

TRINITY TIDINGS

A Congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

December 2022

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421 North Main St.

Greenville, SC 29601-2000

864.242.5702

FAX 864.242.6442

www.trinitylutheran.ws

*You, darkness, of whom I am born -
I love you more than the flame that limits the world
to the circle it illumines and excludes all the rest.
But the dark embraces everything:
shapes and shadows, creatures and me,
people, nations - just as they are.
It lets me imagine a great presence stirring beside me.
I believe in the night.*

A poem from Rilke's Book of Hours

Dear Members of the Trinity Family,

If Christmas is the season of light, then Advent is the season of darkness. Advent is about longing, waiting, stillness, and silence. These four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ's birth are about life in darkness. Unlike Christmas, Advent invites us into the darkness and reminds us that just as God is present in light, so God is present in darkness.

God is present in the unknowing, in the unfulfilled promises, in the doubt and the uncertainty, in the shadows, in the brokenness. God is in the places where there is no light, no brightness to guide us or illumine our path. God is present in the hard times and difficult days. Our God is God of both the light and the darkness.

The darkness reminds us that God has a habit of showing up in places and people we do not expect. The darkness brims with possibility. There is beauty and grace in darkness. In these days of Advent waiting, I am finding hope and strength in the darkness. I love the candlelight, but I also love the places where the light does not reach. I love the light of the fireplace flames, but I also love the places of darkness, the place of shadows. I love the stars in the night sky, but I also love the vast, silent darkness.

My hope and prayer for you during this Advent Season is that you will discover meaning in all parts of life - in life and death, in joy and sorrow, in light and darkness. God is with us - embracing us and sustaining us - in both light and darkness. Thanks be to God!

Peace, love, and joy,



Pastor Susan Crowell

COUNCIL NOTES

At the November meeting of the Congregation Council, the council...

---noted that expenses for October were \$577 above projections;

---approved the recommendation from the Stewardship Committee to adopt a budget of \$1,157,533 for 2023 and to recommend the adoption of this budget to the congregation;

---learned more about the opportunity to partner with the City of Greenville and United Housing Connections to provide space on Trinity's campus for a Housing Resource Center that would benefit our homeless friends in the downtown community. The motion from the Executive Committee to embrace this new ministry opportunity was tabled until further educational opportunities can be provided to the congregation. A decision will be made at the December council meeting;

---learned from the Executive Committee that Pastor Crowell will be on sabbatical during January, June, and July, 2023 and that arrangements are being made to provide pastoral coverage during the time she is away; and

---approved a request from Greenville's chapter of PFLAG to host the group's monthly meeting at Trinity.

GIVING TO TRINITY



Trinity is grateful for all the prayers, contributions, and displays of support from members, friends, and guests. Financial contributions can be placed in the offering plates during worship, mailed to the church, or given electronically by going to trinitylutheran.ws, by scanning the QR code, or texting TLCGIVE to 73256.



ANNUAL MEETING

The second session of the Annual Meeting will begin at 11:15 am on Sunday, December 4. On this day the congregation will meet in the Sanctuary following worship to adopt a budget and to elect members of the Congregation Council. The ten nominees for the five three-year terms are Gregg Alley, Anne Fagala, Jaime Fivecoat, Lane Lewis, Pat O'Neal, Suzanne Rudisill, Kerry Sease, Chris Sorenson, Chris Wannemacher, and Lani Wise. The nominees for the one one-year youth term are Nate Hybl and Peyton Roth. The congregation is invited to gather on the front lawn for refreshments and fellowship when the meeting is in recess.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



December 4 - Second Sunday in Advent
Worship at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary
with Annual Meeting of the Congregation to follow
Refreshments and fellowship on the front lawn when the meeting is in recess

December 11 - Third Sunday in Advent
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Refreshments and fellowship to follow in the back of the Gym

December 18 - Fourth Sunday in Advent
Worship at 10:00 am in the Gym
Intergenerational and Interactive Christmas Pageant
with a festive Christmas brunch to follow in the Multipurpose Room

Thursday, December 22 At 6:30 pm
A Blue Christmas service will be held in the Sanctuary for all who are grieving the death of loved ones or who are experiencing illness or other losses during the holiday season

December 24 - Christmas Eve
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Communion in the Gym at 3:00 pm
with Nursery provided
Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary at 5:30 pm

December 25 - Christmas Day
Christmas Lesson and Carols with Communion in the Sanctuary at 10:00 am



NURSERY FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

A nursery is available during the 10:00 am worship service on Sunday morning. Practices and protocols follow all DHEC recommendations for daycare centers. All staff and volunteers must be fully vaccinated and wear masks at all times. A copy of the updated guidelines can be obtained through the Church Office. The age requirements for children in the nursery are flexible and fluid during this time of transition.



FALL FAITH FORMATION



Adults are invited to gather for coffee, fellowship and Bible study at 9:00 am during the month December. Penny Bostain is leading the group in the study *Signs and Wonders: A Beginner's Guide to the Miracles of Jesus*. This course, which includes video clips, is written by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, professor of New Testament and Jewish studies.

Adult Faith Forum is a group that meets on Zoom on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. All adults are welcome to participate. This group discusses current events in light of the Christian faith. The Zoom link and discussion topic is emailed out on Fridays to those interested by Deacon Amy Brown. Email or text Deacon Amy at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-421-3404 to be included on the Friday email list to receive the lessons ahead of time.

MUSIC MINISTRY

ADULT CHOIR will rehearse at 7:00 pm in the Balcony on Wednesdays, December 7 and 14. On Wednesday, December 21, Adult Choir will rehearsal at 6:30 pm, and be joined by the Capital City Brass Quintet at 7:00 pm to rehearse for Christmas Eve. There will not be a rehearsal on Wednesday, December 28. If interested in singing with the group, please e-mail Pastor Parham at the address below.

HANDBELL CHOIR will rehearse in the Gym at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays, December 7 and 14, and ring at the Christmas Pageant on December 18.

TRINITY'S INSTRUMENTALIST COMMUNITY

The Christmas Pageant ensemble is coming together, and there is still time to contact Pastor Parham to participate and get a set of parts. The ensemble will accompany the many Advent/Christmas hymns and carols that will be sung at the pageant. The pageant rehearsal, which will include all our instrumentalists, is on Saturday, December 17, at 10:00 am in the Gym. If interested in joining this fun musical worship event, please contact Pastor Parham at jcparham@trinitylutheran.ws or 864-242-5702.

GREENVILLE ORGANIZED FOR ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

All GOAL network members and anyone passionate about justice work in the community should make plans to attend a gathering at Trinity on Monday, February 13 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. This event will help prepare Trinity's network members for the Nehemiah Action event on Tuesday, March 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at First Baptist, Greenville.

PASTOR CROWELL'S SABBATICAL LEAVE

After twenty-seven years of ministry at Trinity, the Executive Committee has approved a three-month sabbatical for Pastor Crowell that will take place in January, June, and July of 2023. During these months, Pastor Crowell will be stepping away from the daily demands of ministry at Trinity and will devote her time to rest, renewal, travel, family, and refreshment with the intent of returning to her position as Senior Pastor with renewed energy and passion for ministry. During this time, Trinity's pulpit will be filled on Sunday mornings by other staff members and pastoral guests. Please remember Pastor Crowell and her family in your prayers as she prepares for this intentional time of rest and renewal that will be a benefit to both Trinity and to her.

HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER A POTENTIAL NEW MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP AT TRINITY

The Congregation Council is exploring the potential of partnering with the City of Greenville and United Housing Connections to provide space on Trinity's campus for a Housing Resource Center that would benefit our homeless friends in the downtown community. The Housing Resource Center would provide a safe, warm place to rest, the opportunity for a hot shower, a simple meal, and access to services to move beyond homelessness. To learn more about this new opportunity, please make plans to attend one of the following information sessions that will be led by Lorain Crowl from United Housing Connections:

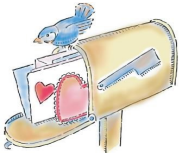
Sunday, November 27 after worship in the Multipurpose Room to include a simple lunch

Wednesday, November 30 at 2:00 pm in the Parlor

Monday, December 5 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Please call or email the Church Office to register for one of these information sessions.

TLC4TLC



TLC4TLC is for anyone who would like to write notes and cards for members who are ill, grieving, or unable to attend worship, as well as for those who are celebrating joys. If you would like to participate in this group please contact Debbie Farstad at debvars@att.net.

QUILTING GROUP



QUILTING GROUP

The Quilting Group typically meets in the Activities Building on Mondays at 9:30 am to make quilts which are distributed by Lutheran World Relief. Participants do not need to know how to sew in order to assemble quilts. Willing volunteers who can cut fabric, iron, thread a needle, or tie knots are welcome. Work is usually finished around noon. Participants can work as little or as long as they would like. There are also at-home sewing opportunities for those who cannot make it to the gatherings. The group will meet every Monday except on days when the Church Office is closed.

In December the group will meet December 5 and December 12. The group will not meet again until January 9. If you have any questions contact Sarah Weeks at weeks14@charter.net or 864-787-1160.

PRAYER GROUP

The Trinity Prayer Group will be praying from home during the month of December. If you have a prayer request please complete a prayer card during Sunday worship or email a request to Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com or Merry Mulcahy at marmulcahy@icloud.com.

We are currently reviewing our prayer ministry with hopes to increase its support of all the ministries of Trinity as well as individual prayer requests from our congregation. Please check for updates on the prayer ministry here in the Tidings.



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>6:30 QUEER-LED WORSHIP IN THE GYM</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR 7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>6:30 LOVE WINS</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>6:30 AM MEN'S REFLECTION GROUP</p> <p>12:30 NOURISHING NEIGHBORS</p> <p>7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>6:00 CHRISTMAS CAOLING WITH TOWERS EAST</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">21</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>6:30 BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>CHRISTMAS EVE</p> <p>3:00 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION IN THE GYM</p> <p>5:30 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION IN THE SANCTUARY</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>6:00 HANDBELL CHOIR 7:00 ADULT CHOIR</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p>

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY EVENT

Jingle All the Way - An Event of Christmas Fun and Holiday Cheer



All youth and children are invited to participate in *Jingle All the Way*, an event of Christmas Fun and Holiday Cheer on Sunday, December 11 from 11:15 am to 1:00 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Children should be accompanied by a parent or significant adult. The event will begin with lunch and include

Christmas crafts, an interactive Christmas story, a Christmas Carol Singalong, creating Christmas gift bags for our neighbors at Towers East, and hot cocoa and cookies. Please register for this event by calling or emailing the Church Office by Thursday, December 8.



ADVENT FOOD DRIVE

Trinity is holding an Advent Food Drive from now until Christmas. Worshippers are invited to bring pantry donations to worship each Sunday in Advent. The Nourishing Neighbors pantry has been depleted as Trinity experiences an increase in neighbors attending our events. Please consider donating pantry items if you are able. Items needed include dried beans (16 oz), peanut butter (16 oz), canned fruit, rice (2 lb bag), pasta, pasta sauce, canned meat, canned vegetables, individually packaged snack items, and toilet paper.

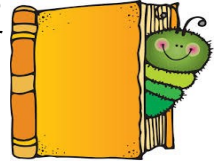
Trinity will also be supporting AID Upstate's food pantry. Trinity will be collecting non-perishable food items and toiletries. Items needed are canned soups, instant grits and oatmeal, peanut butter crackers, small bags of flour and sugar, cooking oil, and condiments.

Items may be brought to the breezeway, Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm or to worship on Sunday mornings.



BOOK GROUP

The Trinity Book Group, which is open to all readers, meets on the third Thursday evening every other month to discuss books of all genres. The next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Thursday, December 15 at the home of Zerle Hubbard, 9 Belgrave Close, Taylors, 29687. The group will discuss the book *As the Wicked Watch* by Tamron Hall. At this Christmas gathering, members are invited to bring an appetizer or dessert to share with the group, as well as a new, wrapped paperback to swap with group members. This is a very casual group, and new participants are welcome at any time. Email Deacon Amy Brown at arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws for more information.



CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



On Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 am worship in the Gym will include a congregational Christmas pageant that is interactive and intergenerational. Everyone who attends will be invited to be in the pageant, which will include beautiful Christmas music. Following worship, a festive brunch of breakfast casseroles, sausage biscuits, fruit, muffins, orange juice, coffee, apple cider and other treats will be served in the Multipurpose Room. Plan to join us in worship on this festive day!

THEOLOGY ROUNDTABLE

The Theology Roundtable group discusses articles, podcasts and other items of interest. If you like to talk about “deep stuff”, this group is for you. This group meets in person at the church once or twice a month, and new participants are always welcome. In December the group will not meet. The Group will meet again starting in January. Contact Joe Rice at 864-704-4616 or saluda171@yahoo.com to receive information.

DECEMBER 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 4</p> <p>9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM SECOND SESSION OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION WITH REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 11</p> <p>9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 WORSHIP IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM WITH REFRESHMENTS AND FELLOWSHIP TO FOLLOW 11:15 YOUTH AND CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS EVENT</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 QUILTING GROUP</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 18</p> <p>9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION VIA ZOOM 9:00 ADULT FAITH FORMATION 10:00 INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTERACTIVE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IN THE GYM AND LIVE-STREAM WITH BRUNCH TO FOLLOW IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS DAY 25</p> <p>10:00 CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS IN THE SANCTUARY AND LIVE-STREAM</p>	<p>26</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>27</p> <p>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</p>

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

In an effort to stay connected, please consider extending birthday greetings to the following members. If you would like the church to know your birthdate please contact the Church Office to submit this information through Realm.

Bette Anderson - December 5
Jeanne Blinkoff - December 19
Ellie Boda - December 26
Ralph Boeker - December 13
Mary Brown - December 8
Brian Craig - December 1
Karen Craig - December 16
Jan Dominick - December 31
Louise Fletcher - December 11
Paige Geiger - December 11
Donna Greene - December 10
Harry Hawkins - December 8
Aiden Hill - December 5
Adair Hill-Morrison - December 20
Wayne Hollinger - December 30
Harriet Ligon - December 28
Benjamin Long - December 20
Clare Long - December 22

Wayne Mangels - December 4
Janet Mathis - December 1
Lee Mathis - December 19
Hadley McCaskill - December 27
Rob McCormack - December 1
Steve McElhinny - December 10
Lilly McNeice - December 18
Gail Moose - December 20
Ralph Moyer - December 26
Beth Oswald - December 6
Parker Sherwood - December 2
Kingstyn Small - December 29
Oliver Smith - December 20
Patricia Thompson - December 3
Russ Wise - December 13



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Women's Bible Study



and Fellowship Group

The Women's Bible Study Group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible Study on the first Tuesday of each month. The group will meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:30 am in rooms 12 and 13. The group will continue the study of women in the Bible utilizing the book "Fierce" by Alice Connor. All women of the church are invited to attend. If anyone needs a copy of the book or have any other questions, please contact Terry Morgan at tfmorgan101@gmail.com for additional information.

MEN'S REFLECTION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Men's Fellowship

A Reflection and Fellowship Group for men is meeting on the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 am to 7:30 am in the Church Parlor. Calvin Harmon is leading and facilitating this group with the intent of providing a brave, safe space for mutual sharing and encouragement. The morning includes a light breakfast as well as time for devotions and prayer. Meeting dates include December 14 and January 11.

OUT TO LUNCH BUNCH



Out to Lunch Bunch is open to all Trinity adults who want to enjoy fellowship and eat lunch together after worship once a month. The group will not be meeting in December and will resume January 15 at 11:45 am. Contact Deacon Amy Brown to receive email reminders for this group.

NOURISHING NEIGHBORS

Trinity will host our neighbors at Towers East for Nourishing Neighbors, a monthly event held on the front lawn that includes a bagged lunch, fresh produce, pantry staples, and fellowship on Wednesday, December 14 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm. This is an opportunity to build relationships with our neighbors, make friends, and get to know each other in a relaxed and fun environment. Volunteers pack produce bags, prepare lunches, or serve on the front lawn. Questions may be directed to Anne Harmon at annerharmon1956@gmail.com or Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH TOWER'S EAST

Ring in the Christmas Season during a fun and festive evening of caroling with our neighbors at Tower's East! Weather permitting, Trinity will be hosting this event on the front lawn at 6:00 pm on Thursday, December 15. There will be a bonfire, Christmas treats, hot cocoa, jingle bells to play, and lots of good cheer! Contact Patrick Preacher at pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws with any questions.



TLC KIDS



TLC Kids is our group for preschool and elementary children and their families. The group meets once or twice a month after worship for learning, music and fun activities. In December the group will meet after worship on Sunday, December 11 at 11:15 am in the Multipurpose Room. Upcoming dates are January 22 and February 12. Contact Deacon Amy Brown or the Church Office to sign up.

QUEER AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

World AIDS Day Service. In collaboration with AID Upstate, Trinity's Queer-led Worship Service will gather for worship in the Gym on Thursday, December 1 at 6:30 pm in honor of World AIDS Day. This will be a special service to raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic caused by the spread of HIV infection and mourning those who have died of the disease. We will give thanks to God for the progress made in areas of treatment, prevention, and testing.

Love Wins is a monthly social group for adults of all ages. The December meeting of the Love Wins discussion group will center around the book "*The Measure*" by Nikki Erlick. This is an engaging novel of love and hope, chronicling how all moments, big and small, measure a life. Books are available at numerous retailers and also in e-reader format. Join the group on Thursday, December 8 at the home of Jaime Fivecoat at 6:30 pm. Please contact Angie McCormack (864-630-4026) or Jaime Fivecoat (864-630-0473) for the address. The hope is that participants will have engaged the book at some level before the meeting, but that is not a requirement to attend.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas season is full of fun and joy for so many, but for those who mourn the loss of beloved family and friends it can be a difficult time. For the second year, Trinity will hold a space for grief, mourning, and sadness during the holiday season. A Blue Christmas Service will take place at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 22 in the Sanctuary. This will be a quiet candlelight service of prayer, song, and lament. Please contact Patrick Preacher at pdp preacher@trinitylutheran.ws if you would like to serve as a musician or one of the worship leaders for this special Christmas service.

WITHIN THE TRINITY FAMILY . . .

DEATHS

Pastor Bob Coon on November 18
Maria Roberts' mother

HOSPITAL PATIENTS

Debbie Farstad - Discharged

MEMBERSHIPS CHANGES

Rich, Bev, Chris, and Kaitlyn Bresette, moved - no transfer
Scott and Ashley Forbes and their son, Jackson, to John Knox Presbyterian, Greenville, SC
Rodger and Sandy Hawkins to Saint Paul's Church, Greenville, SC
Doug and Nancy Olson to Saint Michael Lutheran Church, Greenville, SC
Mike and Patti Parker to Saint Michael Lutheran Church, Greenville, SC

Sundays	ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER			
	11/6	11/13	11/20	11/27
Online devices	275	203	238	138
In Person	<u>122</u>	<u>119</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>134</u>
Total	397	322	379	272

Queer-led service 11/3 - 63 in person, 194 online devices
Transgender Memorial service - 67 in person, 203 online devices

OFFERING SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Needed for Budget	\$ 89,210	\$ 981,310
Given to Budget	<u>\$ 50,689</u>	<u>\$ 912,414</u>
Difference	\$ (38,521)	\$ (68,896)
Given to World Hunger	\$ 785	\$ 19,212

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
421 North Main Street
Greenville, SC 29601-2090

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID PERMIT #378
GREENVILLE, SC

CHURCH STAFF

Susan J. Crowell
Senior Pastor
sjcrowell@trinitylutheran.ws

James C. Parham, III
Associate Pastor
for Worship and Music
jcpaham@trinitylutheran.ws

Amy R. Brown, Deacon
Director of
Educational Ministries
arbrown@trinitylutheran.ws

Patrick D. Preacher
Queer and Justice Ministry
Coordinator
pdpreacher@trinitylutheran.ws

Kay M. Cook
Office Manager
kmcCook@trinitylutheran.ws

Henry W. Wilcox
Accountant and
Digital Media Manager
hwwilcox@trinitylutheran.ws

Karen M. Craig
Administrative Assistant
kmcraig@trinitylutheran.ws

Roy L. Cook
Facility Manager
rlcook@trinitylutheran.ws

Beth C. Oswald
Nursery Attendant



Order Your Poinsettias



2022 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Church for the Christmas Eve Service. If you would like to give a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, complete the form below and return it with \$16.00 for each poinsettia no later than Friday, December 16. Poinsettias may be picked up Wednesday, December 28 through Friday, December 30. Any remaining Poinsettias will be shared with our Towers East neighbors.

Enclosed/attached is my \$16.00 for each poinsettia given.

in () honor of

1. _____

2. _____

in () memory of

1. _____

2. _____

Given by: _____