

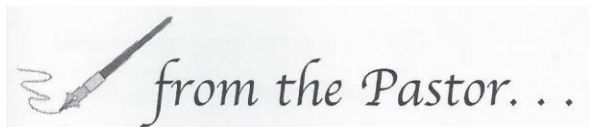
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VISION STATEMENT

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

DECEMBER 2021



I was inspired by the Advent word study we did in November 2019 from *The Bible Project* which explored the four Advent words.

The word **PEACE** is common in most languages. When people talk about peace treaties or times of peace, it usually means the absence of war. In the Bible, the word peace can refer to the absence of conflict, but it also points to the presence of something better in its place. Peace takes a lot of work because it's not just the absence of conflict. True peace requires taking what's broken and restoring it to wholeness, whether it is in our lives, our relationships, or in our world. And that's the rich biblical concept of peace. St. Paul instructed local churches to keep their unity through the bond of peace, which requires humility, patience and bearing with others in love. Becoming people of peace means participating in the life of Jesus who reconciled all things in heaven on earth, restoring peace through his death and resurrection. **That's why Jesus came.**



There are two main Hebrew words translated as **HOPE**. The first is yakhal, which means, "to wait for", like in the story of Noah and the ark as the flood waters recede, Noah had to yakhal for weeks. The other word is qavah, which also means "to wait." It is related to the Hebrew word *QAV*, which means "cord." When you pull a *QAV* tight, you produce a state of tension until there's release. That's qavah: the feeling of tension and expectation while you wait for something to happen. Hopeful people in the Bible often recognize there is no evidence that things will get better, but yet they choose hope anyway. We find our hope in Jesus. **That's why Jesus came.**



When the Israelites were suffering from slavery in Egypt, God raised up Moses to lead them into freedom, and the first thing the Israelites did was sing for **JOY**, even though they were in the middle of a desert. When the Apostle Paul was sitting in a dirty Roman prison, he could say that he has chosen joy even if he gets executed. He called this the "joy in the Lord." He believed it was a gift of God's Spirit, a sign that Jesus' presence is with you inspiring hope in the midst of hardship. Christian joy is a profound decision of faith and hope in the power of Jesus' own life and love. **That's why Jesus came.**



Jesus taught that genuine **LOVE** for God and others means seeking people's well-being without expecting anything in return, especially from people who are in difficult situations who can't repay you even if they wanted to. According to Jesus, this kind of generous **love** reflects the very heartbeat of God. When he eventually marched into Jerusalem, he made himself an enemy of the leaders of his people by accusing them of hypocrisy and corruption. But then, instead of attacking his enemies to overthrow them, he allowed them to kill him. Jesus died for the selfishness and corruption of his enemies because he loved them. **That's why Jesus came.**

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve

WORSHIP AT TRINITY ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Sunday, November 28th 10:30 am - Advent 1

Sunday, December 5th 10:30 am - Advent 2
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 12th 10:30 am - Advent 3
Sunday School Pageant,
(Pastor Steve on Continuing Education leave)

Sunday, December 19th 10:30 am - Advent 4

Friday, December 24th 7:30 pm - Christmas Eve
Carols & Scripture

Saturday, December 25th 10:30 am - Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10:30 am

Sunday, December 26th – No Church Service

(Council discussed the above and felt it best to only hold the Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services. Everyone felt three consecutive days of services would be a little much. We pray you understand & agree with our decision.)



Effective **December 1st**, Trinity Lutheran Church is requiring anyone twelve years of age and older entering the church to show proof of double vaccination. You will need to show your driver's license or health card and either the document you received after your second dose or the Passport Vaccination document with the QR code on it.

When you show us the card the first time, your name will be placed on our Proof of Vaccination List so that each time you attend Trinity, you just need to provide the greeter with your name so they can check the list. By gathering this information, we are able to fully open Trinity without the occupancy restrictions. We are hoping this will allow us a wonderful Christmas Eve service where more people are able to come out and enjoy the evening of carols and hymns.

It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. There is snow on the ground and the temperature sure has dropped and we are only one month away from Christmas. We hope everyone is safe, warm and doing well.

RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

Trinity has returned to in-person worship and will be holding at least once monthly, possibly twice, communion. We are still required to wear our masks through the entire service and continue to follow the Middlesex Health Unit and Ontario Government guidelines. We are still asking everyone to sign in when you arrive providing your name and telephone number.

Our services are available both in-person and live worship services on-line. We are working on the purchase of the equipment approved so that our sound quality will improve and those at home will hear us much more clearly and louder.

CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

We will be holding a very condensed Christmas Pageant on **December 12th** with only a few of our children participating. Unfortunately, there was just not enough time to be able to include those at home in our live streaming and in person service. We will certainly miss those who were not able to attend and look forward to 2022 when hopefully everyone is back at Trinity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



You will see in this newsletter an announcement about Proof of Vaccination. We are implementing this requirement as an additional way to ensure the safety of everyone entering Trinity.

We will be holding our **Annual Christmas Eve Carol Service on December 24th at 7 pm.** Everyone is welcome to attend. Please note, you will need to show Proof of Vaccination if you have not already shown same and your name recorded on our Proof of Vaccination List.

We unfortunately lost Vern Leffler on November 24th. Although Vern and Joan only joined us a few years ago, they both quickly got involved with the activities at Trinity. Vern joined the choir and I know they were very happy to another male voice joyfully singing the hymns and choir anthems. Vern joined council and we all felt very fortunate to have him as a fellow member. He knew the rules and was very helpful to me, as Chair, ensuring that I dotted those i's and crossed those t's. Vern took his job as secretary seriously and always ensured we had our Minutes properly recorded and out to all. Our thoughts and prayers were with both Joan and Vern through his heart surgery and many other trips in and out of the hospital. Unfortunately, this last trip was one where God took his disciple home so that he was no longer in pain or suffering. There will always be an empty chair at our council meetings where Vern used to sit. Our thoughts and prayers are now with Joan as she continues on her path with Trinity and God by her side.

As always, if you have any questions, comments, concerns, please let Annette know and she will get in touch with me. You are always free to reach out to me directly. My number is in the Directory.

~ Deb Pepers
Council Chair

KIDS' CLUB



Christmas Pageant practices are in full swing! Our Pageant will be presented on **Sunday, December 12th** during regular service. We appreciate the support from our parents all year round, when you bring your children on Sunday mornings and when you remind them of the lessons at home.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and “when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” Deuteronomy 6:6-7

~ Deb Pepers, Kathy Meadows
& Nancy Manners

2022 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

This is to inform everyone who uses envelopes to make their financial contributions to the church that the 2022 packets are ready to be picked up on the library table. If you do not find a packet for yourself, please put your name on the sheet that will be on the table and a set will be issued. You can pick them up the next time you are at church.

Some people find it difficult to regularly attend church to make their financial contributions and others, for convenience sake, don't use envelopes. There is an alternative – you can use the PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) plan. There is no cost to the contributor. If you are interested in supporting your church in this manner, please call Annette in the church office for details.

LIBERIAN CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Liberian Canadian Association of London (LICAL) is inviting the entire Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation to a Christmas Dinner on **Saturday, December 18th, at 6:00 pm** at Trinity. The purpose of the dinner is to raise funds to support our brothers and sisters affected by the Covid-19 pandemic back in Liberia with some basic needs. Please come and support us in this laudable endeavour. The cost of a ticket to this dinner is only \$50 per person and it's all inclusive. Thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you. Come and come all!

MUSIC AT TRINITY

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER:



We have all sung this beautiful Christmas carol at some point in time. It started out as a poem written by Christina Rossetti, first published in 1872 in Scribner's Monthly. In 1906 Gustav Holst set the poem to music. In 1909, Harold Darke arranged the choral setting sung by choirs everywhere. In 2008, a poll taken by choirmasters and choral experts the world over, said this carol was the best Christmas carol ever written.

Now Jacob Collier from the UK has come along. Jacob is a musician and singer who possesses a level of genius from another planet above anybody else these days. He now is only about 24 years of age and has already won four Grammy awards. He is blessed with a degree of understanding musical harmony and pitch unlike anybody else and has perfect pitch. He has taken this carol and as an unaccompanied singer recorded this in ten-part harmony. He sings all ten parts himself, one part at a time with multi-track recording of sound and video. His sense of harmony is quite simply... mind blowing.

I invite you to go to Google and type in IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER - JACOB COLLIER and have a listen.

There are also many other titles Jacob has done from George Gershwin to pop contemporary songs. He has opened for the renowned jazz man Quincy Jones. He has given talks and lectures at American University music schools of high repute, on music harmony and composition. He has captured the attention of music educators and students by storm. Give yourself a lift from the 'Bleak Mid Winter Covid', we are all trying to survive. Merry Christmas to all of you!

CALLING ALL MUSICIANS:

Do you play an instrument or sing? We are looking for musicians to be part of our worship services. If you have a particular piece of music in mind or questions about music let me know. We would love to hear from you and have all ages participate, youth and adult.



TRINITY CHOIR:

The Choir program is on hold at the moment due to Covid protocol, social distancing and all that goes with that. Hopefully, that will relax in the future.

Feel free to contact me with your thoughts or ideas at e-mail me at rossmcdonald.music@sympatico.ca or call me at 519-686-9393.

He who sings or makes music, prays twice!

~ Ross McDonald

Director of Music

TRINITY's 100th ANNIVERSARY

As a congregation, we have been blessed over the last one hundred years with our congregation, our buildings and our pastors. In 1971, we commemorated our fiftieth anniversary by helping to furnish the chapel at University Hospital. To celebrate our one hundredth anniversary Trinity will be holding events throughout 2022 for both the congregation and community members. If you have any suggestions for an event or a worthwhile commemorative project, please contact Nancy King or Nancy Manners directly.

We still plan to hold our Anniversary Dinner in 2022 when hopefully there will be no restrictions and we can plan it in advance.

TRINITY MEMORIES

As part of our anniversary celebration, we are initiating a large project that will require input from the entire congregation.



Do you remember the first Trinity service you ever came to? What brought you here? What kept you here?

Did you go to Sunday School or confirmation classes? Who were your friends or your teachers?

What are your favourite memories of events, dinners, services, community projects or fundraisers?

Were you involved in significant Trinity events such as leaving Missouri Synod, joining the LCA, pastoral call committees or building projects?

Do you have any stories your family members told you about when they were members? Who were/are the memorable people you've met at Trinity? The joker, the singer, the dedicated worker who volunteered for everything, the cheerful one who talked to every single person?

We're asking for your stories, your memories! We'll be combining them into a memory book for the archives. Write as much as you want. The sky's the limit! Don't be concerned about any duplication of submissions; everyone's memories are different. The more everyone contributes, the better the project will turn out.

Do you have photos of the Trinity building itself, both old and new, the parsonage or people and events from any year to submit so they can be catalogued and added to our archives? We would love to see those old pictures of church construction, Mother and Daughter Dinners, Men's Club meetings, Sunday School, Christmas Pageant, choir, youth and young adult events, TLW, luncheons, Christmas dinners, confirmations, baptisms, yard sales, concerts and celebrations! You can bring in copies or originals to be copied and returned.

Send your electronic submissions by email to Nancy Manners at ndmanners@execulink.com. You can also send or bring in your paper submissions to the church office.

EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR BC

From ELCIC News

Massive floods and landslides have devastated parts of British Columbia, destroying roads and leaving several mountain towns isolated. One person has been confirmed dead, at least three missing, some 18,000 people are displaced, and authorities expect death tolls to rise.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) in partnership with the Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) invites you to pray for the people of British Columbia and to consider making a gift to support recovery efforts. As CLWR moves to quickly identify partners well-positioned to respond effectively, your gift will provide emergency support and hope for recovery.

CLWR is accepting donations now through the following options:

- Send a cheque made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 600-177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5. Please indicate that you wish to contribute to "BC Floods."
- Make a donation on its website at clwr.org/BCfloods.

Call CLWR at 1-800-661-2597 (locally at 204-694-6502), Monday to Friday, 9:00 -16:00 CST to donate by credit card or go online at: clwr.org/BCfloods

CELEBRATING THIS MONTH

BIRTHDAYS

Karen Holmes (7)	David Silverthorn (8)
Tillie Hein (13)	Hilda Petch (14)
Elfrieda Heinen (15)	Karl Rudolph (18)
Barbara Silverthorn (18)	Vivian Parker (20)
Susanna Kraus (22)	Shane Cook (27)
Lois Merkley (31)	

ANNIVERSARIES

Lou & Sharon Mantle (60)
Nancy & David King (35)

