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Dates to remember:

- December 6, Christmas Caroling, p. 9
- December 7, Advent Lessons and Carols,
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- December 8, 15, Children's Christmas Worship, p. 1
- December 8, Youth Christmas Party, p. 9
- December 11, 50+ Christmas Party, p. 8
- December 14,
 Shawnee Seniors
 Christmas Party, p. 8
- December 17, noon, Messenger deadline
- December 20, 21, 22, Handel *Messiah*, p. 5
- December 24, Christmas Eve Worship, p. 2

Children's Christmas Worship: Jesus Lights the Way

By Rhonda Synovec

Shawnee Campus, December 8, 11am Worship Mission Campus, December 15, 9:45am Worship

Rehearsals

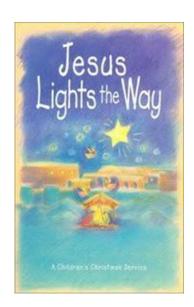
Shawnee Dress Rehearsal, Saturday, December 7, 9-11am Mission Dress Rehearsal, Saturday, December 14, 9-11am

Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness. They will have that light. They will have life."

---John 8:12

The world was bright until one day,
Sin came and chased the light away.
Adam and Eve gave sin its start.
They disobeyed and broke God's heart.
And ever since we too all sin.
We fight evil but cannot win.
God knows our grief and made a plan
To give new life and joy again.
He would send a Savior true
For Eve and Adam, me and you.
He sent Jesus down to earth
To bring new light and give new birth.

The Light of the World has come to us in the gift of the Christ child. You are invited to join us as the children lead worship and share with all to hear and see: Jesus Lights the way for you and me!



Christmas Eve Worship

By Ben A. Spalding

Christmas Eve Worship with Children, Youth, and Families

4pm, Mission Campus

This family-friendly service features traditional Christmas carols, candles, and a special children's message, as well as a sermon.

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

6pm, Mission Campus

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

Christmas Eve by Candlelight with Communion

9:30pm, Mission Campus

The Trinity Chamber Artists offer special music with additional congregational hymns and carols in this festival service. A sermon, candles, and Holy Communion are included.

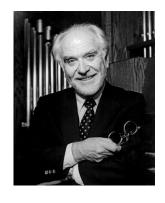
Christmas Eve Worship with Children and Families

4 and 6pm, Shawnee Campus

This Christmas Eve Worship is designed to include families, children, special music, communion, and candles.

Advent Lessons and Carols: "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come"

By Ben A. Spalding



Saturday, December 7 5:30pm

Trinity's annual Advent Lessons and Carols is given this year in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of American organist and Lutheran composer Dr. Paul O. Manz. Paul Manz is largely credited with the creation of the modern hymn festival and over the course of his long and fruitful career he wrote and played thousands of hymn festivals. All the music utilized in this service was composed by Manz himself and will be interwoven with traditional Advent scripture lessons. We come together to give thanks and to praise God for the life and work of Paul Manz and for the lavish grace that has filled our lives so richly and abundantly as it is proclaimed through the gift of music. Soli Deo Gloria!

German Service of Lessons and Carols at Trinity

By Lara West

Monday, December 16 7pm Mission Campus

All are invited to a German language service of Advent and Christmas lessons and

carols, on Monday, December 16, at 7pm at Trinity's Mission campus. This service is sponsored by the KC German Language Meet-up group and other area German clubs. Music will in-

clude congregational carols, vocal solos, and songs from the Liederkranz Singers. A fellowship time will follow the service. Contact Organist Lara West with questions, lara@tlcms.org.

Weihnachtsgottesdienst in deutscher Sprache German Christmas Service of Lessons & Carols



Advent and Christmas 2019: "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending"

By Ben A. Spalding

Once again, the beautiful and meaningful season of Advent is upon us and our theme this year comes from Charles Wesley's (1707-1788) great hymn, "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending" (LSB 336). The great text uses events of the past to remind us who we are in our faith, to set a vision of what the future holds, and to state who our God is.

This year, we have commissioned Susan Hovel (wife of Trinity Pastor Emeritus Lee Hovel) to create five paintings that emulate the themes found in our Isaiah readings. Each week these

paintings will be on display starting Advent 1 at both campuses and each subsequent painting will be added week by week until the full display is revealed on Christmas Eve. We are also providing lined notes for you to write down a response to each of the paintings and attach them to the display.



"... with Justice and Peace"

Advent 1—Isaiah 2:1-5

"... to Make All Things Right for All People"
Advent 2—Isaiah 11:1-10

"... with Joy and Singing" (the joyful Sunday in Advent)

Advent 3—Isaiah 35:1-10

"... as 'Immanuel,' God with Us"

Advent 4—Isaiah 7:10-17

"... as the 'Great Light' in the 'Deep Darkness"
Christmas Eve—Isaiah 9:2-7





To all those who donated to the MLM Christmas Store,

Metro Lutheran
Ministry and St Luke's
Lutheran Church in
Kansas City, Kansas,
thank you for your
generous donations!
The 1,200 items were
distributed between the
two food pantries.

MLM and St. Luke's

Jammies and the Journey

By Rhonda Synovec

Epiphany Sunday, January 5 9:45 – 10:45am



Children's ministry families, mark your calendar!

Jammies

At **both** campuses children are invited to wear their jammies to church this morning during the Sunday School hour! It is ok to wear their jammies in church too...we promise!

The Journey

We will continue the Christmas story with a special event—hearing and experiencing the journey of the Wise Men to meet Jesus.

Focus on Generosity

By Pastor Mark Schulz



Thank you for your ongoing faithful support of Trinity's ministries! After strong contributions in September, October financial results were down significantly from what was projected. We received \$31,381 less than expected during the month. We are hopeful that this is a "blip" and not a trend. The Executive Committee continues to monitor both income and expenses closely so that we may continue to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us.

Please consider responding to our current shortfall by catching up on your commitment or making an additional gift. As we approach the end of the calendar year, typically giving spikes in December after a gradual upswing of giving in the fall. What will we experience this December? Trinity has an aggressive budget for 2019/2020, but we also have faith that God can do more than we can ask or imagine. Please keep Trinity in your prayers, and

faithfully consider how your gifts to God are reflective of His presence in your life and generosity to you. Thank you for your "partnership in the Gospel" (Philippians 1:3-5) and the financial commitment you have made to Trinity. We are excited as we continue to discover together new ways of sharing the love of Jesus with those in our area and to the ends of the earth. God's Blessings!

Cardboard & Paper Recycling

A while ago you may have noticed that the church reduced the recycling containers in the parking lot from two to one. We did so as our trash service has stopped paying the church (its customer) for recycled material. In fact, each dumpster we have is an expense to the church. If out of habit you have been saving recycled products to drop off at church, we urge you to use your neighborhood waste/recycling services.

Four Sundays Left for 2019 Giving

By Larry Conrad



Due to early bulletin print schedules in December and the unusual spike of end-of-the-month giving, we will cease reporting year-to-date giving goals in our bulletin and *eNews* through December. The regular financial information on the back of the bulletin will resume in January.

End-of-Year Giving

As we approach the end of the year, we bring to your attention and remind you that contributions must be received at the church, or postmarked, by December 31 to qualify as a 2019 income tax deduction. For those using electronic giving (TLCMS Web via Vanco, SimplyGiving, Give+, or your bank's online bill pay), the date used by the IRS to qualify is the institution's "payment date" on the document the church receives. Please be aware

that this may be up to three days past the date you originate the transaction. Electronic giving payment dates must be on or prior to December 31 to qualify for 2019 contributions. Don't wait until the last moment, or your gift may not be credited to the 2019 tax year. We are thankful for your generosity and faithful support of the ministries of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Handel's Messiah

By Ben A. Spalding

Composed in a mere twenty -four days, Handel's *Messiah* continues to be the composer's most popular work and may well be the most performed classical work of all time. The Spire Chamber Ensemble and Baroque Orchestra performs this masterpiece under candlelight with period instruments like you have never heard be-

fore...inspiring, dazzling, joyous! This year we bring *Messiah* to your neighborhood in three visually stunning and acoustically stimulating venues. Don't miss this Christmastime concert experience where we transport you back in time to eighteenth century English cathedrals!



\$30 General Admission \$45 Premiere Seating and Invitation to Open Rehearsal/Meet the Artists

Purchase tickets at SpireChamberEnsemble.org.



Friday, December 20, 7pm

Grace Episcopal Cathedral 701 SW 8th Avenue Topeka, KS 66603



Saturday, December 21 7:30pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 11 East 40th Street Kansas City, MO 64111



Sunday, December 22 1:30pm

St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church 14251 Nall Avenue Leawood, KS 66223

Memory Verse

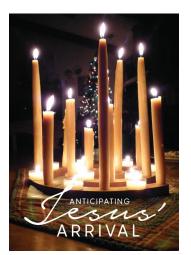
Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7



Advent Classes—Advent of the Savior

By Pastor Benjamin Vineyard



Devotional time is often in solitude, and hopefully a blissful solitude at that. We also find enrichment in the journey of faith when we gather for conversation. We hope these Advent classes or conversations are beneficial for your journey.

Sundays in Advent December 1, 8, 15, 22

Mission Campus Fellowship Hall Shawnee Campus Worship Center In the hopes that you will get a fresh vision of the coming of Christ, this class will explore different angles from which to view the birth of Christ—the perspective of his parents, his aunt and uncle, shepherds doing a day's work, far-off

Magi, and nearby despots—even the perspective of the prophets who preceded him by centuries. We hope exploring these different perspectives deepens your perception of who Christ is for you and why he is such a precious gift to cherish.

LWML Coffee and Tea Sale

By Elfriede Mohling



The Lutheran Women in Mission coffee and tea sale will be held at the Mission campus between worship services on Sundays, December 8 and 15, and Saturday, December 14. 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 God's Word Changes Everything, Lutheran Bible Translators.

Learn more about this project from the poster behind the mite box. Thank you for your support!

New Directories

By Gretchen Hollman





New printed church directories have been produced in the church office, a contact directory and a pictorial directory. The contact directory is divided into two sections, a family address section and an individual phone and email section. This same information is always available on Trinity

Cloud. If anyone would like a printed directory, let the church office know and we would be glad to print a copy for you.

Let people know who you are!

Trinity is a family of believers, but a large family for sure. It can sometimes be difficult to keep names and

faces straight and get to know all the new members. If you have a new photo, upload it to your profile in Trinity Cloud or send it to the church office for us to upload. Check out your photo and see if it is up to date at: tlcms.ccb-church.com.

Rushton Elementary: Adopt a Family for Christmas

By Rhonda Synovec

Due December 15

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.

Quite a few items are

needed, ranging from clothing and household items to toys. Sign up at tlcms.org or contact the church office to help. Please bring your *wrapped* gifts by Sunday, December 15. Also, please place a tag on the gift indicating the gender and age of the person for whom you have provided. Your generosity will help these families know we love and care for them.



Assistance for an Additional Family

Trinity was recently asked to help an additional family from Rushton through the Christmas Adopt-A-Family event. Rushton only recently became aware this family is needing assistance due to ongoing medical issues in their family. We have decided to help so we can serve those in our community in need. Please join us in helping this family celebrate Christmas by experiencing the servant hearts of people who care.

Poinsettias for Christmas

By Connie Koetting and Dianna Mayfield

Mission Campus \$10 per plant

Poinsettia orders are now being taken to beautify the Mission campus sanctuary for Christmas. If you are interested in helping to beautify the sanctuary with this meaningful flower, please see the signup on the easel in the foyer. Orders are due by December 8. Poinsettias will be donated to home-bound members after Christmas.

Shawnee Campus Freewill Offering

Help decorate the altar at the Shawnee campus for Christmas! We are collecting donations to purchase poinsettias for Christmas. For the first two Sundays in December, you may leave your contribution in the bucket marked "Poinsettias" on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



Christmas Decorating—Mission Campus

By Julie Mohling

Friday, December 6, 5pm Mission Campus

Come help us decorate for Christmas! It is that time again to decorate the church for the holidays on Friday, December 6, starting at 5pm (but you can come at any time). We will have dinner and decorate, finishing around 9pm. Any and all are welcome to come help, with many different levels of jobs to be done. It is a joyful time of preparation and being with our church com-

munity to prepare for this joyful Advent and Christmas season. If you have any questions, you may contact Julie Mohling at 913-574-8607(cell) or jmohl4 @yahoo.com.



50+ Christmas Party

By Tom Perry

Wednesday December 11, 11:30am Mission Campus

Enjoy a catered turkey dinner with all the fixings! Entertainment will follow dinner. Bible study will precede the lunch at 10:15am in the sanctuary. The lunch is FREE. If you so choose, an optional freewill offering will be collected at the event. Please RSVP in one of the following ways:

- By calling Iva Schlatter, 913-333-0981 or Barb Littell, 913-998-9360.
- By calling the church

office at 913-432-5441.

- Sign-up at the 50+ Bible study.
- Sign up at the Welcome Center at the Mission campus.
- Sign up on TrinityCloud.



Shawnee Seniors Christmas Brunch By Gloria Garrelts and Sandy Linville Saturday, December 14, be able to join us. This will our preschool families that 10am – noon be an opportunity to meet finds themselves in need. Shawnee Campus and to renew acquaintances Since this event is catered, with those fellow members All Shawnee Seniors are reservations are needed. age 60+ in addition to sharinvited to a delicious brunch RSVP to Sandy Linville, ing some great food and catered by Nick and Jake's sklinville@msn.com, or entertainment. Restaurant, our neighbor to Gloria Garrelts, glogarrelts the west. Please note that There is no cost to attend. @gmail.com, or with the we have moved this year's There will be an optional link in the eNews. Merry event to SATURDAY in free-will offering which will Christmas! hope that more people will go to help support one of

Christmas Caroling

By Tom Perry

When: December 6, 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 6, 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. If you have any questions or suggestions, let Tom know,

Tom@tlcms.org. Noel!

Youth Progressive Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange

By Beth Stephens

Sunday December 8 5-8pm

On December 8 the annual Youth Group Progressive Dinner and Gift Exchange will happen once again! The high school youth will travel to three different homes for appetizers, main course, and dessert. At the final stop, they will also have a white elephant gift exchange. It is encouraged to

find something from home that you don't have to purchase. If you do buy something, it should not cost more that \$5. This event will be a lot of fun, and a great way for us to celebrate Christmas with our group! Meet at the Shawnee campus.

Sunday night youth group will be on break starting December 15, and will start back on January 5.

This year, the youth are encouraged to follow "A Jesus Centered Life" (@ajesuslife) on Instagram. Beginning on December 1, we will be going through Advent and we will use these reflections for our Advent devotions. Students are also encouraged to use the printed copies of the congregational Advent devotions, if they prefer.

Christmas at the Gift Shop

By Colleen Albright and Dawn Wilson



Sunday Mornings November and December Mission Campus

Christmas is in the air at Trinity's book and gift shop. Please stop by on Sunday mornings through Christmas and check out our new Christmas items. We have nativity sets, ornaments, Advent wreaths, and special Christmas books and games for children. We also have gift ideas for that special someone and a large variety of greeting cards. Hope to see you there!

Support Trinity through Amazon Smile By Larry Conrad



Let Amazon contribute to Trinity Lutheran Church while you shop.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to charitable organizations you select. Trinity Lutheran Church is now regis-

tered! Go shopping and Trinity benefits. It's simple, with no added cost to you. As you shop, be wise and compare before you buy, but let AmazonSmile contribute to Trinity. Visit tlcms.org/Give for a quick link to shopping.

Last Call for the 2020 Passion Play

By Pastor Tom Harries



The deadline for tickets for the world-famous Passion Play as part of the Experience Germany: Lutherland and Oberamergau Passion Play tour has been extended to December 12. Join this once-in-a-lifetime colorful, historical, and inspirational tour of Germany from Sep-

tember 5-10, 2020. For a brochure and more information, contact Pastor Tom Harries at 913-888-4772 or at harriesth51@gmail.com.

Therefore encourage one another...

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Birthdays



December 11 - Caroline Barta

December 12 – Katie Hall, Lauren Kellogg, Addilynn Robben, Jean Schlesselman, Zach Winter

December 14 – Hannah Froehlich, Katelyn Guerry, George Hanauer, Deb Hartje, Eric McHugh, Carolyn Miller, Janet Sereres Blair, Katrina Wilcott

December 15 – Phinehas Adams, Deb Killingsworth, Lucy Pace, Connie Quick, 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 – Joan Davidson, Lauren Hoestje

December 18 - Hank Hanusch

December 19 – Loreen Buccigrossi, Katie Dodson, Marj Lyon, Greg McBride, Ann Ninneman, Jim Williams

December 20 – Nancy Brillhart, Eric Jonas, Melissa Ryan, Paulette Thornton, Kathleen Zweifel

December 21 – Joann Daniels, Brynner Dieckhoff, Gloria Holcroft, Sandy Linville, Sean McNeely, Sarah Miner, Michael Mrosso, Aimee Oehlert, Donna Wilson

December 22 – Ryan Hartje, Betty Hild, Mason McSweyn
 December 23 – Ava Carlson, Janet Gunnels, Josef Haas, Jill Meier

December 24 – Audrey Humes, Rebecca Matters, Nathaniel Theiss

Anniversaries



Rik & Patty Scarborough	December 15 (20th)
,	` ,
Scott & Joyce Schau	December 16 (24th)
Jeff & Debbie Quast	December 18 (21st)
Harlan & Kathryn Koca	December 19 (60th)
Rick & Brenda Traughber	December 19 (49th)
George & Lois Hanauer	December 21 (61st)
Benjamin & Jenny Vineyard	December 21 (17th)
Steve & Lisa Finkemeier	December 22 (40th)
John & Jane Musgrove	
Chris & Suzanne Cox	

Prayers



Deaths

Don Stephens, father of Paul Stephens, 11/18

Retirement Facility/Homebound

Don and Glenda Bischoff, at home Martha Chael, Waveny Park House Phyllis Corthon, Victory Hills

Ted Dahl, at home

Walter and Donna Erickson, at home and Aberdeen Village

Conrad Fassold, Lakeview Village

Allene Gantz, Rose Estates

Lee Glasnapp, Village Shalom

Robert and Shirley Hemenway, at home

Dick and Audrey Humes, Santa Marta

Ruth Kroenke, Addington Place

Richard Krueger, Shawnee Post Acute and Rehabilitation Center

Betty Kueker, Rose Estates

Evelyn Lauber, Westchester Village

Bill and Charlene Millsap, at home

Jerry and Lillian Mueller, Westchester Village

Karen Phipps, at home

Garry and Joanne Schottman, at home

Rose Seifferlein, Tallgrass Memory Care

Jerry and Mary Ellen Stephenson, at Santa Marta

Jeanne Stevenson, Kingswood

Joyce Synovec, Westchester Village

Member Prayers-Mission

Dolores Boehnke
Pastor Boehnke
Tom Dempsey
Myrna DuBois
Rebecca Glad
Quentyn Hendrich
Angela Jeppesen
Don Littell
Denise Loeffler
Anna Nellis
Mary Lou Strahm
Paulette Thornton

Member Prayers-Shawnee

Glen Bodling

rinity's Weather Polic

With the onset of winter weather, we want to take this opportunity to remind you of Trinity's long-standing policy regarding weather cancellations:

Worship Services:

Services will be held as scheduled regardless of the weather conditions. As always, please exercise your judgment regarding your participation.

Events Concerning Children and Youth:

Children and youth events will follow school cancellations for the Shawnee Mission School District.

Adult Events:

The 50+ Group follows Shawnee Mission School District cancellations. Decisions for all other groups are left to the discretion of the group leaders.

Events with Child Care:

If the Shawnee Mission School District is cancelled, Trinity will not provide child care for church events, even though the church event may not be cancelled.

Sunday School:

Sunday School will NOT be cancelled. Please exercise your judgment regarding your participation.

Preschool:

In the event of snow, ice, and extreme cold please listen to your television for school closings. Trinity will close when the DeSoto School District is closed Announcements will be made on radio and television on the 10pm news and/or 6am and following newscasts. You may go online to the DeSoto school district website at www.usd232.org. If DeSoto classes are to dismiss early, Trinity dismisses all at 11:30am and afternoon preschool and extended day sessions will not be held.

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 Phil Cook, Lead Pastor, Shawnee Campus: phil@tlcms.org Ron Flentgen, Associate Pastor: ron@tlcms.org Rhonda Synovec, Children Family Minister: rhonda@tlcms.org Beth Stephens, Youth Family Minister: beth@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 Gretchen Hollman, Office Supervisor: gretchen@tlcms.org

Pastoral Emergency Contacts:

Barb Estes, Office Support: <u>barb@tlcms.org</u>

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

The Messenger

Submit articles to: Gretchen@tlcms.org. The Messenger is published on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

The next deadline is Dec. 17 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

Nurserv

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