



# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER  
2014

## FOLLOWING CHRIST IN MISSION

### Timing

Timing, as they say, is everything. From the perfect delivery of a joke to the appropriate buying and selling of stocks, timing matters. Is it the same with God? What role does time play in matters of faith, in elements spiritual? It would seem, if we are to learn anything from the season of Advent, quite a bit.

Now, to be clear, God is certainly not contained or constrained by time; God is outside of it. Still, as part of the beauty and mystery of the workings of God, God employs creation—the heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork—in a larger story of redemption including you and me and even time itself. The bible tells us “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.” (Galatians 4:4-5) When the fullness of time had come, God took action intimately and personally. We celebrate that as the Incarnation. We celebrate that as Christmas.

But before we jump into Christmas we must first get ready. And wait. Now I don't know about you, but for myself, waiting doesn't come easily. Unlike God, I am not patient. I actually tend to be oftentimes rather tightly wound, very impatient, wanting what I want

now not later. I imagine this doesn't just describe me. Of humanity's gifts, patience is probably not our strong suit. And this isn't simply a quirky personality trait. At our best as people we seem imbued with hopes and longings, especially for things to be right, to be fixed, to be good. How many times has your heart yearned and thought likewise as the prophet Isaiah does (and we will hear about on the First Sunday of Advent), “O that you would

**The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you... - 2 Peter 3:9a**

tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.” We want God to show up and do something! Like Martha in the gospel account of her brother Lazarus's death, “Lord, if you had been here...”

Yet God is here. And Jesus has already hinted at earlier in the story, there is more going on here than we realize. There is something about resurrection. And not just one day in the future, but here and now, even in this life.

Which is why we have Advent. As we wait for God, God is already at work in our lives and in our world doing something now. The author and theologian Stanley Hauerwas says,

"Advent is the recovery of how to live in a world of impatience as a patient people." Perhaps God is indeed teaching all of us patience.

But I think there's even more than just patience happening here. I think God is wanting to grow something new within each of us. The incarnation begins not exactly at the birth of Christ, but honestly nine months before. Before God “shows up” there is growth and preparation somewhat out of view. Could God be doing something similar in my life? In yours? Mind you, not literally a baby(!) but could this time still be a time pregnant with possibilities and growth?

In the month ahead it will be easy to get impatient, overwhelmed with so much to do, just busy with a schedule jam-packed. But I want to encourage you to wait and to wonder. To at least on occasion, step aside from the racing around and stop, breath in and out deeply, and be open to the possibilities that God is indeed growing something of God within you. Now is the time.

So for right now, give it some time and have an anticipatory season of Advent!

And at the right time, Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas/Fröhliche Weihnachten!

In Christ's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Tom



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## Worship

### Candlelight Service

Our annual Candlelight Worship Service will be held on Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. This service is one of the highlights of the church year and is an enjoyable event. Come and join us and bring a friend!

### Christmas Day Worship

Trinity will join together to worship the new born King on Christmas Day morning at 10 am.

## Church Life and Fellowship

**Christmas Flowers** Please use the insert provided to place your order for Christmas flowers this year. We appreciate you helping us to adorn our church during this special time of the year. Order forms may be given to any usher by December 14th. As always, you are welcome to take your flowers after our Christmas Celebration on December 25.

**Grace Notes Choir Concert** We welcome the Grace Notes to Trinity next Sunday afternoon (Dec. 14th) at 3 pm for their annual Advent/Christ Choir Concert. Entitled, "We're Glad You Came: A Musical Celebration of the Saviour's Birth," it will be a special and beautiful performance. All are encouraged to come!

### Tamale Making

In preparation for Pastor's Advent Open House, everyone is invited to come and help make tamales on Thursday, Dec. 18th in the Parsonage Kitchen at 7pm. In addition to the traditional spicy chili pork tamale, we will also be making a vegetarian bean and vegetable tamale. Whether you are an old pro at tamale making, or have never even heard of them till now, all skill levels are welcome! Come learn and share together!

### Pastor's Advent Open House

You are invited to celebrate the season and fellowship with your Trinity Reformed Church family at the 7th Annual Pastor's Advent Open House on Saturday, December 20th from 7-11 pm. Come and enjoy a Christmas tamale as well as other holiday goodies. Hope to see you there!

## Discipleship and Christian Education

### Advent Bible Study

During the season of Advent we will be joining together each Wednesday evening at 7:30 pm to study the scripture lessons for upcoming Sunday as we prepare for the Christ child's coming. Please join us!

### Confirmation Class

Beginning after the new year Trinity will offer a confirmation class to our early teens running through the spring semester. If interested, please speak with Pastor Tom.

## Mission, Outreach, & Evangelism

### Food Pantry Needed Items

Rice, Flour, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Cereal, Coffee, Tea. Please remember these for the first Sunday of the month.

## TRINITY CHIMES IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION...

The Trinity Chimes has been brought to you by the hard work of Deacon Bill Voges who monthly collected news and information as well as a few other items of interest from various parts of the Trinity family and designed a newsletter in much the manner he inherited it six years ago. This summer, Bill retired from this venture. We are deeply thankful to him for his service. Without a new Editor and Chief or willing writers jumping at the bit to take it over, it has afforded us the opportunity to ask new and different questions. Do we need a newsletter? If so, should it change? What function does it play? What are the items that need/should be in it? Are there better ways to communicate or co-functional ways, i.e. alongside our website? Always with a healthy mindset towards good stewardship, is how and what we currently communicate done best, and how does that fit in with the larger day to day and week to week functioning and running of the church, our ministry and mission? And finally, do we have folks willing and able to contribute time and energy to accomplish the tasks necessary? These questions are still being wrestled with and we hope have a new *Trinity Chimes* come to you in the new year. But for now, ponder the questions. And enjoy this temporary December *Chimes*!

## Stewardship and Finance

<u>Expenditures for Month of</u>	<u>Oct. 2014</u>
Personnel Expenses	\$ 6,260.00
Utilities	\$ 563.00
Ministry/Supplies	\$ 0.00
Maintenance	\$ 0.00
Spiritual Life/Outreach/Advertising	\$ 0.00
Other Disbursements*	\$ 3,398.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 10,221.00</b>

<u>Receipts for Month of</u>	<u>Oct. 2014</u>
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 5,918.00
Weekly Plate	\$ 85.00
Benevolences	\$ 333.00
Transfer from Memorial Fund	\$ 0.00
Special Offerings	\$ 0.00
Annuity	\$ 1,784.00
Other Receipts**	\$ 1,762.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 9,882.38</b>

\*Office Supplies, Insurance, Coffee Hour, CROP Walk, Quarterly Taxes  
\*\* Assessment, NA/Alanon, Coffee Hour, CROP Walk, Children's Ministry

## Property & Maintenance

### DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR?

Often, no. So Trinity is in the process of updating the sanctuary sound system and is currently engaged in a "Sound System Fund Drive." Please remember Trinity for your end of year giving! We thank you for your kindness and generosity!