

December 2017

Dear Friends of Trinity,

...you shall call his name Jesus. (Luke 1:31)

The name of Jesus was a common name in the first century. It means “Savior”. The people longed for that Savior, that Jesus, to finally come.

There were most likely a lot of little boys running around Judea named Jesus. But there was something different about the one who was born in Bethlehem. His mother was visited by the angel Gabriel and was told by divine decree to name her child Jesus. And why?

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (Luke 1:32-33)

That is a good way to describe a Savior for the people of Israel and the world. It describes *your* Savior! This gift from God came, humbly, to be your Servant-King, your Son of God, to save you from the perils of your sin to bring you back to God. It's a journey you could not take yourself. God had to come to you. And He did!

Make it a point this Christmas to tell yourself that Jesus is *your* Savior. He came to be yours and to make you his.

Have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas, and a Joyous New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



December Newsletter 2017



Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

Our traditions continue this year at Trinity, and in December some of our annual traditions include the Cookie Walk, the congregational Christmas party and the Morningstar Giving Tree. We hope to have a lot of participation in all three events, so please consider joining us for all three of these December activities. Details of each follow below.

For more years than I can count, Trinity's Women's League has organized the annual Cookie Walk. This has been their only fundraiser and it has been a great success every year. We are thankful to all members of Women's League for the efforts that go into this. As a consumer of the cookies sold at this event, I can tell you this is a great opportunity to taste some outstanding homemade cookies baked by members of our congregation. If you haven't been before, consider stopping by on December 2nd to check it out. You can also donate your own cookies to the event on Friday, December 1st, if you'd like to help us with having a great supply of cookies to sell. We also appreciate Donna Cuthbert for her willingness to organize the cookie walk this year. Our Women's League members will still be working hard on this project, but Donna agreed to jump in this year and lead this event when Women's League asked for help in the running of the event. Proceeds from this event will go to the benefit of Trinity Lutheran Church, and that more than likely means our stained glass window fund, which continues to build thanks to the generosity of our members. We are about half way to our goal on the stained glass window repair fund, so if you are considering an end-of-the-year gift, please consider supporting this effort to help ensure that our beautiful stained glass windows can be enjoyed for generations to come.

Next up is our annual congregational Christmas party, which is hosted again this year by our Social Ministry committee on Sunday, December 3rd. We meet in the fellowship hall for pizza and an assortment of sides and desserts (like the cookie walk - this event is always pleasing to the taste buds!). Afterwards, there are kids games in the gym and caroling in the church to all of the Christmas classic hymns. It's a great time of food and fellowship that is sure to help put you in a festive mood for the Christmas season. A sign-up sheet for this is outside the gym.

Throughout the month of December, we are again supporting Morningstar Mission. If you aren't familiar with them, you can find their website at www.morningstarmission.org. But a high level summary is that they are a faith-based organization right in our community that helps people in need with their physical and spiritual needs. Because they insist on remaining faith based, they are not eligible for state funding. That means they are even more reliant on funds from members of the community to help them carry out their mission. We have a number of "Stars of Hope" where you can purchase gifts (both wants and needs) for a needy child at the mission and a number of envelopes on the giving tree in the hallway. Funds collected in those envelopes go to Morningstar to allow them to continue doing what they do and this is our annual drive to support them financially. This is a great way to help a faith-based organization right

in our community, so please consider helping out with this either by signing up for a Star of Hope or by making a donation in one of the giving tree envelopes.

Not to overlook the obvious, but we also have our Christmas services at Trinity this year as we do every year. We start off with the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 10th in place of the 10:30 am service. The children have a unique way of telling the story of Christ's Birth. There will be a Saturday Night Service at 5 p.m. that will be a Christmas Eve Service without communion. With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday this year, we will have our regular Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. on December 24th but will not have services that Sunday morning. Aside from this, our schedule should be fairly normal this year but do keep an eye on our calendar for December to make sure you're up to date on all that is happening at Trinity this month.

As Thanksgiving concludes and the Season of Advent begins, there is much to be thankful for here at Trinity Lutheran Church. On behalf of church council, I want to thank all of our members for their ongoing support of the church and for all that you do to keep the church going. This is a great church family to be a part of and I look forward to observing Advent alongside the members of our congregation.

Member Updates

New Members:

Nikki Conradi, transferred in from St. Peters, Joliet

LaDonna Walker, transferred in from St. Peters, Joliet

Baptisms:

Patrick James Hollis, born September 8, 2017 and baptized November 5, 2017



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2018, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Judi, the church secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's, Financial Secretary, church mailbox. Request forms are on the table in the hallway.

Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Judi or Janice.

Members using church envelopes may pick up their 2018 envelope boxes on the table in the hall way. Envelope boxes not picked up in December will be mailed the 2nd week of January.

Great appreciation to members who pick up their envelopes rather than having them mailed!

Questions – contact Janice 815 485-3558 or Judi, Church Secretary

Thanks! Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary

SOCIAL MINISTRY



MorningStar

MorningStar Christmas Activities. The MorningStar Giving Tree is on the hall table, complete with envelopes for monetary donations, to be forwarded for this most charitable mission's works. Please remember to make any checks payable to Trinity so all donations can be recorded and then distributed to MorningStar. Thank you, in advance, for your gifts in any amount.

A special "Thanks" to Virgil, who helped with the setting up of the Giving Tree in the hallway

"Stars of Hope" - All ten stars have been taken. Thank you to all. If you are interest in helping with this project, please make a donation by using the envelopes on the Giving Tree.

All purchased, wrapped, and tagged gifts must be returned to Trinity by Friday, December 8th, so they can be delivered to MorningStar. Your continued support of this project will be appreciated



Annual Congregational Christmas Celebration, hosted by Social Ministry, will be held on Sunday, December 3rd from 5:00 – 7:00. "This is for all members, not just the children." While the children are busy in the gym, the adults are invited to join us in the church to sing some Christmas Carols. Pizza, desserts, salads and drinks will be served at 5:00 p.m. Games, supplied & supervised by the Youth Group, will begin shortly thereafter. A sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please check the sheet for requested donated items.

Youth (high school and junior high) will be leading the games at the church Christmas party on Sunday, December 4. Please come at 4:30 p.m. to set up. We will finish by 7:30 p.m. Let Michelle Hoag know if you can attend so we get enough pizza for you!



"Annual Cookie Walk" will be held Saturday, December 2nd from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Baked goods from the congregation are needed, and very much appreciated. We can use cookies, breads, coffee cakes or candy. All profits go to the church and community needs. *Styrofoam trays will be available in the gym on November 12th. You may use these trays to carry your cookies back to church. Please cover these trays with wax paper before placing the cookies on them, so they may be reused.* Baked goods for the cookie sale can be dropped off Friday, December 1st from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or early Saturday morning.

This year, the Cookie Walk will be organized and run by our very own Donna Cuthbert. Many thanks to Donna for stepping in and assuming the directorship of this annual event. While Women's League will not be running it this year they are helping out in any way possible. We will be looking for much more help from our other organizations and from the congregation as well. There will be a signup sheet for anyone wanting to help with this wonderful event. Please search your heart and calendar to see if you offer some help with either setup or sale.

We would also like to thank Fritz Meentz and his company, E-Z Sign of Mokena for the generous donation of the Cookie Walk Sale Posters and the 15 street signs.



Women's League is also collecting stocking stuffers for Salem. A list is posted by the designated boxes which are under the hallway table. Last date for donations is Sunday, December 10th.



Women's League Christmas Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30 p.m. in the church basement. Guests do not need to be a member to attend. This will be a catered luncheon with a cost of \$10.00 per person. Make your reservations by calling Ginny DeCarlo at 815.485.2001 or Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS – An easy way to shop and earn money for our church. Scrip cards are the same gift cards that you can purchase from retailers, including grocery & department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. In addition to giving them as gifts, they can be used for daily or holiday shopping. We order the gift cards at a discount and you pay face value so there is no additional cost. The proceeds from this fundraiser are currently being put towards church improvement projects such the gym windows. **The deadlines for turning in your next order, along with payment, will be Monday, December 11th at noon.** Your order will be available for pick-up the weekend after the order is placed. Order forms are on the hallway table below the Youth bulletin board. You may place your order/payment in the gold envelope which is hanging on the end of the desk credenza in the church office. If interested in placing orders online, you will need to ask for an enrollment code. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett (minett411@yahoo.com or 815.467.2537) or Gary Purnell (815.485.9017). You can also learn more online at shopwithscrip.com.



Altar Flowers. Flowers are placed on our altar every weekend to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. A **2018 flower chart showing open weekends has been posted in the cabinet across from the church office.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. Please note the cost of the flowers has increased to \$30.00. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and the cost with permission from the person who has already selected the date. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at (815) 485-9017 or email her at purnellk51@hotmail.com. Flowers may be picked up **after** the 10:30 service. Thank you to all who participate!



CHANCEL GUILD Our next meeting is Monday, **December 4th** at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Denise Buchanan and Sharon MacFarlane. We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.



Chancel members, if at all possible please help the Women's League with their Cookie Walk by making some cookies. These ladies helped us with our luncheon, now it is our turn to help them.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

Christmas Poinsettias: Chancel Guild will be decorating the chancel area with poinsettias for the Christmas services. If you would like to help decorate the chancel area by purchasing a poinsettia for them to use, please fill out the order form on the table outside the church office. Each plant costs \$20.00 and can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. **Your order must be turned in by Sunday, December 17.** Please place your completed form inside the green folder on the desk in the church office. If any questions, call Kay Purnell (815) 485-9017.

Fannie May Candy Bars: We have a new supply of Fannie May Candy bars. They are on the counter in the church office. Cost is \$1.00 for each. Please leave your payment in the gold envelope. The proceeds of the sales will go to the Chancel Guild. Thanks to Rita Larson for chairing this project.



The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 10th at the 10:30 a.m. church service. Refreshments will follow. Children should come at the regular 9:15 am time to prepare.

The practice will be Saturday, **December 9th from 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 Noon. (Preschool and Kindergarten children should arrive around 10:15 a.m.)**

A pizza lunch will be served after the rehearsal. If your child has any food allergies, please prepare and bring something that they can eat during our lunch.



St. Matthew's.

We are still collecting non perishable food items for St. Matthews Church. The bin is in the upstairs hallway. In addition to the food item, St. Matthew's is in need of cleaning products. Examples would be: paper towels, rags, general purpose cleaners, toilet bowl cleaners, hand washing soap, hand lotions, hand sanitizers, dishwashing soap, etc. These items can be left in the upstairs bin also.



If anyone is interested in helping with the hauling of these items to St. Matthew's, please contact the church office. Extra help is always appreciated.



MorningStar Mission Serving. Trinity has been helping with serving meals at MorningStar twice a month for a number of years. We help with serving on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, and need 3-4 volunteers each time. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign the sheet on the hallway table, or call the church office. You must be at MorningStar by

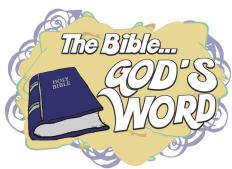
3:45 pm. If you are interested in volunteering in another way, please call MorningStar at 815.722.5780. More information may be obtained by visiting their web at www.morningstarmission.org other volunteer positions.



Greeters -

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and the result might be very surprising. Signup sheet for December is in the hallway.

Readers - The signup sheet for December is in the hallway. We have many open Sundays left. Please consider signing up for one dates as a reader



Confirmation Class is held each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hoag or call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 8:30 a.m. Please join this very interesting group.

Thursday Evening Bible Class is held at 7:00 p.m. Please join us.



Choir Practice – each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome. If you have questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.



Coffee Hour A new yellow sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2018. **Please take a turn.** Without volunteers, coffee will not be available on the 4th Sunday of the month. *If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.*



TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. Please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 to request a prayer. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b. If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny a call. You can also call the office at (815) 485-6973. We would be happy to provide you with all the information. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.



Home Instead Senior Care. If you are looking for Senior Care help, or for a job that is rewarding and nurtures your soul, apply with Home Instead Senior Care. For more information visit www.holmeinstead.com or call 1.815.725.2088. Brochures are on the hallway table.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-1 pm



Christmas Services

Sunday, December 10th
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 23rd
5:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service – no communion

Christmas Eve – December 24th

There will be no morning services on Christmas Eve
5:00 p.m. Contemporary Christmas Eve Service – no communion
7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship Service with communion

Christmas Day Worship Service – December 25th

Christmas Carol Singing – 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

*Christmas is Joy! Christmas is Peace! May the peace and joy of this holiday season remain in your heart throughout the New Year.
Remember to keep Christ in your CHRISTmas!*