

Trinity Tidings

November/December 2018

Contact: Peggy Albert (pegijo47@yahoo.com)



Sermons on the Web

Audio recordings of Pastor Lee's sermons are now available on the website. www.TrinityHempstead.org under the Worship page.

Lenten Services

Mid-week Lenten Services will begin on Wednesday December 5th and end on December 19th. Soup and Sandwich supper will begin at 6:00pm with the service following at 7:00pm

Congregational Meeting

We will have the December Congregational Meeting on Sunday December 9th, following the Worship Service. After the meeting we will also have the Quarterly Lunch and Christmas Program. Hope to see you there!

Maintenance List App

We have setup a new phone app to track all to-do items for Maintenance. If you would like to get a copy to help in taking on some of these tasks, get with Tommy Albert or Tracy Hoffart and we can help set you up.

Flags a'Flying

In preparation for The Gathering to celebrate and honor all First Responders and Veterans on November 11th, we have setup receptacles and flags to ring the church for Patriotic days or events.



Woman of Trinity

The Women of Trinity will be hosting the Thankoffering Service on November 18th. The women serve as the Stewards of Worship and try to have a guest speaker.

They also collect canned goods that day.

The Women of Trinity will have their Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 18th, at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Dress in your Sunday best, bring a dish for potluck and a gift for the gift exchange. If you have a Secret Pal, bring a gift for her also.

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS...

PSALM 100 (Thinking & Thanking)

It is that time of year again. The holidays are fast approaching and our lifestyles will shift gears as we attempt to make everything just right for family and friends. First up is Thanksgiving and I would like to speak to that in this article. We all can come up with things to be thankful for and the list can be very long if we allow it. Here is an idea, and you might just find a different way to be thankful. Cut back your list to the top three (not counting turkey & football) and see what you come up with. I tried this and came up with the following:

*#3 - my 71 years on God's wonderful creation
#2 - my family (with all the good and bad)
#1 - Trinity.*

Through the trials and tribulations over the last 16 years God has shown me that there is a job for Trinity in this community. Every time it seemed that the time had come to throw up our hands and say "enough", He would come through with an answer. Through our unbending faith he has kept our doors open for all to see. I could go on but that would be preaching.

All in all I want each and every one of you to know how thankful I am that God's plan brought us all together. Your faith is a shining example of what can be accomplished as long as we let God lead the way.

So have a wonderful Thanksgiving and don't eat too much.

Memorials

In memory of Jack Lovett: Patricia Dawson, Charles & Rita Swonke, Betty Stahman, Maurice & Jeanell Hart, Allen & Dorothy Schmidt, Alma Nagy, Neal & Lou Wawarofsky.

Fall Festival

On Sunday October 28th, Trinity held its annual Festival and Trunk or Treat. We had 13 participants in the costume contest with about 20 trick or treaters and many decorated pumpkins. I would like to send a huge shoutout to all those that helped and participated!!!

Amber Helton



Game Day

There were about 30 people in attendance at the Game Day in October. Due to the flurry of activities during the Holiday season, there will be no game day in November or December.



What Does a Church Look Like?

Have you ever asked yourself the question, “What does a church look like?” It might seem like a silly question at first, but how we answer reveals a lot about our view of the church. For some the church looks like a building with a steeple or bell tower that is dedicated to the worship of God. For others the church looks like fully developed community organization with programs that meet specific needs. Still for others the church looks like a modern theater with a coffee shop, an awesome worship band, an excellent communicator on stage and great programs for their kids. What all these responses have in common is that they primarily are concerned with the form of a church.

But what if church wasn't defined by its form but rather its function? This is the fourth article in a five-part series on increasing effectiveness in developing disciples by making small shifts in our behavior, based on Daniel Im's book *No Silver Bullets: Five Small Shifts That Will Transform Your Ministry*.

The fourth shift Im highlights in his book is to move from form to function. Im reminds us to hold the forms of church loosely while clinging to the functions of church. Our pre-conceived ideas of what a church should look like (form) often surpass the more important question of what a church should do: the function of the church. The form (what church looks like) should always follow its function (what church does).

The author references the late missiologist Lesslie Newbigin who famously suggested that the church should be a sign, a foretaste, and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. A sign doesn't point to itself. Therefore, a healthy and effective church shouldn't be about attracting people to itself, but to Jesus and His Kingdom. Similarly, the church isn't the feast, but the foretaste. Healthy churches should help prepare people for the feast that is to come. And finally, Newbigin suggests the church should function as an instrument of the Kingdom of God here on earth as it is in heaven. Healthy churches should understand their function of being Christ's hands and feet and an instrument of God's blessing in the world.

So, what does this church look like? What should its form be? The truth is that different churches can take on various different forms so long as the form of church serves the function of being a sign, a foretaste, and an instrument of the Kingdom of God. The question we need to ask is how do we need to reform our congregation in order to execute the functions of a healthy, Christ-centered, mission-minded church?

Pastor Bryce Formwalt is the Director of Mission Growth for the LCMC Texas District. Residing in Georgetown, Pastor Bryce is available to coach congregations on mission. Feel free to contact him with any questions or comments: 512-942-7776 or bryce@lcmctexas.org. Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/lcmctexas

Member Information Update

We are in the process of updating all the Membership Rolls in anticipation of moving to a new MAG (Membership, Giving & Attendance) software on January 1, 2019. If you have not recently filled out a form and submitted it, could you please send the below information to Office@TrinityHempstead.org, or submit a copy to the church.

Member Rolls Update (Answers for each family member)			
Physical Address (Only once for Family)			
Mailing Address (If Different)			
Last Name			
Middle Name			
First Name			
Maiden/Birth Name			
Gender (M/F)			
Sequence in Household (Head of Household, Spouse, Child, Other)			
Birth Date			
Married Date			
Company, School or Other			
Home Phone			
Work Phone			
Mobile Phone			
Personal Email			
Work Email			
Church Member (Y/N)			
Received by (Transfer, Baptism, Affirmation)			
Baptized (Y/N)			
First Communion (Y/N)			
Confirmed (Y/N)			

Trinity Lutheran Church
COUNCIL MEETING
October 21, 2018

NOTE: This is just the initial draft, these are not official until approved at next meeting

Meeting was brought order By Charles Kulhanek, President. Members in attendance, Tracy Hoffart, Terry Fritz, Glynne Luetge, Denise Lovett and Pastor Lee Hartman. Guests Teresa Hoffart, Tommy Albert, Alma Nagy, Beth Ewing and Hilda Dodd.

Meeting opened with Prayer led by Lee Hartman.

Before reading of the Minutes, Beth Ewing presented proposal for the cost of Upgrading the Narthex. The proposal will be put before the Congregation at the Congregational meeting Second Sunday, December 9, 2018. It will be voted on at that time.

Reading of the Minutes

Meeting minutes from Sept. 16, 2018 were distributed; motion to accept as written was made by Tracy Hoffart and seconded by Glynne Luetge. All approved, motion carried.

Treasures Report:

Denise Lovett presented the Treasures report. Motion to accept: Terry Fritz 2nd Glynne Luetge

Pastors Report:

- Soup and Sandwich signup sheet for Wednesday Advent services will be posted in the Narthex, starting first Sunday of November.
- The Sign-up sheets for Church duties and Acolytes will be in the Narthex. You need to fill one out if you want any changes.
- Lee will be attending a Retreat for the LCMC in Thrall, Texas Thursday November 15th. 9 A.M. to 2 P.M.
- Lee visited with Laun Pierce and asked about Jack and Johnnie Pierce.

Old Business:

- Thanks to the help from Pastor Lee we have now qualified as a 501(c)(3) and will be able to take advantage of free technical software. It will save us in the neighborhood of \$600 - \$1,000 per year not to mention make it easier to get members to help.
- We have also been in contact with the LCMC and am working with several of their folks putting together shared Best Practice meetings around many of the challenges facing all the congregations, exciting stuff.
- The proposal was made for the new MAG (Membership, Attendance and Giving) software. It will make it easier to track these areas and reconcile into the financial system. Motion made by Terry to move to the new software on Jan 1, 2019, Second Tracy and was approved.
- Blue Mass for November 11th, providing a meal for our vets, police and fire depts., will be discussed in church after services and is moving forward.

New Business:

- December 9th is annual Brunch and is also the Congregational meeting.
- Tracy is setting up a perpetual calendar of events and meetings for the church.
- A budget committee must be assigned, this will be posted in the October 28th bulletin, minimum 3 people and treasurer. The report will be approved by congregation, presented after services once it is submitted by the committee.
- Sermons are now posted to our website.

Motion to adjourn Denise Lovett Seconded Terry Fritz
Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted
Terry Fritz

Property Update

Fellow Members of Trinity:

- *The main storage closet has been cleaned out and a wreath storage rack installed.*
- *The privacy partition in the men's restroom has been painted. More painting and tile work on the floor upcoming.*
- *Handicap rails have been installed in the women's restroom.*
- *Currently doing light replacement and repair.*

It is a continual process to try to get things repaired and replaced to be proactive and prevent further disrepair. For example, the outside storage shed has been pressure washed but the rotten boards need to be replaced and the entire building painted in the very near future to stop the decay.

We are currently in the process of receiving bids for upgrading the Narthex and the entrance to the church, which will include new front doors, tile at the front entrance, and new paint, tile and lighting in the Narthex itself.

As always, if you see something that needs to be done, please contact me by phone (preferred), by email, or by putting on the whiteboard in the back of the church. It is faster if you contact me directly rather than telling someone else who has to pass it on to me. If at any time, you see additional repair or maintenance issues, please let me know. You can contact me at 832/259-2097 or email at Property@TrinityHempstead.org or teapeg@gmail.com.

Thanks!

Tommy Albert,

Trinity Property Maintenance Chairman

LCMC Best Practices

We are working with the LCMC Texas District to put together some Best Practice seminars to all the congregations. The idea is to see how different people do different things and if it's something your church is struggling with, perhaps there's a better way that we could learn from each other. The initial areas we are looking at are as follows:

1. **Administration** of membership, giving, e-giving, finances, reporting, etc.;
2. **Local technology** for worship (e.g. audio/visual, podcasts), sound & lighting, IT infrastructure (e.g. bandwidth, signal strength, security, quality), etc.;
3. **External technology** for broadcast communications & advertising (web, email, social media, radio, television & film), online meetings, etc.;
4. **Worship & music styles** from traditional-liturgic to contemporary-praise, Gospel or Spanish; from vespers to cantatas and anywhere in between;
5. **Effective mass delivery** for event advertisement and mass-communications (on-site, online, e-mail, print or signage), etc.;
6. **The Call process** – How-to and how-not-to...
7. And countless more...

If you think are missing, or have any thoughts, send an email to TracyHoffart@Gmail.com so it can be included in the conversation

Trinity Virtual Office

We are in the process of creating a Virtual Office to move all of our forms, software and documents to the Internet Cloud. This will allow anyone who wants to volunteer helping to update information can get to it from their home internet and you won't have to do it from the Church Office. We will follow-up with more information as we work through the details.

November & December Calendars

<< 2017 < OCT NOVEMBER 2018 DEC > 2019 >> Month ▾						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Trinity Woman's Meeting 6:00 pm	2	3
4 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Youth Sunday School 10:30 am	5	6	7	8 Trinity Game Day 12:00 pm	9	10
11 Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am The Gathering 1:00 pm	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Council Meeting 10:30 am	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am	26	27	28	29	30	

<< 2017 < NOV DECEMBER 2018 JAN > 2019 >> Month ▾						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Youth Sunday School 10:30 am	3	4	5 Mid-week Advent Services 6:00 pm	6 Trinity Woman's Meeting 6:00 pm	7	8
9 Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am Quarterly Lunch and Christmas Program 12:00 pm Congregational Meeting 10:30 pm	10	11	12 Mid-week Advent Services 6:00 pm	13 Trinity Game Day 12:00 pm	14	15
16 Worship with Holy Communion 9:15 am Council Meeting 10:30 am	17	18	19 Mid-week Advent Services 6:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 5th Sunday Worship Service 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 10:30 am	31					