



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.

“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.” (Mark 16:6)

Strange how joy and fear are so close together even on Easter Sunday. The three women who found Jesus’ empty grave on Easter morning were “alarmed”, but “don’t be”, said an angel, “Christ is risen, and he will be with you”.

Though I am not fearful or anxious, as I write this, I am quite aware that Easter Sunday will be my last day as your pastor. The promise of new life in Christ, and him being with each one of us, is especially meaningful to me as I leave active ministry and enter the next phase in my life.

Easter Sunday is God’s promise of new life. It is different from the old life, but life where Jesus leads the way. Jesus led the disciples into Galilee. Now he leads me into my retirement and leads the people of Trinity into a new chapter as well. The new pastor will bring his own skills, gifts and passion for ministry and will serve you along with my wife Pastor Daniela.

We are Easter people, always looking and expecting God to lead us to new life, new opportunities, and to experience God and serve him. Welcome the new pastor with the same warmth and openness that you welcomed me and my family with when we moved to Hamilton 10 years ago.

Many of you have asked me what retirement will look like for me. I look forward to remaining a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and will volunteer when I am needed.

Thank you for allowing me to be your pastor for all these years. They were exciting years with many changes, foremost is the amalgamation of our four congregations into Trinity. We started that process together with a vision to transform lives through worship, learning and service. Now we live this vision as a people filled and guided by the Easter promise of new life in Christ.

As always

Pastor Thomas

March 2024

Volume 5, Issue 2

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Trinity Milestones

Happy Birthday

To our Trinity members
turning 90 +.

Congratulations!

Annie Kareckas

March 6

Ursula Bock

March 7

Philipp Arth

March 13

Willibald Ziesmann

March 19

Sofia Lochner

March 25

Patricia Stephens

March 30

Herbert Fischer

March 31

Grace Donation

Our heart-felt thank you to our
friends from Grace Lutheran
Church in Oakville.

After 71 years of fruitful ministry,
they closed the church doors in
January of this year. They shared
their assets with over 20 charitable
organizations in the area and the
wider church.



An incredibly generous donation of \$100,000 went to Trinity in support
of our efforts to bring two refugee families from West Africa to safety in
Hamilton. With their gift, Grace joined the coalition of Lutheran
congregations from the Eastern Synod who are cooperating with Trinity
in this refugee project.

Elaine Schneider, Ray Henrickson and Dean Oswald, of the former Grace
council, came to present an oversized cheque to the people of Trinity
during the worship service on February 11, 2024.

Thank you people of Grace for your amazing gift and for allowing us to
be part of your legacy.

We have been advised by CLWR that the processing of the families'
applications might take some time. We have decided to invest Grace's
donation in a Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) in the mean-
time. All income from the investment will support the families (school
fees for the children) while they await entry into Canada.

Tech Team Open House - March 17

The Open House is for anyone who would like to see what the Trinity
Tech Team does to produce a broadcast each week.

You can visit the team on the balcony,
view the equipment, the setup, and get
an explanation of how we put
a broadcast together each week.

This will take place after the worship
service.



On February 25, we had our Annual General Meeting (AGM) after the service. You will be happy to hear that the four members of the board who were finishing their terms have agreed to let their names stand again. As there were no other nominations from the floor, Barb Alken, Cathy Calvin, Sparrow Rabideau and Mark Weingartner were acclaimed as members of the Trinity Board. Your board now consists of Cathy Calvin, Chair; Mark Weingartner, Vice Chair; Barb Alken, Secretary, and Angela Doyle, Bob Tiefenbach, George Karlos, Lynne Shanks, Judy Lindemann, Cosmo Leon, Emma Begert, Sparrow Rabideau and Mike Schuster round out the rest of the board. The board will be installed at the March 3rd service.

Also at the AGM, Mike Schuster informed the congregation that we had received a “Letter of Intent” to purchase the King St. site. Though not a formal offer yet, it is binding enough that we can go ahead and plan to clear out the site and prepare for the sale. We should see a formal contract shortly. In the meantime, Mike told the congregation that the intent of selling this building for affordable housing was to offer it at a “reduced” rate. We would then donate approximately 50% of the assessed price to the party buying the property for that purpose. A congregational meeting will be held once we receive the offer.

Mike Schuster also announced that the Feasibility Study we contracted has been completed and that a few of the pages of the study were emailed/mailed out to members last week. There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday March 10th at which Invizij will present the design concept for the renovation of the Hughson Site. They will be available to answer any questions. A vote will take place on whether to continue with the next steps needed and to hire an architect to do so.

The Call Committee was successful in interviewing 2 candidates to replace Thomas, our retiring Pastor. One candidate was presented to the board and was endorsed. Pastor Jordan Smith was presented to the congregation as the candidate to be called to Trinity. After a brief introduction, a video of his preaching style, and a question and answer session, the congregation overwhelmingly voted to call Pastor Jordan. The Call letter and Offer of Employment was sent out to Pastor Jordan on February 26th and he has 30 days to let us know of his decision. We are keeping him in our prayers and hope he answers in the affirmative.

Lastly, on March 17th after the service and during coffee hour, head up to the choir loft for the Open House that the Tech Team will be hosting. See what they do in the space and how they create the information for Zoom, the slides for worship, and the wonderful videos that are posted on YouTube.

On behalf of the Trinity Board, I want to wish all our members a Blessed Easter season!

Pastor Thomas' dedicated ministry of 37 years has taken him from the heart of Germany, across the Atlantic, through the United States, into Southwestern Ontario, and finally to Hamilton.

This impressive journey began when a young five-year-old Thomas was first baptized in a Lutheran Church in Dortmund, Germany. Thomas remembers feeling a powerful connection to the church as a young boy and wanting to become a pastor at an early age. Pastors, in particular a certain pastor who lived next door, were always role models for the young Thomas.

The family eventually moved from Northern Germany to Bavaria. There, in spite of cultural and linguistic differences, his church experiences made Thomas feel included and welcome. The experience of church as a welcoming and safe community had a profound effect on his outlook as he matured.

In the late 1970's Thomas entered the Missions and Diaspora seminar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria to begin his training for the clergy and graduated in 1985. As part of this theological training, Thomas spent a year as an exchange student at the Lutheran Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Thomas added Clinical Pastoral Education in Jamesville, Wisconsin where he was learning and gaining experience in pastoral counselling for Drug and Alcohol Addiction. One of the joys of counselling for Thomas has always been to share what fills his soul. It was a wonderful year and an amazing learning experience for him.

Thomas was able to return to the United States for another two years to work at the Minneapolis, Minnesota Methodist Hospital. There he had the privilege of working with palliative care patients, some of whom were the first AIDS victims. During such an intensely emotional time, Thomas felt he lost his fear of being with the dying. To this day comforting the dying is one part of his ministry that he feels blessed to do. We know it takes a special individual like Thomas to be able to fill that role.

Thomas first met Daniela, his life and ministry partner, at the Ecumenical Centre in Würzburg, Bavaria. While Thomas was Junior Pastor in Estenfeld, just outside of Würzburg, Daniela came to serve as Vicar. Marriage was inevitable for these two wonderful people. At that time, church policy was for mandatory job sharing for married pastoral couples. Thomas and Daniela have co-ministered since then, which is not an easy task.

During the time in Estenfeld, God also provided Thomas with a unique experience that would have a profound effect on his vision for ministry. It was on a trip to Chili, to visit a former colleague who was serving in a slum church, that Thomas came to realize the power of a team partnership between the Pastor and the community that they serve.

In 1998 Thomas and Daniela moved their family to Billingshausen where Thomas served for nine and a half years. This was a wide-spread congregation of 2,200 members with an 800-year-old church. It was during these years that Thomas and Daniela learned to work out those dynamics of team work and shared ministry. They mastered those challenges with impressive success which continued through to their teamed ministry here in Ontario.



Continued on next page.

During these years in Billingshausen, the size of the congregation was time-consuming. Thomas was also involved in mentoring seminary students and serving on student examinations. He still managed to contribute to a preaching periodical. Thomas' dedication and hard work in Billingshausen did not go unnoticed. He was being considered for the prestigious position of Dean which meant he would oversee a minimum of ten congregations. However, Thomas had a different dream, one that would eventually take him and his family across the Atlantic and back to North America!

The move to Canada in 2007 would provide Thomas with new adventures as well as more unexpected new learning experiences. These new experiences would deeply impact his philosophy and vision for ministry, particularly after coming from a wealthy church background in Germany. Thomas was moved and humbled by the love and passion he saw in his new parishioners for their struggling church communities. As a result, Thomas found a new purpose in leading and supporting the special congregations in places like Leamington, Windsor, Waterloo, Oakville, Brantford and finally Hamilton. It seemed like the Lord was preparing Thomas for a very special, very challenging task.

Who better than Thomas and Daniela to lead us into the amalgamation process that was to come?

The past five years have given us challenging hurdles to overcome. Between the complex amalgamation process, paired with the Covid Pandemic and its restrictions, it has not been an easy journey. Thomas believes that in spite of dealing with many frustrating moments and difficult decision-making, our church community has grown stronger. This is a testament to the teamwork to build Trinity's future. Thomas feels blessed to have been a part of that. However, he believes it is time for a new person to lead Trinity into its next phase.

We congratulate Pastor Thomas on his retirement and rejoice with him as he begins his next phase of life. The Good Food Box program will be fortunate to have Thomas' continued commitment and there are other charitable groups that are sure to find him on their team in the near future.

The powerful, loving Gospel message remains unchanged but our church's approach has become more humble, warm, and open under Thomas' leadership. Now he is ready to enjoy watching our continued growth from the pew rather than the pulpit.

How very blessed we have been to have had Pastor Thomas' leadership these past 10 years.

Congratulations on your retirement Pastor Thomas!



“There is a nobility in the duty to care for Creation through little daily actions, and it is wonderful how education can bring about real changes in lifestyles.”

Pope Francis, Laudato Si (Prayer for Our Environment)

Recycling: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Recycling is the process of collecting and processing materials, that would be otherwise thrown away as trash, and turn them into new products.

Why is recycling important? It protects our ecosystems and wild-life, conserves our natural resources, saves energy, reduces carbon emissions, reduces incinerations and saves money.

What can you and I do to be good stewards?

- Stop buying plastic water bottles
- Buy local food
- Use plastic alternatives (reusable bags)
- Start a zero waste challenge
- Maintain your car
- Start composting
- Use environment friendly cleaning and beauty care products

Let us do our part to reduce our carbon footprint, support sustainable practices and be good stewards of God’s Creation.



Lutheran Ladies United (LLU)

Next Meeting - Tuesday March 19, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.– 232 Fennell Ave. E., Hamilton.

Marita Mathews is the guest speaker and will give us a glimpse into “a day in the life” of a social worker. Everyone is welcome.

Milk Bag Project - Crochet Craft Green Initiative

We will be collecting milk bags (the outer bag) to support this organization. The bags are cut into strips and crochet into mats and sent to Third World countries. Please put them into the box located in the Narthex marked “Milk Bags”.

Service of Leave Taking

The people of Trinity Lutheran came together on January 28 for the Service of Leave Taking from our church building at 1907 King Street E.

Bishop Michael Pryse presided over the service and delivered an inspiring sermon on John 15 - “I am the true Vine.”

Following worship all were invited for a reception and refreshments in the church hall. Many used the opportunity for a reunion at the old Faith church and to share their beautiful memories.

A warm thank you to all who helped with the planning and organization of the event.



Good Food Box

Trinity's Good Food Box (GFB) Program runs from September to June on the second Thursday of each month. GFB offers quality healthy fruits and vegetables for less money, while encouraging everyone to eat nutritiously.

For the cost of \$22, you receive 11 to 13 different fruits and vegetables. Financial help is available.

Financial donations help to provide subsidies to people that require financial assistance. Your financial donations also support the purchase of fresh produce which is donated to various community programs.

Please call Trinity at 905-974-9878 or visit the [Good Food Box sign up page](#) if you are interested in receiving a Good Food Box. Contact us if you are interested in volunteering. We are always in need of volunteers to help sort and pack produce, deliver, and assist with clean up.



Locations and Pick Up Times

Thursday March 14

232 Fennell Ave. E.

Pick up times: 11 am - 5 pm

Thursday March 14

104 Hughson St. N.

Pick up times: 12 pm—2:30 pm

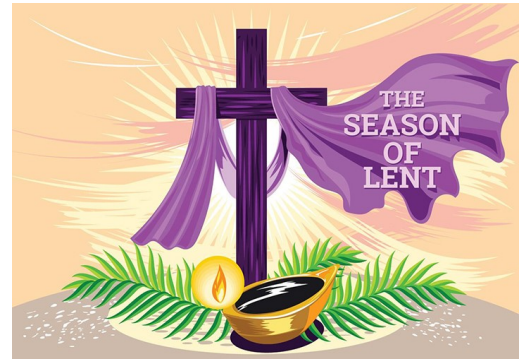
Lenten Evening Devotions with Soup Supper

Thursday March 7, 14 and 21 at 6:00 p.m.

104 Hughson St. N.

Lenten evening devotions will be held on Thursday evenings.

A soup supper is at 6:00 p.m., followed by the devotions at 7:00 pm.



Easter Sunday Sunrise Service - Beasley Park

Sunday March 31 at 7:00 a.m.

Beasley Park- 96 Mary Street, Hamilton

Join us at Beasley Park for a sunrise Easter service.

Everyone is welcome.



Hiking Group

Saturday March 9 at 9:30 a.m. Hamilton Waterfront

47 Discovery Drive, Hamilton



Join the Hiking Group for an exploration of the developments of the waterfront in Hamilton. There has been done a lot of work completed at the waterfront and lots for us to see.

It's an easy walk even if the weather is not great.

Meet at the Williams Fresh Café parking lot. We will walk from there around waterfront harbour.

Memoir Fest 2024 - Friday, March 22, 3-5pm via Zoom

Anyone participating in the Intergenerational memoir Project with McMaster University students over the past 4 years is welcome to present.

Contact Ellen, ryaneb@mcmaster.ca, for information and help in preparing 5-minute presentations.

Social Ministry Committee

In support of Trinity's Strategic Outreach direction to address poverty and how it affects food insecurity, seniors, families and youth we continue to ask for help with:

Trinity's Winter Apparel Drive. Please consider donating sweatpants, sweatshirts and shoes, in addition to waterproof or water resistant winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, boots, new underwear, toiletries and sleeping bags. Items for people of all ages are required and should be clean and in good repair. You can drop items off at Hughson St. N. on Sundays, contact Carol-Ann at 905-974-9878 to arrange drop off at Hughson on a day other than Sunday, or contact Dianne Busser 905-389-4008 to arrange pick-up.

Knitted and Crocheted hats, scarves, gloves, socks, baby sweaters and blankets are appreciated. Items can be dropped off at Hughson. If you need wool, have wool to donate, or want to arrange pick-up contact Dianne Busser at 905-389-4008.

Community Fridges, Hamilton require donations of food or financial support. Non-perishable food can be left in the bin at Hughson and perishable food, labeled for the 'Community Fridge', can be left in the refrigerator at Hughson. Please check that the dates on all food items have not expired. Social Ministry Committee members will use financial donations to purchase food for the Community Fridges. Financial donations can be made:

- In your Sunday offering
- As an e-transfer to tlchamilton2020@gmail.com
- By cheque made out to "Trinity Lutheran Church" and mailed to 104 Hughson St. N. location. Please include a note indicating what program you wish to donate to.

Thank you for your generous support of our community!

Easter Egg Hunt and Craft

Wednesday March 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Hughson Site.

What do eggs have to do with Easter? Come and find out.
We will:

- Have supper together
- Do some Easter crafts
- Learn about Easter
- Hunt for some chocolate eggs!

All ages are welcome.



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.

Taxi Program with Hamilton Cab

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, please 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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March 2024 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.

Friday Mar. 1	World Day of Prayer - 2:00 p.m. St. Michael's Anglican Church 1188 Fennell Avenue E.
Sunday Mar. 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. German Worship - 11:15 a.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
Monday Mar. 4	Social Ministry Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.
Tuesday Mar. 5	People's Café - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Newsletter Committee Meeting - 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
Wednesday Mar. 6	Mid Week Service- Lenten Devotions - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Thursday Mar. 7	Soup Supper and Lenten Evening Devotions - 6:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:30 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Saturday Mar. 9	Hiking Group - 9:30 a.m. Meet at William's Café. See page 8 for more details.
Sunday Mar. 10	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School - 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Congregational Meeting - Following Sunday worship service. Confirmation Class - Following Sunday worship service.
Tuesday Mar. 12	People's Café - 10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
Wednesday Mar. 13	Mid Week Service- Lenten Devotions - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Thursday Mar. 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. Soup Supper and Lenten Evening Devotions - 6:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Saturday Mar. 16	German Afternoon - 2:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.

March 2024 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 Mar. 17	Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School -10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Tech Team Open House - After the worship service.
Monday Mar. 18	Trinity Board of Directors Meeting - 7:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
Tuesday Mar. 19	People's Café - 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Lutheran Ladies United - 1:30 p.m. at 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Wednesday Mar. 20	Mid Week Service- Lenten Devotions - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E. Easter Egg Hunt and Craft - 6:00 p.m. - See page 9 for details.
Thursday Mar. 21	Soup Supper and Lenten Evening Devotions - 6:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Saturday Mar. 23	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 Mar. 24	Palm Sunday and Confirmation Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Sunday School - 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
Tuesday Mar. 26	People's Café - 10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
Thursday Mar. 28	Maundy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Choir - 7:30 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N. Contact Heide Lang for more information heide.lang@gmail.com or 905-616-2575.
Friday Mar. 26	Good Friday Worship Service - 10:00 a.m. at 104 Hughson St. N. Good Friday Worship Service German - 11:15 a.m. at 104 Hughson St. N.
Sunday Mar. 31	Easter Sunrise Service - 7:00 a.m. Beasley Park. See page 8 for information. Easter Worship Service - (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.