



# The Trinity Truth

December 2017

## REFORMATION 500 CONT'D

Did you know that our tradition of putting up a Christmas tree dates back to the Reformation?

While many ancient cultures venerated trees and other plants, it was Martin Luther who first brought an evergreen tree into his house at Christmas time to help his family celebrate the birth of our Savior. The story is told that on a cold winter night, as he was heading home after working late hours at the church, Luther spotted stars twinkling through the boughs of a pine tree. All of a sudden the symbolic quality of what he was witnessing became clear to him.

The tree itself was shaped like a triangle, the symbol used to represent the Holy Trinity. In the midst of the deadness of winter, the tree

was still green with life.

When Luther brought the little tree into his house, he used candles to represent the stars that shone so brightly the night Jesus was born. Later on in time would be added ornaments and other treats to help with the festivities. Still generations later, families would begin the tradition of topping the tree with either a star, (to represent the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Wise Men), or an angel, (that represented the Angel Gabriel announcing the birth of the Christ Child).

The tradition took hold in the territories of the Reformation, eventually making its way to England and the Americas. The first record of a Christmas tree being put up in the American Colonies

occurred in 1777 when Hessian prisoners of war erected one in their barracks during the Revolutionary War.

1957 marked the date when Lutheran women in Danville, VA first made Chrismons and hung them on the congregation's tree. Chrismons, just like the ones we have here at Trinity, are ancient Christian symbols made out of white and gold material and used as ornaments. They add to the telling of the Christmas story.

It is interesting to note that in Europe, the tradition of the Christmas tree separated the Lutherans from their Roman Catholic neighbors for quite some time. It wasn't until 1982, under Pope John Paul II, that the first Christmas tree was erected in the Vatican. It has since become a beloved tradition.



The next time you see a Christmas tree, or are putting one up yourself, stop and reflect on the timeless message this tradition is still proclaiming: In the cold and black of sin's dead winter, the light of God's love still shines to give us life in our Savior, Jesus. And we have the Reformation to thank for this tradition.

*Pastor Tom*

### Trinity Lutheran Church

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Hours 9:00AM-12NOON, Monday-Friday



## Sunday School News

**Children's Christmas Service December 17, at 10:30 AM.**

Speaking parts have been emailed out to those who said they plan to participate and rehearsals for the Children's Christmas Service have begun. Kids

will practice songs each Sunday immediately following the worship service (about 9:15 AM) before heading into Sunday School Class. *Parents, please work on speaking parts with your child at home. Full service rehearsals will be*

**held on December 10 and 17.**

Contact the Director of Family Ministry, with any questions.

***There will be no Sunday School Classes on Sunday, December 24.***



## Middle School Youth

Confirmation classes for youth in grades 5-8 continue Mondays in December. Please note there will not be class on December 25.



Mark your calendars and plan to attend

**Jr. High Camp** next **May 24-27** at Tonto Rim Christian Camp near Payson, AZ.

Cost and other details coming soon!

Please contact Amy with any questions.



## January Trinity Truth Deadline

The deadline to submit news items for the January edition of *The Trinity Truth* is Tuesday, Dec. 19. Please bring written items into the church office or email them to: [newsed@tlc.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:newsed@tlc.phxcoxmail.com) by that day.

## Christmas Decorating at Trinity

December is almost here and help is needed to assemble the beautiful Christmas trees. On Friday, December 1, at 6:00 PM, 6-8 people are needed to fluff Christmas tree

branches (about 1 hour) and on Saturday, December 2, 9:00 AM, lots of help is needed to assemble and decorate the trees (about 2 hours).

*A new coordinator for this event is*



*needed to work alongside Pam and Dianne this year with the idea of becoming the leader for next year.*

*Please contact Dianne or Pam if you are interested.*

## LWML Christmas Cookie Walk and Craft Boutique

It will be a tasty and beautiful affair, a fundraiser for **Extended Hands Food Bank**, and **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!**

On **Saturday, December 9**, we will be offering a wide range of home-baked cookies and lovely gifts for sale to church members and the greater community. We especially need bakers willing to bake and donate at least 5 dozen of your favorite cookies or cookie bars. Please look through your recipe books and

find that special recipe everyone loves.

We would appreciate it if you indicate your intentions by adding your name to the sign-up sheet in the church hallway.

**Cookies will need to be delivered to church by 10:00 AM on Friday, December 8, so that set up can take place.**

**Crafts should be delivered to church by Thursday, December 7.**

**A big thanks to all willing to help out!**

If you don't bake or craft, please come and shop!



Help with the sale is needed on **Saturday, December 9**. Assistants to arrange and weigh cookies, bag crafts, and cashiers are needed. Please contact Gail, Debbie, Christine, or Kim to volunteer your help.

## Season of Giving

### Thank You from Lutheran Social Services



Dear friends in Christ, You brought joy to foster children this Christmas. Thank you! For the first 10 years of Selina's life she lived with her extended family in a drug filled house and endured regular abuse, neglect, and pain. She longed for a loving family. After she was removed from

her home, Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest paired Selina with a foster mother who was looking for another daughter to love. Selina was immediately welcomed into the family. Because of you this Christmas will be extra special for foster children like Selina. Thank you for your in kind

gift to LSS of 90 toys, wrapping paper and supplies, and blankets. Because of you, children like Selina know that they are loved. You inspire hope and preserve dignity for our most vulnerable AZ neighbors.

With Gratitude,  
LSS of SW

### Other Ways to Serve at LSS this Christmas Season



Volunteers from Trinity will travel to the LSS office in Phoenix to help ring in the holiday season by singing along to holiday music, enjoying light snacks, and **wrapping gifts on Thursday, December 7. Carpool will leave Trinity at 2:00 PM. Please sign up on the poster in the hallway or contact Amy by Sunday, December 3,**

*if you would like to help out.*

**On December 16, LSS will have their Winter**

**Wonderland Christmas Party from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM.** Location will be announced soon. Volunteers are needed to serve at this party and distribute gifts to kids at the Santa station so foster children and their family can enjoy

holiday activities. *Please contact Kim if you are interested in helping out at this event.*



## Season of Giving

### Extended Hands Food Bank Collection

During the fourth quarter of 2017, we are collecting nonperishable **holiday meal items** (*stuffing, cranberries, gravy, vegetables, etc...*) for the Extended Hands Food Bank.

Please bring your donations of any nonperishable food to Trinity and place them in the black receptacle by the kitchen entrance.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity!*



### Groundwork Guatemala

**Tony and Julie** joined the Trinity Family when they moved to Fountain Hills in July 2017 to take jobs closer to their children in Arizona. They are active in mission work with **Groundwork Guatemala**, a Lutheran mission based in Mesa. Julie serves on the board of directors for Groundwork Guatemala. She and Tony have made

multiple trips to Guatemala in service to the people there. They will be going in February again, bringing hygiene supplies, school supplies, vitamins, and medical supplies to the mission. They will also help teach faith lessons to more than 1,000 adults, youth, and children.

**Watch for more information in the**

**January Trinity Truth newsletter to learn how you can help, encourage, and support this mission through your gifts and prayers.**





### Winter Worship Schedule Begins Dec. 3

Trinity’s winter worship schedule **begins on Sunday, December 3,** (and will continue through the month of April). **Worship services will be at 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.**

Christian Education for all ages will begin at 9:30 AM.

*The exception to this will be, Sunday, December 24,* we will have **one morning** worship service at **9:00 AM** that will celebrate

the 4th Sunday in Advent and **two evening** services that will celebrate Christmas eve. **5:00 PM** will be the Celebration service and **9:00 PM** will be Candlelight and Communion service.

### Mid-Week Advent Services



We will gather to celebrate the Advent season with special worship services on

Wednesday evenings: **December 6, December 13, and December 20** at

**7:00 PM.**  
Our theme this year will be: The Light of Life in Jesus.

### Advent Suppers



All are invited to join us for supper before the Advent Worship services on December 6, 13, and 20.

The meals will be served from 5:45 - 6:15 PM.  
**Volunteers are needed to prepare, serve, and clean-up**

**after the meals.**  
Please sign up on the poster in the hallway if you are able to help out!

### Annual Congregational Meeting



All adult members of the congregation are invited to join in the **Annual Voters’ meeting on Sunday, December 10, at 9:30 AM.**

The purpose of this meeting is to give a recap of this past year, share vision for the coming year, pass the budget for 2018, and elect

officers to the Church Council. Please join us if you are able!



Link to online Calendar:

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

### Final 2nd Sunday Celebration

Throughout 2017, we have had various guest pastors join us during our worship services to share God's Word with us. On Sunday, December 10, we welcome former pastor, Dwight Vilhauer, at both the 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM worship services.



### Celebration of Christmas Luncheon

You are invited to the **Celebration of Christmas Luncheon** which will follow the Children's Christmas service on Sunday, **December 17**. The service begins at 10:30 AM and the luncheon will follow **around 11:30 AM**.

Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway if you plan to attend. **We hope you will join us for fun, food, and fellowship!**



## Operation Christmas Child Thank You

**Thank you to all of you for your generosity in packing shoe boxes and/or donating money to buy items for shoeboxes and help with shipping costs. You enabled Trinity to pack 95 shoeboxes that will give 95 children the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ!! Thanks to those volunteers who helped pack all of the 1,779 shoeboxes (that came in from all across town) into large shipping cartons. A special thank you to Chuck for letting us use his trailer all week and for transporting the cartons to the drop off spot. Trinity would not be able to serve the community in this capacity without the help of these volunteers.**

## Thank You from 25th Anniversary Committee



**On behalf of the 25th Anniversary Committee to the entire congregation,** We thank you for your help and support during our special events in 2017 that provided an opportunity to celebrate 25 years of ministry in Fountain Hills at TLC. Many volunteer hours went into making 2017 a special year and you are all very much appreciated!!

*Todd,*  
25th Anniversary Committee Chairperson

## Podium People Needed



**Volunteers needed:** Please consider volunteering to greet and engage our guests at the podium. We are looking for 1-2 people to commit to volunteer for this position for a month at a time in order to better recognize new faces.

Please reach out to Brooke for more information or to sign up.



## LWML Meeting

All women of Trinity are invited to this month's LWML meeting on Saturday, December 16, at 10:00 AM. This

meeting time will allow time to review and discuss the craft boutique and cookie walk as well as look toward 2018 plans

and projects. Please contact Debbie if you have any questions.



## Trinity Garage Sale-Coming Soon!

Trinity's LWML is having a garage sale February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP !!!**

Please save all items that you may no longer be using. We will be accepting children's clothing in good condition,

books, electronics, furniture, games, household items, pictures, picture frames, seasonal items, glassware, jewelry, toys, only new adult clothing, etc.

Proceeds will go towards a Respite Program and

sandwiches for the homeless in July (this will be a one day event).

Please contact Debbie with any questions .



## Christmas Poinsettias

Beautiful Poinsettia plants will adorn Trinity's altar area this Christmas season. If you would like to purchase one

or more (at \$10 a piece), please sign up on the bulletin board in the hallway by December 10. Please see Joy or

Debbby on Sunday mornings to pay for the plants.



Trinity Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 17270

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## **December Worship Schedule**

### **Sunday Mornings (except December 24)**

8:00 AM Worship

Followed by Fellowship

9:30 AM Christian Education for all ages

10:30 AM Worship

Holy Communion is celebrated at all Sunday morning worship services.

### **Mid-Week Advent Services**

7:00 PM Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20

### **December 24**

9:00 AM Worship with Communion

5:00 PM Celebration Worship

9:00 PM Candlelight and Communion Worship

### **Bible Studies**

Sunday morning at 9:30 AM with Pastor Tom

Tuesday morning at 10:00 AM with Pastor Tom

Women's Bible Study will not meet in December

*Please call (480)837-0130 to confirm times and places*

