

---

---

# TRINITY TIDINGS

## JANUARY, 2012

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

9424 N 7 Ave                      Phoenix, AZ 85021  
phone 602-943-3311              fax 602-944-5087  
e-mail [trinity@tlcphx.org](mailto:trinity@tlcphx.org)      Website [www.tlcphx.org](http://www.tlcphx.org)

---

---

## **Now Is the Time!**

**A message from Pr Jacqui**

January is the big fitness craze month. For some reason the number one new year's resolution is to lose weight, get in shape, be healthy. If you are going to buy a new treadmill, or some weights – now is the time to do it. Are we crazy? Are we crazy for wanting to get in shape or are we crazy for needing some special date to do it? Face it, after a certain age getting in shape just isn't what it used to be. There was a time when I wanted to shed a couple of pounds I just missed a few meals and voila! I could wear the dress I wanted. Now, not so easy. If there is some special outfit that I am hoping to wear, I would fall out in a hunger faint before the dress will fit. This doesn't mean that I don't try to watch what I eat; this doesn't mean that I buy all new clothes. This means that I need to be conscious at all times of my health. My weight, my blood pressure, my cholesterol, and my attitude, everything about me needs to be constantly monitored. The same is true for Trinity's well being. We can't wait any longer.

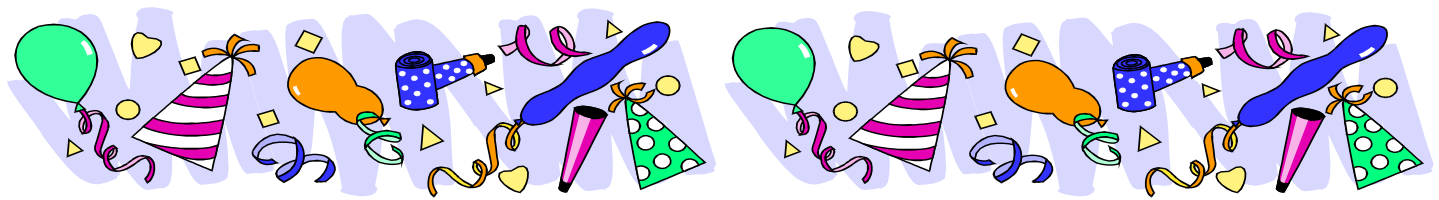
Now is as good a time as any to start getting our affairs in order. We are on the road to recovery, yet we are about more than survival. We are about thriving. We don't want to just get to the Super Bowl; we want to win the Super Bowl. We want to graduate college, not just get accepted. We want to have a great worship service on Sunday and be a service mecca for the community the rest of the week. We cannot wait for some magical event, or date to appear, in order to get our affairs in order. The time is **now**.

The next few months you will hear, see, and be able to do the small things necessary to get us in shape. Shedding 100 pounds doesn't happen overnight. Quitting smoking is much easier a cigarette at a time. Now that we have started flexing and stretching our muscles, we must pick our marathon and plan to win it. We are the church, we are doing church, God is here and we are glad. We do what we can today so that God's church will be here tomorrow. We worship here because we can and we want others to experience that same joy we do. There is more than keeping the building structurally sound to our having an awesome worship experience. We must all be on the same page and reaching for the same goals. The process and procedures must be sure and consistent. Much of the work has begun – background checks for all those working with anyone under 18, request for driver licenses on file for anyone transporting people on church business, job description reviews for all paid staff and volunteers, procedures in place and posted for any church functions. We will get this place in great shape.

You can start to help us get in shape by asking these five questions that were provided to me by Jo, our parish nurse, from "A Healthy Church Atmosphere" (adapted from an editorial by Marshall Shelley based on Leith Anderson, Seven Ways to Rate Your Church Leadership.)

- 1.) Do people sense the presence of God here?
- 2.) Is this church "others" centered?
- 3.) Will guests see someone *who looks like them*?
- 4.) Does the church manage conflict?
- 5.) Is there a sense of expectancy?

With honest answers to these questions as a start, we will get in shape. Being healthy is a matter of inside and outside. We cannot only look good with well-trimmed trees and neatly swept walkways. Weekly worship opportunities must run smoothly. Visitors must be welcomed and followed throughout their journey at Trinity. The budget that has been agreed upon by the congregation must be met, the children must be welcomed and encouraged to flourish in their relationship with Christ. No matter who the pastor is, how many people worship together, or what building we do it in – Trinity Lutheran Church should run like a well-oiled machine that above all else honors God in all she does.



## **SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

### **December 13, 2011**

This month's meeting was held at Los Reyes de a Torta restaurant in Sunnyslope.

Pastor's Report Jacqui continues to meet one-on-one with congregation members. She indicated she needs four hours a week for sermon preparation and administrative work.

Secretary's Report The November minutes, with noted corrections, were approved.

Treasurer's Report Judy pointed out highlights of the report. The pre-summer mark will be a good indication of where we stand financially. MSC to accept the report.

Parish Nurse Report Jo continues to serve our congregation with phone calls and visits in spite of her progressing illness. We thank God for this wonderful lady who he brought into our congregation several years ago. She has been a true blessing for so many of us in our deepest time of need. God bless you, Jo!

#### Old Business

- A. Congregational Project: Jacqui and Terry are working on a church t-shirt project.
- B. Job Description Review: Jacqui and Noreen will be meeting with staff members to discuss/review their job descriptions. The recommended changes will be brought to the council at the January meeting.
- C. Council Listening Panel: Reminder that Jacqui needs all of these turned in to her.
- D. Vision Statements: tabled until January, 2012.
- E. Family Resource Center: Lutheran Social Services has informed us that they have been approved to open an office at our church. Trinity needs to provide specifics to them such as rent, etc.
- F. Property Committee Concern: The committee expressed concern regarding the council's decision to tithe part of the funds received from the insurance company after the roof and air conditioning replacements and repairs. The total amount of those funds were earmarked for certain projects around the church. They asked that the council reconsider their decision. After discussion, the original decision to tithe remains. Noreen will inform the committee.
- G. Pledge Totals: We received a total of 36 commitment cards for a total of \$118,834 in pledges.

#### New Business

- A. Congregation's Personality: Pr Jacqui passed out a questionnaire/survey for council to fill out as a group.
- B. 2011 Offerings: An announcement will be made in the bulletin that the last day to make 2011 donations will be January 8, 2012. Those checks need to be dated in 2011 and marked "for 2011" on the memo line.
- C. Annual Reports: Council members were reminded to get their annual reports submitted.
- D. Membership Roll Changes: A list of persons recommended to be removed from church membership was submitted for council approval. To be an active member, one must receive communion once a year and make a contribution of at least \$1.00. The list was approved as presented.

Thanks and recognition to outgoing council members, Mike Lynch, Laurie Schulz, and Ute Wilfong for their service to the congregation. Thank you to the continuing council members. We welcome Sarah Michaelson to the council in January.

There will be a congregational meeting on January 29, 2012. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

This is a synopsis of the council minutes. If you would like a full copy, please contact Ruth in the church office.



### **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!!!

- Lois and Chuck Lowery and Lane Doolittle — for getting the advent wreath up and ready in time for the 11-27-11 Sunday service
- Frances Rice — for volunteering to coordinate the food pantry distribution
- Rita Larned — for providing the musical program at the December MOREs
- Florence Saltsman and Pat Heath — for providing the delicious refreshments for the 7<sup>th</sup> annual pre-holiday memorial service
- Lane Doolittle — for his invaluable help in setting up for the pre-holiday memorial service
- Sheila Hicks — for her consistently kind attitude towards an elderly neighbor
- Judy Vogt for coordinating, Anna Leonard for adding her special artistic touch, and all those who helped to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas
- Beth Cook — for creating and getting the congregation to sign the holiday greeting card for Jo Ambrose
- the Hospitality Team — for their hard work during the soup suppers and the 12-18 pot luck
- Kim Ruble for coordinating the crafts and Mary Dixon for providing the homemade cakes for the 12-18 auction to benefit the food pantry
- The Sunday school teachers and all those who worked on the children's pageant
- Bill Taylor and Wally Secosky — for delivering Christmas gifts to families in need

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The January congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, at 10:45 am, immediately following the worship service. At this meeting we will approve the Annual Reports for 2011 and elect delegates to the next Synod Assembly to be held in May/June, 2012. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

### **SINGSPIRATION**

Trinity is hosting this year's Singspiration, on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 3:00 pm. Several of our members will sing in the joint choir. As host, it is important for Trinity to have a strong attendance for this event. Please plan to attend this joyous event.

