

Good News!

DECEMBER
2011

TRINITY UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
658 Grand Avenue, Waukegan IL 60085-4156

Volume 18
Issue 12

Celebrate the Season at Trinity United

Youth and Adult Christmas Program

Join us for worship **December 18th**, when we present Trinity's inter-generational Christmas program, "Finding Emmanuel", with joyful music from the Sunday School, Praise Dance Group, Trinity Choir, and our talented instrumentalists.

Dress rehearsal is scheduled Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Come and worship with a service of lessons and carols for all ages!

Christmas Decorating

Help decorate the sanctuary Christmas trees. Volunteers may gather at church on **Saturday, December 10th** at 9:00 a.m.

Feeling Blue at Christmas?

The holidays are not happy for all, especially those struggling with the loss of a loved one. Many in our midst will be thinking of empty chairs this holiday season. On **Sunday, December 18th** at 4:00 p.m. Trinity will sponsor a "Blue Christmas" worship, which will provide an opportunity for us to share in each other's grief and hope. Invite a friend — all are welcome.

Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24
4:30 p.m. Family Worship

Christmas Day,
Sunday, December 25
9:30 a.m. Worship

Pastoral Ponderings

There's a story of a woman who was Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many shelves and other things in the store, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the holiday season time of the year: overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the holiday food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all her purchases. When the doors closed, she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

From the back of the car everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified him." For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

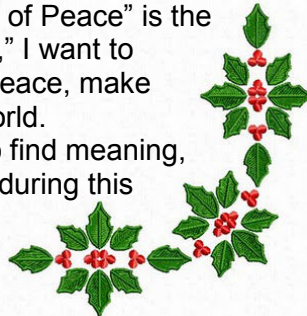
I gave up on New Year's resolutions years ago. I'm all for personal growth. I just found that the goals I set were unrealistic. When I failed -- to lose weight or to exercise more or read War and Peace, I was never motivated to reset the goals. Maybe it had something to do with it being the dead of winter, with it's limited sun light.

This year I'd like to make some Christmas Resolutions. Maybe resolution is the wrong word...maybe they are more like "Christmas Guideline." Like many of my old New Year's resolutions they are also meant to promote health...but now the focus is more on mental and spiritual health than the physical.

Here's the path I will try to follow: to... spend less...do less...listen to more music... quiet myself before worship...and enjoy my family. I am resolved to be less anxious, more loving, and more present in the moment. If the "Prince of Peace" is the "reason for the season," I want to envelope myself with peace, make that incarnate in the world.

I encourage you to find meaning, peace, and happiness during this holiday season.

In Christ; Pastor Rich



Christmas Bible Study

Martin Luther's Christmas Book is a collection of excerpts from Martin Luther's Christmas Sermons. For three Wednesdays at 10 a.m. (**November 30, December 7, and 14**) we'll gather for Bible study, beginning with the biblical story, amplified by Luther's insights. Please join us.



Trinity United Contributors

All offerings for the year 2011 must be received in the church office by the close of the 9:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 25, 2011 in order to be included in the 2011 church reports and listed in your member final 2011 Contribution Statement.

Thanks for your Commitments

In a time of uncertainty...in a time of worry... many members have stepped forward with their pledge cards of financial commitment and offering of time and talents.

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO HAVE RESPONDED SO GENEROUSLY. If you still have your materials, please consider filling them out and sending them to the church office or dropping them in the offering plate. We need your help to continue our mission here in Waukegan and throughout the world.



Council Highlights

Trinity United church council met November 8, 2011. Following are highlights of this meeting:

- Water usage rates investigated by Gene Sanderlin resulting in a recommendation to install new commodes to help defray costs.
- Staff interviews were conducted by Terry Oldfield and Bonnie Hellickson to determine if employees are satisfied.
- An anonymous donor to provide funds and planning for the November 20 catered luncheon.
- John Hansen (Investment Team) reports Trinity investments are doing well.
- Sagrado Corazon has a candidate for full time minister. He will be considered as missionary status from Costa Rica.
- Council is working on the 2012 budget and increased Synod support to \$23,100.

Trinity United council meets **Tuesday, December 13^h at 7:00 p.m.** in Larson Hall. Members and guests are welcome to attend.



TULC — Investment Team

The Investment Team met on November 8, 2011, with our financial consultant Chuck Johnson, of Stifel Nicolaus, to review our investment portfolio. The performance of the portfolio has been steady and meeting our objectives. Seeing this and with the current unsteady market and low interest rates no changes were made at this time. Several items were placed on a watch list with possible action in about six weeks. Generally the team meets with Stifel Nicolaus twice a year.

Stifel Nicolas submits a monthly report to Trinity and this in turn is incorporated into the monthly treasurer's report.

The Investment Team members are Jerry Larsen, "Red" Nelson, and John Hansen.

December Lessons & Themes

The following information is provided for your personal study and reflection:

December 4

ADVENT 2
Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

December 11

ADVENT 3
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18

ADVENT 4
2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Luke 1:46b-55
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY
Isaiah 62:6-12
Psalm 97
Titus 3:4-7
Luke 1: [1-7] 8-20



CPR Training at Trinity

CPR Training is scheduled for **Saturday, December 3** in Larson Hall from 9:00 a.m to Noon. Cost per person is \$30.00. Contact Carole Johnson for more information.

**December
Loose Offering
Designated for
PADS**





Notes from Josh

Our hymnal often reminds me of a smorgasbord. Much as the Bible contains a variety of different books and genres, from poetry to history to letters, so our Christian hymn tradition covers a huge spectrum of different styles. Of course, not every style appeals to every one of us, but worshipping together means having the grace to sing along with one another's songs. Think about it: if our annual smorgasbord served only lutefisk, it would still be a wonderful and delicious event. But wouldn't you rather have a variety?

I thought about this variety while planning the music for our annual Christmas program, which will take place on Sunday, December 18 during church. The program is called "Finding Emmanuel", and it depicts the Christmas story through the words of the prophet Isaiah, who predicted the coming of one called "Emmanuel", or "God With Us". (That person turned out to be – you guessed it – Jesus.) Two of the program's songs sing words of prophecy and expectation, but in very different ways.

The African-American spiritual "My Lord, What a Morning" (ELW 438) is simple and stark. Its most

famous words, "when the stars begin to fall", come from Jesus in the Gospel of Mark. When we sing this song, we look ahead to the appearance of "God's right hand", or the presence of God in our world. This song poses a powerful question – "When will we see God?" – that it doesn't attempt to answer.

Far wordier is a Finnish song of expectation, "Lost In the Night" (ELW 243). This song begins by singing the lament of people who are waiting for God, before finally proclaiming that Emmanuel is nigh:

*Light o'er the land of the needy is beaming;
Rivers of life through its deserts are
streaming,
Bringing all peoples a Savior redeeming.
Come and save us soon! Come and save us
soon!*

May all our Advent hymns – whether simple, wordy, folksy, classical, composed by individual hymn writers or anonymous oral traditions – point us to the reality of "God With Us"!

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, December 6th** at 7:00 p.m.
THE RESOURCE TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, December 6th** at 6:00 p.m.

December 'Toon



Christmas Decorating

Come help decorate the sanctuary Christmas trees. Volunteers may gather at church on **Saturday, December 10th** at 9:00 a.m.



Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal
10:00 a.m. — Noon, **Saturday, December 17th**

Circle Schedule

CIRCLE MEETINGS RESUME IN JANUARY

DECEMBER CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Hostess — *Rebekah*
Devotions & Visitation — *Deborah*
Service — *Rachel*

Cap & Mitten Tree

Trinity United Women are collecting caps, mittens, gloves and socks for PADS — all sizes. As the weather grows colder, these items are always needed. Please place your items on the tree or in the PADS collection box in Larson Hall. While this is a project of the Women's organization, we invite everyone to share in this project.



Senior Christmas Luncheon at Ray Radigan's

The annual senior luncheon will be held on **Thursday, December 15** at 12:00 PM at Ray Radigan's Restaurant, Pleasant Prairie WI. Those needing a ride will meet at church at 11:30 a.m. When you arrive, you will be given a menu with a choice of soup or salad and 3 choices of entree. The cost will be \$16, which includes tax and tip. Coffee or tea is included. If you desire other beverage or dessert, you must ask the waitress for those items — they are not included in the \$16, and you must pay the waitress for them. Please sign the list in Larson Hall to indicate that you plan to attend.

**Trinity United
COOL Food of the Month:
Juice**

Annual Christmas Smorgasbord

What better way to get into the Christmas spirit? Trinity's Annual Christmas Smorgasbord will be held



Sunday, December 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. in Larson Hall. This annual Trinity United event is always an enjoyable feature of the Christmas season.

A sign-up sheet is posted in Larson Hall; please sign up for the listed menu item that you plan to contribute to the smorgasbord.

The "Sounds of Real Music" by L.J. Slaven will provide a musical program appropriate to the season.

Sign up today for your food contribution and do not miss this wonderful event!



What to give?

- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all men, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

— Oren Arnold



Christmas Card Display

Trinity's annual Christmas Card display encourages members to share their holiday greetings with other members of the congregation by placing their card on the display board in Larson Hall. We then suggest that members donate the "saved" postage money as a contribution to the "Christmas Card Fund". Money collected is sent to the LSSI Prison Ministry Program to help provide assistance to the families.



Food & Flowers — Poinsettias at Christmas

Once again Trinity United will decorate its sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas, purchased by members as memorials for their loved ones. But instead of ordering a plant for each memorial, only a certain number of plants will be ordered, with the remaining funds given to support the work of COOL. That way your loved one is remembered, we don't have dozens of plants left over at church, and we help the hungry in our community. Order forms are in Larson Hall. Each donation is \$11, and orders will be taken through **Sunday, December 11.**

NOTE: Please indicate if you would like to take a plant home after Christmas day worship. We'll make sure there's enough for each one who would like to take a plant home.



Osteoporosis Medications: Possible Health Risk

A warning from the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) has reported a possible risk associated with drugs prescribed for osteoporosis. Current data indicates a rare type of fracture of the thigh bone has been occurring in patients taking the drugs.

The drugs under study are: Actonel, Boniva, and Fosamax. If you are currently taking one of these drugs, do NOT stop taking them without consulting your physician!

Several years ago while I was taking one of these drugs, I read a somewhat similar article in a Nursing Journal. I spoke to my doctor about it, and he reluctantly prescribed calcium supplements and Fish Oil Capsules which I continue to take on a daily basis. Together with a healthy diet, exercise, and milk with each meal, and frequent ice cream, just to make sure, I'm doing o.k.

For more information, visit www.fda.gov and search for "Bisphosphonates."

HEALTH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Email: carolejohnson3@sbcglobal.net

Trinity Kids

SAVIOR ORNAMENT

This Christmas, celebrate Jesus' birthday by making this keepsake ornament.

What you need:

- Wooden clothespin with round end
- Black permanent marker
- White cloth or felt
- Small wooden star (available at craft stores)
- Yellow paint
- Paintbrush
- Gold glitter (optional)
- Glue gun (and an adult)
- Straw-colored raffia
- Palm-size wicker wreath (available at craft stores)
- Ribbon

What you do:

1. On the clothespin's round knob, draw two dots for eyes.
2. Wrap the white cloth around the clothespin, like a swaddled baby.
3. Paint the star yellow; add glitter, if desired.
4. With the glue gun and adult supervision, glue the raffia to the bottom inside of the wreath. Then glue the swaddled clothespin atop the raffia and glue the gold star atop the wreath.
5. Tie a ribbon around the top, near the star.
6. Hang the ornament on your Christmas tree or tie it on a gift.

It's Christmas —

The night was clear and calm
 Stars glowed with soft light
 The shepards were resting
 As sheep settled down for night —
 Suddenly — the sky came alive
 Beautiful angels joyfully sing
 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
 Unto you is born a King!!!
 Wise men were the first
 To bring gifts traveling far
 They found their way
 By following a bright star —
 As we hear bells ringing cheer
 Our gifts we give to each other
 And thank our Good Shepherd for
 Each sister and each brother —
 May the Joy of Christmas
 Fill your heart with love
 As on our Saviour's birthday we
 Receive God's Peace from above —

Praise God!!! — **Nancy Mathis**



Someone Else's Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone's passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years, and for every one of those years Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, or a meeting to attend, one name was on everyone's list: "Let Someone Else do it."

Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results: "Someone Else can work with that group." It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person, sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help, remember — we can't depend on Someone Else anymore.

December Birthdays

Larsen, Gerald	12/2
Daluge, Annette	12/5
Danielson, Nancy	12/6
Lab, Debra	12/6
Calix, Elva	12/7
Weate, Irene	12/11
Shaffer, Stephenie	12/15
Salyer, Ross	12/19
Langhoff, Lea	12/22
Ahern, Sophia	12/23
Swanson, Jeanette	12/23
Anhock, Michael	12/24
Hellickson, George	12/24
McClure, Dorothy	12/24
George, Malia	12/26
Burdick, Alyssa	12/28
Salyer, Judy	12/28
Smith, Beckett	12/31

December Anniversaries

Gene & Yoko Sanderlin (39)	12/2
Linda & James McCulloch (34)	12/3
Benjamin & Elisa Gehrt (11)	12/16
Kenneth & Diana Endress (38)	12/29

Waukegan Swedish Glee Club Julmiddag Celebration

Sunday, December 4, 2011

Chevy Chase Country Club, Wheeling IL

Concert at 3:00 p.m.

(Grand Buffet, Dinner & Cash Bar after)

Tickets: Adults \$40; Children (12 & under) \$17



With Our Appreciation

Thank you all for your prayers, well wishes and gifts received upon Logan's healthy arrival.

We are truly blessed!

**Katie, John & Logan
 Szostak**

**January
 Newsletter Deadline is
 December 15, 2011**



**TRINITY UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
658 Grand Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085-4156

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DECEMBER 2011

Our Vision

Trinity United is a **welcoming community** where everyone matters.
We are **centered in Jesus Christ** and the Holy Scripture, rooted in tradition and open to the future.
We value **vibrant, creative, and meaningful worship**.
We **value our partners in ministry** – other churches, local aid groups, and global service organizations –
and seek to be known as a congregation that meets the needs of our neighbors.

TRINITY UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
658 Grand Avenue
Waukegan IL 60085-4516

Church Office 847-623-1197
Fax 847-623-0970

Email: TrinityULC@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.TrinityULC.org

Office Hours: 8:30 am — 3:00 pm, Monday—Friday

MINISTRY STAFF

Richard A. Grudt, *Pastor*
224-610-9702 — pastorgrudt@yahoo.com
Joshua Langhoff, *Director of Music Ministries,*
Organist & Choir Director
Lea Langhoff, *Bell Choir Director*
Judy Salyer, *Administrative Assistant*
Karen Varsek, *Treasurer*
Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, *Volunteer Parish Nurse*
Gene Sanderlin, *Maintenance Manager*

2011-2012 CHURCH COUNCIL

Nancy Bjerstedt, president
John Hansen, vice president
Helga Larsen, secretary

Bernard Ben-Carew	Bonnie Hellickson
Joe Cole	Bob Johnson
Ben Gehrt	Allen Layburn
Marilyn Hall	Terry Oldfield
Gene Sanderlin	



Come, Grow, Serve

Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship
(Communion — 1st & 3rd Sundays)
Sunday School 11:00 a.m.