



Tri-angles

Trinity Lutheran Church

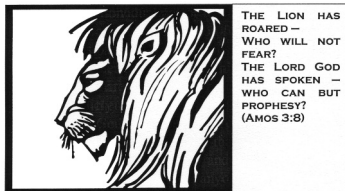
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December 2011

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THE LION HAS
ROARED -
WHO WILL NOT
FEAR?
THE LORD GOD
HAS SPOKEN -
WHO CAN BUT
PROPHECY?
(AMOS 3:8)

The Lion's Roar

Isa 40:3

"A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.'"

We prepare for many things both good and bad. We hope for the best but prepare for the worst. We prepare meals for our families. We prepare ourselves for difficult news or challenging situations. We prepare for high school, college, a career, a family, retirement and death. Preparation is a central part of human existence.

During the season of Advent, we prepare a way in the wilderness of our hearts. Now the pageant of our salvation begins as Jesus begins his journey to the cross. Now is an excellent time for us to examine our hearts and clean out the clutter. Get rid of old grudges that are neither serving you, God, nor anyone else. Get rid of false idols that are hampering your journey. Clean out your secret sin drawer and throw out that which just gets in the way of your walk with God.

Advent is a dress rehearsal for the second coming. As we prepare during Advent to journey with Christ through his birth, life, death and resurrection, so we prepare ourselves for his return. I have a drawer in the kitchen that I clean out about three times a year. The most ridiculous stuff ends up in that drawer and after 3 or 4 months, it is overflowing and hard to close, so we have to clean it out and the whole process starts again.

Me: "What is this?"

Family: "We have no idea. We've never seen that before."

Me: "Well I didn't put it in the drawer."

Family: "Neither did we."

Me: "So it just crawled up the cabinet, opened the drawer and climbed in?"

Family: blank stares

So I clean out the drawer but I know that soon enough it will fill up and need cleaning out again. Our hearts are similar. They fill up with random sin and useless idols. Prepare the way for the Lord. Use Advent to do a little heart cleaning.

In His Service, *Pastor Rogers*

Board for Evangelism Newsletter: December 2011

Christmas time is upon us again! Is there anyone who sees it as a restful time? With the holiday program at our child's school, the company Christmas party, the decorating and cooking, and of course, the shopping for the perfect gift, our pace is hectic. By the time Christmas Day arrives we are breathless. That's ironic, since Christmas is the way to rest, perfect rest, as God wanted it.

A long time ago God sent a special messenger to remind the people of Israel that Christmas is the way to perfect rest. The messenger's name was John the Baptist. He lived in the Judean desert, dined on locusts and wild honey, and spent his time preaching about Christmas rest. The Bible describes him, "A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it."

Considering that we run ourselves breathless, going this way and that, and making little headway in this wilderness, John's preaching is timely. He preached about the way that brings rest, which he called "a highway for our God." He said that this way would be revealed for all mankind to see, and it was this: God's eternal Son was born into the world from the Virgin Mary as the sinless man, Jesus Christ. He also preached that to catch one's breath on the "Jesus highway" one needed to prepare.

We will hear during Christmas and throughout the year that Jesus is the highway to heaven, and that this is not a hectic expressway, but a way of perfect rest. Before you begin each new week's rat race, please pull off at God's rest stop, the church. The Lord looks forward to seeing you each and every Sunday in church as well as during the many special services during Christmas. And won't you please bring your family and a friend, too.

A blessed Christmas to one and all!

Pastor

Rev. Robert A. Rogers

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko

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Mary Stahlke
Kantor

Judy Bruschuk
Youth Director

Debbie Johnson
Parish Nurse

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Mike Ticaric
Dir. of Youth Ministry

Jill Kelly
TCNS Chair

Heather Grant
*Dir. of Trinity Christian
Preschool*

Jenn Ellsworth
Public Relations Dir.

Kathy Golz
Housekeeping

Marilyn Felz
Altar Guild President

Darla Batjes
Dorcas Guild President

Mary Rinda
LWML President

Erik Grant
Director of TMC

LET'S GET GOING ON FORGIVENESS-FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

FORGIVENESS. IT'S USED OVER 190 TIMES IN THE BIBLE. THAT MAKES IT A PRETTY IMPORTANT CONCEPT. WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD "FORGIVE," YOU MIGHT THINK IT'S FOR THE WEAK. BUT YOU KNOW THE REAL DEAL. TO FORGIVE IS HARD! AT THE SAME TIME, IT PLEASURES GOD AND MIRRORS HIS LOVE FOR HUMANITY.

GOD INVITES US TO PARTAKE OF FORGIVENESS. IN THE BOOK OF PSALMS, THE LORD TELLS US TO SCARF DOWN HIS BLESSINGS LIKE EATING AN INCREDIBLE DESSERT! "TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD; BLESSED IS THE ONE WHO TAKES REFUGE IN HIM" (PSALM 34:8). I LIKE CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE. THIS DESSERT IS AMAZING! WHO CAN EVER FORGET THAT WONDERFULLY RICH, FROTHY CHOCOLATE ONCE IT'S TASTED? AND THE SMELL—THE ROBUST AROMA FROM A CHEESECAKE BLENDED WITH CHOCOLATE IS A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN. BUT WHAT IF I NEVER HAD ANY CHEESECAKE? HOW CAN I DESCRIBE THE EXPERIENCE? WHAT WOULD I KNOW ABOUT THE SMOOTH, RICH TASTE AND SMELL AS IT MOVES ACROSS MY SENSES OF TOUCH, SMELL AND TASTE? GOD KNOWS HIS PEOPLE WELL! HE INVITES US TO "HEAR, TASTE, SEE AND TOUCH" THE REDEMPTIVE POWER OF FORGIVENESS THROUGH WATER, BREAD AND WINE. WATER AND GOD'S WORD OF PROMISE IN BAPTISM MAKE US HIS CHILD WITH ALL THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES THAT INCLUDES. BREAD AND WINE ARE COMBINED WITH GOD'S WORD FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF ACTS NOT PLEASING TO GOD, TEMPTATIONS AND BAD THOUGHTS. WHEN THE WORDS "YOU ARE FORGIVEN" STRIKE YOUR EARS AND ARE FUELED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOUR SOUL IS SET FREE. WE ARE A HEAR-TASTE-SEE-AND-TOUCH PEOPLE. IT IS WONDERFUL TO BE PARDONED BY A LOVING GOD IN CHRIST. I CAN DESCRIBE FORGIVENESS BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN.

FORGIVENESS IS BETTER THAN A FANTASTIC DESSERT! CHEESECAKE IS GREAT, BUT AFTER IT'S GONE, THAT'S IT. IN FORGIVENESS, WE HAVE AN UNLIMITED SOURCE OF JOY. GOD'S FORGIVENESS RESOURCE RUNS DEEP. IN JESUS THERE IS THE AWESOME ABILITY TO FORGIVE OTHERS THOUSANDS OF TIMES OVER JUST AS GOD FORGIVES US. WE ARE BETTER FOR IT TOO. FORGIVENESS LEADS TO LESS STRESS, A POWERFUL INNER PEACE, GREATER ACCEPTANCE AND A FULLER JOY.

MANY SIMPLY GIVE UP ON THE IDEA OF FORGIVENESS. IT APPEARS TO HAVE LITTLE RELEVANCE IN THEIR LIVES. THEY JUST DON'T FEEL IT, SO THEY IGNORE IT. BUT WHO CAN BLAME THEM? MOVIES, TV AND GAMING SHOW US HOW REVENGE—NOT FORGIVENESS—IS THE WAY LIFE IS. THERE ARE FEW PLOTS TODAY WHERE THE HERO OR HEROINE DOESN'T UTTERLY TRASH THE OFFENDING BAD GUY. WITH RECKLESS ABANDON, EVIL IS OBLITERATED IN A HAIL OF GUNFIRE, EXPLOSIONS OR PHYSICAL TORTURE. WE LIVE IN A CULTURE OF REVENGE. CHECK OUT PRETTY MUCH ANY RECENT MOVIE. DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN CHARACTERS WERE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR ACTIONS AND THE COLOR OF THEIR HAT? THE BAD GUY WORE THE BLACK HAT. THE GOOD GUY WORE THE WHITE ONE. TODAY, HOWEVER, WE THINK WE ARE SO SOPHISTICATED. BOTH HERO AND VILLAIN ARE KILLERS. BOTH OPERATE BEYOND THE LAW. BUT HERE'S THE PROBLEM: BOTH ARE SELF-DETERMINED AND SELF-MOTIVATED AS TO WHO DIES AND HOW GRAPHICALLY HE BITES THE DUST. THE BAD GUY KILLS FOR FUN AND PROFIT. THE GOOD GUY KILLS FOR ENJOYMENT AND THE FLAIR OF KILLING. THE LINES ARE BLURRED: WHO'S THE HERO?

IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU PLAYED ON YOUR COMPUTER OR GAMING CONSOLE? MANY ADVENTURES IN GAMING ARE DESIGNED TO FUEL YOUR ANGER. THE MANUFACTURERS KNOW THAT WHEN YOUR BLOOD IS UP YOU RELEASE YOUR FETTERED HOSTILITY. WHEN YOU CRUSH THE ENEMY, YOU FEEL SATISFIED. WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON IS THAT A CHEMICAL IS RELEASED IN YOUR BRAIN AND A MILD STATE OF EUPHORIA RESULTS. GAMING IS A BILLION-DOLLAR INDUSTRY BECAUSE IT TAPS INTO THIS PHYSICAL PHENOMENON. WHETHER INTENDED OR NOT, THE MESSAGE IS THAT IT'S WAY COOL TO KILL WITH RECKLESS ABANDON AND FEEL REVENGE AS IT SURGES THROUGH YOUR VEINS.

BUT DEEP DOWN INSIDE YOU KNOW THAT THERE IS A MORE EXCELLENT WAY. HERE'S THE "WHATEVER" OF FORGIVENESS: IT'S THE POWER OF GOD'S COMPASSIONATE LOVE IN JESUS THAT TRUMPS ALL THAT'S THROWN AT YOU IN LIFE. SO AWESOME IS FORGIVENESS THAT IT CALMS THE SOUL AND, AT THE SAME TIME, BUILDS AND ESTABLISHES RELATIONSHIPS. FORGIVENESS APPLIES IN THE HOME, THE WORKPLACE AND IN ONE'S OWN HEART. LET'S GET BUSY WITH IT. FORGIVENESS HELPS US GET THROUGH THE RAWNESS OF LIFE AND PERSEVERE.



God Bless our
Differences

Trinity Christian Nursery School News

~**About TCNS:** TCNS is an early childhood program. Our classes include twos, threes, and fours. The children at TCNS learn about God's love. They have weekly chapel, which provides them opportunities to sing, pray, acolyte, interact with Pastor, Judy and Mary, and learn the meanings of the stain glass windows. In class, the children learn skills to give them a head start in preparing them for Kindergarten and life. We provide the children with hands on learning activities to teach them religion, math, reading, and writing.

~**New School:** We are in our new classrooms and loving it! TCNS and the families would like to say thank you!!!! The space is beautiful and wonderful. The kids have adjusted well to the new space. There are so many people that made this transition possible.



~**We all sing!** This year we will be dressing up as angels and singing and celebrating the birth of Jesus with the Sunday School on December 11th at 4:00. Come and see the story of baby Jesus come alive!

~**See's Candy:** Our annual See's Candy Fundraiser is here! Check your church mailbox for more information. This candy makes great Christmas Gifts for all! *I hear Pastor loves candy!* We will be setting up a table to collect your orders. Please make all checks payable to Trinity Christian Nursery School.

~**Donations:** TCNS always welcomes donations. We are looking for gently used kid's books and old Halloween costumes.

~**Service Opportunities:** Do you have a talent or an interesting job. We are always looking for people to come in and share their talents with the kids. Please contact Heather Grant at 630-833-1080 or tcns10@yahoo.com

God's Blessing to all!
Heather Grant
TCNS Director

Memorials

In Memory of Yvonne Clark
given by: Marion Alessi
Jennie Ludwig
Donna Suszek

In Memory of Dee Jones
given by: Tom Jones

In Memory of Karl Kowall
given by: Mr.& Mrs. Michael Scherer

In Memory of Joseph Signa
given by: Joan Signa

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO...

Not So Silent Night Talent, for moving making this year's evening a great success!

The Deadline is ...

The 16th of December for the January Tri-angles Newsletter. Please send any information or articles to Jenn Ellsworth at 134 E. Jackson in Villa Park, 60181, drop in the Church mail box marked Newsletter or e-mail me at jennart64@comcast.net.

Dorcas Guild - Come One Come All...

JOIN US ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6TH @ 6:30PM
FOR THE ANNUAL DORCAS GUILD CHRISTMAS PARTY!
BRING AN APPETIZER TO SHARE, ALONG WITH A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT
Hostesses for the evening are: Gloria Marchewka, Carol Edwards, and Melody McCallister
Devotions will be read by Deb Banks
BRING A FRIEND, THE MORE THE MERRIER!!!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

BIRTHDAYS: 1-Dee Ann Campbell, Todd Campbell 2-Carol Edwards, Frank Ilken, Carol Towne 3-Evelyn Gunderson, Beverly Pittelko 4-Betty Edwards, Sara LoCoco 5-Josh Fulton, Donna Heuser 6-Aidan Kuehl 7-Kirk Goltz, Scot Jaras, Holley Molenda, Sharon Montag 8-Aaron Lotter, Jim Smelter 9-Andrew Anderson, Christopher Dunk, Ellasyn Jacklin 10-Dana Campagna, Warren Sheridan, Matthew Wolski 11-David Bruhn, Mary Doerring 12-Nancy Busse, Richard Lussow, Kate Nack, Tate Scofield, Joan Signa, Kyle Stolzman 13-John Benzin, Gary Knudsen 14-Steven Buehre, Vicki Johnson, David McGrath, Gerri Rothenburger 15-Jennifer McKeown, Ashley Smelter 16-Heather Grant 17-Dawn Carroll, Susan Jones, John Serna 18-Michael Bruschuk, Dave Heuser, Sara Bruschuk 19-Diane Bruschuk, Jacob Giambelluca, John Kelly 21-Robert Rabe, Matt Weiner 22-Eric Wilder 23-Zachary Gunderson 25-Christine Bennin, Donna Stubbs, Christina White 26-Carol Drews, Elizabeth Scherer, Griffin Scofield 29-Sean Gaertner, Ramona Marshall 30-Warren Cook, Patricia Gray, Michael Warpool 31-Lisa Ritt

ANNIVERSARIES: 1-Stephanie & Chris Gilliland 2-Deb & John Serna 12-Andrew & Samantha Thompson 16-Benjamin & Elisa Gehrt 18-Kate & Frank Ilken 19-Courtney & Dan Carbon 29-Wilfried & Edith Schneider

October 2011 Financial Comparison

Income	2011	2010	Diff.
Basket	5,651	4,635	+1,016
Unified Envelope	226,223	233,349	-7,126
Special Envelopes	12,892	14,073	-1,181
Debt Retirement	37,268	35,534	+1,734
Budget Income	282,034	287,591	-5,557
Non-Budget Income	3,787	4,202	-415
Income	285,821	291,793	-5,972
<u>Expenses</u>			
Budgeted Expenses	303,430	305,349	-1,919
Non-budgeted Expenses	889	1,028	-139
Total Expenses	304,319	306,377	-2,058
General Operating Fund	727	-14,494	-15,221

Our income is down \$5,972 from last year. Our expenses are down \$2,058 from last year.

General Operating Fund is in the black \$727, much improved from last year. We have spent \$430 more each week than we took in. Our starting 2011 General Fund has covered this matter

Should you have any questions on this financial comparison, please contact me, Warren Sheridan, Treasurer.

Adopt-a-Student Financial Report – 2011

Income	4,296
Pending Payment	-357
Sent to St. Louis	-3,939
Fund Balance	\$0.00

New Computer/Phone System Fund (\$29,000 approved by 11/07 Voter's Meeting) (\$2,500 approved by 11/08 Voter's Meeting)

Expenses-Computer	
Dell Marketing L. P.	9,639.04
CDW	9,689.67
Chris Saunders - Software	525.95
M.R. Keith & Associates	7,372.57
Testa Audio Video	405.00
Expenses-Phone	
Phone	4,964.00
Total Expenses	3,250.00
Income	
Donation by Members	1,000.00
Net Amount Spent	31,500.00
Beginning Balance	
	\$31,500.00
Total Expenses	31,500.00
Fund Balance (2/28/09)	\$0.00

Advent and Christmas Events 2011

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Website</u>	<u>Telephone No</u>
Nov 30 Wed	7 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Hanging of the Greens	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 2 Fri	7 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Not-So-Silent Night	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 3 Sat	7 pm	Concordia University Chicago a cappella	Lessons and Carols "Holidays a cappella"	River Forest Evanston	cuchicago.edu chicagoacappella.org	708-771-8300 773-281-7820
Dec 4 Sun	2:30 pm	St. Olaf College	"Rejoice, Give Thanks"	Addison theater live	stolaf.edu/simulcast	507-786-3811
Dec 4 Sun	3 pm	Elmhurst Choral Union	"Joy to the World"	Elmhurst	elmhurstchoralunion.org	630-758-1100
Dec 4 Sun	4 pm	Chicago a cappella	"Holidays a cappella"	Oak Park	chicagoacappella.org	773-281-7820
Dec 4 Sun	4 pm/7pm	Concordia University	Lessons and Carols	River Forest	cuchicago.edu	708-771-8300
Dec 6 Tues	7:30 pm	4th Presbyterian/CSO	"A Chanticleer Christmas"	Millennium Mile	fourthchurch.org	312-787-4570
Dec 7 Wed	7 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Midweek Service	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 7 Wed	7:30 pm	4th Presbyterian/CSO	"A Chanticleer Christmas"	Millennium Mile	fourthchurch.org	312-787-4570
Dec 9 Fri	7 pm	Chicago a cappella	"Holidays a cappella"	Millennium Mile	chicagoacappella.org	773-281-7820
Dec 11 Sun	4 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Children's Christmas	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 11 Sun	4 pm	Chicago a cappella	"Holidays a cappella"	Naperville	chicagoacappella.org	773-281-7820
Dec 14 Wed	7 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Midweek Service	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 15 Thurs	7 pm	Music of the Baroque	Holiday Concert 2011	River Forest	baroque.org	312-551-1414
Dec 16 Fri	7 pm	Music of the Baroque	Holiday Concert 2011	Chicago	baroque.org	312-551-1414
Dec 17 Sat	3 pm/8 pm	Music of the Baroque	Holiday Concert 2011	Northbrook	baroque.org	312-551-1414
Dec 18 Sun	3 pm	Music of the Baroque	Holiday Concert 2011	Northbrook	baroque.org	312-551-1414
Dec 19 Mon	7 pm	International Music Foundation	Do-It-Yourself Messiah	Millennium Park	imfchicago.org	312-670-6888
Dec 20 Tues	7 pm	International Music Foundation	Do-It-Yourself Messiah	Millennium Park	imfchicago.org	312-670-6888
Dec 20 Tues	7 pm	St. Olaf College	"Rejoice, Give Thanks"	TV-PBS	stolaf.edu	507-786-3811
Dec 24 Sat	5:30/11 pm	Trinity Lutheran	Christmas Eve	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440
Dec 25 Sun	8 am/10:30	Trinity Lutheran	Christmas Day	Villa Park	trinitylutheranvp.com	630-834-3440

December 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:30 – Boxing, TOPS 7:00 – Council, Bells 8:00 - Choir	2 7:00- Not So Silent Night	3 4:30 – Worship
4 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Christian Ed	5 1:00 – Al-Anon 6:00 – Boxing 6:15 - ESL	6 3:00 – 9:00 TMC Music Lessons 6:00 – Boxing 6:30- Dorcas Party 8:00 – AA, Darts	7 10:00 – Bible Class 3-9:00 TCM Music 4:00 - Confirmation 6:15- ESL 6:00 - Dinner 7:00 - Worship	8 6:30 – Boxing, TOPS 7:00 – Bells 8:00 - Choir	9	10 4:30 – Worship 9:00 – LWML meeting
11 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Christian Ed 4:00 pm – Children’s Christmas Program	12 1:00 – Al-Anon 6:00 – Boxing 6:15 – ESL	13 3:00 – 9:00 TMC Music Lessons 6:00 – Boxing 8:00 – AA, Darts	14 10:00 – Bible Class 3-9:00 TCM Music 4:00 - Confirmation 6:15- ESL 6:00 - Dinner 7:00 - Worship	15 6:30 – Boxing, TOPS 7:00 – Bells 8:00 - Choir	16 7:00 – High School Christmas Party 7:00 – Boy Scouts	17 4:30 – Worship
18 8 & 10:30 Worship 9:15 Christian Ed	19 1:00 – Al-Anon 6:00 – Boxing 6:15 – ESL	20 3:00 – 9:00 TMC Music Lessons 6:00 – Boxing 7:00-Lay Ministry Mtg 8:00 – AA, Darts	21 10:00 – Bible Class 3-9:00 TCM Music 6:15- ESL 6:00 - Dinner 7:00 - Worship	22 6:30 – Boxing, TOPS 7:00 – Bells 8:00 - Choir	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 pm – Worship 11:00 pm – Worship
25 Christmas Day 8 & 10:30 Worship	26 1:00 – Al-Anon 6:00 – Boxing 6:15 – ESL	27 6:00 – Boxing 8:00 – AA	28 6:15- ESL	29 6:30 – Boxing, TOPS 7:00 – Bells 8:00 - Choir	30	31 4:30 – Worship