



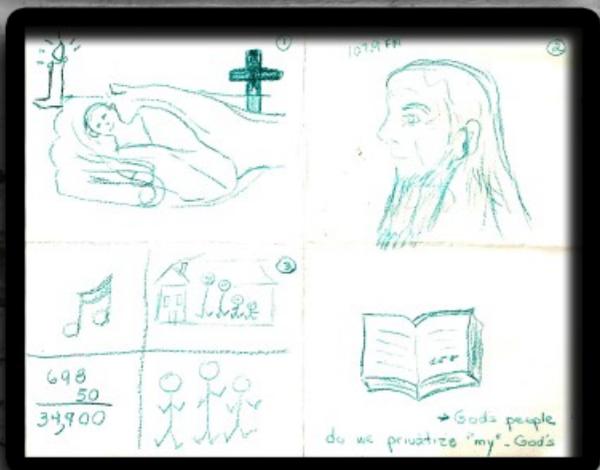
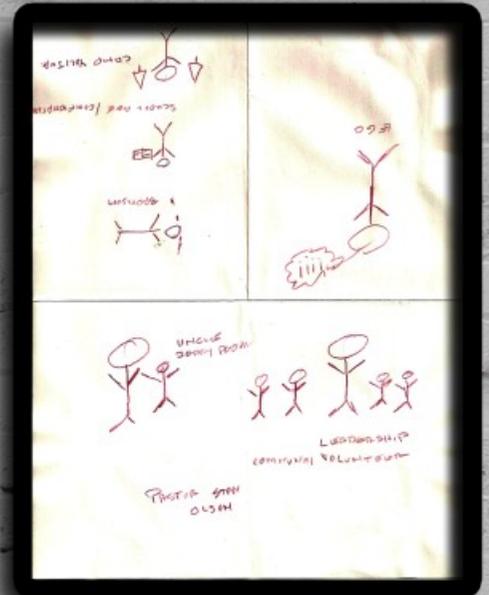
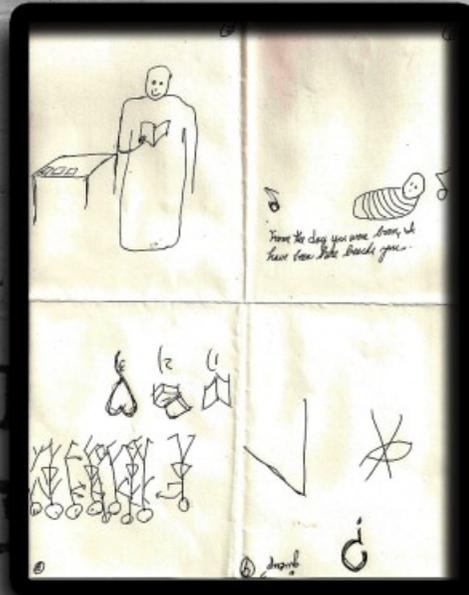
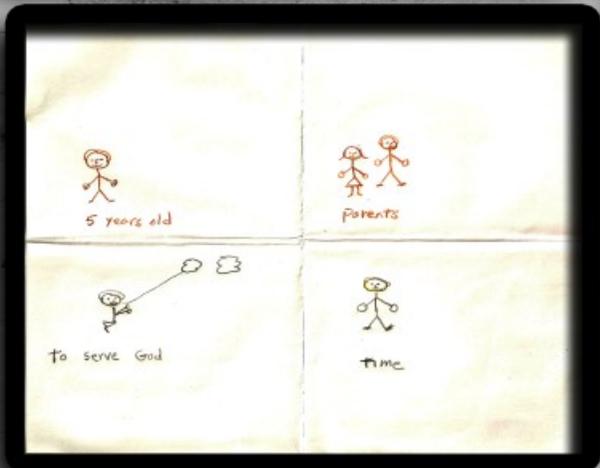
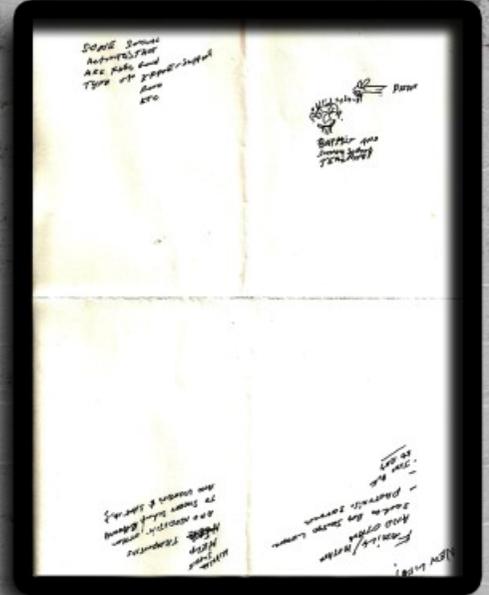
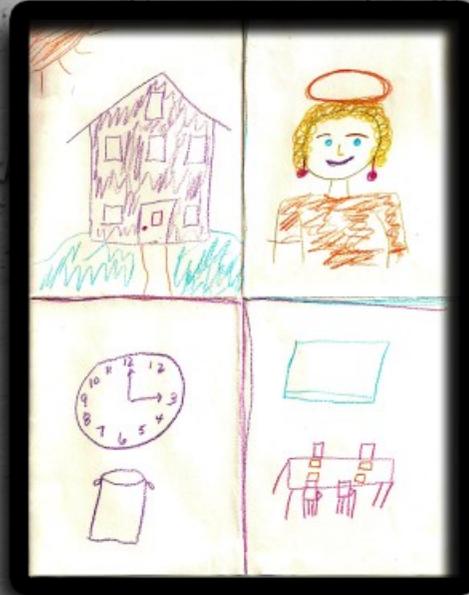
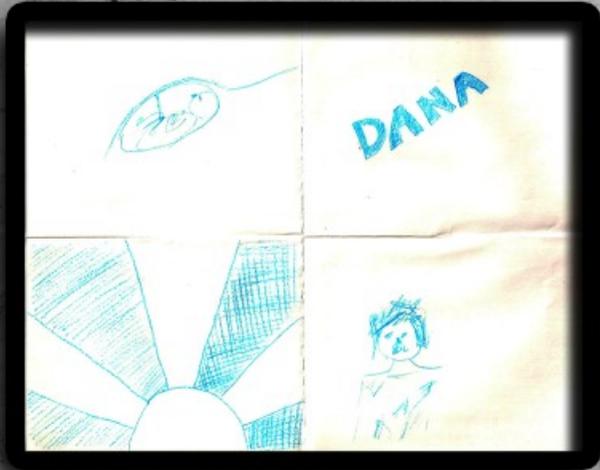
TRINITY TRUMPETER

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

November/December 2016

Volume 15, Issue 6

WHERE WE'VE BEEN...



WHERE WE'RE GOING...



Trinity at a glance

To reflect God's love and grace by welcoming everyone, sharing our gifts, caring for those in need, and witnessing to Christ as our Savior.

—Trinity's Mission Statement

In this Issue

Pastor's Message.....	3
What's Your Favorite Hymn?	4
Strategic Planning Retreat Notes	6
Advent & Christmas Opportunities	8
Church Calendar.....	9
The Mystery and the Majest	11
Christmas Caroling	12

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Subscribe to the electronic version on our website or call the church office to receive the print edition.

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Sunday Worship



9:00 am Sunday School & Bible Study
10:30 am Worship with Communion
11:45 am Fellowship

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Remembering Our History, Honestly

I have always been fascinated by history. I was so fascinated by it that I focused on history in college and in graduate school. Many philosophers and statesmen from George Bernard Shaw to Edmund Burke to Hegel and all the way back to Thucydides have similar quotes about “those who do not learn history being doomed to repeat it.”

In our school system today there has been a focus on S.T.E.M. education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). One of the subjects that has seen a huge decline has been the study and importance of history. American society and pop culture is obsessed with the next big thing or what’s “trending”. Similarly, we live in a society that is known to suffer from historical amnesia.

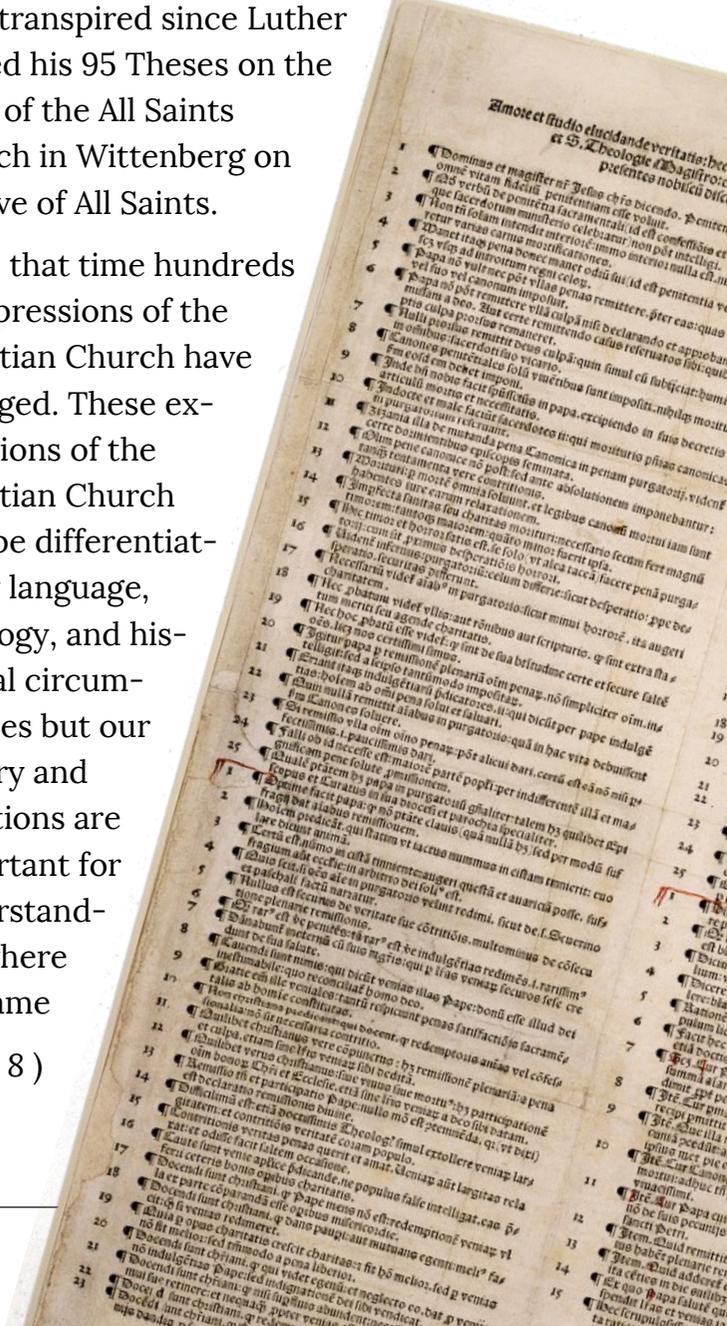
Many of us struggle to remember our own history that we do not often take the time to learn the history of other people, other cultures, or other religions. Sometimes the history that we do learn is an oversimplified glorification of a past that fails to acknowledge some our mistakes and some of our sins.

The Christian Church is an historic institution that includes the use of scripture and traditions that emerged over time. Our expression of the Christian Church is only 500 years old. What we now call the Lutheran Church began with a reform-minded Augustinian monk and Doctor of Sacred Theology named Martin Luther who sought to correct some of the teachings, practices, and abuses of the Roman

Catholic Church. The historical date that we often point to is October 31, 1517 as the birth of the Reformation and the beginning of the Lutheran Church. A great deal of events have transpired since Luther posted his 95 Theses on the front of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg on the eve of All Saints.

Since that time hundreds of expressions of the Christian Church have emerged. These expressions of the Christian Church may be differentiated by language, theology, and historical circumstances but our history and traditions are important for understanding where we came

(Page 8)



what's your FAVORITE hymn?

If you've had the opportunity to attend any of the organ recital/hymn festivals that I've presented in the three years that I've been at Trinity, you may know that one of my absolute favorite hymns is *Jerusalem the Golden*. To me it is the perfect marriage of an eschatological text (one that directs us to the hereafter) and dynamic melody that resounds deep within.

In connection with the organ console restoration project, I want to know what YOUR favorite hymns are. Hymn singing is as intrinsic to Lutheranism as justification by faith. It's woven into the very fabric of our tradition. The organ in Trinity's sanctuary is **your organ**; it's not mine and so I want to feature those songs that are nearest and dearest to you.

Coming up soon on **November 12 at 4:00 PM** we will be having a special recital and hymn sing during which time we will sing your favorite hymns.

If you haven't already, fill out the slip in the weekly worship bulletin asking for your favorite hymns and place it in the offering basket.

If you can't make it on the 12th, or you can't fill out a slip by November 6, don't worry, please fill out a slip afterwards. I will look for other opportunities to feature everyone's favorite.

Speaking of the organ console restoration project, myself along with support from the entire Discipling Committee have been actively engaging several different organ con-

tractors to ensure that we are good stewards with both your incredible financial generosity in supporting the project as well as the wonderful organ itself. It is an absolute treasure and we want to ensure that we have a complete and fully accurate picture of everything concerned so that you, the congregation can make an informed decision on how to proceed.

There is still time to make a financial contribution to the project. Pledge cards have been mailed out and additional cards are available if needed, just contact the church office. Please complete and return your pledge card by November 13.

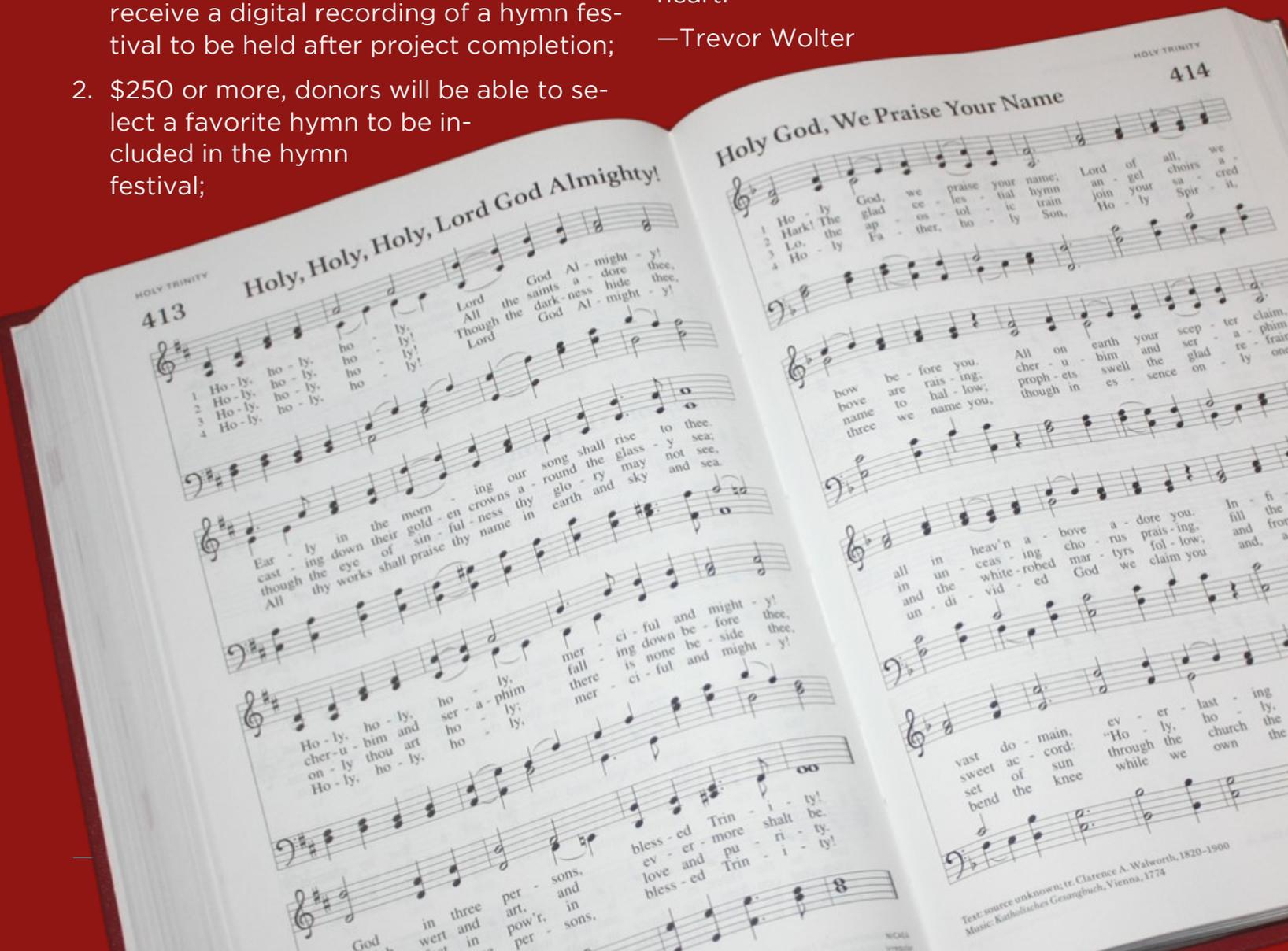
As a reminder, we have planned an assortment of gifts to thank you for your contribution:

1. For gifts of \$100 or more, the donor will receive a digital recording of a hymn festival to be held after project completion;
2. \$250 or more, donors will be able to select a favorite hymn to be included in the hymn festival;

3. \$500 or more, donors will receive a full color commemorative book about the organ as well as an invitation to the organ dedication recital dress rehearsal prior to the organ's public debut;
4. \$1,000 or more, an invitation to a private dinner reception following the hymn festival;
5. \$2,500 or more, a song will be written by Trinity's organist on the Biblical theme or text of the donor's choice;
6. \$5,000 or more, a year of piano (or organ) lessons (36 lessons total) with Trinity's organist.

I am completely humbled by the sincere and endless support that this congregation has provided me in my music ministry for you. Thank you from the bottom of my heart!

—Trevor Wolter





SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

Strategic Planning Retreat

All members of Trinity were urged to attend the Strategic Planning Retreat held Saturday, September 17, 2016, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. Those attending were: Pastor Scott Fritz, Marilyn Bohl, Kathy & Fenton Glendenning, Roland Johnson, Larry Rice, Dalerond Smith, Arline Walter, Trevor Wolter, & Jim Young.

The meeting was led by Rev. Matt Keadle, Pastor at St. Marks Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, since 2012. He stated, "It's nice to get big, but it's better to bear fruit." He recommended two books: *The Mission Table* by Stephen P. Bowman and *Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations* by Gil Rendle & Alice Marin.

Throughout the morning, attendees were asked to share information about themselves:

- When did you first meet God?
- What person most influenced your growth in faith?
- What do you see as your purpose in life?

Through this process attendees were encouraged to think about their faith and learned more about the faith of others.

The group took a brief break to fill their lunch plates, and then continued their deliberation by listing Trinity's strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats as follows:

Strengths:

- Music program
- Finances & Stewardship

- Well-staffed (i.e. Good Pastor & Organist)
- Leadership
- Well-kept facility
- Caring members/volunteers
- Strong bible study

Challenges:

- Low-income community/Higher-income community (wealth disparities)
- Relationships between people
- Transient neighborhood
- Pastoral transitions in the past 10 years
- Need to modernize (worship, communications, technology)
- Lots of churches, stores, museums (competition)
- We are small and limited people resources

STRENGTHS

- MUSIC PROGRAM
- FINANCES + STEWARDSHIP
- GOOD PASTOR + GOOD ORGANIST (STAFFED WELL)
- LEADERSHIP
- GOOD FACILITY, WELL-KEPT
- GOOD CARING MEMBERS
- VOLUNTEERS
- STRONG BIBLE STUDY

OPPORTUNITIES

- REACH OUT TO UNDERSTAND WHAT NEIGHBORHOOD WANTS
- SUMMER OUTREACH/FESTIVAL (BACK TO SCHOOL)
- PEOPLE DON'T KNOW WE EXIST
- SKIPPABLE PROGRAMS → CHANGE?
- MUSIC PROGRAM? FOR YOUTH?
- CAL STATE LONG BEACH
- LONG BEACH ARTS COUNCIL

CHALLENGES

- LOW-INCOME/HIGHER INCOME
- RELATIONSHIPS b/w PEOPLE
- TRANSIENT NEIGHBORHOOD
- PASTORAL TRANSITIONS
- NEED TO MODERNIZE
- LOTS OF CHURCHES/STORES/MUSEUMS
- WE ARE SMALL - LIMITED PEOPLE RESOURCES
- OPEN HOUSE TO BRING IN PEOPLE

THREATS

- PROGRAMS HAVE LIFE CYCLES
- SCHOOLS HAVE NEW AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS
- LOTS OF COMPETITION FOR TIME (WRESTLING PROGRAMS, ETC)
- OTHER CHURCHES THAT MEET AT OUR CHURCH
- SPACE IS ALREADY BEING USED
- CRIME



- Expect pastor to bring in people

Opportunities:

- Reach out to understand what neighborhood wants
- Summer outreach/Festival
- People don't know we are here
- Saturday Program?
- Music Program for youth & families
- Cal State Long Beach relationship
- Long Beach Arts Council relationship

Threats:

- Programs have life cycles
- Schools have new after school programs
- Lots of competition for time (weekend kid's programs, sports, etc.)
- Other churches that are at our church (competition)
- Space is already being used
- Crime

Mr. Keadle then directed attention to Trinity's mission statement: "To reflect God's love and grace by welcoming everyone, sharing our

gifts, caring for those in need, and witnessing to Christ as our Savior." Attendees were challenged to list action items in each of these areas. The group listed current activities, but the meeting adjourned before the group really challenged itself to identify potential or future activities in each of these areas.

Mission Goals:

1. Witnessing to Christ as our Savior
 - Christmas Cantata
 - Caroling in December
2. Welcoming Everyone
 - Greeting everyone on Sundays
 - Inviting others
3. Caring for those in need
 - Prepare food bags for those in need
 - Holiday meal for community
4. Sharing our gifts
 - Concert series
 - Outreach event (Trunk or Treat, Carols, etc.)

–Notes by Marilyn Bohl

Advent & Christmas Opportunities

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, starting 11/30

Meal at 6:15 PM

Worship at 6:45 PM

Christmas Cantata

Saturday, December 17

4:00 PM

Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24

7:00 PM

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25

10:30 AM

(Continued from page 3)

from so that we can know where we are going.

Our history is important for understanding some of the mistakes that we have made so that we can avoid making them in the future and there have been times that our Church, as an institution has made mistakes. We have sometimes stood on the wrong side of history and we have sinned.

Martin Luther had no problem pointing out some of the sins of the church and he often used colorful language in doing so. Luther knew that the church, as an institution was run by human beings but also led and inspired by the Holy Spirit. The church was full of sinners in need of God's redeeming grace while at the same time the church was also God's people who were made saints by God's redeeming grace through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our church is an historic phenomenon with many lessons to teach us through our history and traditions. There is a rich history and experiences that we still have to offer the world and it begins by taking some time to share some of these honest stories that are part of our history.

As we begin to commemorate and reflect on 500 years as an institutional church body may we be a church that honestly reflects on some of the wonderful things we have accomplished while acknowledging our sins and mistakes. As a church and as God's people we are constantly reforming and God is constantly making us new creations for the sake of the Church and for the sake of the world.

—Rev. Scott Fritz



November 2016

December 2016

November 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	1	2
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Oct 30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5
			5:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am Bible Study		Daylight Savings Ends 12:30pm Meal 1:00pm LSS Tutoring
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Property Committee			5:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Outreaching Committee	10:00am Bible Study		9:00am Discipling Committee 12:30pm Meal 1:00pm LSS Tutoring 4:00pm Hymn Sing
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Executive Committee		7:00pm Council Meeting	5:00pm Choir Rehearsal	10:00am Bible Study		12:30pm Meal 1:00pm LSS Tutoring
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Christ the King Sunday 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Congregational Meeting			5:00pm Choir Rehearsal	Thanksgiving Day		
27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Fellowship Committee			5:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm Meal 6:45pm Advent Worship			

December 2016

December 2016							January 2017						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 27	28	29	30	Dec 1	2	3
4 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Property Committee	5	6	7 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm Meal 6:45pm Advent Worship	8 10:00am Bible Study	9	10 9:00am Discipling Committee 12:30pm Meal 1:00pm Christmas Caroling 1:00pm LSS Tutoring
11 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Executive Committee	12	13	14 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm Meal 6:45pm Advent Worship	15 Newsletter Submissions Due 10:00am Bible Study	16	17 12:30pm Meal 1:00pm LSS Tutoring 4:00pm Christmas Cantata
18 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Outreaching Committee	19	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal 6:15pm Meal 6:45pm Advent Worship	22 10:00am Bible Study	23	24 9:00am Christmas Eve 7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 Christmas 9:00am Bible Study 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:15pm Fellowship Committee	26	27	28 5:00pm Choir Rehearsal	29 10:00am Bible Study	30	31 12:30pm Meal 1:00pm LSS Tutoring

THE *Mystery*
AND THE *Majesty*

Saturday, December 17, 4:00 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION

759 Linden Avenue
Long Beach, California



TRINITY
LUTHERAN CHURCH
YOUR DOWNTOWN SPIRITUAL HOME



TRINITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH 759 Linden Ave.
YOUR DOWNTOWN SPIRITUAL HOME Long Beach, CA 90813

Christmas Caroling

Saturday, December 10, 2016
Chili Lunch at Noon
Neighborhood Singing at 1:00

Everyone is invited!!!

