Also, I know and trust that Romans 8 is a scripture for us to remember – even if we do try changes **immediately**.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 8: 38-39)

~ Pastor Steve

Council met on December 11, 2017 and as usual the agenda was substantial. The Children's Ministry continues to be a priority with Trinity since our children are the future of Trinity. We are blessed to have devoted Teachers and helpers who continue to enhance the program. Parental involvement is a very important component of the program. We can look for more Kyrie singing from the Sunday School children in the future. They know it really well. Everyone is waiting with eager anticipation for the annual Christmas pageant. The children have been working hard at practising. This promises to be one of the best.

We hosted a lighting of the Christmas lights on our outdoor tree on Saturday 2 December at 6:30 pm. Christmas carols and hot chocolate as well as fellowship accompanied this even which was open to the community. This will be known as our first annual "Lighting".

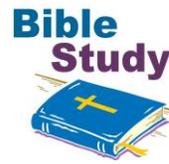
Council discussed the need for new carpeting or flooring for the lower level classrooms 1,2, and 3. They are looking more than a little worn out. There will be more to follow.

The annual budget topped our council agenda. For those of you submitting budgets we encourage you to do so sooner rather than later as this will make our Council and Treasurer's task less onerous.

Council was given comprehensive presentation from the Visioning Team. This has been a year in the making and about a dozen parishioners were involved. There has been a lot of thought and prayer invested in this initiative. More will follow as information is gleaned.

May you all have a joyous and blessed Christmas!

~ Cheryl Millar, Council Chairperson



We are continuing with our Bible study in Romans – there is a guide book available. We meet on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm.

- January 10 Session 2 | Saved by grace ... isn't that too good to be true?
- January 17 Session 3 | If what I do doesn't save me, does it matter how I live?
- January 24 Session 4 | Where is God when we suffer?
- January 31 Session 5 | How can I keep from singing?
- February 7 Session 6 | What does God want from us?



RE M I N D E R

**OUR ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

SUNDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2018
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

**Items for the Annual Report are to be
into the church office no later than
MONDAY 8 JANUARY 2018**

***NOTE: Please remember to include the
names of all your committee members
at the beginning of your reports.***

LADIES' NIGHT DINNER
Saturday 20 January 2018 ~ 6 pm



**Be sure to mark your calendar and join us!
Watch for more details in our
weekly bulletins.**

TLW

The Congregational Christmas Dinner on December 10 was enjoyed by about 100 adults and children. Carolling, a turkey dinner and of course Santa and his elf added to the Christmas spirit. Thanks to all the women and men that made this event possible for our church family.

Seniors' Worship and Lunch will resume again in April. If you have not attended before, please consider joining your friends (or making new friends). ALL seniors and retired people are welcome.

Please remember the less fortunate brothers and sisters here in our community and around the world.

My Sisters' Place: Trinity continues to support My Sisters' Place with needed personal care products, bus tickets and small gifts. Place your items in the box provided in the Koehler Fellowship Hall.

LOOKING BACK IN TRINITY'S HISTORY

10 Years Ago
2008

1. Pastor Jim led worship service at Country Terrace on Sunday afternoon at 3 pm. All were welcome to attend.
2. This month the ELW were looking for hand towels for their Klenli-Kits.
3. Carey Meadows, 4th year seminarian from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary was our guest preacher at worship service on 20 January.
4. Christmas tree was undecorated following worship service on 6 January.



25 Years Ago
1993

1. Elders, new, old & returning, met for a potluck supper at the home of Ross & Sue Cordell.
2. Adult education program was held entitled "Family – Living Under the Same Leaky Roof".
3. New program – Men's Prayer Breakfast – was held at 8 am on Sunday morning.
4. Friendship Circle met at the home of Mrs. Wynne Patterson.



50 Years Ago
1968

1. Winter ice storm cancelled our worship service. There were a few members of the congregation who had managed to make it church. It was heartwarming to note how neighbours were so ready to help neighbours.



2. Lutheran Teens met at Trinity. Christian growth, business and French fries 50¢.
3. Services at St. Joseph's Hospital were being conducted by Trinity & Redeemer Lutheran congregations during this month.
4. Trinity Lutheran Women met at the Ontario Hospital, main entrance, Highbury Ave., for a tour of the building.

SERVING IN JANUARY

	<u>7 January</u>	<u>14 January</u>	<u>21 January</u>	<u>28 January</u>
Communion Assistants	Reinhard Helbing Greg Jaworski	Katelyn & Emily Inch	Heather Holmes Brady Hough	Ted Reinhard Bob McGee
Ushers	Steve & Jean Krautner Nancy Hickling	Bob & Carolyn Sellars Brady Hough	Greg & Tara Kuran Lawrence Petch	Dave & Pauline Hutchison Vivian Parker
Reader	Herb Henkel	Lydia Reinhard	Brady Hough	Reinhard Helbing
Acolyte	Herb Henkel	Ted Reinhard	Jeff Holmes	Steve Krautner
Crucifer	Julia Liska	Lydia Reinhard	Heather Holmes	Alice Cooper
Altar Care	-----Dorothy McGee & Barb Hamilton----->			
Greeters	Alice Johnson Francis, Francis Jr. & Lisa Hinnah	Vivian Parker Janelle Lightbourne	Tara, Greg Tyler & Ryan Kuran	Nancy & Herb Henkel
Refreshments	Barb Hamilton Linda Reynolds	Jean & Doug Hohnstein	Kathy & Jim Hough	Pauline & Dave Hutchison
Prayer Rotation	Rev Steve Johnston Sister Jean Widmeyer Janelle Lightbourne Trinity, London	Rev Mike Lees Trinity, Windsor	Bishop Michael Pryse Eastern Synod & Support Staff	Bishop Susan Johnson National ELCIC Office & Support Staff



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Christmas Tree un-decorating 10 am LCFI 7 pm	4 Choir 7:30 pm 	5	6
7 Baptism of Our Lord LCFI 2:30 pm	8 Council 7 pm  <i>Annual Report items due 9 am</i>	9	10 Bible Study 2 pm LCFI 7 pm	11 Choir 7:30 pm	12	13
14 2 nd Sunday after the Epiphany LCFI 2:30 pm	15  <i>Church Newsletter items due 9 am</i>	16 Inshallah Choir 5:30 pm	17 Bible Study 2 pm LCFI 7 pm	18 Mutual Ministry 9 am Choir 7:30 pm	19	20 Men's Club Ladies' Night Dinner 6 pm 
21 3 rd Sunday after the Epiphany LCFI 2:30 pm	22	23 Inshallah Choir 5:30 pm	24 Bible Study 2 pm LCFI 7 pm	24 Choir 7:30 pm	25	26 Confirmation Class 9 am
27 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany LCFI 2:30 pm	28	29 Inshallah Choir 5:30 pm	30 Bible Study 2 pm LCFI 7 pm	31 Choir 7:30 pm	<p><i>Should you wish to unsubscribe from receiving the Trinity Times Newsletter by e-mail, please go to http://trinitylondon.ca/?page_id=1300</i></p>	