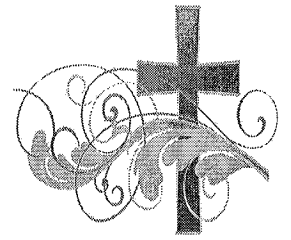




Trinity Times
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
 January 2019



“...the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Emmanuel.” – Isaiah 7:14

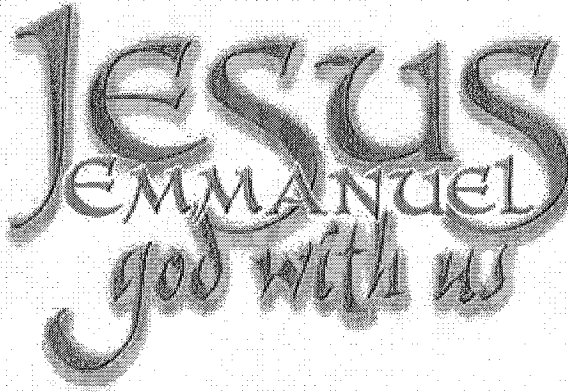
In the Prophet Isaiah’s day there was a threat to the land of Judah. The neighboring kings were about to attack Judah and the king was afraid. How could he and his army stand against so great a force?

Into this mess God sends his prophet to address the king. God knows what is happening, Isaiah tells the king, and God says ask for sign. Any sign as high as heaven or as deep as the earth, but the king refuses to ask because he knows what he wants to do. So, Isaiah tells the king that God will give a sign anyway, even if the king will not ask the Lord for one. The sign shall be a baby named Emmanuel, which means “God (is) with us”.

This sign will be a reminder that God will be with the people of Judah no matter what comes their way. The sign was a comfort to the people of Isaiah’s day, but when Matthew uses that same sign in his gospel telling of Jesus’ birth it becomes a greater sign to all the people of his day.

No matter the cruel kingship of Herod nor the powerful rule of Caesar, God was in charge and God will be with the people whatever their concern.

We have celebrated the coming of Emmanuel as we do every Christmas.



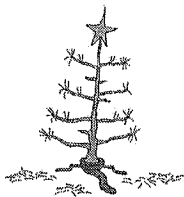
The promise given to the people of Isaiah’s day and Matthew’s day still is a promise for our day. With the uncertainty that Isaiah knew and the uncertainty of Jesus’ day we can understand how the “sign” of God’s presence was a comfort. So also, in our day as changes and uncertainty come to our community and our congregation, we have the promise of God being with us.

God has promised to always be with us even when it seems that the future is uncertain. Someone has said that “I may not know what the future holds, but I do know who holds the future.” This is important to remember as we move through the months ahead. God, who is not only a God of the past and present, is a God of the future. (“I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” - Revelation 1:8)

God knows what we need even before we ask and God is answering our prayers as we speak them. This is not to say that we have our answers right away, but in God’s timing. In his timing all things are beautiful. God knows what HTLC needs and God is busy bringing about that future for you. Trust that God is actively working out the future that God has planned for Jesus is our Emmanuel.

As I move to serve another congregation, I know that God is with me even as God is with you. God bless you and thank you for allowing me to serve as your pastor for nearly 7 years.

~Pastor Dave



UNDECORATING TIME!

All good things must come to an end. Dean & Nancy will begin “Undecorating” the church on Monday evening January 14th at 4:30 pm. If you “enjoy” this type of thing and have an hour or so to kill, stop by the church and help.

The following people have graciously agreed to deliver the sermon while we are awaiting our interim pastor.

- January 6th-Adam Frerichs**
- January 13th-Pastor Steve Meising**
- January 20th-Pastor Larry Spomer**
- January 27th-Pastor Wayne Pouppirt**

**Holy Trinity’s website is: www.holytrinitysidney.com
 and our Facebook page is Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.**

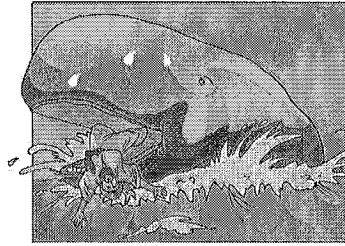
**You can live stream our services each Sunday if you are unable to attend.
 Share with friends and neighbors!**

It's Dark In Here

Jonah rode the vomit wave to shore. What an outlandish story! There are those who believe that the story of Jonah and the whale is a myth, a tall tale, a fable. But Jesus referred to it in all seriousness, implying that we too are to take it seriously. Not only do I take that story seriously, I'm encouraged by it.

Jonah disobeyed God's instruction and ended up in the belly of a whale. It was a terrifying experience: dark, seemingly hopeless. Jonah saw no possible solution for his predicament. But he prayed, repented of his disobedience, and was instantly delivered.

Have you ever had a whale-belly experience? It is dark, terrifying and you can't imagine how you will survive it. You may have been swallowed



unexpectedly, and not only have you not been disobedient, you have prayed and not been delivered. So what do you do? You continue to pray and wait. You don't give in to despair because the God of all victorious outcomes has promised you a future hope—a hope that even a dark whale belly cannot snuff out.

Whether we end up in a whale belly because of poor choices disobedience, or just swimming in the wrong place at the wrong time, God promises that he will deliver us out of our trouble if we will call on him. Now that is a fact we can swallow!

~Gretchen Emerson
Congregational Care Director

ANNUAL MEETING: Committee reports for the Annual Meeting in January are due by Jan. 11th. Please drop off to the church office

or email to htlcsecretary@outlook.com.

The Annual Meeting will be January 27th at 10:30 following our worship service. Please plan on attending.



Breakfast club will be meeting
January 13th & 27th at
Grandma Jo's at 8:00 am.

All youth grades 7-12 are
welcome to attend. We discuss
topics that the youth pick and
have had wonderful turnouts
each time we meet.

Plan on joining us!!

CONFIRMATION
CLASS WILL MEET ON
JANUARY 13TH AT 4:30PM AT
THE CHURCH. DINNER WILL BE
SERVED!



Bingo Jan. 22
@ 2:00 pm,
at Sidney Care
& Rehab



FAMILY FUN NIGHT FOR JANUARY

Watch your mail for
details about this
month's
Family Fun Night on
January 27th at 5:00



JANUARY

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Worship Servers for January 2019

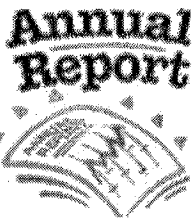
SUNDAY WORSHIP IS AT 9:30 AM	Jan. 6 9:30 AM	Jan. 13 9:30 AM	Jan. 20 9:30 AM	Jan. 27 9:30 AM
Worship Ass't	Rece Herboldsheimer	Deana Winkelman	Beth Kokjer	Molly Highby
Ushers	Craig Herboldsheimer, Larry Witters, Jim Engert, Server needed	Joel & Eli Ahrens, Norm Stevens, Kelsey Pettit	Carter Kokjer, Nathan Kennedy, Tom Nelson, Pat Finney	Blake & Steve Miller, Tom Birner, Ken Cook
Acolytes	Mayson Rowan, Cydalee Ryder	Cloe Ahrens, Server needed	James & Elinor Kokjer	The Santero Kids
Tech Team	Bryan & Laurie Herboldsheimer	Ron & Seth Studnicka	Steve & Blake Miller	Dean & Nancy Gipfert
Greeters	Larry & Dola Witters	Dee Schnell, Vernetta McDowell	Dennis & Linda Highby	Keo Ogle, Marcia Morrison
Reader	Becky Rowan	Delores Stevens	Donna Juelfs	Rece Herboldsheimer
HC Servers	Marcia Morrison, Nancy Gipfert	Michelle Studnicka, Heidi Ahrens	Nancy Gipfert, Tammy Miller	Cindy Birner, Dena Winkelman
Prayer Station	Betty Sauder	Linda Berlage	Jan Knicely	Rece Herboldsheimer
Children's Time	Rece Herboldsheimer	Deana Winkelman	Beth Kokjer	
Organist/ Keyboardist	Carla Brauer	Carla Brauer	Carla Brauer	Sonia Havorka
Counters	Marcia Morrison	The Berlage's	Katherine Weisbrook, Linda Highby	Keo Ogle, Marcia Morrison
Altar Guild	Delores Stevens, Marcia Morrison	Delores Stevens, Marcia Morrison	Delores Stevens, Marcia Morrison	Delores Stevens, Marcia Morrison
Hospitality Table Hosts	Becky Rowan	Server Needed	Server Needed	The Gipferts



The following annual reports need to be submitted to Nancy by January 11th:

Pastors Report (done)
 Presidents Report
 Director of Congregational Care
 Youth Education
 Celebration Sound
 Building & Grounds
 Memorial Fund
 Endowment (done)

Pastoral Support
 Women of the Cross (done)
 Young at Heart
 Caring & Sharing
 Financial Secy. Report
 Treasurer's Report
 Audit Report



~I would like to thank the Women of the Cross and the Giving Tree for their thoughtfulness during this Christmas season. I truly appreciated the taste treats delivered to me during this holiday season. ~Loraine Brauer

~Dean and I would like to thank the council and church for the generous bonus that you gave us for Christmas! We would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped prepare, decorate, serve or help in any way possible to make our Advent and Christmas season a success. God has truly blessed us with a wonderful church family! ~Dean & Nancy Gipfert

