



# TRINITY CHIMES

NEWSLETTER OF THE TRINITY REFORMED CHURCH

DECEMBER 2008

## Anticipation

Perhaps you recall the Carly Simon song from the '70's, *Anticipation*:

*"Anticipation, Anticipation, Is making me late, Is keeping me waiting..."*

Probably best remembered as the music for a Heinz ketchup commercial. Admittedly, I know it better from the commercial. As we enter into the season of Advent, *Anticipation* is the background music playing in my head. (You'll get use to me and my background music...) For Carly, *Anticipation* was all about her mood as she waits to go on a date with Cat Stevens. For many folks in my generation, *Anticipation* is about the wait for that thick Heinz ketchup to come out of the bottle. (Please read no endorsement for said ketchup in this statement.)

Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines anticipation as "the act of looking forward; *especially* : pleasurable expectation." That's what Advent is about! Looking forward, longing, yearning, and hoping, of not only what can be, but of what will be. Advent is a time filled with anticipation. But better than a date with Cat Stevens or a tomato based condiment Advent is about waiting for the Christ child to enter into our world and our lives, and for the beginning of healing and wholeness, of true shalom.

The days and the weeks ahead will undoubtedly have much anticipation. There will be the anticipation of holiday preparations—of gifts and food and parties. There will be the anticipation of family and travel. There will be the anticipation of a great many activities as well as end of the year responsibilities. And enmeshed in all of these will be the accompanying stress, something that is not so joyously anticipated. But before you jump immediately into celebrating Christmas I invite you to observe—no, to celebrate—the season of Advent. I encourage you to allow yourself some time to ponder in your heart, mind, and soul the message that Mary received and that she too pondered and caused her to sing, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name." (Luke 1:47,49) Consider what Advent is all about and make prepara-

tions, spiritual and otherwise, for "this thing that [is about to take] place, which the Lord has made known to us." (Luke 2:15b, adjusted) Let yourself be filled with anticipation at what it would mean to see the words of Isaiah 64:1 take flesh:

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence...

Advent is about anticipation. It is an occasion to actively wait and joyfully prepare oneself for a time when heaven and earth will sing together the good news that God is with us. I look forward expectantly with you—filled with anticipation—excited to celebrate Advent and Christmas together with our church family at Trinity!

In Christ's Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Tom

Wow! It is amazing that it has only been a couple of months since you called me as your pastor and already I feel such a part of your church family. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has helped with this transition. Especially, I'd like to thank Bill Voges and the Pastor Search Committee and Marieanna Trautmann and the Consistory for their hard work, as well as Theo Hessenius and everyone else who assisted in getting the parsonage ready. And finally, thanks to each of *you* who have made me (and Sari and Prince!) feel so welcomed. Danke schön!

I pray that together we may truly celebrate the message the angels proclaimed to the shepherds so many years ago,

"Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Merry Christmas/Fröhliche Weihnachten,  
Pastor Tom

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Our vision is  
to help  
people find  
New Life in  
Jesus Christ!



## Cake Sale

Once again this year the Ladies Aid/Frauenverein held a very successful cake and rummage sale. Hard work and great dedication produced \$ 831.50 for our church. Thank you to everyone who baked and supplied all of the cakes as well as to the people who purchased the items.

## Heimliche Zeit

Heimliche Zeit,  
wenn es draussen friert und schneit  
und der Christ ist nicht mehr weit!  
Wie's tuschelt in den entferntesten Ecken,  
kichert und lacht!  
Überall Bepacketsein, Verstecken;  
Vorfreude: wie anderen Freude man macht.  
Hoffen und Wünschen webt feiernd durchs Zimmer:  
ein Heinzelmännchen im Lampenschimmer.  
Mich deucht, ich sah einen güldenen Schein:  
Guckt da nicht Sankt Niklas zum Fenster herein?  
Glocken erklingen in weiter Ferne!  
Bratäpfelduft aus dem Ofen quoll.  
Am nachtklaren Himmel schimmern die Sterne  
verheiffungsvoll  
und schauen das Treiben und freuen sich mit  
bei der eilenden Menschen froh klingendem Schritt.  
Friedvolles Hasten weit und breit:  
Weihnacht ist nahe! O heimliche Zeit!

von Albert Sergel

## Heller Morgen

Als ich schläfrig heut erwachte  
- - und es war die Weihnachtszeit  
hörte ich's am Glockenklange,  
dass es über Nacht geschneit

Denn in meinem hellen Zimmer  
klang so hell der Glockenschlag  
dass ich schon im Traume wusste,  
heute ist ein heller Tag.

Als ich durch die Scheiben staunte,  
wie die Welt so froh beschneit,  
wurde mir die ganze Seele  
glänzend weiss und hell und weit!

von Bórries Freiherr von Münchhausen

## Don't Worry, Be Prayerful

I don't know about you, but Christmas and the "holidays" send many of us into states of worry and anxiety. There is so much to do, and especially now we often feel that there is too little money to do it with. Jesus and Paul both understand, and have sound advice for us.

In the midst of what must have been constant opportunities of stress in His three-year ministry and even before, Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Matt. 6:27; see also all of Matt. 6 and Luke 12).

And the Apostle Paul faced many difficulties: "Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers." (2 Cor. 11:24-26) He had learned from Jesus Himself, who told him, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor. 12:9) Therefore, Paul wrote to the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Phil. 4:6) We can do nothing about situations out of our control, but God can.

Elder Lenny Schiefer

## Candlelight Service

Our Candlelight Service will be held on Sunday December 21 at 7:00 p.m. and the Colonial Church of Bayside will be joining us again this year. This is one of the most popular events at Trinity and draws many visitors. Bring a friend or neighbor with you and join us for this beautiful service

## Worship Schedule for December

December 7, 14, 21, 28

Worship Celebration at 10:00 am

December 21—Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm

December 25—Christmas Celebration at 10:00 am

\* Communion will be celebrated on December 7