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# TRINITY TIDINGS

## January, 2018

### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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**Trinity office hours:** Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

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### Congregational Profile

by Noreen Baldwin

Toward the end of 2016, Pastor Jacqui approached Jeff Schultz, Chris Cole and me to compile a current profile of our church. She wished for this to be a foundation from which she could set goals and determine directions, based on congregation characteristics and direct response. A survey was written and distributed in September, 2017, to gauge congregational attitude, worshipping habits, mission outreach, and involvement. In

addition, demographics of the worshipping community, as well as the surrounding Sunnyslope community, were obtained and included. 100 surveys were distributed with 27 returned.

One of the most surprising pieces of information to come out of this research is the number of programs we offer or are involved in at Trinity. We are a welcoming congregation, allowing a number of entities to use our property during the week. Many

of us, if not present during the week, might be unaware of how many folks access our campus. We are excited about being welcoming to all people, caring for one another and providing outreach to the Sunnyslope community. Other strengths include a blended church service, music, Parish Nurse Jo, inspiring sermons each week, Holy Communion, the children's sermon, Rally Sunday and, of course, potlucks. We see Pastor Jacqui's top five ministry tasks to be pastoral care and visitation, preaching, children's ministry, youth and family ministry, and interpreting theology. We find the following gifts for ministry to be present or desired in Pastor Jacqui: being an effective communicator, helping people develop their spiritual lives, being effective in working with youth as well as children, and being an effective teacher.

This profile also delved into strengths and concerns. Concerns include dwindling attendance, offering shortages, music as a low priority, inability to reach out to the surrounding community, and a fear of losing the pastor. One of the greatest concerns is the lack of reliable committed younger people to fill the roles of aging members. Our church is aging, with members no longer able to be involved to the extent they once were. We need less-involved folks to step up and volunteer their

time with our programs, our property and in our community efforts. Strengths include caring members, willingness to help, openness, acceptance and support of youth. Other strengths were mentioned earlier in this article.

You might note contradictions within strengths and needs at TLC. The surveys were designed to get people's perceptions, ideas and opinions. As with any group, we vary widely in how we see this church, based on our involvement, our attendance and our awareness. An example of this is that some see music as both a strength and a weakness, based on how music is used, whether the organ can be repaired, and type of music in the services. We enjoy praise music, for example, but have trouble engaging more singers and musicians.

We all have much to contribute to Trinity. I encourage all of you to obtain a copy of the full profile by emailing or calling the church or Pastor Jacqui. The document can be forwarded to you. It is a useful piece of information to help us going forward to determine which programs work, the focus within our immediate community and within the global community, and immediate needs and strengths in our church. Please use this profile to see how you can be more involved in directing our church toward Christ's mission in this place.

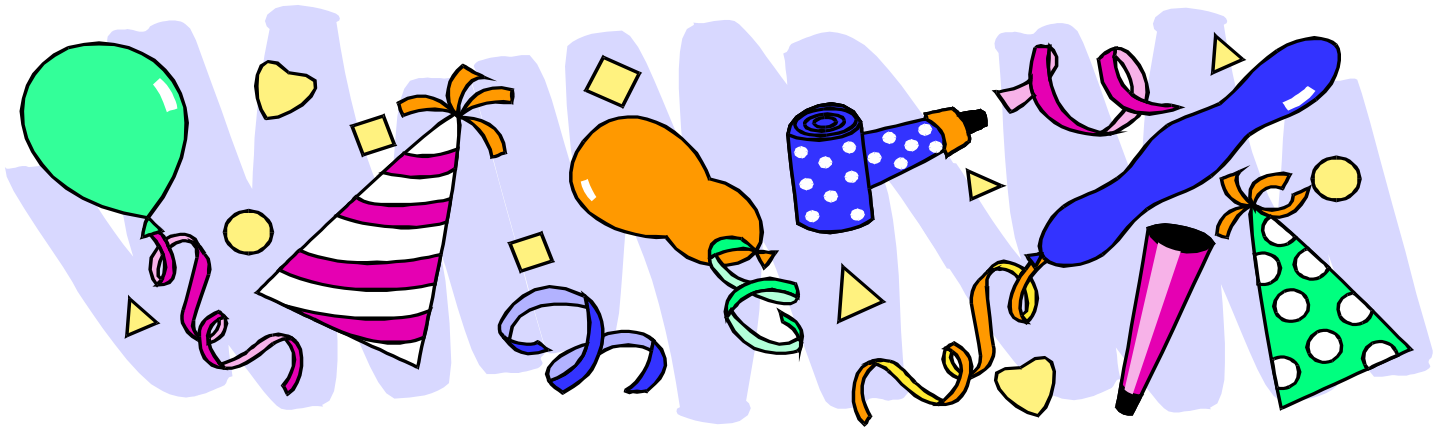


# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 12, 2017

For the December council meeting, the council met for dinner to celebrate Christmas and the approaching New Year. A minimal amount of business was conducted: acceptance of the November council minutes and the Treasurer and Financial Secretary reports and approval of administrative removals from the membership rolls.

**Next meeting date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2018, at 4:00 pm.



## CAUGHT YOU CARING

The following people 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, continue to notify Jo (in person, by phone or email) with names of those doing acts of kindness; let's keep this program going!!!

- Chuck Lowery — for his willingness to lead the mid week Bible study during Florence's illness
- Pat Heath and Ute Wilfong — for providing refreshments for the pre-holiday memorial service and Lane Doolittle for his help with the set up
- All those who worked to decorate the church and parish hall for Christmas
- Laurie Schulz — for coordinating and all those who helped make the children's pageant such a success
- All of the food pantry volunteers who give of themselves each month and who provided breakfast for the recipients on December 19
- Don Brethauer for providing blankets and Penny Marx for providing shirts and socks during the December food pantry breakfast

