

Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Truth

December 2013

Christmas

What is Christmas?
It is the celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. But, what does that mean?

For many it may mean only a time of gift giving, a time of family togetherness, or the hope of peace and tranquility here on earth. But for Christians it means so much more. Each of these wishes and sentiments are indeed a part of our celebration; but we celebrate more than just wishes and dreams. For us, Christmas is an ongoing reality!

At Christmas God showed His ultimate love for us in the gift of His Son for our salvation. Through Christmas, God brought all men together under the same grace that will bring us home to heaven. In Christmas, God brought heavenly, spiritual, and eternal peace to everyone as He began the wonderful work of redemption, reconciling the world to Himself.

What we do with the reality of God's precious gift also adds to the impact of its reality in our

lives. Gifts, love, togetherness, joy, peace, and friendship are the ways we reflect and join in the great celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. God's blessing given to us becomes the very same blessing we can share with each other. And this we do more than one day each year.

Christmas may be celebrated only on December 25th; but the Lord Jesus continues to come to us each and every day with all that His entrance into this world the first time



entailed. Because He truly came; because the gifts He brought and embodied are truly ours; because He continues to be our Immanuel: God with us, in us, and through us; we have the promise of a truly blessed and merry Christmas. We have a celebration that will not end.

Pastor Tom

Trinity Lutheran Church

Phone: (480)837-0130 Web: www.tlcfhaz.org

Thomas Daly, Pastor: pastor@tlc.phxcoxmail.com or (480)522-0777 (Cell)

Amy Heuer, Director of Family Ministry: amy@tlc.phxcoxmail.com or (480)251-4630 (Cell)

Carolyn Hallock, Office secretary: secretary@tlc.phxcoxmail.com; Office Hours 9:00 AM-12 Noon, Monday-Friday



All women of Trinity are invited to join together for an evening of fellowship and celebration on Tuesday, December 10, from 6:00 - 7:30 PM.

The theme is "Christmas Memories." Please think of your most treasured Christmas memories and come ready to share one with the group! Hot beverages, appetizers, and desserts will be served.

Sunday School News

Rehearsals for this year's Christmas program will take place on Sundays,



Christmas Program

Middle School News

Youth Confirmation Classes continue to meet on Monday afternoons from 3:45-4:45 PM. **Please note there will be no classes on December 23 or 30.**



Trinity Truth



The deadline for the January edition of the Trinity Truth will be Tuesday, December 17, 2013.

December 1 and 8, at 9:30 AM. *The program will take place during Trinity's "Celebration of Christmas" on December 8, at 4:00 PM.* All children and youth

Tidings of Great Joy! Family Wreath Project



If you took a wreath to decorate for the family wreath project, **please make sure to return it to Trinity by 9:00 am on December 7.** There is still time to participate in this project! Stop by the church office to pick up a wreath if you would like to decorate one!

are welcome to participate in the program. Please contact Amy Heuer with any questions.

Sunday School Schedule

On Sunday, December 15, children will learn about the birth of John. Sunday, December 22, we will have a birthday



party for Jesus. *Please note there will not be Sunday School classes on December 29.*

We invite all children (age 3-grade 4) to join us each Sunday from 9:30-10:15 AM. Friends are always welcome!

Join the Choir for Advent & Christmas!

Love to sing?
Join the choir to sing for Advent and / or Christmas. REHEARSALS in December will follow each Advent service on Wednesday nights at or around 7:45 PM.

We will sing each Sunday in Advent at ONE service each Sunday, alternating between the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services. We will also sing at the 5:00 PM service on Christmas Eve.

We'd love to have you join us!



Order Your Christmas Poinsettia Today!



Poinsettia Sign-Up
If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to place on the altar

area at Trinity for the Christmas season, please sign up on the list on the counter in the narthex or call the church office by December 8. Plants are \$10 each. Please pay

when you sign up. Poinsettias will be displayed on December 15-29. You are welcome to take your plant home with you after the worship services on December 29.

Celebration of Christmas

Please invite your friends and family to Trinity's "Celebration of Christmas" which will take place on Sunday, December 8, at 4:00 PM. The children and youth will be presenting a special Christmas program.

Following the program, a catered meal will be served. *A free will offering will be collected to help defray the cost of the meal.* To help us get an idea of how many people will attend the event, please sign up

on the poster on the bulletin board outside of Amy's office.



Celebration of Christmas Dinner

- Trinity Lutheran Leadership
- Pastor**
- Pastor Tom Daly
- Pastoral Staff**
- Amy Heuer
- Dir. Of Family Ministry**
- Joani Peterson
- Organist**
- Dianne Immenga
- Voices of Praise**
- Director**
- Kim Flower
- Bell Choir**
- Director**
- Carolyn Hallock
- Secretary**
- Lay Leaders**
- Paul Beil
- President**
- Joe Wagner
- Vice President**
- Steve Krause
- Secretary**
- JoAnn Cegon
- Treasurer**
- Jan Visser
- Financial Secretary**
- Lois Lucas
- Chair,**
- Administration**
- Val Hartman
- Chair, Bd. Of**
- Education**
- Christine Colley
- Chair, Bd. Of**
- Inreach**
- Andrea Lawson
- Chair, Bd. Of**
- Outreach**
- Vacant
- Chair, Bd. of**
- Stewardship**
- Chuck Knutsen
- Chair, Bd. Of**
- Trustees**
- Roger Riggert
- Head Elder**
- Bob Edgren
- Darrell Kahl
- Hal Lucas
- Dave Luppés
- Bill Muehlhauser
- Corky Petersen
- Dan Peterson
- Elders**



Link to online Calendar:

<http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=G1J4L6M7K5K5O9L6I3>

Advent Suppers & Worship

Remember to join us for Advent Suppers and Worship Services on December 4, 11, and 18.

Suppers are served from 5:30-6:15 PM. Worship begins at 7:00 PM. We hope you will join us!



Special Advent Events



Extended Hands Food Bank

Just a reminder that during the last quarter of 2013 we are collecting **nonperishable holiday meal items** for the Extended Hands Food Bank.

As always, any donations of nonperishable food items are appreciated! *Thank you for all of your donations throughout 2013!*

Worship at Fountain View Village



On Sunday, December 22, Trinity will be providing a worship service in Town Square at Fountain View Village at 1:30 PM.

We invite Trinity members to join us for this pre-Christmas Eve celebration!

Voices of Praise and the children will be singing!

Your help is needed to talk with residents, hand out programs, and participate in the service.

Please contact Amy or Pastor Tom if you are able to help out.

Your help is needed to put up the Christmas trees and deck the halls of Trinity on Saturday, December 7, at 9:00 AM. Please contact Pam Miskawitz or Dianne Immenga with any questions.



December Special Events

DECEMBER	
01	TWO WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE BEGINS! 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL VOTERS' MEETING 9:30 AM
04	ADVENT SUPPER 5:30 PM ADVENT WORSHIP 7:00 PM
07	DECORATE TREES & INSIDE OF TRINITY 9:00 AM
08	CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS 4:00 PM
10	WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00 PM
11	ADVENT SUPPER 5:30 PM ADVENT WORSHIP 7:00 PM
18	ADVENT SUPPER 5:30 PM ADVENT WORSHIP 7:00 PM
22	WORSHIP SERVICE AT FOUNTAIN VIEW VILLAGE 1:30 PM
24	CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE 5:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 PM
31	NEW YEAR'S EVE WORSHIP SERVICE W/ COMMUNION 7:00 PM FELLOWSHIP TIME AFTER WORSHIP

Elders' Corner



We are happy to announce that we have three new elders. They are Al Axelson, Steve Krause and Doug Boyer. We are sorry to lose Dave Luppes who will be moving soon to Indiana.

To accommodate the addition of these three elders, and the loss of Dave, our board has done a complete reassignment of families to a specific elder, effective January 1. In a few cases you may have the same elder, but in most cases you will have a new elder.

In the near future you will hear from your new elder, introducing himself and greeting you.

Roger Riggert
Head Elder

Thank You Counters!

**Big
Thank
You!**

Many people work at church that nobody ever hears about. I would like to thank the Counters – they are the ones that come every Monday or Tuesday to count Sunday's offering and deposit it in the bank. Each team counts for two months out of the year. They are very dedicated and efficient.

I would personally like to thank the following Counters: Vonnie Bowman, Baerbel Brown, Dianne Immenga, Ginger Jenkins, Lois Lucas, Cheri Ringer, Martin Smith, Don Schultz, Pete Visser and Joan Wolfe.

There are two other Counters that have decided to resign after eight years (according to my records)– Bill Hook and Beverly Meadows. Thank you, Bill and Beverly, you have given many hours to Trinity Lutheran Church and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Again thanks, Counters, you are terrific!

Jan Visser, Financial Secretary

Thank You!

I would like to thank all my friends and fellow Prayer Warriors for your calls, care and concern during my absence. In May, 2013, I was diagnosed through a bone marrow biopsy with Meylodysplastic Syndrome and am being treated at Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ.

The medication (shots, 3 times a week) I am taking, weakens the immune system and as long as I am on the medication, I must have my blood tested once a month. My Dr. says I am improving, but I do have to stay away from crowds, and my tests are coming back improved - so God is Good! I especially want to thank the Axelsons and Pastor Tom, and of course, all of you.

Eva Coburn



New Pictorial Directory- Coming Soon!

The family of Trinity has been growing and changing over the past few years and it is time to update our family album!

Lifetouch photography will be at Trinity near the middle of the month in February. We would like our family album to be as complete as possible, so please plan to have your photo taken (no cost to you and no obligation to buy additional photos). Complete details will be in the January Trinity Truth.

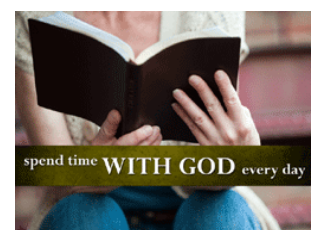


Advent Devotions

Lutheran Hour Ministries is offering free Advent Devotions again this year, *The Word Became Flesh and Dwelt Among Us*. It is written by Rev. Wayne Palmer, LHM's theological editor and writer. *The Word Became Flesh*, Palmer mines the Gospel of John for its wealth on the Savior's life. Typically, when we celebrate Jesus' birth, we think about Gabriel's announcement to Mary; Joseph and Mary's trek to Bethlehem and Jesus' lowly birth; the angels' joyous proclamation to the shepherds; and the wise men visiting the King of the Jews from afar, according to Palmer.

Per John's narrative strategy, however, Christ's birth is rendered "from a different point of view," Palmer said. In the fourth Gospel we are immediately informed of Jesus' divinity, His creative power, and His timelessness. Spoken of as the One heralded in the Old Testament, in John's Gospel and writings Jesus is referred to as the One who has become flesh and dwelt among us, "full of grace and truth" (see John 1:14).

The Word Became Flesh is also available to read online or can be received via e-mail subscription throughout the Advent season. An audio version of *The Word Became Flesh* will be available beginning Dec. 1 or you can receive it as a podcast. For more information, go to: www.lhm.org/.



Trinity Lutheran Church

P. O. Box 17270
Fountain Hills, AZ 85269
Phone: 480-837-0130
Web site: www.tlcfhaz.org

A Family Friendly Church

December Sunday Morning Schedule

Worship at 8:00 AM
Followed by Fellowship Time
Christian Education for all ages begins at 9:30 AM
Worship at 10:30 AM

Special Advent and Christmas Services

Wednesdays December 4, 11, and 18 Suppers at 5:30 PM
followed by Worship AT 7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Worship Tuesday, December 24,
5:00 PM Community Service
9:00 PM Candlelight and Communion Service

Bible Studies

Sunday Morning at 9:30 AM with Pastor Tom
Tuesday Morning at 10:00 AM with Pastor Tom
2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study
Thursday at 7:00 PM with Pastor Tom
2nd and 4th Saturdays at 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study
Please call (480) 837-0130 to confirm times and places.