



Trinity Lutheran Church

One in Christ Newsletter

News In and Around

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hamilton ON

A Christian community, open to all, transforming lives through worship, learning and service.

Pastor's Message

by Pastor Thomas Mertz

"Fling wide the door, unbar the gate." This is one of my favorite Advent hymns about God coming into this world. "He is the rock of our belief. The heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness. His scepter is his loveliness. He brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend."

For me the song captures the essence of this season filled with hope and anticipation.

What else could we do when expecting none other than God to enter the world and transform our lives but fling and throw open doors to buildings and our human hearts?

After all we welcome God, the "Lord of lords and King of kings," who became flesh and blood and met us in Jesus. So, maybe even more than us welcoming God, it is God who welcomes each one of us. It is God who tears down gates and opens doors so nothing can keep us and God apart.

The other day I read about an art project initiated in 2014 by the Lutheran Church in Wuerttemberg, Germany. It made the Guinness Book of World Records for the longest manger ever built. It was built originally out of 2014 2x2 boards, each of which represent one year since the birth of Jesus.

Every year another 2x2 board is added. The whole installation is over 80 meters long, inviting folks in the small town of Weikersheim to gather at the manger. There is room for everybody to pray and ponder the God who comes in humility and with grace. This is God's way of opening doors and unbarring gates.

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December 2023 –January 2024

Volume 4, Issue 10

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Trinity Milestones

Happy Birthday

To our Trinity members
turning 90 +.

Congratulations!

December 4

Ursula Lavadinho

December 5

Betty Fallis

December 8

Kaethe Urbshaitis

December 21

Elisabeth Waldner

December 23

Millie Green

January 1

Eva Heidt

Natalie Bluemke

January 22

Rose Frost

January 31

Nova Needham

Pastor's message continued



Longest manger ever built in the Bavarian Garden in Lutherstadt Wittenberg.

Someone once said that in Advent and on Christmas we celebrate a promise we need to reclaim for ourselves again and again. As we sing of Jesus who was born to save, to heal and make whole, we are reminded that we may bring every little bit of ourselves to the manger. We bring every joy, every loss, every worry, every disappointment, every failure, every regret, every hope and dream.

Christmas Blessings to you and yours.

Pastor Thomas Mertz

Denninger's Receipts- Lutheran Ladies United (LLU)

We are still collecting Denninger's receipts. The last date to hand them in is January 14, 2024. There is a drop off box in the parish hall or you can give them to a LLU member. Thank you in advance.

The LLU would like to thank the Austrian Club for their generous donation of \$85,000 in Designer's receipts. We will receive \$850 in gift cards, which is 1% of the receipts.

Dear Members of Trinity Congregation,

This year has certainly flown by. We are already looking forward to the Christmas celebrations and looking into 2024. The Board and Call Committee met with Pastor Doug Reble on November 14th to discuss the call process. The board members were excused and the call committee further discussed the process and were presented with names of potential candidates. These names were vetted by the Call Committee and letters from Pastor Reble were created inviting the candidates to submit their Availability for Call form to the Synod office by December 31st. The Call Committee will then review the forms and make arrangements for interviews in the new year. We will update you on the process as things happen.

Christmas Eve and Advent 4 are on the same Sunday this year. The board has decided to have 1 (one) service on Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 pm in person and via Zoom, which will incorporate both Advent 4 and Christmas Eve. Additionally, there will be an in person and Zoom service on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.

There will be a Service of Leave-Taking for the King Street building on Sunday, January 28th at 10:00 a.m. All members of Trinity are invited. This is an in-person service only, and Zoom will not be offered. The Service of Leave-Taking is performed when a building is being closed. In this case, we are doing this in anticipation of the sale of King Street in the new year. Bishop Michael Pryse will be presiding at this service. This will be one of the last times most of you will be able to be with him as Bishop as he is retiring in June 2024. There will be a luncheon following the service and details about that will be forthcoming.

The Annual General Meeting of Trinity Congregation will be on February 25, 2024, after service. In preparation for that meeting, reports from the various committees and pastors are due to Carol-Ann by January 22, 2024, so that she can prepare the Bulletin of Reports. There will also be voting for new Board members that day. If someone approaches you to be on the Board, please prayerfully consider serving in this capacity.

Finally, as the Christmas Season draws nearer, I would like to take a moment to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year. During this season, we will be celebrating Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. I pray that all four of these will fill your life in every way this Christmas and beyond. Thanks be to God.

Cathy Calvin,

Chair, Trinity Board of Directors



Environmentally-Friendly Gift-Wrapping Ideas for Christmas

We all have a chance to create a more just, fair and sustainable world everyday. As we think of Christmas festival giving, we should be aware that the following practices contribute to environmental damage:

- Metallic wrapping paper
- paper with glitter or foil
- shiny paper
- some gift bags
- some sticky tapes

These materials are environmental threats because they cannot be recycled or they take a very long time to decompose.

Sustainable alternative wrapping ideas we can use

- Wrap gifts in cloth. It is not necessary to buy new cloth or fabric to wrap gifts. A more environmentally-sustainable way is to re-use material or fabric that you already have. Another option is to buy it from a thrift store. Canadians send 81 lbs. of textiles to landfill per year per person. Re-using is the sensible thing to do.
- Instead of using tape, use string.
- Skip the plastic bows and ribbons, and opt for natural greenery such as pine branches, pine cones, or berries and leaves as they are biodegradable.
- Use old magazines, newspapers, and maps to make trendy gift wrappings.



For more gift wrapping ideas, visit [Greenpeace.org](https://www.greenpeace.org) and view the article on [Never buy gift paper again.](#)

You can also visit [Environment 911.org](https://www.environment911.org) and view the article on [50 Alternatives to Wrapping Paper.](#)

Lutheran Ladies United (LLU) Tuesday December 5, 1:30 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E

Mary's Season of Life is the theme of our Christmas Celebration. We are collecting purses with personal care products for [Out of the Cold](#). People can bring purses to this meeting or drop them off at 104 Hughson St. N. until December 10. We need used purses in good condition containing a tooth brush, toothpaste, deodorant, hand sanitizer, body lotion, 2 in 1 shampoo, and mitts or gloves. For more information, visit [The Purse Project Network](#) website. There is no LLU meeting in January.

Every year on the Saturday before First of Advent, I walk out into the backyard and harvest a few branches of our fir tree. I put on some Christmas music, and then I am ready to make the advent wreath. As long as I can remember we always had a wreath in our house.

When I was a child, my family gathered around the dining room table on Sunday afternoons with the wreath as the centerpiece. We enjoyed a few cookies and sang Christmas carols, rehearsing for

Christmas Eve. It seems families have treasured the Advent wreath tradition for the longest time. It is a tradition that started about 184 years ago.



Pastor Johann Wichern lived in 19th century Hamburg, Germany. He was a pastor who devoted himself to missionary work among the poor. When he walked the streets of Hamburg, he met many homeless children who had lost their parents or whose parents were simply too poor to provide for them. Johann Wichern decided to help and founded a children's organization called the "Rauhe Haus", meaning rough house. This became a new home for these children where they learned a trade.

Pastor Wichern was also passionate about sharing his Christian faith with the children. The hope and promise of Advent were especially important to him. Every evening he sat down with them, shared stories and led them in prayer. Inevitably the children would ask, "How much longer do we have to wait for Christmas? How many more days?"

As an answer to these questions and to bring some light into the dark winter evenings he put a big old wooden wheel to a new and meaningful use. He placed 24 candles on the wheel. There were four large ones for the Sundays and twenty small ones for the weekdays. Each day one more candle was lit, and the children were allowed to see and experience for themselves the light of God shine brighter every day. It reminded them of the comforting message of Isaiah, "The people who have walked in darkness will see a great a light."

The children of the "Rauhe Haus" soon started to decorate the wheel with branches of coniferous trees. Others who saw this first advent wreath loved it and started to make their own. They began to reduce the number to the four red candles that were lit on Sundays.

Soon this tradition spread all over Germany, then Europe and soon immigrants brought it to North America. The advent wreath is not only a help for children to count the days until Christmas, but it is also a meaningful tradition.

Continued on next page

The Advent Wreath continued

By Pastor Daniela Mertz

The wreath itself, which is made of various evergreens, signifies continuous life. The circle of the wreath, which has no beginning or end, symbolizes the eternity of God and the everlasting life we find in Christ. The pine, holly, and yew signify immortality. The cedar signifies strength and healing. The pinecones symbolize life and resurrection.

The four candles of the Advent wreath specifically symbolize the Christian concepts of hope, peace, joy and love, with these candles being lit subsequently throughout each week of the Advent season. Many Advent wreaths also have a white candle in the centre to symbolize the arrival of Christmastide, which is known as the 'Christ candle'. In Germany the candles were traditionally red, now they come in various colours. In North America advent wreaths often have three purple or blue candles and one is white.

May the advent wreaths we see over the next weeks remind us of the light and hope that Jesus brought into our world. "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined." (Isaiah 9:2).

Flowers on the Alter

Flowers are a wonderful way to remember a loved one. We took a break during the pandemic but our Congregational Life committee would like to restart this. There is a flower chart in the church where you can sign up and pick a Sunday.

Please bring the flowers on Friday or Sunday morning.

There will be someone to help bring them upstairs.

If you are not able to bring them personally please call Waltraut Weingartner (905 387 3517) or Doris Hampel (905 648 6928) for more information on how to participate.




People's Cafe

Everyone is welcome at the People's Cafe on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We are also open on Boxing Day.

Refreshments and fellowship are offered. Come and make new friends or sit quietly by yourself. Our neighbours are also welcome to enjoy coffee and toast while sheltering from the weather.



Offering Envelopes for 2024	Thank You
<p>The 2024 offering envelopes will be available for pick-up before and after the worship services on Sunday December 11, 18 and 31.</p> 	<p>Thank you for your visits, messages, cards, flowers and phone calls during this difficult time of Dieter and Joern's passing.</p> <p>The family would like to thank Pastor Thomas and Pastor Davis for the uplifting service and for all the care and prayers bestowed on the family this past year. The load has indeed been shared and we are truly blessed and overwhelmed with your kindness and love.</p> <p>The Jaenisch family.</p>

Advent Get Together

Tuesday, December 12 at 6.00 to 8.00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.

Come and celebrate the Advent season together with other families. We will have stories and crafts, cookies, and a supper. Everyone is welcome!



Christmas Bazaar Proceeds

Many thanks from the Lutheran Ladies United to all who attended and contributed to our Christmas Bazaar. The proceeds from the bazaar, \$2583.25 (less expenses), will be donated to The Living Rock and Liberty for Youth.

Social Ministry Committee

Christmas is a time to remind people that they are loved, and Trinity's members are generous in their willingness to share God's love. Please consider helping youth living at risk in our community who are supported by Living Rock and Liberty for Youth by purchasing small denomination gift cards from Walmart, Giant Tiger, and Tim Horton's.

Please make any donations by Dec. 17th. Marita Mathews and Angela Doyle will be collecting the cards.

Community Fridges

Another way to show our love is to donate to Community Fridges, Hamilton. Community Fridges are open to everyone and help to address food insecurity. Non-perishable food can be left in the bin at Hughson Street. Perishable food, labeled for the 'Community Fridge', can be left in the refrigerator at Hughson Street. Please check that the dates on all food items are not expired.

Financial donations can be made to support gift cards for Living Rock and Liberty for Youth or Community Fridges:

- In your Sunday offering.
- As an e-transfer to tlchamilton2020@gmail.com.
- Or by cheque made out to Trinity Lutheran Church and mailed to our Hughson St. location. Please include a note indicating what program you wish to donate to.

Trinity's Winter Apparel Drive

We are asking for waterproof or water-resistant winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, boots, shoes, new underwear, toiletries, and sleeping bags. Items for people of all ages are required and should be clean and in good repair. We support people attending the Out of the Cold program, Trinity's People's Cafe, as well as others in our community.

You can:

- Drop items off at 104 Hughson St. N. on Sundays.
- Contact Carol-Ann at 905-974-9878 to arrange drop off at Hughson on a day other than Sunday.
- Contact Dianne Busser 905-389-4008 to arrange pick-up.

Knitting and Crocheting

If you have knitted or crocheted hats, scarves, gloves, socks, baby sweaters and blankets to donate, or if you need wool, or have wool to donate, contact Dianne Busser at 905-389-4008.

The Friendship Circle

The Friendship Circle ladies meet on Mondays at 232 Fennell Ave. E. from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., to enjoy fellowship and creativity. We are looking for cotton material for quilting, lightweight towels to make washcloths, and flannel (sheets) to make diapers. Please contact Marie Stanat at 289-919-0603 if you have fabric to donate, would like more information, or are interested in joining.

Trinity Lutheran Church Pastors

Pastor Daniela Mertz

Pastor Thomas Mertz

ONE IN CHRIST is published ten times per year under the auspices of Trinity Lutheran Church. The Editorial Board is comprised of members of the congregation and the pastors. Submissions will be edited for clarity, positivity, adherence to our mission, constitution and the love of Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

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Please email all newsletter...
submissions to Kathy Davidson
before the 20th of each month.

Trinity Good Food Box Program

Trinity's Good Food Box program is back again every second Thursday of the month from September to June.

Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who help with the packing and delivery of the Good Food Box (GFB).

For \$22 you will receive 11 to 13 different fruits and vegetables. Subsidies are available. If possible, please bring your own bags.

To order a good food box, contact Pastor Thomas at 289-680-7387 or email tfrm58@gmail.com.

You can also access the Trinity [online Good Food Box Sign up form](#) to order online.

Locations and Pick Up Times

December 14, 2023

January 11, 2024

232 Fennell Ave. E.

Pick up times: 11 am - 5 pm

December 14, 2023

January 11, 2024

104 Hughson St. N.

Pick up times: 12 pm—2:30 pm



Trinity Lutheran Church - Contact Information

104 Hughson St N.

Hamilton, ON

L8R 1G6

905-974-9878

tlchamilton2020@gmail.com

www.trinity-hamilton.com

December 2023 Events Calendar

For Zoom links, please contact the office at 905-974-9878 during the week. There will be no German service on the first Sunday in December so we may worship Advent 1 together.

Sunday Dec. 3	Worship Service in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship at 104 Hughson St. N.
Tuesday Dec. 5	Lutheran Ladies United - 1:30 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E. See page 4.
Wednesday Dec. 6	Advent Prayers - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E. and 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Thursday Dec. 7	Choir - 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Sunday Dec. 10	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship at 104 Hughson St. N.
Wednesday Dec. 13	Advent Prayers - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E. and 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Thursday Dec. 14	Good Food Box - 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E. Good Food Box -12:00 - 2:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Saturday Dec. 16	German Afternoon - 104 Hughson St. N., 2:00 p.m. A celebration of Advent.
Sunday Dec. 17	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship at 104 Hughson St. N.
Monday Dec. 18	Trinity Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.
Wednesday Dec. 20	Advent Prayers - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E. and 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Thursday Dec. 21	Choir - 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Sunday Dec. 24	Christmas Eve Service -(in-person & Zoom) 5:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Monday Dec. 25	Christmas Day Service -(in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Sunday Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Service -(in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

January 2024 Events Calendar

For Zoom links, please contact the office at 905-974-9878 during the week.

Tuesday Jan. 2	Newsletter Committee Meeting -7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Wednesday Jan. 3	Mid Week Worship - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E.
Sunday Jan. 7	Worship Service -(in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. German Worship -11:15 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Wednesday Jan. 10	Mid Week Worship - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E.
Thursday Jan. 11	Good Food Box - 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E. Good Food Box -12:00 - 2:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Sunday Jan. 14	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship at 104 Hughson St. N.
Wednesday Jan. 17	Mid Week Worship - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E. Social Ministry Committee Meeting -7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Thursday Jan. 18	Choir - 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Sunday Jan. 21	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship at 104 Hughson St. N.
Monday Jan. 22	Trinity Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 p.m. Location TBD.

January 2024 Events Calendar continued

For Zoom links, please contact the office at 905-974-9878 during the week.

- Wednesday Jan. 24** **Mid Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E.
- Thursday Jan. 25** **Choir**- 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
- Saturday Jan. 27** **Bibles & Bagels** (in-person & Zoom) 9:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Men's Breakfast - 9:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Jan. 28** **Service of Leave-Taking** - 10 a.m., 1907 King Street E.
- Tuesday Jan. 30** **Creation Care Group**— 7:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 31** **Mid Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 1907 King Street E.

