

CROSSTALK

December 2015 - Volume 21 No. 11
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church & School
Des Moines, WA
253-839-0731 www.htlc-wa.org

Advent by Candlelight



Ladies, last call to come join us for a special evening of joy, friendship, Christmas cheer, music, and food!

Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm

Friends are welcome!

Check out the display in the lobby, or call Vicki Schewe for more information (253-486-3530).

The annual
HTLS
Thanksgiving
Feast
was held
on Friday,
Nov. 20.



A GREAT
time was
had by all—
Thank you
to the
many
volunteers
who served
the meal!



HTLS wrestlers hosted a meet with Parkland and Faith Lutheran.
Many thanks to the coach, Mr. Rodmyre!



December

HIGHLIGHTS

December 2 and 9

5:30 pm Supper
6:30 pm Advent worship
7:30 pm Choir practice

December 5

8:00 am Men's Breakfast Bible Study
7:00 pm Ladies "Advent by Candlelight"

December 12

9:00 am "Christmas for Kids"

December 13

Christmas Bake Sale (after services) 11:45 am
Quarterly Voters Meeting

December 17

7:00 pm Children's Christmas Service

December 20

9:00 am Coffee Hour (date change)

December 24

6:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight

December 25

9:00 am Christmas Day worship

December 31

6:30 pm New Year's Eve worship
(communion)



INSIDE:

- From the Pastor's Desk (p. 2)
- Advent means waiting! (p. 3)
- Pictures around HTLC (p. 8)

Pastor Schewe Accepts Call

After wrestling with his decision for many weeks, Pastor Schewe announced on November 22nd that he will be accepting the call to serve as pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Clovis, CA. We give thanks that Christ the King rules all things for the good of his church, and so we know that Pastor Schewe, his family, St. Peter, and Holy Trinity will be blessed by this decision. Pastor Schewe and his family will be moving early in the new year after the Christmas season.

"25 Days of Christmas"

As we prepare for the birth of Jesus, our most valuable gift from our Heavenly Father, the Stewardship Committee is launching a drive titled "The 25 Days of Christmas.." It is a daily way to reflect during this *Season of Giving* on what God has given to us and how we might give to our Savior. Look for materials to help you focus during this wonderful time of year:

- ◇ A "25 Days of Christmas" calendar and explanation letter in your mailbox.
- ◇ A weekly insert in the bulletin to guide you with more detail on each of the "25 Days"
- ◇ Special envelopes for additional gifts to your Savior and the work of Holy Trinity
- ◇ Daily reminders on Facebook (facebook.com/holytrinitywa) and Twitter (@HolyTrinity_WA)



CROSSTALK

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
2021 S. 260th Street
Des Moines, WA 98198

Pastor Mark H. Schewe
253-486-3531 (cell)
Pastor Thomas M. Voss
253-740-7540 (cell)
Principal Jason W. Kelley
253-839-6516 (school)
Secretaries: Kari Thom & Connie Fisher
253-839-0731 (church)

e-mail: mail@htlc-wa.org
www.htlc-wa.org
www.htls-wa.org

CrossTalk is published monthly by the members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Please send all address corrections, inquiries and material for publication to: mail@htlc-wa.org

Material submitted for publication may be edited for content and clarity and may be printed as space permits. Deadline for publication is the Monday following the general board meetings unless otherwise posted in the church calendar.

Books of the Month

364 Days of Thanksgiving: A Devotional Journal

By Pastor Andrew Schroer

Pastor Schroer challenges us and all Christians to realize how indescribably rich we are, to be overwhelmingly grateful for that richness, and to reach out to others with the overwhelming generosity of a heart that witnesses the daily blessings of an all-loving God.

Available from NPH for \$12.99.

FROM THE PASTOR



Dear Members of Holy Trinity, “25 Days of Christmas?” you might be asking. The way that I always heard, it was “The 12 Days of Christmas.” So, where did this come from? Let me explain.

When I went away to high school as a 14 year-old, my mom started a tradition that she would continue with the rest of her kids and grandkids. Each year, on December 1st, a package would arrive with 25 small gifts inside. They were numbered 1-25, one to open on each day until I arrived home at Christmas.

This “25 Days of Christmas” was something which I looked forward to each year. And it wasn’t necessarily because of the gift. Mostly I looked forward to it because I understood the time and thought that my mom put into each of the gifts; she wasn’t just going to the dollar store and buying 25 random little presents.

Every single gift had special significance behind it; whether it be a little treat that she knew I loved or providing a little preview of what I might be getting for Christmas. Often times, I

had to figure out why the gift was special, but each one always was, in some way or another.

The “25 Days of Christmas” was really 25 days that showed how much my mom thought about me, so it was special.

At a time of year when we often think about our own wish lists for Christmas and give much thought to what we might give to those in our life who are special to us, it can be easy to forget about what God has given to us.

So, we present the 25 Days of Christmas to you – an opportunity (25 of them, actually) to think about specific ways in which God gives to you through your church, Holy Trinity.

I hope that you will make the 25 Days of Christmas a special way for you to show your Savior that you are thinking of him each day during this time when we are getting ready to celebrate his birth. And while we are hopeful that it will have a positive impact on our ministry here at Holy Trinity, I pray that it helps you to keep your focus during this special Christmas season.

Preparing for the Savior,

Pastor Voss

Celebrating

An Anniversary This Month

Simon Duoth & Nyalual Tuoch	12/03
Bob & Michelle Welling	12/05
Roy & Lora Harvey	12/06
Daniel & Julie Kander	12/14
Scott & Kathy Mangold	12/16
Philip & Krista Hahn	12/20
David & Donna Wilkinson	12/24
Jim & Beth Humann	12/29
Eric & Jen Rodmyre	12/29
Christopher & Kym Poetter	12/31

Let the church office know if we do not have you listed for a December anniversary, as it may not be in our database.



Evergreen Lutheran High School

“A quality, Christ-centered education since 1978”

- Update -

Upcoming Events

12/10-11	No School
12/18	Christmas Concert @ ELHS, 7pm
12/19-1/3	No School—Christmas Break

Subscribe to the weekly newsletter to keep current on events, scores and more. Email your name, address and phone number with your request to “Weekly Update” at: email@elhs.org.






FALL / WINTER

Events & Activities



Looking Ahead to Fun & Fellowship

- Get involved, get connected! -

- Dec. 2 Advent Meal, 5:30 pm
Advent Service, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 5 Men’s Breakfast Bible Study, 8:00 am
Advent by Candlelight, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 9 Advent Meal, 5:30 pm
Advent Service, 6:30 pm
- Dec. 12 Christmas for Kids, 9:00-noon
- Dec. 13 Christmas Bake Sale, 9 & 11:30 am
Voters Meeting, 11:45 am 
- Dec. 17 Children’s Christmas Service, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 18 ELHS Christmas Concert, 7:00 pm
- Dec. 20 Coffee Hour, 9:00 am 
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:30 pm
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day Service, 9:00 am
- Dec. 31 New Year’s Eve Service, 6:30 pm
- Jan. 23 Wine & Cheese Mingle, 6:00 pm

Advent, Christmas and New Year's Worship

Dec. 2 & 9 - Advent Services

5:30 pm Supper

6:30 pm Advent worship

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight

6:30 pm

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day worship

9:00 am

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve worship

6:30 pm

Monthly Coffee Teams

Ladies, we need lead volunteers to cover the months of January, July, August and November for future Coffee Hours and assistance activities. This entails calling a list of women (provided) to seek goodies from them to bring, setting up for and cleaning up after the coffee hour or activity with other volunteers.



For additional information, contact Kendalyn Voss at 253-740-8331.

Your help is appreciated!

Church Cleaning

For the last few months, 4 groups and/or individuals have been cleaning the church. It would be wonderful to have more volunteers to share the privilege of serving your Lord in this way. The 2016 quarterly schedule will soon be drafted.

If you'd like to participate, please speak to the secretaries or Carol Cole. Thank you!

Fellowship

Wine & Cheese Mingle

Saturday, January 23
6:00 pm
HTLC Fellowship Hall

Come share a fabulous evening of fellowship with your Holy Trinity friends!

We will mingle - sample a variety of French wines, cheese and other delicious pairings.

Don't miss it - registration and tickets available soon!

Tickets are \$20 each.

(This is a 21+ event.)

Total Wine & MORE

Women's Retreat

2016

Save-the-Date!

April 15-17, 2016

Please let Kari Thom or Anna Barton know if you would like to assist with planning or help in any way with this fun event.

Devotional thought for the month...

Just wait

By Jon D. Buchholz

When my son turned five, he started calling the "Happy Birthday" song "the waiting song." When we asked him why, he said resignedly, "It's the song that has to be sung while you're waiting to eat cake and ice cream and open presents."

A few moments can seem like an eternity when we're waiting for something special. Can you imagine what it's like to wait for thousands of years?

God's people waited

"He will crush your head" (Genesis 3:15), Adam and Eve heard God say to the serpent in the Garden of Eden. That promise was all that Adam and Eve had to cling to. They died spiritually when they tasted the forbidden fruit. They felt God's fury upon their disobedience. God's promise that the deceiver would be crushed offered the only glimmer of hope.

Thus began the wait for a promise to be fulfilled.

Adam lived out his life, watching and waiting—for 930 years. As he felt his once-perfect body age and deteriorate, he ached to see the promise fulfilled. But the serpent-crusher didn't come.

The violence and wickedness of the generations after Adam increased, but a tiny remnant remembered God and clung to the promise. The wait continued.

Centuries of waiting turned into millennia. Great empires arose and crumbled. Peace and prosperity gave way again and again to the horrors of war, famine, and plague. Kings and conquerors ruled and returned to dust.

God's people shared the prophecy

Through it all, God's faithful few passed down the promise of a Savior. Around campfires and at evening meals, during Sabbath rests and while working in the

fields, fathers told their sons, mothers taught their daughters that there was hope for all who were waiting for God's deliverance.

As centuries passed, God shared details about how and where the Deliverer would come:

- His conception and birth were to be miraculous: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).
- Judah, son of Israel, would be his ancestor: "The scepter will not depart from Judah...until he comes to whom it belongs" (Genesis 49:10).
- The City of David was chosen as his birthplace: "Bethlehem Ephrathah...out of you will come from me one who will be ruler over Israel" (Micah 5:2).
- The seat of his ministry was to be the shores of the Sea of Galilee: "He will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan" (Isaiah 9:1).

God's prophets also pointed to what the Deliverer would do:

God's people had to wait a long time for the fulfillment of the promise of a Savior.

- The Messiah, or Chosen One, was to take upon himself the punishment that we sinners deserve: "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities" (Isaiah 53:5).
- His perfect obedience would be credited to sinners as righteousness: "This is the name by which it will be called: The Lord Our Righteousness" (Jeremiah 44:16).

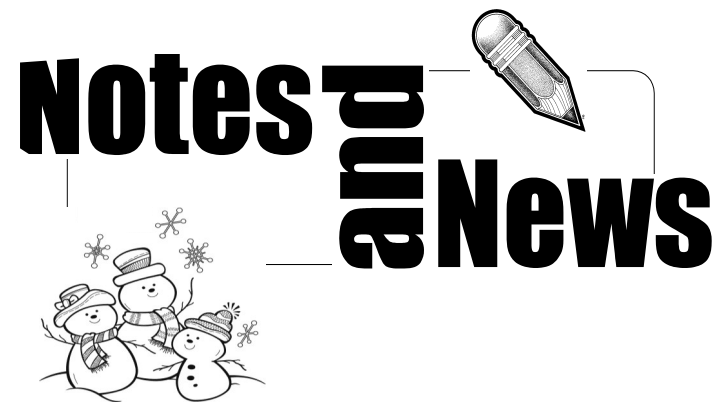
- He would die a horrible death: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1).
- Death would not be able to hold him: "You will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay" (Psalm 16:10).

Who knows how many generations were born, lived, watched, prayed, and died waiting for a fulfillment that they saw only with eyes of faith?

Only when the stage was perfectly set, when the time had fully come, did the waiting end—when God revealed his present to the world.

Jon Buchholz is pastor at Emmanuel, Tempe, Arizona

Notes and News



Gospel Outreach Committee

Steven Winterfeld Outreach Elder, 206-719-1422

Christmas presents a prime opportunity for Christian people. Since Christmas is such a celebrated holiday in our country, with so many traditions and festivities tied to it, most people that you know likely have an affinity for this “most wonderful time of the year.” Use that to your benefit as you seek to carry out your Savior’s commission to tell others about him and what he has done for the world.

There are a number of ways for you to show people that Christmas is wonderful because the Savior came into the world.

- * Use a postcard to invite a FRAN to our Christmas services—A FRAN is a Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, or Neighbor. These are the people that God has brought into your life so that you might share your Savior with them. Every person that you meet should be someone that you look at as a prospect. In the beginning of December, you will find postcards in your church mailboxes. Send them to someone that you would like to have sitting next to you on Christmas Eve! Far and away, unchurched people are more likely to accept an invitation to a Christmas service more than any other.
- * Volunteer for Christmas for Kids—This one-day Bible school event will take place on December 12th from 9am-Noon. What could be better than showing children the real reason for Christmas joy! Check out the blurb on the next page for more info.
- * Invite a child to Christmas for Kids (ages 3-10)—Postcards are in the back of church. Have a neighbor with kids? A grandchild that you’ve been trying to get to church? A co-worker who’s always looking for something to do with their kids? Give them an invite!

- * Join us for caroling—We’ll be headed to a couple local senior living centers in December (TBA) to bring the glad tidings of Christmas to those who might not be able to make it to church. If you’ve never seen the smile on the face of an elderly person as you sing about Christ’s birth to them, it is something you need to experience. Choir voices are not needed, only a joyful heart!
- * Live with Christmas Joy—Perhaps the easiest thing that you can do during this time of year when deadlines and hectic-ness seem to bring angst, and even anger, into so many lives is to let the joy of Christmas shine in your lives. You can do it in small ways. Here’s an example: At the post office and the person behind you is flustered and frustrated... Offer them your spot with a smile. Someone will notice.

Each year, Christ presents a gift-wrapped opportunity to share him with others. Make it a goal to use that gift during this Christmas season!

Christmas Baskets

Donations are currently being accepted for Christmas baskets. We are seeking canned goods, paper products, postage stamps and/or cash, to go towards the Christmas dinner together with “The Giving Tree.” Contact Pat Gentele with any questions or further ideas or to volunteer to help in any way. The Giving Tree will be up soon; more details to follow.



Poinsettias

Ready or not, the Advent/Christmas Season has arrived and with it the need for poinsettias to adorn our church sanctuary. As in the past, you can purchase or donate. If you purchase, please place your poinsettia in the kitchen where it will be put out in the church. Donations for purchasing can be placed in the church office.

Non-HTLS Students Participate in Children’s Christmas Service

Any non HTLS children interested in participating in the Children's Christmas service on Dec. 17, please speak to Pastor Voss or Mr. Kelley to receive materials available in the office. The whole school rehearsals will be held at 8:35 am on Dec. 14, 15 & 17 and at 9:00 am on Dec. 16.

Christmas for Kids - Dec. 12 Save-the-Date & Volunteers Needed!

We are hosting our 2nd Annual Christmas for Kids Event on Saturday, December 12 from 9:00-Noon! Bring your children or grandchildren and invite your neighborhood kids (ages 3-10) to an event filled with crafts, songs, food and a live nativity to hear "Angelic Announcements" about the birth of our Savior! This is an outreach event and an opportunity to share the real meaning of Christmas with our community so spread the word! Volunteer sign-up sheets and invites for you to pass out will be available in the church lobby. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact:

Chrislyn Johnson
253-381-1444
chrislynjohnson09@gmail.com



The Angels Bring Good News



Lifelines is printed to help you remember our fellow Christians in your prayers. If you are aware of a brother or sister in Christ who has experienced one of life's milestones, please let us know.

Please remember in your prayers our military, our government officials, and anyone you know who may be ill or un-churched, or unemployed.

For God's Blessings:

Jane Winterfeld, who has gone to her heavenly home

Brothers and sisters in Christ who need your prayers:

Dallas Kettner, who was diagnosed with prostate cancer

Pastor Schewe and Family, who have accepted the call to serve in Clovis, CA

Pastor Voss, who is recovering from knee surgery
The Winterfeld family, as they mourn the passing of wife and mother, **Jane Winterfeld**

Kevin Strege, Kari Thom and families, who mourn the passing of their aunt, Marilyn Olmanson
Connie Fisher & family, who mourn the passing of her father

Amelia Park, whose mother is ill

Judi Woods, who is recovering from major surgery
Trudy Julien, who suffered a stroke and is recovering

Caleb Eliason, who is recovering from ACL surgery with a long rehab ahead

Bob and Bernice Winterfeld, he is recuperating from a broken hip and another hip surgery—many changes in their lives

Tim Barnes, who is recovering from serious surgery
Don Grassell, who is recovering from cancer treatment

Luther Tucker, who has health issues

Katherine Wicker, who has health issues

Pray for our shut-ins:

Fern Einfeldt	Doris Ewald
Mary Fox	Jackie Thurston
Irene Goldsmith	Bernice Winterfeld
Lora Harvey	Bob Winterfeld
Elsie Hansen	

Please pray for our members in the military:

Jeff Bessler, US Navy
Noah Eliason, US Marine Reserve
Amanda Smith, US Navy Reserve
Cody Stolz, US Marine Reserve
Neal White, San Diego
Timothy Walton, US Army
Aaron Wrinkle, US Army

