

THE VISITOR



A newsletter for Trinity Lutheran Church, Dallas, Oregon



January–February Mission
UGM COAT DRIVE

**CALLING ALL TLC MEMBERS,
FRIENDS and NEIGHBORS**

Please bring your extra good, clean, usable coats to Trinity to contribute to the coat drive in support of Union Gospel Mission.

If you do not have extras, please consider purchasing a new or gently used item. Other cold weather gear is gladly be received, such as gloves, hat, or socks.

There are collection barrels marked for Union Gospel Mission located in the narthex.

“For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has...”
2 Corinthians 8:12

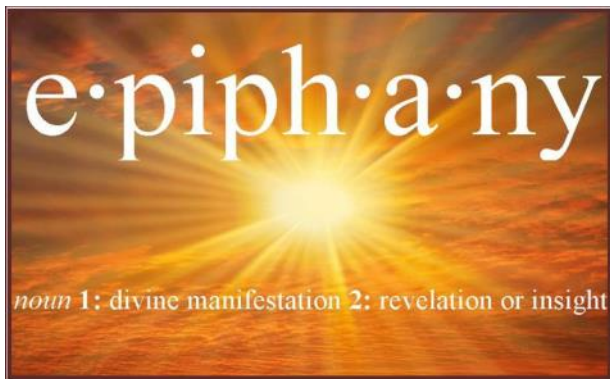
Some information about UGM...
Located at 745 Commercial St NE, Salem
www.ugmsalem.org for more information

“Serving 365 days of hope for more
than 60 years.”

Union Gospel Mission of Salem is a 501c(3)
organization.

The mission is a Christ-centered ministry demonstrating God’s love by meeting physical, mental and spiritual needs of men, women and children in crisis.

We at Trinity have an opportunity to help by donating warm clothing to the mission for distribution in our area.



2016 Flower Chart

Please consider signing up to provide flowers for Sunday(s) as they add to the beauty of the altar area. They can be flowers/greens from your garden or professionally done.

Many people provide flowers in honor or celebration of a person or event.

The flower chart can be found on the board in the west hallway by the kitchen.

Day of Epiphany, January 6

Epiphany means “manifestation”. On this day we celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles—that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies on this day: the magi’s adoration of the Christ child, Jesus’ baptism in the Jordan River, and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God’s grace and mercy. We go forth to witness to the light that shines brightly in our midst.

- Sundays & Seasons 2016

Question: When Is Epiphany 2016?

[Epiphany](#), the 12th day after [Christmas](#), celebrates the visit of the three kings or wise men to the Christ Child, signifying the extension of salvation to the Gentiles.

What is the date of Epiphany 2016?

Answer:

Epiphany falls on Wednesday, January 6, 2016. In most countries, including the United States, the celebration of Epiphany is transferred to Sunday, January 3.

Medical equipment

Trinity has a walker, crutches and a wheelchair that can be checked out and used as long as needed. Talk to Kathy in the church office if you need equipment.

James 2 Community Kitchen—serving meals

every Tuesday—4:30-6:00 pm
at St Philip Church

every Thursday—4:30-6:00 pm
at Dallas United Methodist Church

every Saturday 11:00 –1:00 pm
at Dallas United Methodist Church. (Sack lunch)

2nd and 4th Tuesdays –4:40-6:30 pm at the Falls City United Methodist Church

James 2 Community Kitchen

is now offering a sack lunch meal on Saturdays.

All are welcome to attend.

Lunch is served 11 am - 1 pm at
Dallas United Methodist Church
565 SE LaCreole Dr., Dallas

Council Meeting Update

Highlights from the December 15, 2015 meeting

Council Meeting Minutes: Minutes from the November 17, 2015 meeting were reviewed. No changes were noted. Due to lack of quorum, a motion to approve was deferred to the next Council meeting.

Financial Reports: Sally Davies, Financial Manager, emailed the financial reports to council members prior to meeting for their review and any questions. The benevolence liability lines as reflected on the Balance Sheet were reviewed. The benevolences identified as potential candidates to be moved to the General Fund were those on which the activity has been completed: Evangelism Activities \$17.55 – transfer to GF to cover Thanksgiving expenses; In-Out Funds \$1.05 – transfer to GF; Nurse Parish \$85.00-transfer to GF; Special Decorating \$48.80-transfer to GF. Other recommendations discussed were using the balance in the Hearing Aid System line item of \$3,133.03 for LED light bulbs for our outdoor lighting which will decrease our monthly utility expenses-the Hearing Aid System is complete. Donors of money for the considered labyrinth have suggested using the \$250 funds for outside banners, and could be combined with the \$2,225 in the New Sign liability line. Line item Prayer Shawl \$137.12 is being considered to be combined with WELCA. Another consideration is using the line item balance remaining after installation of the window blinds for office carpeting. All other benevolence liability line items have been recommended to remain in place.

Approval of financial reports and benevolence transfers were deferred to the next Council meeting due to lack of quorum.

Committee Reports:

Youth & Family Ministries- Naomi Woodrum submitted a written Annual Report for 2015 with the year's highlights for both youth and small group activities. She also wrote of her year of both spiritual and emotional growth in her relationship with the youth- a beautiful testament to the importance of youth ministry in our church and an inspiration to see God at work through his humble servant Naomi. She will be missed greatly. Blessings to you Naomi and your family in your new calling.

Constitution/By-Laws – Matt Davies presented the Endowment Fund updated resolution. Per recommendation from attorney Lane Shetterly, the suggested update to maintain the Endowment Fund in resolution form, separate from the Constitution (but referenced in the Constitution as to mission, form, and location) was reviewed. Only minor changes from the current resolution were identified.

Both the Constitution and Endowment Fund Resolution reviews are close to completion and both DRAFT documents will be presented to the congregation in early January for their review prior to voting at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February.

Budget Committee- The Committee has begun work on the 2016 Budget to be presented to the congregation for their approval at the annual meeting in February. Sally Davies will email a proposed budget to Council members for their review prior to the next meeting.

Nominating Committee- Council members cycling off the Council are being identified. The nominations for replacement candidates will be presented at the annual meeting in February.

Old Business:

Columbarium- Pastor Dave is getting quotes and working on plans to be presented to the City Planning Commission. There is \$6,000 in benevolence funds available.

Shades for Windows- Individual room shades have been completed. Shades for the large sanctuary windows are in process.

New Business: With the Youth Ministry Director (Naomi Woodrum) leaving the end of December, plans for covering her position were discussed. In the interim before any decisions related to the position are made, Pastor Dave will step in with the Youth Group.



The Lord's Prayer: The meeting was concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Prayerfully submitted – Beverlee Linn, Council Secretary



An open letter to the Muslim American community (www.elca.org)
Dec. 11, 2015

Dear Muslim Sisters and Brothers,
Grace and peace to you. I am writing on behalf of many Christians in this country who wish to share a word of solidarity, love and hope with you in these difficult days.

In this season of Advent, we, your Christian neighbors, are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who commanded that “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart ...[and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mark 12:30-31, NRSV).

In our love for you, our Muslim neighbors, we are distressed by the ways in which you are being forced to bear the fears held by many in our nation. Therefore, we renew our commitment to find even more effective ways to protect and defend you from words and actions that assault your safety and well-being. We believe God calls us to resist what is divisive, discriminatory, xenophobic, racist or violent, and we want you to look to us as allies and friends.

The global refugee and migrant crisis and the acts of terror committed in this country and around the world are challenges that demand our collective efforts and our common prayers. Therefore, we will seek to stand shoulder to shoulder with you as agents of peace, justice, understanding, welcome and reconciliation for the sake of the world that God so loves. In this holy season, when we anticipate the light that the darkness cannot overcome (John 1:5, NRSV), we are reminded of God’s gift of life abundant for all.

Together with you, we are committed to building a stronger society based on the dignity of each human being, the value of diversity, the holiness of creation and the common good. We pledge our partnership and invite our local communities into continued dialogue and engagement to this end.

In peace,
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Prayer tree ministry

There are times in our lives when we need special prayers for a friend, neighbor or loved one. The prayer tree quickly sends prayer requests via phone calls or email. If you want prayers or would like to be a part of this important ministry, please contact Michael Pelzer 503.831.0993 or by email at jimmichaele@yahoo.com.

Please hold these people in your prayers:

The family and friends of Walter Boss, Bill Pfancook, Sam Cates, Terri Waller, Ken Jacobson, Barbara Gust, Bill Slack, Dolly Thielsen, Eileen Holmes, Francie Simons, Joyce Frank, Jim Coates, Virginia Miller, Bob Flugum, Brownie Davies, Lloyd Graven, Todd Shetterly, Shawn Howard, Erman Mays

Those dealing with health issues— Sandi Grewe, Eldon & Lois Stolpe, Judy Utter, Mary Nell Hamilton, Kacy Bliss, Jamie Bellinger, Greg Thompson, Willie Reindl, Brian Zaglauer, David Holmes, Fred Walter, Austin Lee, Jeri Joule, Chuck Graham, and Josh Kibbey

Those who are recovering—Ed Straka, Richard Fenwick, Thelma Coates, Margaret Boss, Kirk Mathews, Bernie Shodin, Dorothy Larson, Sharon Engelen, Mike McAllister

We offer prayers of blessing and thankfulness— The baptism of Ellie Flammang, and the confirmation of Mathew Sleeper and Matisyn Robischon, for the “My Stake in Trinity campaign,” for our missionary, Lancelot Themba, and for Polk Community Free Clinic

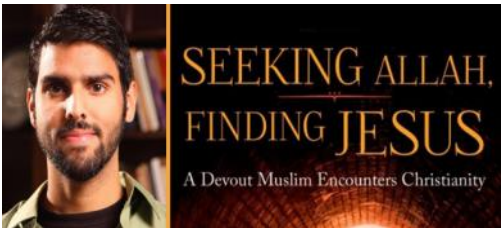
We offer prayers of thanksgiving for the safe arrival of Olivia Grady, daughter of Genevieve and Matthew Grady and the homecoming of Griffin Frazier, son of Andy and Andrea Frazier

Faith and Grace Book Group

This is an open group that gathers in the TLC library at 2:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

January 5, the group will discuss Searching for Sunday by Rachel Held Evans

February 2, 2:30 p.m. the group will discuss Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus by Nabeel Qureshi



Description of February's book selection

In Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus, former devout Muslim Nabeel Qureshi describes his dramatic journey from Islam to Christianity, complete with the friendships, investigations, and dreams and visions he encountered along the way.



**American
Red Cross**

Be part of a lifesaving journey.

Donate blood.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Blood Drive

Friday, January 15

12:30 p.m.—5:30 p.m.

To schedule your appointment or for more information, contact Alvera Blanchard at 503 623 8284.

The 5th Annual Polk Community Connect

will be held on Wednesday, January 27

9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

at Valley Life Center Church

1795 SE Miller Ave, Dallas.

Services and resources offered include pet care, haircuts, bike repair, dental services, health screenings, clothing, education information, housing programs, VA services, children and youth services and more!

Free transportation will be provided to and from the event.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Michelle Bornfleth at 503-623-9664, or bornfleth.michelle@co.polk.or.us.

The **mission** of Polk Community Connect is to connect those in need, homeless, or at risk of homelessness with valuable FREE local resources and services. And a free meal!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

Dental Van

Serves those needing critical care and who are un-insured or under-insured.

Living Hope City Church

186 SE Mill St, Dallas

503-623-6890

Patients must call to be put on the list.



Dear Trinity Family,

I am so grateful for my time at Trinity, even if it was only for a couple of years. Thank you for welcoming me and my family with open arms and making us feel at home from the very start.

You have an amazing group of youth in this congregation who have blessed me with joy and love beyond measure. I will miss all of you and hope to come back and visit in the future.

God's peace be with you,

Naomi

From the Crummy by Tod Brostrom

Recent storms caused three large fir trees to fall across the county road that I was driving on. So, I stopped and put my gloves and hardhat on and went to help the two county road crew men that had started cutting the trees. It was a nice experience for all the damage that had been caused. Power lines were down, fences smashed, the highway broke, etc. The power company got the lines back up and power restored within a few hours. The county snow plow pushed all the brush and material out of the road and everything was back to normal.

When I drove by later, I saw a lady standing at the mess to clean-up and fences to fix. I stopped and introduced myself. She asked what happened, so I told her and showed her some pictures I had taken. She told me she was new to living in the country and didn't know who was responsible for the damage her trees caused. I told her to contact her insurance company, but my experience in matters like this are that you did not make the wind blow.

And you might want to call Lane, ha!

As I drove on down the road I saw the power company guys in a turnout taking a much deserved break. I stopped to say thank you for the quick response under

tough conditions. I told them about my visit with the landowner who was concerned about liability. I told them that I said it's called, "an act of God!" She didn't make the wind blow.

Oh man, I should have stopped with "thank you." The man who seemed to be the boss, sat up, took his sunglasses off and responded, "That whole act of God stuff gets used way too much." And he used a few more words that made me think he probably didn't want to hear anything that had God in the discussion. I quickly realized I was in further than I wanted after his first sentence! I responded, "Hey, I just wanted to stop and say thank you. You guys are working hard for our benefit." And I drove away.

It's actually kinda sad to hear people so self-sufficient. Dependent on human beings to be the highest power. A lot of good things happened there that day. As always it could have been way worse. And who knows, God is probably working on that man in some way and he isn't too happy about it at the moment.

Not all God shots are fun.

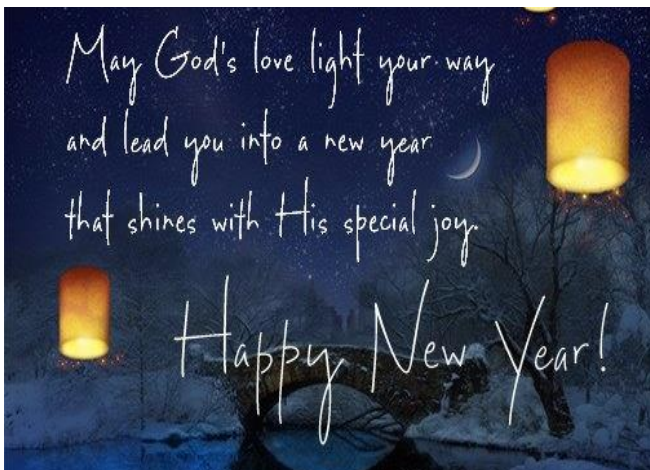




The Trinity Lutheran staff would like to thank you for your generous gifts during the Christmas season.

We are truly blessed to be a part of this wonderful church family.

Thank you!



Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,

We are deeply grateful for your contribution to our food bank. The generosity of the many donors in our community is extremely helpful in our fight against hunger.

THANK YOU!

Donna Black,
Dallas Food Bank Volunteer

Trinity's Mission statement

Because God first loved us, we celebrate the gifts of Christ by reaching out to others through worship, service and community.



The volunteers and staff of **Polk Community Free Clinic** would like to wish everyone at

Trinity Lutheran Church a very happy new year and to say thank you for another year of caring support of PCFC.

We have been blessed by your volunteers, prayers, financial support and prayer shawls. This support has allowed the clinic to continue providing health care and education on two Saturdays a month. In the coming year we will continue to provide hope and health to the uninsured and under insured in our community.

Thank you



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Dear Friends,

We recently received your gift of \$1,341 to Lutheran World Relief. Thank you! I'd like to share a story of the great work your gift will support.

Maria el Cid Aguilar is a coffee farmer who lives in El Salvador. Coffee is a lucrative crop with the potential to lift farmers like Maria out of poverty. But recently a crop disease called leaf rust has threatened her livelihood. The disease is particularly devastating because it kills coffee trees and it can take years for new trees to grow to replace that production.

With your generosity, LWR is reaching out to coffee farmers in Central America to combat this problem. Your gift makes it possible to help farmers diversify their crops. Maria received cocoa seedlings, along with agricultural training, to grow cocoa along with her coffee crops. Cocoa can withstand heat and humidity and this second crop reduces her family's dependence on coffee production for income.

That's just one example of how your gift changes lives around the world. On behalf of LWR, our partners and those we serve, please accept my thanks for your generous support.

May God bless you.

Daniel V. Speckhard
President and CEO

An informative class offered by Matt Davies, Professor of Religion

Understanding Islam

to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church

Session 1—Qur'an and Muslim Faith.....Sunday, January 10, 6:30-8:00 pm

Session 2—Jihad and Terrorism.....Sunday, January 17, 6:30-8:00 pm

Session 3—American Muslims.....Sunday, January 24, 6:30-8:00 pm

Each class will include a lecture followed by a half-hour question and answer session.

Free

Open to the community

Childcare provided



Bus Drivers needed

Trinity Lutheran needs more bus drivers for Sundays and special trips. Red Carroll or Don Flammang can provide details.

Annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 7 right after worship.

All are welcome

Committee and organization reports for 2015 will be available.

Trip to Germany

Is a trip to Germany something you would like to do? If so, mark your calendars as Jim Nestingen will be leading a tour group

October 3-11, 2016.

Experience being in Germany as the world moves toward the **500th anniversary** of the Reformation.

At the annual meeting council members will be elected, the 2016 budget will be presented and the congregation will vote on the new budget.

Committee and organization

reports (for congregation meeting)

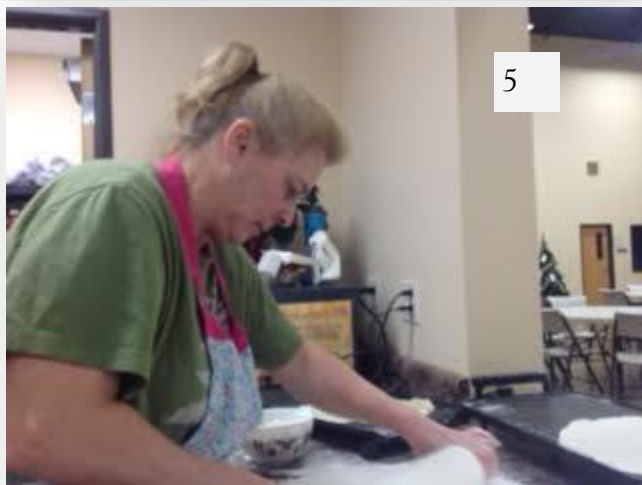
Please email reports to Kathy at kathydallastlc@gmail.com by January 17.

Dallas Food Bank is seeking donations of coffee and hot chocolate during the month of January. Items may be placed in the tote near the kiosk table. Thank you!

Deb Darr is collecting shoe boxes, used stamps, egg cartons, toilet paper rolls, and little jars with lids.

Items may be left at on the rack at end of first hall (across from quilting room.)

Found items If you are missing a coat, umbrella, or other articles of clothing, please check the clothing rack at end of first hall—across from the quilting room.



Pictured above are some of the people who prepared lefse at the Trinity kitchen. They were truly professional and so willing to explain the procedure of preparing lefse.

picture 1...Sally Miller and Sharlene Hattan

picture 2...Don and Mary Jane Isensee

picture 3...Don Flammang

picture 4...Jenette Kittelson, Greg Hattan and Jamie Anderson in background

picture 5...Jamie Anderson

Thank you to all who were involved in the Trinity lefse and cookie sale; including preparing lefse and Scandinavian cookies, baking delicious treats at home, and set-up for the sale. Of course, thank-you to the many generous people who purchased cookies!

The sale was a huge success, with a total of over \$1,000 that will be applied to the purchase of an automatic door opener for the front entrance.



Serving during worship

Date	Lay Assistant	Lector	Ushers
January 3	Tod Brostrom	John Beck	John Beck, Stephanie Barth, John Engeliem Donna Wetter & Alvera Blanchard
January 10	Dave Dippel	Carol Christ	Jim & Michael Pelzer Gregg & Janet Brunner
January 17	Ollie Bergh	Leanne Sleeper	Clayton & Linda VanRiper Lori VanRiper and Logan
January 24	Lane Shetterly	Kathy Grudle	Chuck & Sandy Pierce John & Janet Beck
January 31	Kate Richardson	Stephanie Barth	Greg & Sharlene Hattan John & Sandi Grewe

February 7 Ushers

Dippel and Simmons families



Can you help serve? Trinity's 10:00 worship service could use more ushers. The time commitment is 1-2 times every other month for approximately 2 hrs.

A few things ushers do: hand out bulletins, light candles, count attendance, answer questions, usher people for communion, take offering, and straighten up after worship, to name a few.

For a complete description or for more information, please contact Janet Beck, Worship & Music Coordinator 503-623-2233

Kiosk	
Jan. 3	Janet Brunner
Jan. 10	Carol Christ
Jan. 17	Sally Davies
Jan. 24	Donelle Flammang
Jan. 31	Alvera Blanchard
Feb. 7	John Beck
Feb. 14	Julie Oke



Communion Care Communion ministry

Jan Treutle
Julie Oke
Joanne Balcom
Janet Beck

Sundays in the Nursery Child Care—for ages 0-4

Jan 3	Matisyn Robischon
Jan 10	Michelle Sekafetz
Jan 17	Anna Hammond
Jan 24	Elle Robischon
Feb 7	Anna Hammond

					1 	2 9:00 Free Clinic 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:00 Adult education hour 9:00 Choir 10:00 Worship 11:30 MS/HS Youth	<i>Church office is closed.</i> 9:30 Quilters 2:00 Handbells	9:00 Library team 9:00 Staff meet 1:00 Piano lessons 6:30 Boy Scouts	8:30 Master Gardeners 12:30 Kids Art 6:30 Al-Anon 7:00 AA 7:00 Bible study/ at Davies home	9:00 Community Partners 1:00 Piano lessons 1:00 Rug hooking 4:00 Worship pract 5:30 Creat worship practice 7:00 Bible study	9:00 Bible study	10:00 A Journey with Friends
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 Choir practice 9:00 Adult education hour 10:00 Worship 11:30 MS/HS Youth 6:30 Understanding Islam	<i>Church office is closed.</i> 2:00 Handbells	9:00 Library team 9:00 Staff meet 1:00 Piano lessons 6:30 Boy Scouts	8:30 Master Gardeners 12:30 Kids Art 6:30 Al-Anon 7:00 AA 7:00 Bible study at Davies home	8:00 Polk County staffing 9:00 Community Partners 1:00 Piano lessons 1:00 Rug hooking 4:00 Worship pract 5:30 Creat worship Practice 6:00 Awards/ Master Gardeners 7:00 Bible study	9:00 Bible study 11:30 Blood Drive	10:00 Sewing group
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 Choir practice 9:00 Adult education Hour 10:00 Worship 11:00 Choir practice 11:30 MS/HS Youth 6:30 Understanding Islam	<i>Church office is closed.</i> 2:00 Handbells	9:00 Library team 9:00 Staff meet 1:00 Piano lessons 6:30 Boy Scouts 7:00 Council meet	8:30 Master Gardeners 10:00 WELCA 12:30 Kids Art 6:30 Al-Anon 7:00 AA 7:00 Bible study at Davies home	9:00 Community Partners 1:00 Piano lessons 1:00 Rug hooking 4:00 Worship pract 5:30 Creat worship practice 7:00 Bible study	9:00 Bible study	9:00 Free Clinic 10:00 Confirmation 
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 Choir practice 9:00 Adult education 10:00 Worship 11:30 MS/HS Youth 6:30 Understanding Islam	<i>Church office is closed.</i> 2:00 Handbells	9:00 Library team 9:00 Staff meet 1:00 Piano lessons 6:30 Boy Scouts	8:30 Master Gardeners 12:30 Kids Art 6:30 Al-Anon 7:00 AA 7:00 Bible study at Davies home	8:00 Polk County staffing 9:00 Community Partners 1:00 Piano lessons 1:00 Rug hooking 4:00 Worship pract 5:30 A Journey with Friends 5:30 Creat worship practice 7:00 Bible study	9:00 Bible study	
31						
9:00 Choir practice 9:00 Adult Education 10:00 Worship 11:30 MS/HS						

Please contact the church office to receive the Visitor by email or to be removed from the mailing list.

Trinity Lutheran Church

320 SE Fir Villa
Dallas, OR 97338



2016

Contact us—

Office Hours

Tues-Friday 9-4 p.m.

Website

www.dallastlc.org

Phone

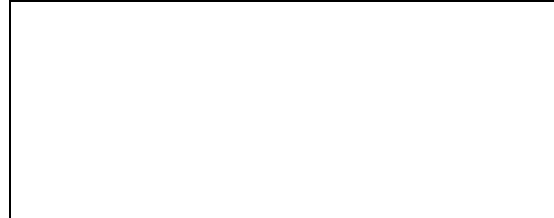
503 623-2233

503 999-1443

(pastor's cell)

Fax

503 623-2233



Address Service Requested

Back Page



Dear loved by God,

I have just returned from a two week trip in Israel. Our bus driver likes to be called Elvis and he has Elvis CDs in his bus that he plays, if allowed. He is a very handsome middle aged man with 3 beautiful kids and a wonderful wife. He owns a nice home in the Old City of David. This is my second time in Israel and my second time with Elvis as our driver. He is an amazing driver! He knows where every inch of that bus is at all times.

Nancy Becker fell early in our trip. It was heartening to me to see how caring and loving Elvis was to our dear Nancy. One time, when we were in the Old City of David, not a block from Elvis' home, Nancy could not go with us because the going was too rough. She had to stay in the bus with Elvis. When we went back to the bus there was no Nancy! Elvis had invited her to his home. When I went to get her, she was in his home with a huge dinner in front of her. It was prepared by Elvis' wife. Nancy looked so happy!

Elvis' real name is Achmed. He is Palestinian. He is Muslim. I grew to love him very much. When we parted at the airport, we hugged and told each other that we loved each other. I pray for him often. He is an amazing guy. We once came upon an accident. Elvis stopped the bus in the middle of the road, jumped out and ran to see if he can help. He is known for that sort of thing. He is just a cool guy!

His father was a firefighter until his death. (I think I would have liked his dad too!) Elvis' father told him to "love Jesus, love Muhammad and love God."

Our nation has the responsibility to take terrorist threats against us very seriously, whether it comes from extremist Muslims or Christian skinheads. We may be called upon to help in that fight against evil. Our Lord and Savior also calls us to love.

Blessings and love,
Pastor Dave