



Trinity Lutheran Church

One in Christ Newsletter

News In and Around

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

Pastor's Message

By Pastor Daniela Mertz

In many photos of my childhood, I often had band aids on my elbows and knees. I still remember the burn when my mother sprinkled iodine on the little wounds to make sure they wouldn't get infected.

I guess it took me some time to realize that we humans are vulnerable creatures. Our thin skin is only millimeters thick and if we hurt ourselves, we can bleed easily. I had to learn over time to be careful not to drive my bike too fast, climb up all the way to the top of the trees, and to pay attention when picking blackberries.

Not only are humans vulnerable, but all creatures. We all have a limited life span, as the bible says. We lived through the pandemic and saw how a tiny virus could turn our world upside down. We see the effects of climate change and the growing wildfires that destroy entire countries. We see how torrential rainfall can flood whole cities within days, and how the weather changes can turn fertile land into deserts where no one can live comfortably. Just two degrees of global warming affect our plants, animals, and us in irreversible ways.

Each year, Earth Day is a reminder of the importance of caring for our amazing planet. However, the mandate to care for the environment is far older than this annual event. It goes all the way back to creation. In Genesis, we learn that God created the entire universe and formed the earth as a place for humans to dwell. **Pastor's message continued next page.**

April 2024

Volume 5 Issue 3

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Trinity Milestones



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Trinity members turning 90 +.

Ray Mulholland

April 1

Hildegard Kaminsky

April 15

Rudolph Oster

April 17

Richard Lutz

April 20

Helen Lutz

April 22

Pastor's message continued

After breathing life into humans, God placed them in this garden and gave them the responsibility “to work it and take care of it”. According to the first creation story, humans are created at the very end. We’d like to think that because of this we are somehow the “crown” of creation. Maybe the truth is that we came last because we can’t live without all the things that God created before us such as the sun, water, animals, and plants.

Maybe we are created as one of the most vulnerable creatures to make us wise and realize that we have a responsibility and calling to tend the earth.

Lutheran Ladies United (LLU)

April 16, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

232 Fennell Ave. E

Guest speaker, Laurel Hines, will introduce us to chair exercises and healthy eating. Everyone is welcome!

Mother's Day Weekend Bake, Plant and Garage Sale

Saturday May 11, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

232 Fennell Ave. E.

Donations of baked goods, plants (indoor or outdoor), household and clothing items “in good condition” would be very much appreciated. Drop off at Fennell location.

Garage sale items can be dropped off on:

Wednesday, April 3, 10, 17, 24 between 11:30 and 1:00pm.

Baked goods can be dropped off on:

May 10, 10:00 to 3:00, and May 11, 9:00 to 10:00. If you need assistance, call Gail Bennie at 905-536-0800. Many thanks for supporting the work of the LLU.

Congregational Communication - By Cathy Calvin, Chair, Trinity Board of Directors

On March 10, 2024, a Congregational meeting was held to discuss Invizij Architect's Feasibility Study results regarding our property at 104 Hughson St. N. A motion was made to approve the design concept in principle, which was adopted by the congregation. A second motion was made to approve that we continue to use Invizij architects to take us to the completion of the project, which was also approved. The Redevelopment Working Group is now reviewing the contract that Invizij provided us with. We will see what the results are with the meeting at City Hall and with our lawyer before we sign it over. We will also be working with Invizij on the actual design details of the project so we can bring a budget amount to the congregation in the coming months.



At our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in February, we announced that the Call Committee recommended Pastor Jordan Smith for a call at Trinity Lutheran Church, which the board and the congregation whole-heartily approved. Pastor Smith has now accepted the call to Trinity and his first day will be Tuesday May 21, 2024. His first Sunday with us will be May 26 and we will welcome him and his family on that day. He will be commuting for a while until his family moves sometime in August. Please plan to be at church that day to welcome Pastor Jordan!

Finally, the Ontario Government has made changes to the Incorporations Act which we now have to incorporate into our Constitution and Bylaws. We need to have this done by October 2024. The changes have been made and now as a congregation we need to vote on them to make them legal.

Electronic copies of the revised Constitution will be going out to those with email on April 8th. There will be paper copies available in the Narthex the following Sunday, April 14th for those who want to see the changes and have no email. The official Congregational Meeting to vote on the changes is set to be held on Sunday, May 19th. As a matter of rule, we must give the congregation 30 days to look at the changes and to formulate questions which will be answered at the meeting. Look for this revised constitution and a further explanation on May 8th.



Chili Lunch Fundraiser

Sunday April 21- After the worship service

Our youth enjoyed the summer camp a lot last year and all decided that they would like to go again this summer.

The Sylc (Summer Youth Lutheran Camp) is a week-long week for young people from different congregations of the Eastern Synod. Pastors, youth leaders and youth spend the days as “an intentional Christian community”, with our time together filled with worship and sports events, learning and crafts, and campfire and games.

To help cover the costs, the youth and their parents will organize a few fundraisers. The first will be a yummy Chili lunch.

Come and support our youth and enjoy a good lunch!



Hendrie Valley- Royal Botanical Gardens

Creation Care Group

The Hammer Nails It! Five Environmental Success Stories in Hamilton

Tuesday April 23, 7:00 p.m. in-person and Zoom

Urban sprawl, habitat destruction, invasive species, threatened plants and animals... The list goes on and on with how we are affecting the health and existence of our natural world.

Much of the work still needs to be done here in the Hamilton area. The dedicated work of many concerned citizens and organizations have saved and restored a variety of natural habitats. This has benefited the local flora and fauna and ultimately our own health and well-being.

Join Deborah Lindeman either in-person at Trinity at 104 Hughson St. N. or on Zoom. Debbie will highlight five of these natural spaces that we are lucky to have in and around the Hammer.

[The Zoom Link to Join](#)

Meeting ID: 926 452 0301

Passcode: 373579

If you require the Zoom link emailed to you, please contact the church office during office hours.

Earth Day by Pastor Thomas Mertz

On Monday April 22 Earth Day will be commemorated in over 175 countries. The annual event is intended to strengthen appreciation for our natural environment but also to encourage us to rethink our consumer behavior.

Earth Day draws our attention to the growing problem of plastic waste and calls us to reduce our use of plastic. Microplastics can already be found in the Arctic ice as well as in the human food chain. Every day, more plastic waste ends up in nature, rivers, and oceans.



Thousands of plastic bottles on a beach

In 2019 the [British newspaper "The Guardian"](#) estimated that around 8.3 billion tons of plastic have been produced on Earth to date - the equivalent of 800,000 Eiffel Towers!

Much plastic waste ends up in the oceans. Packaging makes up most of it. Only nine percent of this waste is recycled so far. Plastic is becoming a huge problem.

Plastic pollution is a problem because of its long-lasting effects as it is petroleum-based, man-made material that never fully degrades. One plastic bottle takes a minimum of 450 years to decompose!

That is reason enough for the organizers of the annual Earth Day to dedicate this year's action day to the fight against plastic waste. "Plastic pollution is an omnipresent challenge today. We see plastic floating in our rivers, oceans, and bays, polluting landscapes and affecting the health of us and our children," said Valeria Merino from the Earth Day network. "We have all contributed - mostly unknowingly - and must now help to reduce and end plastic pollution."

Creation Care Group by Pastor Daniela Mertz

The focus on this year's Earth Day is "Planet versus Plastics". Plastic is convenient and durable but that is also the problem. We use way too much of it and it doesn't break down easily. We find it everywhere. While it is hard to avoid all use of plastic, one easy way to reduce the amount of plastic is to change to laundry detergents that come in cardboard boxes and are environmentally friendly. I have used them for years and they work well. You can view a list of [plastic free laundry detergents](#), on the [I'm Plastic Free](#) website.

You can try them out as I will leave the laundry soap strips in a paper bag in the narthex of the church. Let's reduce our plastic garbage, one bottle at a time.



Social Ministry Committee

Donations of food or financial support for Community Fridges, Hamilton is appreciated. Members of the Social Ministry Committee visit the Community Fridges monthly to distribute the donations.

Our **Winter Apparel Drive** ends on March 31, 2024. Thank you to everyone who provided support to help our neighbours.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) is a humanitarian organization that provides opportunities for Canadians to respond to national and international needs. When communities are devastated by disaster, drought, or conflict, financial gifts provide life-saving support. Trinity members have supported many CLWR projects. These include Myanmar Longhouses, the Ukraine Crisis, Food Security and Livelihoods, and Refugee Resettlement. Donations to CLWR are always welcome and they can be made directly to CLWR or through Trinity.

Good Food Box

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

For \$22 you will receive a bag of assorted fruits and vegetables. Subsidies may be 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.



Bag of assorted fruits and vegetables

Locations and Pick Up Times

Please note that orders must be placed by April 4.

Thursday April 11

Trinity at 232 Fennell Ave. E.

Pick up times: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Trinity at 104 Hughson St. N.

Pick up times: 12 p.m.- 2:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Pastors

Pastor Daniela Mertz

Pastor Thomas Mertz

One In Christ newsletter 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 are 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.

Taxi Program

1. To order a taxi call Hamilton Cab at **905-777-777**.
2. Press "0" to speak to an Operator and order the taxi. If you use the App, it will not go on Trinity's account, and you will have to pay for it.
3. Say that you would like to order a taxi on the account of Trinity Lutheran Church for one of the following addresses:
 - 104 Hughson St. N
 - 232 Fennell Ave E
4. Confirm with the driver that this is on the account.
5. Ask for a receipt with the fare amount on it. Give the receipt to one of the pastors, LLU members, or bring to the church office.
6. You can give them a tip if you wish especially if they help you with a walker, etc.
7. You can use a taxi to go to any of the Trinity sites any day of the week.
8. Make sure you are ready to go before you order the taxi as they can be there within minutes.
9. If you have questions, call the office during the week between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at 905-974-9878.

Trinity Lutheran Church Contact Information

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April Events Calendar

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

Check out [Trinity's online events calendar](#) for additional community events.

- Tuesday April 2** **Newsletter Committee Meeting**- 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
People's Café - 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N
- Wednesday April 3** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday April 4** **Choir**- 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information at heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
- Sunday April 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 Service- 11:15 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Tuesday April 9** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N
- Wednesday April 10** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday April 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 at heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
- Sunday April 14** **Worship Service** - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Tuesday April 16** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N
Lutheran Ladies United— 1:30 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Wednesday April 17** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday April 18** **Choir**- 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information at heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.

April Events Calendar

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

Check out [Trinity's online events calendar](#) for additional community events.

- Sunday April 21** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Chili Lunch Fundraiser- After worship service.
- Monday April 22** **Earth Day**
Trinity Board of Directors Meeting – 7:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Tuesday April 23** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N
- Wednesday April 24** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday April 25** **Choir**- 7:00 -8:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information at heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
- Saturday April 27** **Bibles and Bagels**- (in-person & Zoom) 9:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Men's Breakfast - 9:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday April 28** **Worship Service** - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Tuesday April 30** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N

