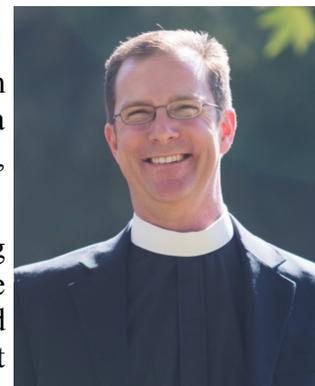




Living “until He comes again.”

This is for many people a season of extremes. For some, it is a joyful time filled with many happy memories. For others, it is a time of deep pain and loneliness. For others yet, it is a season of distraction, frantic busyness, and stress. No matter where you fall in this spectrum, though, it can be challenging to engage the Advent season as the church intended.

Advent is a wonderfully rich season which kicks off the church year. It begins by aiming us at the finish line of the Christian life: the great Christian hope of Christ’s return. Our whole lives are meant to be lived in light of the great truth that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. And when He comes in power and great glory, we will with joy greet our Savior! Why are we able to greet this day with joy and without fear?



In a sense, the answer is Christmas. God so loved the world that He sent His only Son to take upon himself our flesh and die on the Cross for our sins. God is for us and with us. We have been rescued by the Cross of Christ and so we confidently look to His coming again. Advent, then, builds the bedrock for our lives of faith.

The question is, how can we experience the depth of this season without being distracted, discouraged, or done-in? I would offer a few simple suggestions.

Come to church. When we mark the passage of Advent together in worship, seeing the candles being lit one week at a time, hearing the wonderful hymns of the season, listening to the readings, it keeps us focused. We need corporate worship.

Carve time to slow down. Make sure you have time every day to sit and reflect on Jesus. It doesn’t have to be that long, it just needs to be meaningful. And get creative with it. Sit by candle or firelight. Turn the lights off and light an Advent wreath so that you can watch the light of Jesus’ coming growing brighter. Take in the tastes and smells of the season and use them to remind you of Jesus.

Consider engaging, if you don’t already, Morning or Evening Prayer. Let the readings sink deep into your heart and mind. Pray the **weekly collects**. **Experience the way they shape the rhythm of time.**

Invite someone to church with you. That might not sound like it will help you be ready for Jesus, but you would be surprised! When we extend love to our friends and neighbors, caring about their spiritual well-being, we are joining in Jesus’ love for them, and that will always change us!

Consider listening to some sacred music like Lauridsen’s *Lux Aeterna* or Handel’s *Messiah* and making yourself familiar with the texts of the compositions. They are beautiful, calming pieces that are focused on the incredible gift and work of Jesus. While it is sung in Latin, the translation from Lauridsen’s *Veni, Sancte Spiritus* (Come, Holy Spirit; from *Lux Aeterna*) offers incredible words for meditation:

“O light most blessed, fill the inmost heart of all thy faithful. Without your grace, there is nothing in us, nothing that is not harmful. Cleanse what is sordid, moisten what is arid, heal what is hurt, flex what is rigid, fire what is frigid, correct what goes astray.”

The power of music is that it not only gets stuck in your head, but in your heart, and it can stay with you for days on end!

It is our prayer that you experience the depth of this holy season in a way that brings focus, healing, peace, joy, and most importantly, in a way that makes you ready to greet Jesus with joy when He comes again.



Trinity Family Ministry

Growing Together in Christ

Sunday School is on the Campus of St. John's Lutheran Pre-K - 8th Grade will meet in the Sanctuary and then process to class at the *Gloria* hymn.

Youth Group

12/6—Youth Group (5:30-7 p.m.)

12/13—Christmas Carols & Party (5:00-7:30 p.m.)

12/20—No Youth Group

12/27—No Youth Group



On Christian Friendship Part III: Friends and Suffering

If all that we have said in our previous writings on Christian friendship is true—namely, that biblical friendship is a more stable and foundational relationship than is widely assumed in our present culture of ephemeral bonds—then we may rightly conclude that *friends are called to suffer with one another*, this being in fact one of their primary charisms. The philosopher Martin Heidegger said somewhere that suffering encloses each of us in a house without doors or windows. For Christian friends this is simply unacceptable. St. Paul expresses well this particular aspect of Christian friendship: “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). How do we do this for our friends in times of suffering?

Let me suggest two legitimate approaches—although I will allow my readers to discern which approach to employ at any given time with their suffering friends.

Silent Presence—Job’s “friends” are rightly chastised (by God no less in Job 42:7-9!) for offering easy answers in a time of suffering. They are to be commended, however, for their initial response to Job’s plight in Job 2:13: “And they sat with him on the ground for seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.” This is the ministry of simple, silent presence. *Pace* Heidegger, it is finding a door to the house and coming in silently just to sit.

Holding up the Death and Resurrection of Jesus—At times words must be uttered in the face of suffering. For Christians this means holding up the death and resurrection of Jesus as the light that brings not absolute clarity but hope. As Stephen Fowl puts it, “The life, death, and resurrection of Jesus provide Christian friends with a framework for making the suffering they encounter...intelligible to each other.” Again *pace* Heidegger, this is not only coming into the house but also turning on the lights.

I certainly do not wish any more suffering to come upon us. But it is my prayer that we can better learn as Christian friends to “bear one another’s burdens.”

Blessings,

JASON'S CHRISTMAS TREE SUNDAY



We are eager to continue our work in cooperation with Bakersfield Recovery Services. What greater blessing and encouragement can there be to those in active recovery than by taking some of the burden off of their families at Christmas. We will be providing a few Christmas gifts for their children. Your wrapped gifts will be delivered by the staff of Bakersfield Recovery Services to the children of their clients in Jason's Retreat, Capistrano House and Lincoln Street Retreat.

Please bring your wrapped gifts to church on Sunday or to the Church office no later than **Monday, December 14th**. Once again, our heartfelt thanks and blessings to you all for your generous love and support in our work.

Your brother in Christ,
Dn. John



CHRISTMAS TEA

Saturday, December 12th
at 2 p.m.

All Trinity church women and guests are invited to the ACW Christmas Tea at:

*First Congregational Church
Stockdale Highway & Real Rd.*

The cost is **\$10**.
Tickets are available after church
or in the office during the week.

The cut-off date for purchasing your tickets is Monday, December 7th. We are not able to sell tickets after that date, and no tickets will be sold at the door.

AGES TO AGES

FAITH | FAMILY | FUTURE

Total Pledged: \$2,694,606

Total Collected (9/31/15): \$1,070,718

Our Groundbreaking Ceremony is Saturday, December 5 at 1 p.m.

We are on schedule to begin construction in January 2016!

WHERE IS GOD? Walking with God in Difficult Times

A Sermon and Small Group Study
Five Weeks starting January 10th



CHRISTMAS AT TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Advent 4

Sunday, December 20th, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Children's Christmas Gospel Presentation during the 10:30 a.m. service

Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist at 7:30 p.m.
St. John's Lutheran Church



In The Parish Family

Congratulations to...

all those who were baptized on November 1st:
Bryan Bacot, Devin Bacot, Kirstyn Bacot and
Ethan Oberg. Many blessings!

Thank you...

for your prayers! As many of you may know, my son-in-law Joe has been fighting cancer since August of 2014. He has had 2 surgeries and 4 grueling chemo treatments, each requiring 5 days in a medical ICU. He had scans done this week, and no trace of cancer was found in his body. This is truly a miracle and my family and I thank you for holding him in your prayers.

Love, Susan DeNatale

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Judy Wilcox

Juliet Smith

Michele Jones

Diane Moore
Howard Quilling

Joanne Fredriksz
Betty Wickersham

Kristin Savage

Joseph Fredriksz
Liz Smith

Corinne Bogie

Karen Williams

Darcie Larman

Matthew Fredriksz
Anne Giles

Joshua Wagner

Suzanne L. Wagner

Joy Hawley
Jerry Starr

Jeanie Howard

ALTAR GUILD DONATIONS FOR DECORATIONS

Our Altar Guild is asking for donations for our Christmas decorations. We ask that you call Linda Schuler or Tara in the church office by December 7th. Donations may be made in honor, or celebration, or in memory of someone. If you have any questions, please call Linda at 679-6389.

Plan Ahead

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

January 10, 2016

12:00 p.m.

TAX REMINDER

All donations for the tax year of 2014 must be received by noon on December 31st.

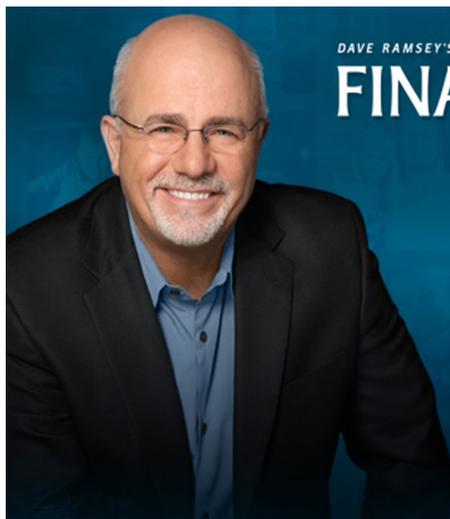
TRINITY STATS

Attendance

November 1st	241	November 15th	207
November 8th	200	November 22nd	200

Giving

			Year-to-Date	
<u>October</u>	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$37,422	\$47,691	\$460,924	\$476,913
Expense	\$43,228	\$46,775	\$427,351	\$467,749



DAVE RAMSEY'S
FINANCIAL Peace
UNIVERSITY

This changes
EVERYTHING!

Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University*! The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just the first three months!

**9 week class
begins
Monday January 18th**

**Location: Savage Home
Every Monday
6:00-7:30**

**For Questions or to register, contact
Coordinator Chad Savage
csavage1174@gmail.com**

Trinity Anglican Church
5100 California Avenue
Suite 108

December 2015

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning
at St. John's Lutheran Church

8 a.m. Holy Communion
(1928 Prayer Book)

10:30 a.m. Holy Communion
(Rite II)

Thursday Morning

10 a.m. Healing Service
5100 California Avenue
Suite 108

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Ed Taylor	<i>Treasurer</i>
Anne Giles	<i>Clerk</i>
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OUR CLERGY

The Rev. Karl E. Dietze, Rector
The Rev. Joseph Lawrence, Assistant
The Rev. John M. Wilcox, Retired
The Rev. John LaMar, Deacon

The Messenger