



Holy Trinity

Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2017

Mission Initiatives: FACETS Angel Tree and Gifts of Hope

Help Gifts of Hope celebrate!



*This holiday season, make your gift more meaningful.
Give gifts of love... gifts of help...*

GIFTS OF HOPE

- ◆ We celebrate adding Lutheran Campus Ministry to our group of beneficiary organizations.
- ◆ We celebrate 25 years in our community, bringing hope to others.
- ◆ We celebrate with a special Christmas card which includes a Christmas ornament.
- ◆ We celebrate our relationship with our donors, volunteers, congregations, and organizations.
- ◆ We celebrate \$3,337,000 disbursed to our organizations--helping them do their mission.

You can help us do more in 2017. Please consider increasing your support by 25% or by \$25.

Give a unique gift to your loved one this Christmas and help those in need by selecting gifts from the 2017 Catalog, with prices ranging from \$10 to \$250. You will receive a Christmas card to present to your honored loved one. To commemorate our 25th anniversary, we have a special Christmas card with a 'pop out' Christmas ornament. **Linda Bathen is HT's Gifts of Hope coordinator. Stop by her table in the narthex which will be set up through Epiphany Sunday.**

HELP BRING SOME HOLIDAY CHEER TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS

We are again participating in the holiday gift donation program for FACETS. **See flyers in the narthex.**

Sign up on the poster and take a card from the tree.



The donation deadline is Wednesday, December 6th.

Many thanks to our coordinator Kristi Poreda!

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Worship with us

ALL ARE WELCOME

December 3	Advent 1	8:45 and 11:15 a.m.
December 10	Advent 2	8:45 and 11:15 a.m.
December 17	Advent 3	8:45 and 11:15 a.m. Children's Pageant at 8:45
December 24	Advent 4	10:00 a.m.
	Christmas Eve	4:00 p.m. (family friendly) 7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.



Pastor's Peace

One of the best parts about this time of year is listening to Christmas carols at home and on the radio, and we all have our favorites. If we were to take a poll, our collective favorite Christmas Carol is probably "Silent Night," composed in 1818, by Moore and Gruber. A beautiful Christmas carol and almost 200 years old, "Silent Night" takes on an element of reverence and sacredness, because when we sing it on Christmas Eve we light candles and turn down the overhead lights. We could use the lights of our cell phone, but a real flame is a nice touch.



Another classic carol is "Away in a Manger" that was composed in 1865. I recently read an interesting fact about it:

It first appeared in a small Lutheran book of worship. Shortly thereafter, the name of Martin Luther was put on the bottom of the page, and so many people erroneously thought that Martin Luther composed it. But Luther couldn't have composed it because he had died two hundred years before "Away in a Manger" was written. I guess we could chalk this up to the same thinking that Luther was the first to put lights on Christmas trees. Have you heard that one?

A bit more modern carol, written in 1962, that has become a favorite of many is "Do You See What I See?" It is hard to believe the carol is only fifty-five years old. You know how it goes: "Do you see what I see, said the night wind to the little lamb?" It was composed by Regney and Stein.

The carol is a fun little story about the events of the first Christmas being passed on from one to another in the form of a question – or seeking affirmation. The night wind asks the little lamb if he sees the star, the lamb asks

the shepherd boy if he hears the song, the shepherd boy asks the king if he knows what he knows. It is the mighty king who then declares "Listen to what I say. The child, the child, sleeping in the night, he will bring us goodness and light."

In this season, especially with everything happening down the road in Washington, it is easy to get caught up in seeing, hearing and knowing about all sorts of stuff unrelated to Advent/Christmas. Maybe during this Advent season we take the opportunity to put down our phones, computers, TVs, etc., and explore the ways Christ brings goodness and light into our world and into our lives. Maybe we make plans to be with other members of the Holy Trinity community to celebrate the goodness and light—alive and well in our congregation—

- ♦ Worship on Sunday
- ♦ 12/2- Breakfast with Santa (9:30-11:30 a.m.)
- ♦ 12/10-Cookie Concert (7:30 p.m.)
- ♦ 12/13-Mosaic Party Fundraiser (7-10 p.m.)
- ♦ 12/17-Children's Christmas Pageant (8:45 a.m.)
- ♦ 12/24 Christmas Eve worship (4pm, 7pm and 9pm)

And when you are there, maybe take a moment and let someone see, hear or know how much you appreciate them and the ways God's goodness and light shines in them. What better way to embrace this special time of year!

Looking forward to celebrating God's love for the world with you this season.

Happy Advent and a Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Pastor Mike

- ♦ The Rev. Michael Gutzler, Pastor
pastormike@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ The Rev. Krista Vingelis, Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry
pastorkrista@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ Joan Buscher, Parish Administrator
office@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ Josh Brown, Director of Music
josh@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ Greg Bloy, Accompanist
gregbloy@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ Greg D'Addario, Communications Administrator
greg@holyltrinityfallschurch.org

- ♦ Kateleigh Clark, Director of Social Media and Brand Management—Falls Church
kateleigh@holyltrinityfallschurch.org
- ♦ Laura Rose, Accountant
- ♦ Felicito Arana, Custodian
- ♦ Cynthia Espinoza, Nursery
- ♦ Eugenia Davis, Newsletter Editor
eugeniamdavis1@gmail.com

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS and MEMBERS:

Pamela Kabati, President; Eric Chancellor, Vice President; Terry Bathen, Treasurer; Julie Davis, Secretary
Marcia Ihnen, Mark Kerr, Scott Sherard, Anne Simmons, Mary Minette, Aurelia Khorsand, Patrice Shibuya

TRUSTEES:

Jeffrey Ihnen, John Person, Lynn Tedesco, Jim LeMunyon

MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND MEMBERS:

Dave Franke, Alfie Rulis, Tracy Strunk, Jeffrey Taylor, Jim LeMunyon

MISSIONARY:

Stephen Deal (Latin America and the Caribbean) ELCA Division for Global Mission



Council News

Happy holidays from your church council! Christmas is a busy time at Holy Trinity, with many ways to celebrate and share the joy of the season – by giving to others in need; bolstering your spirit with holiday music, cookies, and fellowship; enjoying the convenience of some Christmas shopping between services—even taking in a delightful play by a local theater group right in our own sanctuary!

When it comes to giving, we hope you'll participate in our **Angel Tree** holiday gift program for FACETS, with gifts due by Wednesday, December 6. The tree is located in the narthex. Thanks to Kristi Poreda for stepping up to coordinate the program this year! You can also help others this holiday season by participating in **Gifts of Hope**, a ministry sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington DC Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Gifts of Hope is a family of volunteers, congregations, donors, the Synod, and 18 beneficiary organizations. In its 25 years, the program has raised and disbursed more than \$3.3 million to its many and varied beneficiary organizations. Funds have helped the homeless, the hungry, the job-seeker, the young, the elderly, immigrants, refugees, seminary and college students, and those seeking to improve their lives. Gifts of Hope also supports the work of companion synods in Namibia, Slovakia, and El Salvador. For more information and to give a Gift of Hope this holiday season, visit <http://www.giftsofhopedc.org/>

And speaking of gifts, our own Holy Trinity vocal and bell choirs will be giving us the gift of holiday music at our annual **Advent Concert** at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 10, followed by a cookie reception hosted by Holy Trinity's Women of the ELCA. The church council is grateful to all who make this lovely holiday event possible, and we look forward to seeing many of you there!

For those gifts you have to shop for, we hope you had a chance to browse the **Fair Trade Winds** offerings in the narthex in early December. If you missed it, this wonderful store in Merrifield is hosting a **fundraising auction for our Mosaic site** on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, that you won't want to miss! It's a fun and easy way to support our second site initiative.

And speaking of fun, there's still time to see Shakespeare's delightful comedy *Twelfth Night* performed by the **Britches and Hose Theatre Company** – a gender-blind, inclusive community theater group — in our own sanctuary, with performances on Sunday, December 3 and December 10 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$15 at the door.) The council decided to rent space to this theater company for one of the same reason we decided to lease space to a child day care facility – it's a service to our community and it exposes new people to Holy Trinity as a potential church home. Work on the day care space is on schedule and coming along nicely. Completing week 11 of 13; next week new floor will be installed.

And speaking of serving our community, you've seen, I hope, the information in the bulletins about this year's proposed distributions for the **Mission Endowment Fund**. What you may not know is that the total of the requests for funding received by the MEF committee far exceeded the funds available to donate, as it sometimes does. As I saw firsthand when I attended the committee's November meeting, the committee had some hard work to do in deciding how best to use the funds (\$10,200) that were available. Thanks to outgoing MEF Chair Tracy Strunk, MEF Treasurer Jim LeMunyon, Dave Frank, Alfie Rulis, and Jeffrey Taylor for their thoughtful and well-considered recommendations on how to distribute these funds.

Merry Christmas, everyone! The council wishes you all a very happy, healthy, Christ-centered holiday season!

Pamela Kabati, 2017-18 Council President

Council: Pamela Kabati, Eric Chancellor, Terry Bathen, Julie Davis, Scott Sherard, Anne Simmons, Marcia Ihnen, Mark Kerr, Aurelia Khorsand, Mary Minette, Patrice Shibuya

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 25—Christmas Day and Monday, January 1—New Year's Day



Youth and Family News

by Pastor Krista, Youth and Family Ministry

SUNDAY NIGHT LIFE (SNL) in Advent

What better way to prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ among us than some time with friends and family around the SNL table? Join us this December for the following faith formation classes and a hearty meal.

Note – this schedule reflects changes to any previously published SNL schedule for December

December 3rd	4pm – First Communion Preparation Class 5pm – Dinner
December 10th	(no gathering at 4pm) 5pm – Confirmation Class 6pm – Pizza Dinner 7pm – Help with Advent Concert
December 17th	NO SNL - <i>Thank you to all of our children, youth and families for bringing the Christmas message to us through your pageant that morning</i>
December 24th	NO SNL – Christmas Eve worship at 4pm, 7pm, and 9pm
December 31st	NO SNL – Happy New Year!

LET EVERY HEART PREPARE HIM ROOM — FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION



Joy to the world! The Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. For Lutherans, Holy Communion is one of the two Sacraments commanded by our Lord. In, with and under the bread and wine, Jesus promises to come and be present to us and for us for the forgiveness of our sin. It is one way He continues to come among us even as we await His coming again in the flesh.

Mid to upper aged elementary children and families are invited to explore the meaning of this Holy Meal together and to prepare for the celebration of First Holy Communion sometime this Christmas season. **The second of two classes will be held on Sunday, December 3rd starting at 4:00 p.m.** Class is interactive, practical and meaningful all folded into one! Email Pastor Mike or Pastor Krista for more information.

THANK YOU FROM THE NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING TEAM

We are excited to be sending seven youth and three adults to Houston, TX next summer for the ELCA's National Youth Gathering. Members of this team are: Thomas Daniels,

Peter Grutzik, Renee Grutzik, Emily Kile, Caroline Merkel,

Sam Merkel, Nick Poreda, Steve Wake, Katharine Kurtz, and Pastor Mike Gutzler. This event is powerful and life changing for most who attend and we couldn't send this team out in mission without your generous support.



A big thank you to all who contributed sweet treats for our Annual Silent Dessert Auction and to those who stalked the bid sheets, driving up the prices for each one! We raised \$750 toward the overall team expenses. And we can't forget to thank Martha Kile for organizing and making sure this event was such a success.

We also thank MOM'S Organic Kitchen for their donations of breads, grains, vegetables, meats and more. Because of your donations against their food items, we raised an additional \$311 toward the NYG expenses. Thank you Pastor Mike for picking up these last minute goodies!

We still have a ways to go in fully funding our trip, but thanks to you we are well on the way! Keep an eye on your newsletters, bulletins, and email blasts for news of additional "fun"draisers. With what we're planning, you're sure to find the "fun" in "funds"!



Serving Our Neighbor



Our Thanksgiving Food Drive donations on their way to the FACETS office

Thank you to everyone who contributed food items and grocery cards to our FACETS Thanksgiving Donation Drive. Many thanks to Laura Daugherty, Maureen Mellett, and Craig and Genie Davis, for loading up their vehicles and delivering the donations to the FACETS office.



A note from Ms. Brenda Dushko, Director of Development: *Many thanks to your congregation for the 3 carloads of food we received for our Thanksgiving families.*



Because of your generosity, we were able to provide a delicious Thanksgiving meal for all of our clients this year. NOTE: Brenda will address FORUM on December 10.

Thanks to you, we received nearly \$1,100

Thankofferings support our total budget. When our offerings are joined with those from thousands of women in thousands of ELCA congregations, they are turned into life-changing ministries that serve the entire church:

- Social justice program training
- Support for families with special needs
- Spiritual growth opportunities for women

Thankoffering Sunday was
November 19



Reconciling In Christ (RIC)

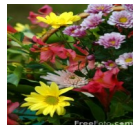
The RIC Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m., on Monday, December 18, in the Youth & Community Room. Join us in our ongoing efforts to make Holy Trinity a more welcoming place for LGBTQ+ individuals.



SUNSHINE SECRETARY

Sandra Lee leeassociates@aol.com

Please contact Sandra if you know of someone who is celebrating a special occasion, having health concerns or mourning the loss of a loved one.



PRAYER CHAIN

Marcia Ihnen mcihnen@aol.com

To start a request or to be added to the Prayer Chain, please contact Marcia.

ADVENT CONCERT

Sunday, December 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Cookie Reception follows

Cookie donations are welcome.

Please bring your donations to the HT kitchen anytime on December 10.

Thank you!

Reception hosted by HTWELCA





Library News *by Mary Bowen, Librarian*

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH LIBRARY Christmas, 2017

Every year we like to follow the same traditions at Christmas:

- ◆ light the Advent candles at church;
- ◆ put up a tree and decorate it;
- ◆ hang stockings the night before Christmas;
- ◆ open presents on Christmas morning

Every family has its own traditions for this time of year. One wonderful tradition that everyone can follow is to read Christmas stories.



Holy Trinity has some of your favorites; read them to yourself and to others. Throughout December, Christmas books for adults will be on the long table in the library. Come check them out!

1. "The Nativity Story." DVD. MEDIA, DVD 791
2. "Can Martha have a Mary Christmas? Untangling Expectations and Truly Experiencing Jesus" by Brenda Poinsett. 248.8
3. "The Mystery of Holy Night" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. 232.92
4. "The Star of Bethlehem" by Jeanne K. Hanson. 232.9
5. "Wise Men Still Seek Him Today" by Elyn Sanna and Viola Ruelke Grommer. 242.33
6. "The Story of the Other Wise Man" by Henry Van Dyke. Fiction.
7. "A Stranger for Christmas" by Carol Lynn Pearson. Fiction
8. "The Hand-Carved Creche and Other Christmas Stories" by James Kilgo. Fiction.
9. "A Midnight Clear: Family Christmas Stories" by Katherine Patterson (Newberry Medal Award winner for her book, "The Bridge to Terabithia"). Fiction.
10. "Skipping Christmas" by John Grisham. Fiction.
11. "Stories of Christmas Carols" by Ernest K. Emurian. 782.42.
12. "The Book of Christmas Folklore." 394.2
13. "Preparing for Jesus: Meditations on the Coming of Christ, Advent, and the Kingdom" by Walter Wangerin. 242.33
14. "Martin Luther's Christmas Book" edited by Roland H. Bainton. 252.615
15. "Best Loved Christmas Carols: The stories behind twenty-five Yuletide Favorites" by Ron Clancy.

And for the younger crowd, these Christmas books are on the black book truck:

1. "The Christmas Maus: Another Small Tale of Sisters House in Salem" by John Hutton. C Fiction
2. "Danger on a Silent Night" by Marianne Hering and Nancy I. Sanders. C Fiction
3. "The Animals at the Manger" by Rudolf Otto Weimer. C 808.42
4. "The Christmas Book" by Gerry Bream. C 232.92
5. "Follow That Star!" by Mary Manz Simon. C 232.92
6. "The Very First Christmas" by Paul L. Maier. C 232.92
7. "Christmas Miracle Pets: Animals Who Saved the Day" by Alan Zullo. C Fiction
8. "The Way Christmas Came" by Mashahiro Kasuya. C 232.92
9. "The Christmas Carol Miracle" by Luise Putcamp. C Fiction
10. "The Littlest Angel" by Charles Tazewell. C Fiction
11. "The Night the Angels Sang" by Allan Ross. C Fiction
12. "Santa, Are You for Real?" by Harold Lawrence Myra. C Fiction
13. "The Little Drummer Boy" by Ezra Jack Keats. C 782.42
14. "The Wise Men from the East" by Reinhard Herrmann. C 232.92
15. "Angels & All Children: A Nativity Story in Words, Music and Art" by Walter Wangerin. C 232.92
16. "The Shepherd's Christmas Story" by Dandi Daley MacKall. C Fiction
17. "Grandfather's Story" by Mervin Marquardt. C Fiction
18. "The Happiest Search" by Yvonne McCall. C Fiction
19. "Clem the Clumsy Camel" by Virginia Mueller. C Fiction
20. "The Little Mouse's Wonderful Journey" by Frances C. Allan. C Fiction
21. "Danger on a Silent Night" by Marianne Hering and Nancy I. Sanders. C Fiction





In the Steps of Luther—Reformation Tour

On 18 September, five people from Holy Trinity and Pastor Mike joined about 30 other Lutherans from northern Virginia (and a few other places) on a 10-day pilgrimage to Germany, visiting several places closely associated with Luther and the start of the Reformation. Among the most impressive and significant of the places visited:

- ♦ Wartburg Castle, where Luther stayed for almost a year under the protection of Frederick the Wise after his excommunication and where he translated the New Testament into German;
- ♦ Eisenach, the home of Luther's mother, where Martin was sent to prepare for his university studies;
- ♦ Wittenberg, where Luther taught at the university and preached, where he nailed his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church, and where he made his home;
- ♦ Eisleben, where Luther was born—and died;
- ♦ Erfurt, where Luther studied, became a monk, and was ordained;
- ♦ Augsburg, where Protestant reformers, minus Luther who was regarded as an outlaw and could not risk being arrested, presented the eponymous confession that was the primary confessional document for the Lutheran movement to the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, and Vatican envoys.



In commemoration of the Reformation's quincentennial, these cities had prepared quite extensive exhibits dealing with some facet of Luther's life and times, bringing rare artifacts from all over the world into a relatively compact area. The breadth of these presentations sometimes bordered on the overwhelming, but could not help but leave anyone on the pilgrimage with a deep sense of the magnitude, spiritual and secular, of the events that took place 500 years ago. In addition, the weather was superb, the sausage and beer wonderful, and the company a delight. Bruce Wells

Milestones

In Memoriam:

- Former HT member, Dorinne Piper, passed away recently. Dorinne was active with HTWELCA. Her husband, The Rev. Ralph, assisted at Holy Trinity during their years as members.
- Paul Neiswander, son of Nancy, brother of Lori Wicks and Linda Stone, passed away unexpectedly last month in Las Vegas. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 9, at Providence Presbyterian Church in Fairfax.

December Birthdays: Jerry Artman, Dave Badger, Gerry Barney, Tina Bertrand, Maisie Cockerham, Derek Daniels, Grace Froemling, Lawson Gutzler, Sam Haynes, Theresa Hoyt, Amy Loar, Helen Myhre, Don Pavlet, Wayne Sukow, Rob Young

December Anniversaries: Ray and Phoebe Meyer, Robert and Lynn Tedesco



Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

3022 Woodlawn Ave.
Falls Church, VA 22042-1826

Contact us:

P: 703-532-6617 F: 703-532-4659

office@holytrinityfallschurch.org

www.holytrinityfallschurch.org



A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation

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2017-2018 AT A GLANCE

September

4—Labor Day holiday
10—Rally Sunday (service
at 10:00 a.m.)
17—Begin Two Services
8:45 and 11:15
18—WELCA Salad Supper
23—Merrifield Fall Festival

October

1—Blessing of the Animals
9—Columbus Day holiday
14—Oktoberfest @ HT
21—Organ Concert
29—Reformation Sunday

November

5—All Saints Day
Daylight Savings ends
12—Knitting Boutique Sale
19—Two services followed by
Congregational meeting
23—Thanksgiving Day
26—Christ the King Sunday

December

2—Breakfast with Santa
3—Fair Trade Shopping
10—Advent Concert/cookies
17—Two Services (Christmas
Pageant at 8:45)
24—Advent 4 Service 10 a.m.
Xmas Eve @ 4, 7, 9 p.m.
25—Christmas Day
31—Lessons/Carols 10 a.m.

January 2018

1—Office closed
7—Return to two services
Resume Sunday School
and SNL
15—MLK holiday

February

3—Jazz Coffeehouse 7 p.m.
4—No SNL (Super Bowl)
13—Pancake Supper
14—Ash Wednesday
19—President's Day holiday
23-24—30-Hour Famine
25-March 3—Hypothermia

March

4—Blanket Sunday
11—Daylight Savings begins
25—Palm Sunday
29—Maundy Thursday
30—Good Friday

April

1—Easter Sunday
2—Office closed
27-29—WELCA Retreat

May

6—HTLC Spring Concert
14—Sunday School, SNL end
20—Youth Sunday, Pentecost
27—Begin 10 a.m. Summer
Worship Schedule
28—Memorial Day Festival
and Parade

June

10—**Spring Congregational
Celebration & Dessert
Auction**
17—Father's Day

July

4—Independence Day
holiday

August

6—Sundae Sunday