Come to Bethlehem and See: Children’s Christmas Worship
By Rhonda Synovec

Sunday, December 17
11am Services
Both Campuses

We have a great, great story to tell
So gather ’round and listen well.
It is the story of God’s grace
That started in a tiny place.
Your Savior, Christ the Lord, has come
To show God’s love for everyone.
This story is for you and me
So come to Bethlehem and see!

You are invited to join us as the children lead worship and guide us on the journey to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Experience the great Christmas story of God’s grace and love for us – a love so deep he sent Jesus to be our Savior, born as a baby that special night in Bethlehem.

Come and See! Come and See! Come to Bethlehem and See!

Songs of the Christmas Story
By Rhonda Synovec

We all know and sing traditional Christmas hymns that tell the true story of Jesus’ birth. On Sunday mornings the children have been discovering the rich stories of these carols through interactive lessons which reveal God’s plan for our lives: the birth of a Savior – Jesus! We have learned the stories of the following hymns in our time together.

Joy to the World!
Bible Point: God has a plan.
Scriptures: Isaiah Talks About a Savior King (Isaiah 9:2-7)

Silent Night
Bible Point: God’s plan is surprising.
Scriptures: Jesus Is Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)

Angels We Have Heard on High
Bible Point: God’s plan is for everyone.
Scriptures: The Angels Visit the Shepherds (Luke 2:8-14)

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Bible Point: God’s plan is something to celebrate.
Scriptures: The Shepherds Tell About Jesus’ Birth (Luke 2:14-20; John 1:12, 14)
Advent Devotionals
By Pastor Ben Vineyard

When I found your words,
I devoured them;
They became my joy and
the happiness of my heart.

— Jeremiah 15:16

Will you read with me? Will you listen for the voice of God, the voice of Life in this season of Advent? I want to hear the Word of God. I want my cavernous heart to be filled with the Presence of Christ and the Spirit of God. I want the same for you, for all of us, all ages and stages among us.

Follow me in these readings, these questions, these prompts toward prayer. Let’s listen every day and know that we are not alone in this pursuit of God but know that God pursues us and that we, together, are listening with one common attention.

In addition to the above advent devotional, another resource is available for young families at Trinity and Trinity’s preschool families.

Christmas Worship Schedule
By Ben A. Spalding

Christmas Eve Worship with Children, Youth, and Families
4pm / Mission Campus
4pm and 6pm / Shawnee Campus

Jesus, the Light of the World arrived on that wonderful Christmas night. The light of a special star appeared over his birthplace in Bethlehem. The radiance of God’s glory surrounded the shepherds as the angel of the Lord announced his birth. Jesus came to save us from sin and darkness, and he continues to shine his light upon this world until he returns as promised. These special worship services offer family friendly elements woven within our worship.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols
6pm / Mission Campus

This annual celebration on Christmas Eve is designed for people who are looking for a traditional Lessons and Carols service. Music is provided by the Trinity Choir and Festival Brass with numerous Christmas carols and hymns sung by the congregation. No sermon will be given.

Christmas Eve by Candlelight with Communion
9:30pm / Mission Campus

This traditional late evening service on Christmas Eve begins with a 20-minute prelude of choral music and congregational carols led by the Trinity Chamber Artists. A sermon, candles, and Holy Communion are included.
Advent Worship
By Ben A. Spalding

Advent 1
Simeon’s Song: The Nunc Dimittis
Luke 2:29-32

Advent 2
Zechariah’s Song: The Benedictus
Luke 1:57 - 80

Advent 3
Mary’s Song: The Magnificat
Luke 1:39 - 56

There will be no worship on Saturday, December 23, or Sunday morning, December 24.

Advent Lessons and Carols
By Ben A. Spalding

Saturday, December 9
5:30pm
Mission Campus
Featuring the Störling Dance Theater

Join us for a uniquely profound version of a service of Lessons and Carols with the theme “Come Now, Prince of Peace.” This festival assumes the pattern of a service of Lessons and Carols incorporating readings from scripture, congregational Advent hymns, and choir anthems. In addition, we will be treated to liturgical dance incorporated into the service by the Störling Dance Theater.

“Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!”
—Psalm 149:3

German Service of Lessons and Carols at Trinity
By Lara West

Monday, December 11
7pm
All are invited to a German language service of Advent and Christmas lessons and carols on Monday, December 11, at 7pm at Trinity’s Mission campus.

This service is sponsored by the KC German Language Meet-up group. Music will include congregational carols, works by Bach performed by local German-speaking musicians, and songs from Olathe South high school students and the Liederkranz Singers. A reception and fellowship time will follow the service. Contact organist Lara West with questions.
Listening Event Consensus Report

By Pastor Phil Cook

Over the summer and early fall, more than fifty members of Trinity participated in a series of “Listening Events” regarding our hopes and desires for Youth and Family Ministry. As we listened and talked and discussed, we arrived at these five points as a summary of our shared desires. This document is being used by our Call Committee as we seek a new Youth Family Minister, and will be used by the youth ministry team as we continue to disciple the youth of our congregation. It is shared here, in full, so that we as a whole congregation can come together to support our youth and their families.

Listening Sessions Consensus Report

Big Question: What are our desires for our family life ministry?

**Relationships:** Youth and family ministry is built upon deep, committed relationships in which people feel known, loved, and cared for. Relational ministry forms a sacred community, in which the people of God experience a relationship with each other and with God. This sacred community involves meaningful interaction outside of just Sunday morning, life on life interaction where the faith is modeled by others as it is lived out. Relational ministry creates an environment in which youth feel safe exploring deep questions. Relational ministry encourages participation across ages. It recognizes both the importance of youth building relationships with one another, and the importance of building relationships across generations. It strategically creates events where youth have a chance to meet with other youth, as well as family events where youth and parents are involved together.

**Discipleship:** Discipleship is about more than just head knowledge; it is about a disciple learning to become like the rabbi (Jesus). It helps students get to know Jesus more clearly (orthodoxy) and helps them to follow him more closely in their lives (orthopraxy). It sees discipleship as a lifelong process of meeting people where they are, and helping them to take the next step in following Him, from meeting Him for the first time to becoming a disciple who makes disciples. Discipleship seeks to help youth and families view all of life’s many issues through Christian lenses. Youth and family ministry seeks to equip families to disciple their children through devotional resources, marriage and parenting classes, etc. While this person may not be an expert in all of these areas, he or she will know how to connect students and families to other resources that do exist. He or she uses engaging programs and events to draw youth and families toward Christ.

**Service:** Youth and family ministry seeks to cultivate faith by having youth and adults serve in ministry. This involves serving both within the church community and in the larger community and world around us. Service challenges youth to move beyond comfort to compassion, and encourages them to put their faith into action. By learning through doing, youth identify their individual strengths, and grow in grace, compassion, and leadership abilities.
Youth Focus: The youth and family minister will be a relational leader, who knows the students personally themselves, and who builds a leadership team of other adults, possibly including interns, who know the students personally and invest in them relationally. This staff person is dedicated to the needs and concerns of junior and senior high youth. He or she respects the abilities of youth, and seeks to challenge and develop them as leaders. While maintaining a focus on youth and their families, this staff person also sees ministry as a part of a larger whole, moving individuals from childhood through confirmation, high school ministry, college and young adult faith, into the whole life of the church.

Communication: Accomplishing all of the above requires clear, consistent, and continuous communication with students and parents. Good communication keeps the congregation informed and creates broad ownership of the ministry. This person will make use of all communication vehicles available: screens, bulletin, e-News, Messenger, targeted direct emails, social media tools like Facebook/Twitter, etc. This person will also have intentional one-to-one communication with students and parents. He or she will seek to maintain two-way lines of communication, by not just broadcasting messages, but also hearing feedback, questions, and concerns.

Rushton Elementary: Adopt a Family for Christmas
By Rhonda Synovec

As believers in Christ, we are reminded at Christmas of the wonderful gift given to us through the birth of our Savior, Jesus. We are called as His disciples to love our neighbors and to serve those in need. You are invited to serve families from the Rushton Elementary School community who are in need of our help.

Please bring your WRAPPED gifts by Sunday, December 10. Also, please place a tag on the gift indicating the gender and age of the person you have provided for. Your generosity will help these families know we love and care for them.

Sign up at tlcms.org or contact the church office to help.

LWML Coffee and Tea Sale
By Elfriede Mohling

Mission Campus December 2-3 and 10

Be sure to stop by the table to select from the wide variety of flavors available for all your holiday entertaining and gift-giving needs. Selected varieties are available for purchase in the gift shop between sale dates. The large purple and white mite box will be available on the coffee table to deposit your loose change. One of the many mission projects being supported by your donation is the Tanzanian Sewing Center. Learn more about this project from the poster behind the mite box. Thank you for your support!

LAST CHANCE! There are only a very few copies of the Recipes for the Soul cookbook still available. At only $5 each, they make an excellent gift as a stocking stuffer or for any other occasion and will be available for purchase at the coffee table.
Handel’s Messiah: A Christmas Tradition  
By Ben A. Spalding

**Handel’s Messiah**

Messiah has rendered audiences breathless since its 1743 debut, and Spire’s annual performance in Helzberg Hall has become a Kansas City tradition for the whole family. Let the glorious voices of Spire, and the virtuoso playing of the Spire Baroque Orchestra on original period instruments be your guide to this indisputable masterpiece of Classical music.

Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 7 pm  
Helzberg Hall  
Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts  
1601 Broadway Boulevard  
Kansas City, MO 64108

High School Youth Progressive Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange  
By Rhonda Synovec

**High School Youth Progressive Christmas Dinner**

December 10, 5-8pm  
All high school youth and their friends are invited to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship as we dine together through a progressive dinner. Please bring a gift. Regifting something you already have is encouraged. If you purchase a gift, the limit to spend is $5.00. We will end the evening with our annual White Elephant Gift Exchange and give prizes for the ugliest Christmas sweater. To RSVP please visit tlcms.org/Progressive Dinner.

50+ Christmas Party  
By Iva Schlatter and Barb Littell

**50+ Christmas Party**

Wednesday December 13, 11:30am  
Mission Campus Fellowship Hall  

Enjoy a catered Turkey dinner with all the fixings! Entertainment will follow dinner. The featured entertainment is Betty Jo Simon, a singer and accordion player who will perform a show entitled "Christmas around the World."

The lunch is FREE. An optional freewill offering will be collected at the event.

Please RSVP by December 6 in one of four ways:

1. By calling Iva Schlatter, 913-333-0981, or Barb Littell, 913-897-2292
2. By calling the church office at 913-432-5441
3. At the 50+ Bible study
4. Or online at tlcms.org.
MLM Christmas Store: Donations Due December 3

By Metro Lutheran Ministry

The MLM Christmas Store makes Christmas a little merrier for needy families in December. Since the MLM Christmas Store serves close to 1,000 disadvantaged families, the need is great! Bring your unwrapped gifts to church and place under the Christmas tree. Gifts for teenage boys and girls are always needed such as make-up kits, jewelry, wallets, team gear, and sports equipment. Suggestions for other needed gifts are in baskets by the Christmas tree. Questions? Please contact Susan Schram, 913-492-5334.

Christmas Caroling—December 8

By Tom Perry

When: December 8, 1pm, Mission campus
What: Caroling at assisted living facilities
Who: All ages are encouraged to come
Transportation: Carpool from Mission campus, return before 4pm

On Friday, December 8, members from Trinity will again go Christmas caroling to some assisted living facilities where Trinity members are residents. Last year this was well received by both the carolers and those being caroled to. The range in age of those caroling was from 4 to 90+ years old. For some, this was how they were able to enjoy Christmas. It does not matter if you are a concert soloist or have trouble carrying a tune in a bucket. You are needed and wanted. We will meet in the foyer at the Mission campus at 1pm, perhaps have a cup of cider, maybe warm up, then off we go. We will carpool as best we can. We will first sing at the Healthcare Resort of Shawnee Mission (76th and Antioch) and are scheduled to sing at 1:30pm. From there we will travel to Addington Place (79th and Somerset) and sing at the memory unit and then to the rest of the residents. Then it is back to church. If you have any questions or suggestions, let Tom know, Tom@tlcms.org. Noel!

MLM Christmas Store Volunteers Needed

By Metro Lutheran Ministry

Metro Lutheran Ministry staff and volunteers are busy preparing for the 2017 Christmas Store! With your help, MLM will serve over 850 families at this special event.

Christmas Store Elves (most needed!)

When: Wednesday, December 6 – Saturday, December 9
Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64109
What: Walk through the store with guests and help them shop, assist with other Christmas Store needs.

Christmas Store Set-up

When: Sunday, December 3 – Tuesday, December 5
Where: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO
Organ, Flute, and Trumpet Recital December 10

By Lisa Erickson

2:30pm, December 10
Community of Christ Temple

Looking for some good music on Sunday afternoon, December 10th? Lisa Erickson will be playing her flute in the 2:30pm recital at the Community of Christ (RLDS) Temple in Independence, MO. Jeff King is the organist, and there will be a trumpeter, too.

The event is free and everyone is invited! (And, if you feel like hanging around until 7 pm, that evening is the Messiah Sing-Along at the Temple.)

Stewardship Corner

By Larry Conrad

We are grateful for your continued giving as contributions are trending 11% above our year to date budget. Year-to-date expenses continue to be slightly under budget. While both are good news, we have also experienced some unexpected expensive repairs at the Mission Campus: HVAC controls/repairs, the need for two roof top unit replacements, as well as plumbing pipe repairs. At Shawnee we plan to add concrete stairs from the parking lot to Midland Road to improve the effectiveness of the overflow parking at the Christots parking lot.

As the calendar year ends, generally thoughts of expanded generosity are also abounding. We know that there are many worthy causes that are asking for your contributions. Please keep the ministries at Trinity in mind for your year-end contribution giving.

In the second half of our fiscal year we will be focusing more of our attention on discipleship. You are encouraged to consider how following Jesus is reflected in your financial support of his kingdom.

We know with God’s help, we can do all things. Please prayerfully consider how God has blessed and enriched your lives. Thank you for your continued generosity at Trinity, as we continue to be "A Community Following Jesus."

Memory Verse: Micah 7:7
But as for me, I watch in hope for the Lord, I wait for God my Savior; my God will hear me.
Shawnee Seniors Christmas Reception

By Tom Perry

You are invited! On December 14 you are invited to a holiday reception at the Shawnee campus from 2-4pm. This will be an opportunity to meet and to renew acquaintances with those fellow members age 60+.

Gloria Garrelts will help with some Christmas goodies and we will probably sing a carol or two. We might take the opportunity to see if the group wishes to expand their imprint at church. We are planning to help a family and you will have the opportunity to give a free will offering at that time. I hope to see you there.

Please RSVP to Tom@tlcms.org so that we can gauge the amount of goodies needed. Merry Christmas!

Thank You to Poinsettia Donors!

Rich and Karen Brengelman
Tim and Pam Dalbom
Lois Elliott
Bob and Elaine Fleenor
Bonnie Fruehling
Maureen Gamble
Jim Gustafson
Wayne and Wanda Hein
Awad and Yvonne Ismir
Larry and Jan Jones
Scott and Linda Kaplingst
Annette and Janice Kramer
Don and Barb Littell
Martha Macher

Marie McDermed
Rita Moser
Howard and Roselea Nellis
Al and Mary O’Connell
Matt, Cameron, and Laurie Price
Pastor Mark and Nancy Schulz
Melanie Stallard
Lyle and Paulette Thornton
James and Aileen Tichenor
Rick and Brenda Traughber
George and Janet Vetter
Mark and Nancy Viets
Jim and Donna Wilson
Christmas Cookie Walk

By Edith Wolters, The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

The LWML of the Lutheran Church of Our Saviour, 4153 Rainbow Boulevard, in Kansas City, Kansas, is sponsoring a sixth annual Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, December 9, in the downstairs fellowship hall beginning at 9am. They will have a large assortment of wonderful, delicious homemade cookies for sale at $8.50 a pound. This event is being advertised publicly, and they expect a good turnout for the sale. Come early for the best selection of cookies. Please bring cash as NO checks or credit cards will be accepted. The proceeds of the sale will provide funding for LWML charities and activities.

Eighth Annual Hollis Winter Art Fair

By Hollis Renewal Center

December 2-3, 2017

Stop by Hollis for the least stressful shopping trip of the year! Enjoy a cup of hot cider and a sweet treat while you browse the work of local artists. All artists donate a percentage of their sales to the mission and ministry of Hollis.

Featured items include:
• Pottery
• Photography
• Fiber Arts
• Jewelry
• 18" Doll Clothes
• Acrylic Paintings

Shop Local. Support Hollis.

HOURS:
SATURDAY 10am-5pm;
SUNDAY 12-5pm

Hollis Center Lodge
11414 Kansas Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66111

Office: 913-441-045
Day of Event: 913-206-4749
info@holliscenter.org | www.holliscenter.org

Hope Lutheran Seeks Second Grade Teacher

By Nancy Jankowski, Principal

Hope Lutheran School is seeking candidates to teach full-time second grade and who will:
• Create a fun, energetic environment that encourages student growth and fosters a love of God, each other, and learning.
• Work collaboratively with colleagues in maintaining academic excellence in a caring Christian school.
• Teach in a contained second-grade classroom all subject matter including math, reading, English, science, social studies, and religion.
• Actively participate in the spiritual life of the school.

Please send your cover letter, résumé, and teaching credentials to Principal Jankowski at jankowski@hopelutheran.org.
Therefore encourage one another...
1 Thessalonians 5:11 ESV

Birthdays

December 6 – Jeff Becker, Nora Carlson, Suzan Robinson, Susie Schram, Jaime Tanner, Laney Tilghman
December 7 – Noah Veal
December 8 – Zaidy Bergman, Gabriella Gaskins, Tricia Humbarger, Jeremiah Kemper, Mary Ellen Stephenson
December 9 – Madison Miner, Joyce Wulf Sill
December 10 – Judy Arnold, Kurt Colville, Janet McCarter, Steve Waage
December 12 – Katie Hall, Jean Schlesselman, Zach Winter
December 14 – Hannah Froehlich, Katelyn Guerry, George Hanauer, Deb Hartje, Ona Jean Harvey, Carolyn Miller, Janet Sereres Blair, Katrina Wilcott
December 15 – Phinehas Adams, Deb Killingsworth, Lucy Pace, Connie Quick, Elsa Schalekamp, Carson Schlotzhauer, Cameron Schroeder Price
December 16 – Robert Auerbach, Doug Behrens, Thomas Cook, Kimberly Emer, Ethan Oleen, Dana Pasley, Joshua Small, Damara Stevens, Joan Vaughn, Debbie Wells, Andrew Young
December 17 – Ray Buckley, Joan Davidson, Lauren Hoestje
December 18 – Hank Hanusch
December 19 – Katie Dodson, Marj Lyon, Greg McBride, Ann Ninneman, Jim Williams

Prayers

Retirement Facility/Homebound
Rita Bartlett, Good Samaritan
Betty Becker, Park Meadows
Norma Broek, at home
Ray Buckley, Healthcare Resort of Shawnee Mission
Phyllis Corthon, Victory Hills
Ted Dahl, at home
Conrad Fassold, Lakeview Village
Allene Gantz, Addington Place
Ona Jean Harvey, at home
Lois Haubein, Overland Park Place
Phyllis Henderson, at home
Lois Klausen, Delmar Gardens of OP
Jean Klemp, McCrites Plaza Asst. Living
Ruth Kroenke, at home
Bob Mann, Vintage Park, Gardner
Betty Peppers, Park Meadows
Garry and Joanne Schottman, at home
Jerry and Mary Ellen Stephenson, at Santa Marta
Jeanne Stevenson, Kingswood
Helen Wendlandt, at home
George Zschoche, Aberdeen Village

Member Prayers-Mission
Isabelle Conkling
Shelly Crawford
Tom Dempsey
Gwenda Hawk
Quintyn Hendrich
Gretchen and Bob Hollman
Kurt Kinder
Don Unger
George Vetter
Mark Weber

Member Prayers-Shawnee
Patt Alf
Eric Schleicher

Anniversaries and birthdays are listed from December 5-19. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, please contact the church office.
VBS
Save the Date!
Shawnee Campus
June 25-29, 2018
Mission Campus
July 9-13, 2018

The Messenger
Submit articles to: Gretchen@tlcms.org. The Messenger is printed on the first and third Thursdays of each month.
The next deadline is Dec. 12 at noon.

Mission Campus
5601 West 62nd Street, Mission, Kansas 66202
Saturday Evening
5:30pm Communion Service
Sunday Mornings
8:30am Family-focused Worship with Communion
9:45am Praise Service with Communion
9:45am Sunday School
11am Family-focused Worship with Communion

Shawnee Campus
21320 Midland Drive, Shawnee, Kansas 66218
Sunday Mornings
8:30am Family-focused Worship with Communion
9:45am Sunday School
11am Family-focused Worship with Communion

Nursery
A professionally staffed nursery for ages six months to three years is available during most worship services and Sunday School.