



# 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 Jordan Smith

From Preparing to Rejoicing

**“All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.” (Luke 2:3-5, NRSV)**

December can feel like a month filled with mixed expectations as our social calendar and church calendar work toward the same date but with different purposes. Socially we are celebrating throughout the early part of the month, enjoying days off work and celebrating the holiday season. In church we remain in a period of preparation for most of December until our time of rejoicing comes on Christmas Eve and then continues into January, long after most trees and decorations around town have been removed.

Four words that have been suggested for reflection over the Advent season are “Watch, Prepare, Witness, Rejoice.” Each week of Advent we may reflect on these words and how the biblical story prepares us for Christ’s birth, which is welcomed on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

We **watch** to see what is happening around us. We observe in what ways people are in need of hope. We see those ways in which God is forming us. Joseph watches for instructions from outside his control as he is led to the city of his family line.

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January 2025

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## Trinity Milestones



### Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Trinity members turning 90+.

**Betty Fallis - Dec. 5**

**Kathe Urbshaitis - Dec. 8**

**Elisabeth Waldner - Dec. 21**

**Millie Green - Dec. 23**

**Eva Heidt - Jan. 1**

**Natalie Bluemke - Jan. 1**

**John Weiss - Jan. 15**

**Rose Frost - Jan. 22**

## Pastor's message continued

We **prepare** ourselves for what will soon change. Whether it is getting ready for hosting family and friends for dinner, or bringing out our favourite Christmas books, we ready our homes and ourselves for Christ's birth. Mary is expecting a child and while the place where Jesus will be born is outside of her control, she is certainly preparing to become the mother of the Christ child.

We **witness** the birth of Jesus. Before we can tell anyone, we must first stop and take in the good news. The Christmas story gives us the opportunity to stop and once again be reminded of what God has done for us. The shepherds are told to step away from the work which keeps them isolated, and to come witness the good news that has been offered to them.

We **rejoice** at knowing God is with us. Once we have been told of all that has happened, our response is to rejoice and proclaim. We go out into the world, not being shy about the fact that the world has changed but being bold in offering our praise to God. In the various scriptural responses to Jesus' birth, we see that rejoicing is done by many people and in many places.

May this Christmas season, from the beginning of Advent on December 1 through the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6, be a time for each of you of watching, preparing, witnessing, and rejoicing.

### Lutheran Ladies United

Many, many thanks to all who supported the Christmas Bazaar. Trinity people are awesome! Many cakes & cookies, as well as sauerkraut and sausage were enjoyed, plus the many items on the Christmas gift table that were available for sale. We appreciated your attendance and your donations. Proceeds from the bazaar will be divided and donated to **The Living Rock** and **Liberty for Youth**.

Thank you for collecting Denninger receipts and milk bags. The next LLU meeting is December 17 and then February 18, 2025. Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

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

Just a quick update on the progress of the Redevelopment of Trinity. The board and various advisory committees have met during the months of October and November. This is to help move along the Site Plan that the architects need to send to the city to get all the approvals. They intend to submit the Site Plan sometime in December. On November 24<sup>th</sup>, we showed a small video of what the Sanctuary could look like and an overview of the new addition as well. We are proposing removing most of the pews and replace them with chairs as the video shows. We had samples of the chairs so people could sit on them and provide some feedback. This will allow us to make the Sanctuary into a truly flexible space that could be rented out to the community to provide extra income for Trinity. Thank you to Jim Ridge for creating the video. The video will be available on our website on December 1.

As we move into the time of Advent, Christmas, and a new calendar year, I want to thank our board, pastors, advisory committee members and the congregation for their support during this busy year. Things are progressing well, and we are looking forward to what 2025 will bring. Until then, I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

## Good Food Box

The program runs every second Thursday of the month from June to September. The cost is \$22, and you receive 11 to 13 varieties of fresh vegetables and fruits. Order through Trinity's website on the Good Food Box sign up page or by contacting Pastor Thomas at 289-680-7387 or email [tfrm58@gmail.com](mailto:tfrm58@gmail.com).

### Order and Pick up dates and times

**December - Order by December 5.**

**Pick up December 12**

232 Fennell Ave. E. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

104 Hughson St. N. 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**January - Order by January 2.**

**Pick up January 9**

232 Fennell Ave. E. from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

104 Hughson St. N. 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.



## The Twelve Days of Christmas ...Lyrics With a Hidden Meaning? By Emma Begert

Although the lyrics to this song first appeared in a 1780's English children's book called *Mirth Without Mischief*, some have questioned whether the words also had symbolic meaning. Most historians maintain that it was simply a children's game meant to develop memory skills. In this game, the players would take turns by repeating the verses and then adding on the new ones. If a verse was missed, the player would have to forfeit a sweet or a trinket.

Here is the list of theological parallels that have been made for each verse.

- The Partridge in a Pear Tree is Jesus Christ
- 2 Turtle Doves are the Old and New Testaments
- 3 French Hens are Faith, Hope and Charity
- 4 Calling birds are the Four Gospels (in the original called *colly* (song) birds)
- 5 Golden Rings are the first Five Books of the Old Testament
- 6 Geese-a-laying are the six days of creation
- 7 Swans-a-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit
- 8 Maids-a-milking are the eight Beatitudes
- 9 Ladies dancing are the nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- 10 Lords-a-leaping are the ten commandments
- 11 Pipers piping are the eleven faithful apostles
- 12 Drummers drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed

Many of us have enjoyed this beloved song over the years and not unlike those 18<sup>th</sup> century children, we may have also struggled to remember all of those twelve verses in the right order. Perhaps the idea that the lyrics have connections to Christian theology will add a touch of renewed interest in this delightful song.

Now, was that 6 swans-a-swimming or 6 geese-a-laying...



## Advent and Christmas at Trinity

As the Christmas season approaches, it brings with it a time of reflection, joy, and profound gratitude. In this season of Advent, we are reminded of the greatest gift ever given – the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Trinity offers many opportunities to celebrate the hope, peace, love, and joy that come from God.



### Sunday December 1

**Advent 1 Worship Service** - Special Service with lots of music (Choir, Handbells and String Quartet) followed by an **Advent coffee hour**.

### Wednesday December 4, 11 and 18 at 7:00- 7:45 p.m.

**Online Mid-Week Advent Devotions** Join us for our online midweek Advent devotions on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. In this service, we will reflect on readings from the Psalms and the prophet Isaiah and how they welcome us into the season in light of the many pressures of our surrounding culture that challenge the message of Advent. The Zoom link is available by subscribing to our weekly email or by contacting the church office.

### Wednesday December 11, 6:00-8:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

**Advent Family Evening**- Come and celebrate the Advent season together with other families. We will have stories and crafts, cookies, and a supper. Everyone, young and young at heart, is welcome! This year we will have special instructions on making and decorating our own candles to bring light into this season of darkness.

### Saturday December 14, 2:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

**German Afternoon “Weihnachtsfeier”** - Christmas Celebration with a devotion, stories and hymn singing, all in German.

### Tuesday December 17 at 1:30 p.m. at 232 Fennell Ave. E.

**Lutheran Ladies United Advent celebration “How Did Christmas Start?”** You are invited to join us for our Christmas celebration.

### Tuesday December 24, 104 Hughson St. N

**On Christmas Eve** we offer two Worship services. One at 12.00 p.m. and one at 6.00 p.m.

### Wednesday December 25, 104 Hughson St. N

**Christmas Day Worship** is at 10.00 a.m.

Christmas trees are a centerpiece of many homes during the festive season, for good reasons too, as they are beautiful and are steeped in tradition and symbolism. Due to convenience, many people chose to use an artificial tree. In fact, in the U.S., about ten million artificial trees are purchased each year! There is no getting around the fact that the manufacturing and transportation of all these trees has a large carbon footprint. Most are imported thousands of miles from China and are made of products that are harmful to the environment, such as petroleum plastics and heavy metals. When it is time to discard them, they end up in landfill where they will never biodegrade.

On the other hand, most real trees come from regional tree farms that support the local economy. During the seven years the trees are growing on these lands, they are absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> and releasing oxygen, stabilizing soil, and providing habitat for wildlife. Of the trees that are harvested each year, ten times that number are left standing, and seedlings replace the ones removed. Used trees that are collected by your city are converted into mulch instead of being thrown into landfills. Many environmental organizations incorporate used Christmas trees in their restoration projects, such as carp barriers, bank fortification, and habitat creation. The Royal Botanical Gardens collects them annually for many of their projects on their natural lands. You would have to use your artificial tree for ten to twenty years to offset the carbon footprint of a real tree!

So, what is the eco-minded person to do? Most definitely, purchasing real trees is best for the environment. However, if you already have an artificial tree, your best choice is to continue enjoying it for years to come. A real tree is not a viable option for all people, so if you do choose to purchase an artificial tree, consider checking out buy and sell markets for a used one.





## Social Ministry Committee

By Lynne Shanks

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 purchasing gift cards for Christmas to help youth living at risk in our community, who are supported by **Living Rock** and **Liberty for Youth**. Financial donations or gift cards worth \$20 to \$25 from Walmart, Giant Tiger, Shoppers Drug Mart or fast food restaurants would be appreciated. Please make any donations by Dec. 15th. Marita Mathews and Angela Doyle will be collecting the cards.

Your love was also shown through your support for [Hamilton Tastebuds](#). We have surpassed our goal of \$3,300 to pay for 10 student's meals for a year. As of November 25, we have received \$5025 which will purchase meals for approximately 15 students for the year. We thank you for your generous support of this program.

**Community Fridges Hamilton** continues to benefit from your support with food and financial donations which also help us to address food security in the community.

Along with your food donations, \$775 worth of food was purchased by members of the Social Ministry Committee in November to help fill various community fridges and pantries in Hamilton. Any food items can be left in the food container in the Parish Hall along with any reusable grocery bags.

Financial donations can be made to support **Christmas Gift Cards** or **Community Fridges Hamilton**:

- In your Sunday offering
- By e-transfer to [tlchamilton2020@gmail.com](mailto:tlchamilton2020@gmail.com) or
- A cheque made out to Trinity Lutheran Church and mailed to 104 Hughson St. N. Please include a note indicating what program you wish to donate to.

Our **Seasonal Apparel Drive** is continuing. Please consider donating waterproof or water resistant winter coats, gloves, hats, socks, boots, shoes, new underwear and toiletries as well as sleeping bags. Items for people of all ages are required and should be clean and in good repair. We support people attending **Out of the Cold**, our **People's Cafe**, as well as others in our community.

**Knitting and Crocheting**- We are collecting knitted or crocheted hats, gloves, socks, baby sweaters and blankets, and prayer shawls.

Items can be dropped 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. Contact Dianne Busser 905-389-4008 if you need wool, or to arrange pick-up.

## Trinity Lutheran Pastors

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**Pastor Jordan Smith**

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**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 22nd of each month.

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## Church Donations- Nancy and Carol-Ann

### 2024 Donations

Please be sure to have all your 2024 church donations into the office by 9 a.m. on Tuesday, December 31. Any donations received after the final deposit of the year is completed will be receipted for 2025. If you normally send in your yearend donations via Canada Post, they are currently on strike. Even if the strike comes to an end, the mail can take various lengths of time to be delivered to the church. Please be sure to send it in plenty of time if you want it to be included in your 2024 giving. Another option is to drop it off at the office during office hours or in the mail slot after office hours, or you can send in a donation via e-transfer.

### 2025 Donation Envelopes

For those of you using donation envelopes, the envelopes can be picked up after the services on December 15. Carol-Ann will also distribute the envelopes to individuals throughout December as she sees them at the church. If you are unable to pick them up on December 15, then please call the church office to arrange a time to pick them up during the week.

## Trinity Lutheran Church Contact Information

**104 Hughson St N.**

**Hamilton, ON**

**L8R 1G6**

**905-974-9878**

[tlchamilton2020@gmail.com](mailto:tlchamilton2020@gmail.com)

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## December 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 Dec. 1**                    **Worship Service Advent 1** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Sunday School** -10:00 a.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Monday Dec. 2**                    **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Dec. 3**                    **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Newsletter Committee Meeting**- 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday Dec. 4**                    **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Mid-Week Online Advent Devotions** – 7:00 -7:45 p.m. via Zoom.
- Thursday Dec. 5**                    **Deadline to order Good Food Box**
- Sunday Dec. 8**                    **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Monday Dec. 9**                    **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Dec. 10**                    **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Dec. 11**                    **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Mid-Week Online Advent Devotions** – 7:00 -7:45 p.m. via Zoom.  
**Advent Family Evening**- 6-8 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N
- Thursday Dec. 12**                    **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** - 7:00p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Friday Dec. 13**                    **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Saturday Dec. 14**                    **German Afternoon**- "Weihnachtsfeier", 2:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

## December 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 Dec. 15**      **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Monday Dec. 16**      **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Trinity Board of Directors Meeting**- 7:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Tuesday Dec. 17**      **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Lutheran Ladies United**- Advent Celebration, 1:30 p.m.,  
232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Wednesday Dec. 18**      **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Mid-Week Online Advent Devotions** – 7:00 -7:45 p.m. via Zoom.
- Thursday Dec. 19**      **Choir** - 7:00p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Dec. 22**      **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Tuesday Dec. 24**      **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service**- 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service**- 6:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Dec. 25**      **Christmas Day Worship Service** – 10:00 a.m.,104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Dec. 29**      **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Tuesday Dec. 31**      **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

## January 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.

- Thursday Jan. 2**            **Deadline to order Good Food Box**
- Friday Jan. 3**            **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Jan. 5**            **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.
- Monday Jan. 6**            **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Social Ministry Committee Meeting**-7:00 p.m. Via Zoom.
- Tuesday Jan. 7**            **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Newsletter Committee Meeting**- 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Wednesday Jan. 8**            **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 9**            **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 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Jan. 12**            **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Monday Jan. 13**            **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Jan. 14**            **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 15**            **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 16**            **Choir** - 7:00p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.

## January 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 Jan. 17**                    **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Jan. 19**                    **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Monday Jan. 20**                    **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.  
**Trinity Board of Directors Meeting**- 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Tuesday Jan. 21**                    **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 22**                    **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 23**                    **Choir** - 7:00p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Saturday Jan. 25**                    **Bibles and Bagels**- 9:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Men's Breakfast**- 9:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Sunday Jan. 26**                    **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Children's Activity with Worship Service**
- Monday Jan. 27**                    **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Jan. 28**                    **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.  
**Creation Care Group**- 7:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 29**                    **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 30**                    **Choir** - 7:00 p.m., 104 Hughson St. N.
- Friday Jan. 31**                    **Confirmation Class**- 5:00-7:00 p.m. 104 Hughson St. N.