

December 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Peace is not merely the absence of war and violence, although it includes that absence. Peace is also disparate people becoming bonded together in something much greater than they. In the case of Christians, we are bonded together in Jesus, the Prince of Peace. We are integrated into that one mystical body of Christ, re-created through Baptism into his image. We then become his imitators in daily life.

It's incredible to know that God would fully become one of us by being born in a setting of humiliating scarcity. The human desire for wealth and power is completely eclipsed by God in the flesh, who entered our world without fanfare. He shows us what true humanity looks like. And in doing so, he comes to save us from our own tendency toward worldly power. He brings the very love and peace of God which surpasses all human understanding.

It turns out to be the only solution. It took an infant born as the Lamb of God, subjecting himself to the cruelty humans inflict on each other, to do away with this cruelty through forgiveness. This forgiveness gives us peace with God whose love is eternal and everlasting.

Having this peace with God, the greatest power in the universe, translates into peace with one another. At least it should. It doesn't mean that we will be free of conflict with others. It just means that we are ready to meet these situations with forgiveness, holding back vengeance, and being restored by the Spirit of Christ, who is the Prince of Peace.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



December Newsletter 2018



Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

A quick update on our building reveals some positive signs this month. Our stained glass window restoration project is nearly done and it appears the total cost of this maintenance is well within our expectations. We are awaiting a few parts for some of the lower windows, but it appears the restoration in total will come in a bit under budget, which is all too rare anymore with projects like this. I do want to share with all members that once the lower windows are operable again, please be sure when closing them (on warmer days when we have them open) to press only on the frame of the window and not on the glass panels of the windows. These windows are pretty durable, but they will last longer if they are handled with the utmost care.

Coming in a bit under budget for the windows is great news for our kitchen remodel project. We had our first meeting on this project and have a better idea of what we need to do in order to confirm we can proceed with this project. The biggest potential hurdle at this point is plumbing. We need to have some exploratory work done to see what it will take to have the plumbing for our kitchen working properly. We will be exploring this further and determining what it will take to move forward on this project and I will be sure to report back once I have more details on this project.

Another project that came up rather unexpectedly was the need to replace our Fire Panel. What we have is quite old and it does not work as well as it could with today's more modern alarm technologies. To ensure we have the safest building possible and that any emergency that does occur at Trinity is reported as quickly as possible to the right authorities, it appears we will need to replace our current panel. We have received one bid for this project and we are awaiting at least one more, but this is a project that will need to be completed sooner than later. Our thanks to our Property Committee for overseeing this task as well as all of the other property-related needs we have at Trinity.

Finally, I want to issue something of a challenge this month. We all know that New Year's resolutions have a low success rate, but I'm going to challenge you to make one anyways. At our council elections in October, we attempted to fill two vacancies on church council with write-in votes. We were unsuccessful in this effort, so I am going to make an appeal here instead. If "Getting more involved at my church" is a resolution you're up for in 2019, we have two vacant positions on council that we need to fill. We are looking for a Director of Social Ministry and a Co-Director of Outreach. Positions run for two years and I can tell you from first-hand experience that this a great way to give back and it really isn't a major commitment. Council meets monthly on Sunday evenings for nine months each year. If you are up for this, we could use your support. All existing members of council will be happy to help guide you, but I really don't want to enter 2019 with vacancies on church council, so I am making this appeal in hopes of reaching two people who are willing and able to fulfill these roles. Please see me, Pastor Hoag or any other member of church council with questions or to express your interest in this.

Member Updates

New Members:

Keith Mochel

Baptisms:

Roman Adam Riley, born December 29, 2017 and baptized November 4, 2018

Weddings:

David Hubrich and Margaret Wimbiscus on November 24, 2018



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2019, 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 2019 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” - We still have several “Stars” available to anyone wishing to help a child in need. 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 Wednesday, December 5th, so they can be delivered to MorningStar. Your continued support of this project is very much appreciated.



Annual Congregational Christmas Celebration, hosted by Social Ministry, will be held on Sunday, December 2nd 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 2nd. Please come at 4:30 p.m. to set up. We will finish by 7:30 p.m. Service hours will be available. RSVP to Pastor or Michelle Hoag know if you can attend so we get enough pizza for you!



“Annual Cookie Walk” will be held Saturday, December 1st 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 11th. 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, November 30th from 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or early Saturday morning.

This year, the Cookie Walk will be organized and run by Donna Cuthbert. Many thanks to Donna for stepping in and assuming the directorship of this annual event and Janell McDonald for assisting. 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.



Salem Stocking Stuffers – from now until the 15th of December, we will be collecting the below items for Salem. Please place any purchased items in the box under the hallway table.

Crossword books	Hats	Socks	Alarm clocks	Markers	Perfumes
Blankets	Tissues	Powder	Calendars	Wallets	Checkers
Pen/pencil sets	Watches	Movies	Electronic Games	Tags	Bibles
Note Cards	Frames	Ribbons	Slippers w/soles	Bows	Lap Desk
Scarves/mittens	Hosiery				



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 10th at noon. This will be the last order before Christmas.** 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.



Stained Glass Windows – Our windows are in the process of being repaired. If anyone has the need to open the side windows, they must be closed by placing your hands on the metal framework and not the glass. If we close them by pushing on the glass, it will eventually loosen the leading and cause the windows to move out of place. Thank you



Religious Humor:

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The pastor placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, “Take only one apple please – remember that God is watching”.

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, “Take all the cookies you want – God is watching the apples”.



ALTAR FLOWERS: A new 2019 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted. You can find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across the old office. If you would like to reserve a weekend for 2019 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings, please fill out a sponsor sheet. Sponsor sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. **Please do not fill in the calendar. Fill out a sponsor sheet and put it in the Chancel Guild mail box in the general office.** Flowers are \$30.00 for both arrangements. If you would like a weekend already spoken for, it is sometimes possible to share the cost and arrangements with permission from the person already sponsoring. Chancel Guild members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a weekend this past year. We appreciate your efforts to help us enhance and beautify the altar area. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017.



CHANCEL GUILD Our next meeting is Monday, **December 3rd** at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses will be Allene Bachmann and Kay Purnell. We will be decorating the church for the Christmas season. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE ALTAR

Christmas will soon be here! 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 this order form and turn it in by Sunday, December 16th. The cost of each plant is \$20.00.

Please place your completed order form, along with payment, in the green folder in the general church office. Make checks payable to "Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild".

If there are any questions, you may contact Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or 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 9th

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 8th from 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 am. (Preschool and Kindergarten children should arrive around 10:30 a.m.)**

A pizza lunch from Pizza Hut will be served after the rehearsal at 11:00 am. 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 -

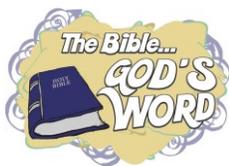
Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and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



Bob Christman - We're looking for volunteers to bring Bob Christman to and from the 10:30 am Services here at Trinity. Bob now resides at the Cottages, in Cabin #2. The Cottages are located at 123 S Cedar Rd (1 block south of Illinois Hwy on the West side of Cedar Rd. If you can give Bob a ride to and from church, please speak with Pastor Hoag.



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 sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2019. ***Please take a turn.*** Without volunteers, coffee will not be available on the 4th Sunday of the month. We are only asking for a 1 month commitment. *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 feel free to contact Ginny DeCarlo or Pat Fuerst if you have a prayer request. You may call Ginny at 815.485.2001 (or email at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com) or Pat at 815.485.6441.

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 or Pat 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.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-2 pm



Christmas Services

Sunday, December 9th

10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 22nd

Regular Saturday 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Service

Sunday, December 23rd

Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Regular Sunday Services at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve – December 24th

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!