

A Community

Following Jesus

Volume 32, Issue 23

The Messenger

Come to Bethlehem and See: Children's Christmas Worship

By Rhonda Synovec

Sunday, December 17

11am Services

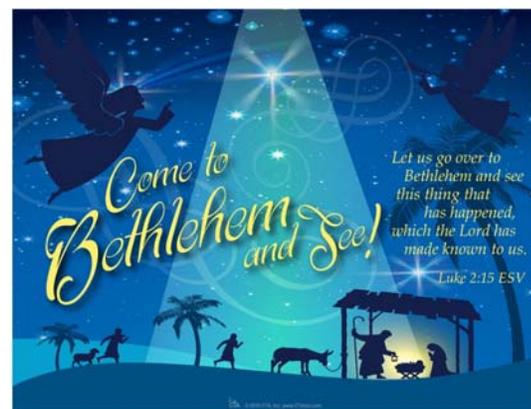
Both Campuses

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!



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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.

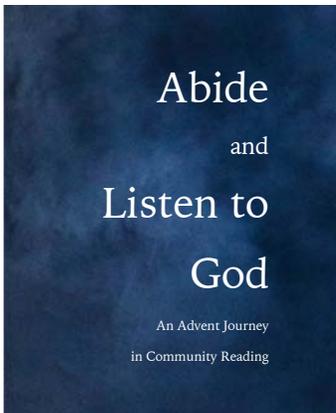
Scriptures: The Shepherds Tell About Jesus' Birth (Luke 2:14-20; John 1:12, 14)

Dates to remember:

- December 8, 1pm, Christmas Caroling, p. 7
- December 9, Advent Lessons and Carols, p. 3
- December 11, 7pm, German Christmas Service, p. 3
- December 12, noon, *Messenger* deadline
- December 13, 50+ Christmas Party, p. 6
- December 20, 7pm, Handel's *Messiah*, p. 6

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.

Advent devotionals are found in the foyer at each campus. Please take one and use it to prepare your heart for Christmas.

If you would like to receive the same content (maybe a little more) in an email each day, Pastor Ben will be sending those out early each morning. Sign up at tlcms.org to receive that daily email!

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 birth place 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 Liederkrantz Singers. A reception and fellowship time will follow the service. Contact organist Lara West with questions.

*Weihnachtsgottesdienst in
deutscher Sprache*

German Christmas Service of Lessons of Carols



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 Mobling

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



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



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](http://tlcms.org/ProgressiveDinner).

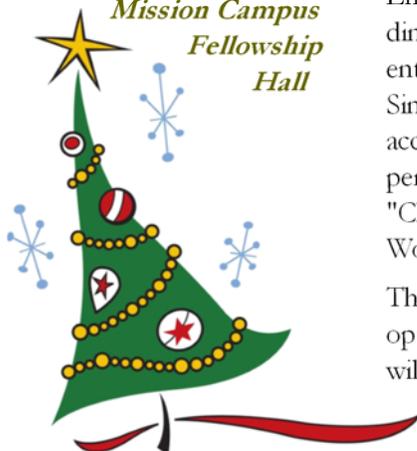
50+ Christmas Party

By Iva Schlatter and Barb Littell



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 Erick-

son 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

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.

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."

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

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



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 Kaphingst

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** – Phineas Adams, Deb Killingsworth, Lucy Pace, Connie Quick, Elsa Schalekamp, Carson Schlotzhauer, Cameron Schroeder Price
- December 16** – Robert Auerbach, Doug Behrens, Thomas Cook, Kimberly Emert, 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 Brock, *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 Alft
- Eric Schleicher

Anniversaries



- Bill & Trish Miller.....December 8 (27th)
- Tony & Beth Kemper.....December 9 (22nd)
- Mark & Rebecca Glad..... December 10 (29th)
- Rik & Patty Scarborough..... December 15 (27th)
- Scott & Joyce Schau..... December 16 (22nd)
- Jeff & Debbie Quast..... December 18 (19th)
- Harlan & Kathryn Koca..... December 19 (58th)
- Rick & Brenda Traughber..... December 19 (47th)

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

Trinity Lutheran Church



Phone: 913-432-5441
Preschool: 913-563-5280
Email: tlcinfo@tlcms.org

tlcms.org

Trinity Staff:

Mark Schulz, Senior Pastor: mark@tlcms.org
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Ron Flentgen, Associate Pastor: ron@tlcms.org
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Rhonda Synovec, Director of Family Life Ministry: rhonda@tlcms.org
Ben A. Spalding, Director of Music: bens@tlcms.org
Jo Ann Emerson, Preschool Director: joann@tlcms.org
Tom Perry, Senior Ministry Leader: tom@tlcms.org
Lara West, Organist: lara@tlcms.org
Larry Conrad, Administrator: larry@tlcms.org
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Barb Estes, Office Support: barb@tlcms.org

Pastoral Emergency Contacts:

Pastor Mark Schulz - 913-231-9726 Pastor Phil Cook - 972-955-8801
Pastor Ben Vineyard - 913-538-1517 Pastor Ron Flentgen - 913-748-6670

{ 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.