

February 2016

Dear Fellow Trinitarians,

How many Bibles do you have currently in your house? The average home has five. Are those Bibles being put to use? Studies show that they're not and are mostly collecting dust on a bookshelf or stashed away in a box. Some use a family Bible as a centerpiece for their coffee table. That would be an example of a Bible having some kind of function, although merely decorative. But it's hardly the purpose of a Bible. Bibles are made to be read and heard.

The Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God and the narrative of salvation. It's not a self-help manual or a therapist's notes. It is the record of God's actions in our world chiefly as they have been accomplished by Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. It shows that humanity cannot save itself from condemnation and destruction, for humanity has neither the will nor the ability to do so. Page after page shows the utter helplessness of people in spiritual matters as they are enslaved in sin, and how God continually comes to the rescue.

That's the beauty of Scripture. It declares that God satisfies His own righteousness and justice in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. You cannot get that message anywhere else!

One of the liturgies we use occasionally contains what's known as the Collect for the Word. I leave it here for your consideration and offer it as a prayer for you: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag



## FEBUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

### President's Report

We have a full agenda of topics to discuss at this year's annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 31st, following a chili lunch after the second service. We hope to see lots of you in attendance at this meeting, as we will be discussing matters of importance to Trinity and seek input from our members on these topics. As mentioned last month, this also marks the final annual meeting where Bruce Hasch will be acting in the capacity of our Treasurer. Bruce has served us in an exemplary manner for more than two decades as our Treasurer, as we are fortunate to have had the benefit of his selfless devotion to our council for such a lengthy period of time. You will still see Bruce at Trinity - he is just stepping down from his long-held council position. Please join us in thanking Bruce for a job well done!

As an incentive to sticking around for the annual meeting, we are even planning to feed you! Our Youth Group will be serving a chili lunch after the second service.

A free will offering will be taken for this, with proceeds going toward the cost of sending several of our Youth to the Annual Youth Gathering this fall in New Orleans. This will be an exciting and rewarding trip for them, and they are working hard to fund this trip throughout the year. Your support of our Youth is both noticed and appreciated.

**Coming right up in February is our first charitable endeavor of 2016 - project Sole Hope.** We look forward to several of you signing up to help cut out patterns that will eventually be crafted into shoes for children in Uganda who lack such basic necessities as shoes for their feet. If you are unable to help with the cutting of these patterns, donations to this effort are also very much appreciated.

This gives all members of Trinity the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of these children, so we hope everyone reading this will join in supporting this organization in one way or another. Helping those less fortunate - kids in particular - is extremely rewarding. For more on Sole Hope, please check out [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org).

Last for now is the new project that Emily Niemann is spearheading. This involves getting together with other members outside of church for a time of food and fellowship. Hosts provide the meal and attendees bring dessert. You can sign up

to host, attend, or both. There are few rules here - the idea is to break bread together and get to know other Trinity members a little better. You can attend one meal or several - that's up to you. If we believe that church is not a building we go to, but rather a family to which we belong, then this is a great way to put that belief in action and get to know other Trinitarians a little better. Our thanks to Emily for the idea, as well as the offer to coordinate the master schedule. If you didn't get an application for this, please see Emily or contact the church office.

We hope to see you this Sunday at the annual meeting!



**Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Janice Prospero. If you received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.**



*Trinity is now wheelchair accessible. The lift is up and running. The fifth pew from the front on the South side has been removed, to allow room for wheelchairs. Anyone who wishes to use the lift should use the entrance on the South side of church.*



February Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table! Please help by taking a turn.



## **LENT BEGINS February 10, 2016**

Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Lenten services will be held each following Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

### **MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES: LUTHERANISM 101--BACK TO THE BASICS**

Our Midweek Lenten Services for 2016 will be a focus on *The Small Catechism of Dr. Martin Luther (1530)*. Each week we will zero in on one of the chief parts of the Catechism and see what Luther himself had to say about them. We will have congregational recitations of the catechism as well as brief sermons on each chief part. Come and explore our rich Lutheran heritage!

**Ash Wednesday - *We Have a Problem: The Ten Commandments***

**Midweek 1 - *God Has The Solution: The Apostles' Creed***

**Midweek 2 - *We Respond: The Lord's Prayer***

**Midweek 3 - *God Adopts Us: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism***

**Midweek 4 - *God Gives Us Pastors: The Office of the Keys and Confession***

**Midweek 5 - *God Feeds Us: The Sacrament of Holy Communion***

**Maundy Thursday - *We Examine Ourselves: Christian Questions and Their Answers***

**Good Friday - *Darkness Reigns (But Not For Long)***



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### **Soup and Sandwich Suppers at 6:30 pm**

The following listing denotes when each organization is responsible for serving the weekly soup and sandwich suppers. *The free will offerings will be given to the Youth Group for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July.*

All tableware, dinnerware and serving items will be available, as needed. *If your group has anything left over after your turn, please take it home with you. Do not leave it in the kitchen or refrigerator. If there is something you feel the next group would be able to use, please contact them right away and see if they want to use it or not.*

February 17 – Youth Group

February 24 – Chancel Guild

March 2 – Sunday School

March 9 – Church Council

March 16 – Women's League

# Social Ministry



## SOLE HOPE PROJECT

Many African children are infected with jiggers, small sand fleas that enter bare feet and burrow into the skin. If left untreated, jiggers become a huge problem, leading to infections, paralysis, amputation, and in some case, death. The shoe parts we cut out of old jeans and will be sent to Uganda and made into shoes for children there who are in need. Sole Hope also provides work to those who sew the shoe parts together, thereby supporting families.

When you volunteer at a workshop you help in providing jobs, shoes and HOPE to Uganda. By cutting out the shoe parts, you provide the tools that our shoemakers need to make the shoes that can help keep thousands jigger-free.

**Social Ministry will be hosting two workshops on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. and again from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

If you are able to help us, please sign up on the sheet on the card table outside the gym. No seamstress experience needed! Participants are asked to bring a pair of sharp scissors, to cut the material. Due to the nature of the project (exact precision required in tracing and cutting, use of sharp scissors), all participants must be in high school or older. **IF YOU WERE NOT ABLE TO SIGN UP BUT ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE JOIN US AT EITHER SESSION.**

***If you cannot help at the workshop, donations will be accepted. Please make your check payable to “Trinity Lutheran Church” with Sole Hope written on the memo line.*** To see what Sole Hope is all about, please visit [www.solehope.org](http://www.solehope.org). Your hearts will go out to these children!



Social Ministry just completed selling TJ's Pizza (same company as last year), with the proceeds going to the Youth Group for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July. Thanks to everyone who placed orders and helped to benefit our Youth Group. Deliver date is Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors.** There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. School year beginning September 2016 the tuition per month will be \$105 for two day students and \$130 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2016. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Pre-School Board Meeting – Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:15 a.m.



**MorningStar Mission:** The next serving dates for February are the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in helping, please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the hallway table, so we know we have enough helpers to serve.



**Chancel Guild:** The next meeting will be **Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.** All ladies of Trinity are invited to visit. Hostesses are Debbie Crawford and Wendy Kaun.



**Candy Bars for sale!** Rita Larson is selling Fannie May candy bars for \$1.00 each. Proceeds from the February sales will be given to the Youth for their trip to New Orleans. The candy bars are available after services or in the church office. Please deposit your payment in the envelope inside the candy bar box.



**THESE MAKE GREAT VALENTINE GIFTS!**



**Women's League** will have their Birthday luncheon at Williamson's Restaurant in New Lenox on Route 30 on **Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 12:30 p.m.** Separate checks will be issued. Call Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441 for reservations.



## **2016 National Youth Gathering Fundraisers**

This will be one of several ways our youth will be raising funds for the 2016 Youth Gathering in the fall. We have a record 8 youth and 3 adults planning to attend this gathering this year in New Orleans, so we are planning a number of different ways in which our members will be able to support these youth to help defray the costs of attending this event.



**Annual Meeting/Chili Lunch - Sunday, January 31, 11:30 a.m.** The Youth Group served a chili and hot dog lunch before the annual meeting on Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>. This was one of the fundraisers to help them for their trip to the National Youth Gathering.

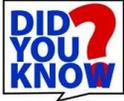


**Super Bowl Subs –The Youth Group is now taking order for Sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday. You need to place your order by Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. The Subs will be ready for pick-up after both Sunday service on February 7th. Order forms are on the hallway table.**



**Scrip Fundraiser - This is a gift card fundraiser** - they are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement, etc. **We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.)** You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located by the youth bulletin board) or by placing your order online at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com). If interested in placing orders online, you will need an enrollment code. Ask Angie Minett for the code or stop by the church office. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or (815)467-2537.

***The next deadline for turning in orders along with payment is Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and also Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at noon (with a pick-up the following weekend on February 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>).***



### **Trivia Night and Silent Auction - Saturday, February 27, 7:00**

**p.m.** - Who will be this year's "Trinity Trivia Titans"? Bring a team or come join a team for Trivia Night! \$5 per person, up to 10 people on a team. Loads of fun every year! **We are looking for silent auction donations - any item or basket would be welcome.**

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts!  
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!



**Bible Classes.** Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend one or both of these classes. Classes meet in the church library

Wednesday Mornings at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mornings at 9:15 a.m.



**Thrivent Members!** Kevin Jensen from Thrivent will be coming to Trinity on Sunday, February 21st to talk with members and remind everyone to designate their 2015 Thrivent Choice Dollars before the March deadline. He will make a short announcement after each service and will be available to talk with members during coffee in the gym.



**St. Matthew's Outreach.** We are still collecting food, clothing and small household items for St. Matthew's Church. Please place food items in the bin at the top of the stairs coming in from the parking lot. Other items should be carefully placed in the storage room at the East end of the church basement. If you are interested in helping take these items to St. Matthew's please contact the church office at 815.485.6973.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday 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. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at [candb.stark@gmail.com](mailto:candb.stark@gmail.com). The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.



**Matter of Balance Class.** The Village of New Lenox will be conducting a Balance Class here at Trinity on Monday mornings from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. beginning April 4<sup>th</sup> and running through May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Each class is limited to 15 members, and as of this printing we have 2 openings. You need to attend 5 out of the 8 classes in order to graduate. If you are interested, please contact the church office (815.485.6973) and we will sign you up.

The Village holds these classes on various dates at different locations. If you are interested in attending one of those classes, please contact Dan Martin, Public Safety Division Chief, at 815.462.6128 or email [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net).

**LOST AND FOUND!** We have once again accumulated quite a few items. Please check the coat rack in the hallway outside the gym, and also the kitchen area in the gym. If any of these items belong to you, please take them. If they are not picked up soon, they will be donated to St. Matthew's.

**Church office hours:** Monday and Thursday, 9-3, Tuesday and Thursday, 9-12.