



Happening this Sunday

Longing for God's Redeeming Presence

Dear Trinity Family,

We send our warmest Christmas greetings to you, your family, and your loved ones. May the light, love, and hope of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, be with all of us this Christmas Season!

As we journey through Advent we have looked to the theme of 'Longing for God's Redeeming Presence', and it has been a time of deep reflection for many. 2023 has been a year of significant change, as well as a number of highs and lows.

Loadshedding and difficulties in service delivery have been a daily struggle in our city and country. Global unrest, wars in different parts of the world, and the wars in Ukraine and Palestine/Israel have been horrendous to follow. The atrocities of destruction, loss of life, and pain continue to cause

rifts in communities, causing many to reflect on their own faith and turn again to God in prayer. The continued recovery from the Covid pandemic and a struggling economy has also deeply affected many people in our families and community. These are only a few of the many ways 2023 has been a significant and low year for many.

But we are also aware of joy and community experienced this year. At the top of the list is the Springboks winning the Rugby World Cup (can you believe the final was only seven weeks ago?), the way sport and the players gave hope to our nation and brought people together was phenomenal and many agree it was a necessary boost so many around us needed.

But as significantly as that for Trinity Methodist Church have been the continuing offerings and service at Trinity over the whole year. Every week we have faithfully offered services where we have prayed, read scripture, sung together, and had fellowship, all made possible by volunteers and the service of many. Many of the congregation took part in the Community Service Day, giving back in both seen and unseen ways. All of our Sunday services have grown, and week-on-week we have more people worshipping than we have in previous years. We invited people to connect with Christ in new ways during Lent through the Journey to the Cross. There was a time of revival at the Holy Spirit Day. Both Table Talk and the Missing Jesus course have invited people into a turning and returning to Jesus. This year has been one where Trinity has taken seriously our call to a Great Commitment to the Great Commission. We are deeply thankful for the way God has moved in our community, bringing hope and stability for so many.

It is our prayer that Trinity responds to a world with many needs, including a clear need for everyone to follow Christ, with an invitation to do so and the programmes and tools to help each one of us draw closer to God each day. This Christmas Season, please pray that Trinity will continue to be a place where people can experience God through us. A church community that gathers every Sunday to worship together is a powerful statement, for those in the service and those outside, that God can and does change the world around us.

In this light, we hope you have experienced the joy of being in community at Trinity over the last few weeks. If you've missed any of our advent

gatherings and services, then you have missed out! The Trinity Fusion Choir presented a wonderful Christmas Cantata celebrating the Good News of Christ made real in the world. We sang and enjoyed the Christmas story told through scripture and carols at the Traditional Lessons & Carols Services last week. We had a fabulous time at the annual Christmas picnic (with a special appearance from Father Christmas!) and a great time with young and old singing Carols by Glowstick. God is good and we saw the light of Christ shine on us at each of these.

If you did join us at one or more of these, its our prayer that you drew closer to God in each of them! The great news is that there is still more on offer at Trinity this Christmas and you (and everyone you know) are invited!

Over the last few days in the church office, we have been sporadically singing Christmas carols acapella as we prepare the orders of service and PowerPoint presentations for the Christmas services, but one which has stuck out is the well-known carol, "Come and join the celebration, It's a very special day..." Like the opening line to this carol, we invite you to join the Christmas Celebrations at Trinity this year. The love of Christ is made most real when we celebrate shoulder-to-shoulder with others, and over the coming few weeks there are many ways you can continue to find the love, joy, faith, hope and peace that Christmas celebrations bring.

Traditional (7.30am), Fusion (9.30am) and Connect (9.30am) Services are all happening on Sunday 24 January, and you can be sure of a few Christmas Carols in these services as well as relevant and engaging sermons. Then, from Christmas Eve onwards, the Christmas celebrations start in earnest. Join us at any of these:

Family Carols Service on Sunday 24 December at 6.30pm in the Church,
Watchnight Service with Communion on Sunday 24 December at 11.15pm in the Church,

Christmas Day Services on 25 December at 8.00am & 9.30am (9.30am with children's address)

Christmas Day Live-Stream for those who are out of town or not able to be in the service

If you are travelling at this time of year, we pray for God's travelling mercies on you and your family, please be safe on the roads. If you are in Johannesburg, why not invite someone you know who needs a time of

community to join you at one of the services? As many businesses start to close, would you continue to reflect on our Advent theme of 'Longing for God's Redeeming Presence', and experience it as a reality in your life.

May we all experience the great gift of presence this year, God's presence with us and the special reminder at this season of Immanuel – God made flesh – here on earth. May we experience the presence of family and friends, the joy that comes from sharing in worship, meals, cards, phone calls, hugs, and spending time together.

On behalf of all the ministers, pastors, admin staff, and ground staff at Trinity, we wish you a merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

With love,
Brett Mordaunt

Welcome home! We hope to see you THIS Sunday at one of these onsite or online services.

7.30am – Traditional Service – Church (*Communion*)

– Brett Mordaunt

9.30am – Fusion Service– Church (*also live streamed*) (*Communion*)

– Brett Mordaunt

9.30am – Connect Service – Chapel

– Londeka Mabaso

11.30am – Vernacular Service

– Will restart on 21 January 2024

6.30pm – Home Service – Chapel

– Londeka Mabaso

[You can find our 17 December Fusion 9.30am service livestream here](#)

Lectinary Readings

This Sunday – 17 December

Third Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1–4; 8–11

Luke 1:46b–55

Next Sunday – 24 December

Fourth Sunday in Advent

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26

1 Thessalonians 5:8–11

John 1:6–8; 19–28

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7–10

Psalms 98

Hebrews 1:1–4, 5–12

John 1:1–14

Sunday 7 January

Epiphany 1

Genesis 1:1–5

Psalms 29

Acts 19:1–7

Mark 1:4–11

Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

Sunday 31 December

First Sunday After Christmas

Isaiah 61:10–62:3

Psalms 148

Galatians 4:4–7

Luke 2:22–40

Sunday 14 January

Epiphany 2

1 Samuel 3:1–10, 11–20

Psalms 139:1–6, 13–18

1 Corinthians 6:12–20

John 1:43–51

We will be taking a break!

Our admin office will be closed from 22 December till 2 January.

Our pastoral staff will be available by appointment.

This is our last bulletin and newsletter for 2023. The congregational correspondence will resume on Thursday 11 January 2024.

'Tis the Season to invite family and friends!

[Watch our Christmas Services Promo Video Here](#)



Advent Calendar

Sunday 17 December – Advent 3

- Traditional Service | 7.30am | Church
- Fusion Service | 9.30am | Church (also live-streamed [here](#))
- Connect Service | 9.30am | Chapel
- Home Service | 6.30pm | Chapel

Sunday 24 December – Advent 4

- Traditional Service | 7.30am | Church
- Fusion Service | 9.30am | Church (also live-streamed [here](#))
- Connect Service | 9.30am | Chapel
- Christmas Eve Carols Service | 6.30pm | Church
- Watchnight Communion Service | 11.15pm | Church

Monday 25 December – Christmas Day

- 8.00am | Church
- 9.30am with Children's message | Church (also live-streamed [here](#))

Sunday 31 December – New Year's Eve

There will be healing prayer at all services

- Traditional Service | 7.30am | Church
- Fusion Service | 9.30am | Church (also live-streamed [here](#))
- Connect Service | 9.30am | Chapel
- Home Service | 6.30pm | Chapel

Is God Calling You Into Ministry?

Applications are open for the position of Children's and Young Families Pastor.

Please contact Brett for more information:
laypastor@trinitylinden.org.za or
011 888 1740



**Applications open for
Children's & Young Families Pastor**

Trinity Methodist Church in Linden, Johannesburg is looking for someone with strong Christian values and a deep love of children to help lead and develop the Children and Young Family's Ministry. This includes running our Friday night youth programme (Gr. 0-7), planning lessons for Children's Church on a Sunday morning as well as building a volunteer team to help run and co-ordinate these activities.

This position also involves planning and running of holiday clubs, camps, leaders training and workshops for families. It is at the heart of Trinity to provide pastoral care and support to the children and young families with which we are in contact; this is achieved through one-on-one pastoral meetings, the running of workshops and connecting with the families.

Alongside the usual weekly programmes, there is a requirement to plan family worship services, family days and other special services.

Please contact Brett Mordaunt at laypastor@trinitylinden.org.za or 011 888 1740 for a detailed spec and overview or more information.

May We Share The Harvest With You?

We'd love to bless you with a parcel if you find yourself or a family member in need at this time.

We will be distributing the parcels on Sundays between 10.30 and 11.30am at the manse (behind the hall).

Please contact Angela at 011 782 0367 for any further questions.



Friday Night Youth – Gr 8 to Gr 12

We are taking a break. Our Friday night youth will start again on 19 January.

Illuminate: Friday Night Kids – Gr 0 to Gr 7

We had our last Friday evening last week and ended the year with lots of fun.

We will resume Illuminate on the 19 January.

Sunday Morning Youth – Gr 8 to Gr 12

We are on a break for the December holidays.

Our Sunday morning youth will start again on Sunday 14 January.

Glow: Sunday Morning Kids – Age 2 to 13

We will continue to run Holiday programs for Sunday the 17th and 24th December.

There will be a break, and Glow will be restarting on Sunday 14 January.

Confirmation 2024



Live like you're loved
Walk like you're free

If you are in Grade 10 (Turning 16 - or older) or a parent of someone in this age group - you are invited to join us at our Info Session on the 4th of Feb to find out more about this exciting faith journey!
Or contact Bronwyn: 064 501 3709 to find out more

SEEKERS 2024



Trinity
METHODIST CHURCH

Are you turning 16 or older? Do you know someone who is?

You are invited to come to our Seekers (Confirmation) info session on Sunday 4 February.

Pastoral Care Needs You in 2024!



Pastoral Care 2024 needs YOU!

WE FEEL CALLED TO EXPAND OUR OFFERINGS IN 2024, AND THIS FORMS PART OF TRINITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN. WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT WORK.

If you are attracted to any of the areas listed, it possibly means that God is nudging you in that direction. Help us to grow the Care outreach within our community by sharing your skills to reach out in a strategic way.

We ask for a one-year commitment. We will be offering ongoing support and training.

Please contact Angela at pastoral@trinitylinden.org.za or 011 782 0367 or 072 843 8452 for more information



Trinity
METHODIST CHURCH



Pastoral Care 2024 needs YOU!

WE NEED CHAMPIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

- Cancer/Chronic Illness Support – support to members who are journeying with illness
- Prayer ministry – joining the intercessory prayer ministry - praying for others
- Practical Care Team – co-ordinating practical care eg. Freezer meals in times of member's illness
- Bereavement Care – support to those who have been bereaved
- Care Conversations – to journey with members seeking individual care support (lay counselling). You will need to attend a 10 week (once a week) training course by Madz Deyzel in January. Cost is R1300 and sponsorship is available
- Leading a once off 'Let's Talk' group session around a life issue, eg. Living with chronic pain; Living through Divorce

We feel called to expand our offerings in 2024, and this forms part of TMC's strategic plan for next year. We need YOU to make it work.

Please contact Angela at pastoral@trinitylinden.org.za or 011 782 0367 or 072 843 8452 for questions and further details.

Save the Date

- * Tuesday 2 January – **Our Office Reopens**
- * Sunday 7 December – **Preacher Prayer at the Rail**
- * Thursday 11 January – **Congregational Correspondence Resumes**
- * Sunday 14 January – **Sunday morning Children and Youth starts**
- * Wednesday 17 January – **Seniors**
- * Friday 19 January – **Friday evening Children and Youth starts**
- * Sunday 21 January – **Vernacular Service Restarts**
- * Sunday 21 January – **Sacrificial Giving**
- * Thursday 25 January – **Let's Talk**
- * Saturday 27 January – **Pastoral Care Volunteers Training**
- * Sunday 28 January – **Covenant Sunday**
- * Sunday 4 February – **Vision Sunday**
- * Sunday 4 February – **Seekers (Confirmation) Information Sessions**



Reachout Portfolio Feedback Newsletter

On Saturday a group from Trinity visited Orange Farm for our annual children's Christmas party at the Place of Hope.

See some photos and feedback from the day, along with other Reach Out news, [in our final newsletter](#) for the year.

Happy reading!

Kate's Farewell



This past Sunday we said a sad farewell to Kate Waterston, our Children's and Young Families Pastor.

Kate has served at Trinity 11 years, and many lives and hearts have been deeply touched by her ministry.

Thank you, Kate, for your service, and we pray God's abundant blessings over your new adventures.

We also thank the WA for making this farewell tea possible.

We thank the WA as well as for all the the teas they served us in 2023. We truly appreciate your ministry of hospitality – we don't say thank you often enough!

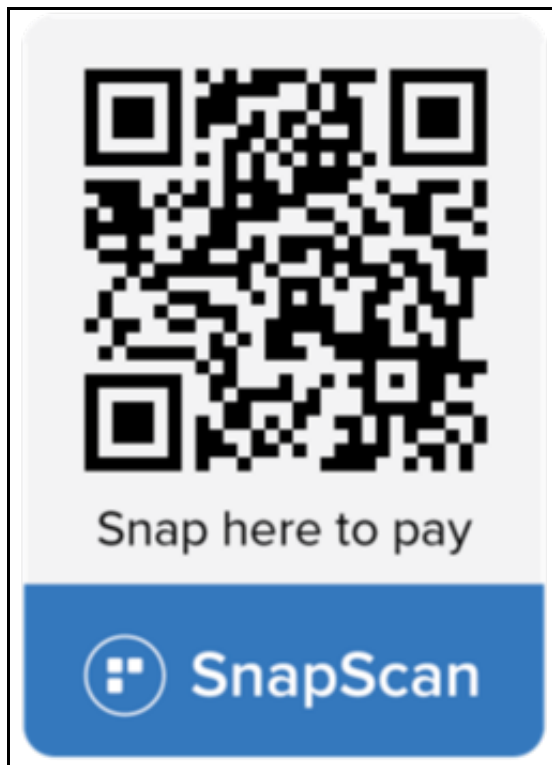
Christmas Cantata

Our Christmas Cantata was a joyous occasion. Filled with festive reminders of the reason for the season, Neil Bennett and the amazing Fusion choir led us through a series of well-known carols.

This is always a highlight of our Advent programme, and it was a lovely way to celebrate Advent Sunday.



Giving



Trinity Banking Details

Methodist Church of Southern
Africa – Trinity Society
Standard Bank
Cresta Branch: 05-10-01
Account no: 200111760

Connect With Us

Office

Phone: 011 888 1740

info@trinitylinden.org.za

Pastoral Care

Phone: 011 782 0367

pastoral@trinitylinden.org.za

You can find us on the corner of 5th Ave and 5th St, Linden, Johannesburg

Pastoral Staff

John Wessels

– Reverend

Londeka Mabaso

– Reverend

Brett Mordaunt

– Lay Pastor

Bronwyn Delport

– Youth & Young Adults Pastor

Kate Waterston

– Children & Young Families Pastor

Angela Wessels

– Pastoral Care

Engage With Us On Social Media

You can find us on social media! Please like, follow, share, tag us, and

engage.



Trinity Bulletin

Find our older weekly bulletins by clicking [this link](#)
