



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

Dwelling in this Place

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23, NRSVUE)

One of the unique aspects of spending lots of time in a church is that over the years you get to explore the many nooks and crannies which remain hidden from most people who come into the building during the week. At various churches I climbed into the small belfry, found unassuming closets containing old furniture, and opened small cupboards holding historic communion vessels. As a congregation lives in its home over decades some parts get more cluttered, and others can become forgotten.

Whether it is these secret places in a church building, or the special hide-and-seek spots children find in their homes, getting to know a place intimately is a gift that deepens your connection and feeling of belonging in that place. Since we began worshipping at our Fennell site this fall, we have been focusing on the process of *Branching Out*. Through prayer walks, developing new community connections, praying for each of our congregation's ministries, and learning about international relief programs, we have been deepening our understanding of the place where we are worshipping and the wider context which surrounds it. We are doing our best to dwell in this place.

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Trinity Milestones



Happy Birthday

Congratulations to our Trinity members turning 90+.

Kathe Urbshaitis - Dec. 8

Brigitte Drung - Dec. 16

Elisabeth Waldner - Dec. 21

Millie Green - Dec. 23

John Weiss - Jan. 15

Rose Frost - Jan. 22

Roland Wiedener- Jan. 30

Pastor's message continued

At Christmas time we celebrate that God came and dwelled among us. The Son, emptying himself, became a servant and was born into the clutter and forgotten spaces of our human existence. The little town of Bethlehem was soon the centre of attention. The stable where the baby Jesus was laid down to sleep was crowded with hay and animals. God came to dwell in this place so that the divine and human could grow ever closer.

The results of this event were angels rejoicing, a star shining, and shepherds coming in from the fields to witness this miraculous moment of God being vulnerable. Each day we are called to live into this reality. We rejoice at the good news, shouting from the hilltops that God is with us. We also open ourselves to being vulnerable, deepening our connection with those around us even if that means we lose power or become uncomfortable.

The magic of Christmas is that the familiar and the new become intermingled. Old traditions take place in our church and home while new members of the family and surprise gifts become part of the festivities. As we celebrate Christ coming into the world, we also look to new ways that this message of Emmanuel (God is with us) is witnessed around us. May we dwell well in our community, remembering that we are sustained by God who has dwelled with us.

Lutheran Ladies United

The Christmas Market was a great success, in part due to Trinity's faithful support of the LLU and Friendship Circle. Your donations and attendance were very much appreciated. Proceeds from the bazaar, approximately \$3,000 before expenses, will again be donated to The Living Rock and Liberty for Youth. Many thanks for collecting Denninger receipts and milk bags throughout 2025. The next regular LLU meeting will take place on February 17, 2026.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

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

Good news! The contract for our addition/renovation has been executed and signed with our general contractor Renokrew, and work has begun on the project. The pre-construction meeting was held on November 12th at the Hughson site and Renokrew mobilized its forces on November 24th. Note that Hughson is now a full construction site so if you wish to enter, you must check in at the Renokrew office first. Hard hats, work boots and safety vests must always be worn at the site.

Our kickoff for the renovation was held on Friday, November 28th with members of Invizij, Renokrew, Pastors, Trinity Board members, and some congregational members participating in a Ground-Breaking Ceremony. Photos of the event will be found on our website in the next few weeks and we will include some in the next newsletter. In the next month, our website will have a page dedicated to the renovation with updates on the construction and other information. The same information will be available on Sunday mornings as the project progresses.

Lastly, the Trinity Board wishes the members of the congregation and their families a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year. Have a great celebration this month!

Good Food Box

The program runs every second Thursday of the month from June to September. The cost is \$22 via etransfer, and you will 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.

Order and Pick up dates and times

December - Order by December 4.

Pick up December 11

232 Fennell Ave. E. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

130 Victoria Ave. N. 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

January - Order by January 8.

Pick up Wednesday January 14

232 Fennell Ave. E. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

130 Victoria Ave. N. 12 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. *The regular Thursday schedule will resume next month.



Branching Out to the North

by Emma Begert

In the last two newsletters, Debbie took us on a tour around the neighbourhoods to the west of Trinity and then to the South.

Our exploration today takes us north on Upper Wellington to the Mountain Brow. This neighbourhood has had a significant history, including settlement along what is now Concession St. by escaped slaves in the 1840's, as well as United Empire Loyalist soldiers forced to leave after the American Revolution of 1776. At one time the mountain's north area was also home to an incline railway, which was a marvel of engineering in 1891, a 1902 summer theatre company, and by 1912, an established mountain hospital. Over the decades, this community continued to grow and prosper into the neighbourhood that we see today. Residents remain staunchly proud of their north mountain community.

Today we find large, impressive, turn-of-the-century homes to the north of Concession Street, along some parts of the mountain brow. In contrast, some parts of the Concession Street area are populated with very modest frame houses, yet many are of a similar time period.

Across Queensdale, Brucesdale and Inverness we see the transition from early 1900's homes to the brick houses of the post war and mid-century years. As new Canadians became more established, they moved their families from the downtown core, where they first settled, into the new-build surveys of the 1950's and 60's. A new generation of families is moving into these homes now. North mountain families of various denominations worship in churches both large and small. St. Stephen-on-the-Mount, Sacred Heart, St. John's United and Mountain Seventh-day Adventist are some of the largest in the area.

Concession St. continues to be a bustling commercial hub that includes a variety of multi-ethnic shops and restaurants, as well extensive medical services and a unique theatre called the Zoetic.

Continued on next page



Zoetic Movie Theatre on Concession St.

Branching Out to the North

by Emma Begert

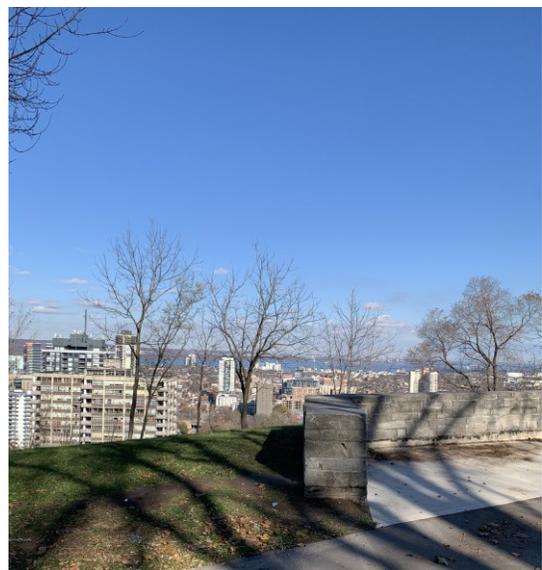
This neighbourhood to the North of us is bordered by three very important landmarks. At the east end of this community is the renowned Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre, formerly known as the Nora Frances Henderson Hospital. At the west end of this section is the Jolley Cut Access that runs alongside Sam Lawrence Park.



Juravinski Hospital

The “Jolley Cut” was originally created as a footpath by businessman James Jolley and by 1873 he had developed “the cut” into a toll-free road. Sam Lawrence Park (named for Sam Lawrence, labour movement leader and city mayor 1944-49) is only one of several green spaces within this neighbourhood. There are multiple parkettes along the brow. Along with Sam Lawrence Park, they offer panoramic views of Lake Ontario and Hamilton Harbour, lower Hamilton, the Skyway Bridge and, on clear days, even the Toronto skyline. Between the Brow and Fennell Ave, you will also find Bruce Park, Inch Park, Mountain Brow Park and Eastmount Park. Our friends to the North are blessed with beautiful recreational facilities.

Our Neighbours to the north have a fascinating, diverse community. The next time you pick up your Timmy’s, take it to one of the parks along the Brow and enjoy the spectacular vistas along with your coffee. It is worth the visit!



View from Sam Lawrence Park

Advent and Christmas at Trinity and Around Hamilton

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.



Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m. at 232 Fennell Ave. E

Supper Club- A new group! Come and join our “Supper Club”. We will serve a hot supper, and you will have the opportunity to get the recipe. If you come a little earlier, you will learn how to make a nice meal from the Good Food Box vegetables. Everybody is invited. To register please email Pastor Thomas tfrm58@gmail.com.

Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. 61 Mohawk Rd. W., Hamilton.

Blue Christmas Service

Grieving a loved one, feeling lonely or blue, struggling with some burden?... find comfort in knowing you are not alone. Please join us for a worship service of comfort and renewal at the **Immanuel Christian Reformed Church of Hamilton**

Saturday, December 13, 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. 286 Sanford Ave. N. Hamilton

541 Eatery & Exchange is hosting an annual **Holiday Market Fundraiser** this Christmas season. The market helps us continue providing affordable meals, a welcoming space, and moments of kindness for everyone who walks through our doors. Enjoy 25+ local vendors. More details can be found on the website fivefortyone.ca.

Tuesday, December 16 at 1:30 p.m. at 232 Fennell Ave. E.

Lutheran Ladies United “Bells at Christmas”. You are invited to join us for our Christmas celebration. If possible, bring a bell so you can join us in ringing in the Christmas Season.

Saturday, December 20, 2:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.

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

Tuesday, December 24, 232 Fennell Ave. E.

On Christmas Eve we offer 3 worship service times. Join us at 2.00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. or 7.00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25, 232 Fennell Ave. E

Christmas Day Worship Service is at 10.00 a.m.

Social Ministry Committee

by Lynne Shanks

The Social Ministry Committee is collecting gift cards for youth supported by **Living Rock Ministries and Liberty for Youth**. Gift card suggestions include grocery stores such as Walmart, Giant Tiger, and fast-food restaurants such as Tim Hortons. Financial donations will be used to purchase gift cards, or you can purchase gift cards and give them to either Marita or Angela. Help give young people living at risk in our community a better Christmas. The deadline for your donations is December 21st.

We continue to address food security in our community by filling **Hamilton Community Fridges and Pantries**. Nonperishable food donations can be left in the box at the back of the church or financial donations will be used to purchase food to fill the fridges.

We are collecting clean, gently used, water repellent winter coats and gloves to be handed out at our People's Cafe or distributed in the community. Please see the sign designating the drop off area in the cloakroom by the front door at Trinity. Other items we are collecting include knitted and crochet hats, socks, scarves, baby sweaters, blankets and baby hats (for newborns at McMaster), wool, and used fiction books for our Little Library.

Thank you to Carol-Ann and Pastor Jordan who have organized the locations for all the Social Ministry and Lutheran Ladies United donation items. The LLU continues to collect cancelled postage stamps, batteries, clean dry milk bags, prescription eyeglasses, and Denninger receipts. There is a shelving unit in the front entrance way with various labelled bins. Please see the chart above shelving unit for more details.

Good Food Box

Dr. Sally Palmer, who founded the Hamilton Social Work Action Committee to campaign for adequate welfare and disability benefits, has had a long-standing relationship with The Good Food Box. The Good Food Box started at Grace Lutheran Church approximately 20 yrs. ago and at Faith shortly after this. The Hamilton Social Work Action Committee started purchasing Good Food Boxes for single people living in Hamilton and receiving Ontario Works benefits shortly after the inception of the Good Food Box. Every month they purchase approximately 60 Good Food Boxes for people living on a limited monthly income of \$733 for basic needs and shelter. On November 7th, a lunch was held for Dr. Sally Palmer, where she was awarded a King Charles III Coronation Medal for her lifetime work fighting for justice, food insecurity and poverty. Pastors Jordan, Daniela and Thomas, along with several past and present Good Food Box volunteers, Sally's friends and colleagues, celebrated with her. Congratulations to Dr. Sally Palmer for her award and her continued work for social justice!

Trinity Lutheran Pastors

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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.

Church Donations- Carol-Ann Koevoets

2025 Donations

Please be sure to have all your 2025 church donations into the office by 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 31. Any donations received after the final deposit of the year is completed will be receipted for 2026, regardless of when a cheque was written or sent. If you normally send in your year-end donations via Canada Post, be advised that delivery is currently very slow so there is no guarantee that it will be received before the end of the year. Be sure to send it in plenty of time if you want it to be included in your 2025 giving. You can also drop it off at the office during office hours or in the mail slot at 232 Fennell Ave. (located next to the door without the ramp, facing the parking lot) during or after office hours. You can also send in a donation via e-transfer. We are grateful for all of your donations!

2026 Donation Envelopes

For those of you using donation envelopes, the envelopes can be picked up after the service on December 21. 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 21, then please call the church office to arrange a time to pick them up during the week.

Trinity Lutheran Church Contact Information

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December Events Calendar

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

- Monday Dec. 1** **Friendship Circle** -9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Dec. 2** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Thursday Dec. 4** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Deadline to order Good Food Box
Supper Club- 5:30 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Friday Dec. 5** **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Saturday Dec. 6** **Hiking Group**- 9:30 a.m. Bayfront Park Hamilton.
- Sunday Dec. 7** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Sunday School, 10:00 a.m.
Blue Christmas Service – 6:00 p.m. 61 Mohawk Rd. W.
- Monday Dec. 8** **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Dec. 9** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Thursday Dec. 11** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Good Food Box - 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Good Food Box - 12:00 - 2:30 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Dec. 14** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Children's Activity, 10:00 a.m.
- Monday Dec. 15** **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Trinity Board of Directors Meeting- 7:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Dec. 16** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
Lutheran Ladies United- 1:30 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.

December Events Calendar

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

- Thursday Dec. 18** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Choir - 7:00p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Friday Dec. 19** **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Saturday Dec. 20** **Sunday School Pageant Rehearsal and Cookie Baking**- 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
German Afternoon- “Weihnachtsfeier”, 2:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Dec. 21** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- Tuesday Dec. 23** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Wednesday Dec. 24** **Christmas Eve Worship Service**- 2:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Christmas Eve Worship Service- 5:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E. With special music from the choir and string quartet.
Christmas Eve Worship Service- 7:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Wednesday Dec. 25** **Christmas Day Worship Service** – 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Dec. 28** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Children's Activity with Worship Service.
- Tuesday Dec. 31** **Men's Breakfast Golden Griddle**- 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. 1119 Fennell Ave. E.
People's Café - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.

January Events Calendar

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

- Sunday Jan. 4** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Sunday School -10:00 a.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Monday Jan. 5** **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. 6** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
Newsletter Committee Meeting- 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Wednesday Jan. 7** **Social Ministry Committee Meeting** -7:00 p.m. via Zoom.
- Thursday Jan. 8** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Deadline to order Good Food Box.
- Friday Jan. 9** **Confirmation Class**- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Jan. 11** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Children's Activity with Worship Service.
- Monday Jan. 12** **Friendship Circle** – 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Jan. 13** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 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., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 15** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Choir - 7:00p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Jan. 18** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Sunday School -10:00 a.m.

January Events Calendar

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

- Monday Jan. 19** **Friendship Circle** - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Trinity Board of Directors Meeting- 7:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Jan. 20** **People's Café** - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 21** **Worship and Music Meeting** -7:00 p.m. Via Zoom.
- Thursday Jan. 22** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Choir - 7:00p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Friday Jan. 23** **PA Day Movie**- 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E. Parents and kids can join us for a kid's movie in the hall. For more information contact Pastor Jordan Smith revjordansmith@gmail.com.
Confirmation Class- 5:00 -7:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Sunday Jan. 25** **Worship Service** (in-person & Zoom) 10:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Children's Activity with Worship Service.
- Monday Jan. 26** **Friendship Circle** - 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Tuesday Jan. 27** **Men's Breakfast Golden Griddle** - 9:00 a.m.- 10:30 a.m. 1119 Fennell Ave. E.
People's Café - 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 82 Ferguson Ave. N.
- Wednesday Jan. 28** **Creation Care Group**- 7:00 p.m. 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Thursday Jan. 29** **Mid-Week Worship** - 11:30 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Choir - 7:00 p.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
- Saturday Jan. 31** **Bibles and Bagels**- 9:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.
Men's Breakfast- 9:00 a.m., 232 Fennell Ave. E.