



746 Colborne Street, London, Ontario N6A 3Z7
Office: 519-432-4832 | www.trinitylondon.ca


Pastor: Rev. Steve Johnston, Email: steve@webfeed.ca
Director of Music: Ross McDonald, Email: rossmcdonald.music@sympatico.ca
Church Co-ordinator: Annette Cantell, Email: trinitylondonca@yahoo.com



VISION STATEMENT

Trinity Lutheran Church is a community inspired by God to share Christ's good news by what we say and do.

JANUARY 2023



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

PLEASE HAVE ANY ITEMS FOR THE ANNUAL REPORT
INTO THE CHURCH OFFICE
NO LATER THAN MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023.

WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE ASKING TODAY?

Here are a few questions I have heard within our walls and around various tables:

*How do we stay open?
How do we get people to come back
to worship in the building?
Where is everybody?*

There are many more questions like that and the church (meaning the wider Christian Church) does not seem to have any real answers to those questions. This is NOT a news story – nor a new story. If you look at Trinity’s attendance figures over the last 40 years, the peak was 1985. Ever since then, the trend

has been downward. This is also not a “unique to Trinity” story either.

My home congregation in Toronto has decided to disband. St. Ansgar, Toronto, are roughly the same size as our Trinity congregation (people, budget, physical church building). This is a very important congregation to my family, it was Trudi’s church when she moved to Toronto, she was their youth leader and took about 20 kids to several National Youth Gatherings, it was my first ever Lutheran church, we were married there, our 3 daughters were baptised there, I built their first website 1998, I was their financial secretary for 5 years, they endorsed my entry into seminary, and they hired me as their VBS leader in the summer. They taught me most of the things I know about Lutherans. Before they made the decision to close, they tried hard to

find a partner congregation to work with, but sadly couldn't find one.

Four years ago, we entered into discussions with Redeemer Lutheran Church to find a way to become a single stronger congregation. Trinity dropped the ball on that opportunity and Redeemer have found a different and radical direction to maintain their congregation.

The church needs to be asking better questions today than the ones I listed above? In my November 13th sermon I talked about this. Listen to it again, or maybe even for the first time. I talked about Phyllis Tickle's idea that the church goes through a major shift every 500 years, and we are right at that point today. Things in our church world are very different from 50 or 100 years ago. Those days ARE NOT coming back, and no amount of wishful thinking will make it so.

In my Christmas Eve sermon for 2022, I will be talking about a consistent message we hear from scripture, **"Do not be afraid"**. Those words are taking on new meaning for us today. Those words need be with us when we ask the questions like I

listed above. We need to pay faithful attention to those words as we ponder, "what are the **better questions** for us today?"

In my November 13th sermon, I posed these three questions as ones that we need to be asking today:

Who are we - as a congregation?

What is important - to us as a church?

How are we relevant - to the world around us?



Jodi, Kathy & Mary, ponder

Luke 2:19

As we ask better questions – we need to keep in our minds and hearts scripture's constant reassurance, **"Do not be afraid"**.

- Pastor Steve



To find old worship services and sermons, go to "Worship Archive" at www.trinitylondon.ca

COUNCIL NEWS

Council met on December 12, 2022. Our meeting was focused primarily on the budget for 2023. As I have said before, it is important to us as trustees to be vigilant and good stewards of Trinity and its finances. We have needed to address some expensive mechanics this past year, but we emerge relatively unscathed and even more vigilant. Heather Holmes and Robert Sellars have been invaluable resource people in this respect.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Alan and Lynne Day to our Trinity family. The Day's have been attending worship for the past few weeks and we are very glad to have them indeed. Also,

there are two grandmas visiting from Philippines. They are here to see their children and grandchildren for a few months, and we are glad to have them worship with us.

Northern Hospitality meals begin again on January 2, 2023, and help would be appreciated. The first Monday of each month is our slot.

The Sunday School children performed a lively musical pageant on the fourth Sunday in Advent. As usual it was stellar! Kudos to the children, teachers and parents who worked so hard on this. I think they could take their show on the road!

Please mark **FEBRUARY 12, 2023**, on your calendars for the ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.

May all of us have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.

Yours in Christ
Cheryl Millar
Council Chair

TLW

We send our deepest condolences to the Don Cook and family. Marg Cook, a “daughter” of Trinity Lutheran Church from the time she was born. She was a constant supporter of the TLW and was on the executive for many years. We were honoured to prepare the luncheon after her funeral at Trinity. She will be missed.

The TLW decorated the sanctuary and altar for Christmas. A Christmas Tree was put up in the Sunday School area of the C.J. Killinger Hall. Donations to our Flower Fund would be appreciated.

We had a good turn out for Seniors’ Christmas Worship and Lunch on December 13. There were even some guests who joined us for the service, Christmas carols and a delicious turkey dinner. Since the weather is so uncertain in January and February, we will meet again in March.

Have peaceful and safe Christmas and a happy and healthy new year! See you in church!

- Lydia Reinhard & TLW Executive

CELEBRATING IN JANUARY

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jean Hohnstein (2)	Lisa Hinnah (3)	Mary Mundt (8)
Helmut Heitzmann (11)	Dennis Liska(14)	Tobias Becker (17)
Lawrence Petch (20)	Lou Mantle (22)	Natasha Beisswenger-Mooney (22)
Hans Stuhlemmer (22)	Laura Waddell (22)	Linda Cook (24)
Laura Lowery (28)		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Doug & Jean Hohnstein (21)
Jonathan & Alicia Wild (26)



SERVING IN JANUARY

January 1

Reader	Cheryl Millar
Greeter	TBA
Coffee Host	Cheryl Millar
A/V	Jonathan Wild
Counters	Orv Ullerick & George Cooper

January 8

Reader	Lydia Reinhard
Communion	Ted Reinhard
Assistant	
Altar Care	Jean Hohnstein & Bob Sellars
Greeters	Alicia & Jonathan Wild
Coffee Host	Alice Cooper
A/V	Jonathan Wild
Counters	Orv Ullerick & George Cooper

January 15

Reader	Blessy Karra
Greeters	Dave & Pauline Hutchison
Coffee Host	Joan Leffler
A/V	Jonathan Wild
Counters	Orv Ullerick & George Cooper

January 22

Reader	Jean Krautner
Greeter	Rosemary Christensen
Coffee Host	Linda Reynolds
A/V	Jonathan Wild
Counters	Orv Ullerick & George Cooper

January 29

Reader	Cheryl Millar
Greeters	Francis Hinnah & Family
Coffee Host	TBA
A/V	Jonathan Wild
Counters	Orv Ullerick & George Cooper

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 First Sunday of Christmas Lighthouse Church 2 pm	2 Northern Hospitality <i>Office Closed</i>	3 Free Skating 3 pm	4	5	6	7
8 First Sunday after the Epiphany Baptism of Our Lord Holy Communion Lighthouse Church 2 pm	9 Annual Report Items Due 9 am Council 7 pm	10	11	12 Lions 7 pm	13	14 Confirmation Class 9 am
15 Second after Epiphany LSS Meet & Greet 2 pm Lighthouse Church 2 pm	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Third Sunday after Epiphany Lighthouse Church 2 pm	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Lighthouse Church 2 pm	30 LSS 9:30 am	31	<p><u>2023 CHURCH ENVELOPES</u> The 2023 envelopes are now available to be picked up in the library area. Please take a moment to stop by and pick up your set.</p> 			

FREE SKATING INVITATION - "Trinity's families, including children and youth of all ages, have been invited by Wesley Knox United Church to a FREE family ice skating event on Tuesday, January 3rd from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Farquharson Arena at 411 Tecumseh Ave. E. in Old South London. Farquharson Arena does not have skate rental, but there will probably be a few extra pairs available to borrow. Congregation members: if you have any extra pairs of ice skates that you would be willing to loan out for this event, please contact Nancy Manners or bring them with you to the arena in case someone needs a pair. Please put identification on the skates so we can ensure they are returned to you."