
TRINITY TIDINGS

DECEMBER, 2011

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

A loving, Christian community, feeding God's people in mind, body, and spirit

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Success Is in the Planning!

A message from Pr Jacqui

A little planning goes a long way. How was your Thanksgiving? Did it go as you planned? Is it a big blur and now you're off into the rush of Christmas? Have you planned for Christmas? Do you know how much money you will spend? Has anybody already finished their shopping? What about dinner? You have it all planned out so that you can eat and get to church in time for Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm, right? You do realize that Christmas is on a Sunday and we ARE having worship as usual at 9:30 am? With a little planning and a lot of God it will all come together.

As we enter into the new church year and new calendar year we are seeing some awesome things happening around Trinity Lutheran Church. AMEN! We are offering adult Sunday school, the five confirmands continue to gel as a group and seek more knowledge, visitors comment on how nice our grounds look, and as a community we agree we have some things to come together and celebrate. Life is good and God is better. All of the great accolades for which we can pat ourselves on the back, happen because we are doing it, and doing it together. We may not be clear on what our goals and objectives are, but now more clearly than ever before we can say that we are committed to work on them together.

The most major accomplishment Trinity has had over the last two years was to continue to worship as a community in the location of 7th and Hatcher. We are doing that, so now what? What's the plan? Let's plan to be here for the next 60 years. Let's plan to offer the best multicultural ELCA hour-long worship service in the city of Phoenix. Let's plan on being the number one feeding spot in Sunnyslope, where all who are hungry know this is where their minds, bodies, and spirits are fed. Let's be committed to doing it together, no matter what, with God's blessings the whole way.

Wow, those are great objectives. How will we get there? What's our plan? Our plan so far is to continue on our current path. Everything we are doing we MUST keep at it. Keep coming to church, keep inviting friends and family, keep praying, keep giving what you can when you can. We must look to all of our processes and iron out any kinks. This next year will be a year of reflection and light. The year of 2012 must be a year of internal audit: everything we do and everything we are about will be scrutinized.

We are about worshipping well. We are about pleasing God. We are about living out the grace that Jesus died for us to have. All that we do and all that we are we want to do to the best of our abilities. Worshipping together in our building has been achieved, but is it the best Sunday service we can do? What will it take to make it better? Let's determine what we need and then make a plan to get it. Some things that we may consider are guitars, the new Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnals, pew cushions, a teen sitting-area, an in-sanctuary designated coffee area. What if we ran our service online and people logged in via Facebook and made comments on the screens? Hey, these are just ideas, but we have to start somewhere. Have you worshipped someplace recently and thought it was a great experience? Do visitors have any idea what we are doing when we repeat all these creeds and prayers? Worship is just a small component of who we are and just one aspect of what must be evaluated.

This year of 2012 will be your chance to make a major impact on your church life. If there is any aspect of who we are at TLC and what we are about that YOU want done differently, or left just the way it is, please tell Pr Jacqui or Noreen by Sunday, April 1, 2012. "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed." Proverbs 15:22. Plans for Trinity are coming together; we want as many people as possible in on the process. You are welcome to just come along for the ride, but complaining upon arrival at the destination will not be tolerated. We are about something new here. We are about God's business. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. Let's go!



2012 LEADERSHIP ROSTER

After the congregational meeting on Sunday, November 20, your 2012 council members are:

President:	Noreen Baldwin (continuing)
Treasurer:	Judy Vogt (re-elected)
Administrator:	Jeff Schultz (re-elected)
At-large:	Terry Clark-Hughey (continuing)
At-large:	Matt Ruble (continuing)
At-large:	Margaret Rude (continuing)
At-large:	Sarah Michaelson (newly elected)

The Vice-president and Secretary are elected by the council from the At-large members at the first council meeting in January.

Thank you to all who stepped forward to fill leadership roles for 2012. Thank you for jobs well-done to those leaving office: Mike Lynch (council At-large), Laurie Schultz (Secretary), and Ute Wilfong (council At-large).

Please keep our leaders, including Pr Jacqui, in your prayers throughout the year.



Advent/Christmas Schedule

Wednesday, November 30	5:45 pm	Soup Supper, 6:30 pm Advent service
Wednesday, December 7	12:00 noon	MOREs Christmas luncheon
Wednesday, December 7	5:45 pm	Soup Supper, 6:30 pm Advent service
Friday, December 9	6:00 pm	Christmas Caroling
Wednesday, December 14	10:30 am	Pre-holiday memorial service
Wednesday, December 14	5:45 pm	Soup Supper, 6:30 pm Advent service
Friday, December 16	7:30 pm	Young adults Christmas party
Saturday, December 17	10:00 am	Decorate the sanctuary
Sunday, December 18	9:30 am	Children's Christmas Pageant during worship service
Sunday, December 18	11:00 am	Congregational potluck
Saturday, December 24	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service
Sunday, December 25	9:30 am	Worship service as usual

FIRST CALL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION (FCTE)

Update by Pr Jacqui

Just to keep you all updated on my comings and goings, I am ½ way through my First Call Theological Education obligation. As a first-call pastor, we as a congregation are obligated for me to attend FCTE twice a year for the first three years after ordination. FCTE is churchwide's response to foster positive roster retention. All "new to the roster" people (AIMs, Diaconal Ministers, and Pastors) across the ELCA must participate. The percentage of leaders who leave the roster within three years of their first call is significant compared to the number of candidates who graduate seminary and are approved for the roster.

FCTE is a three-day event held throughout region 2 (our region, consisting of California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming) of the ELCA and rotates locations. So far I have been to San Francisco, Denver, and most recently Malibu. The registration cost to Trinity is \$450.00 a year, which pays for lodging and food during the event, and covers costs incurred by the planning committee for speakers or materials for the event. The Synod assisted us with the first year's fee and will likely do the same with the 2nd year's fee. Typically, the congregation also pays for travel costs as well as additional meals not covered by the registration fee, but, so far, in the spirit of community, I have paid my airfare and for additional meals. The remaining FCTE events have me returning to San Francisco, attending one event here in our back yard (probably at Spirit in the Desert), and possibly going to Santa Fe, NM.

These events are enriching my development as your pastor and it is a treat for me to gather with other leaders from around our area of the country who can relate to my joys and trials of being a first-time pastor. In addition to representing the Grand Canyon Synod at these events, I also have the honor to serve on the planning team. It is an additional day away from my community and yet a great opportunity to help shepherd other new ministry leaders on their journey and help them understand that they/we are not alone. Once my 3-year obligation is met it will be exciting to see what other continuing education opportunities present themselves.



CAUGHT YOU CARING

The following names were cited for performing random acts of kindness during the past month. Thanks to all who took the time to recognize others. A random selection was made and a small token of appreciation was given. Each act gives honor and glory to God as we reach out to others in His name. Please, fill out your slips; let's keep this program going!!!

- Jim and Jane Higgins — for their generosity in paying for the wonderful entertainment at the November MOREs
- Elaine Thompson — for providing the door prizes for the November MOREs
- Florence Saltsman — for her willingness to lead a new mid-week Bible study
- Evan Davies — for not only his faithful service during the monthly commodities distribution but for his willingness to distribute the bags of food in November which Elaine Thompson usually does but couldn't due to her illness
- For all of who contributed to the success of the Random Elements concert on November 13
- Margaret Rude — for her kind attention to the acolyte robes



ANNUAL REPORTS

Yes, it's time to prepare annual reports again! The Area Ministers are responsible for preparing the annual reports. The reports should be into the office by Friday, December 30, 2011. They may be emailed as an attachment (preferred) or brought to the office on disk or flash drive. Please be sure to get yours in on time so that the entire report can be compiled before the annual meeting in January. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth in the church office.