

January 2015

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! This is the year to celebrate the fact that God has used our congregation to announce the wonders of His love shown through Jesus Christ for a long time and will continue to do so. As Jesus is our one Foundation, He continues to build His church through the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments.

In reality, a church anniversary is not a celebration of *us* and what we've accomplished. That's not to say that we haven't accomplished anything because we certainly have. But the cause for celebration is our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who has loved us with an everlasting love and pours His grace upon us.

As we enter this New Year we can reflect on the many blessings Trinity has received from the hand of God—the people we've known and loved, the activities, the organizations, the ups and downs, the challenges we've faced, the obstacles we've overcome—with eager anticipation of what will come in the future. Through faith in Jesus Christ we are confident that what God has begun in us He will bring to completion in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will be glorified through it all.

I encourage each of you to fully engage in the activities that are planned in celebration of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. One of the things we will be doing is putting together a brand new pictorial directory. You'll be receiving one of those "robocalls" from me. Don't hang up! It will be your opportunity to schedule a time to get your picture taken for the new directory. Stay tuned for details on this later.

We have many reasons to rejoice in the Lord! By the grace of God we have come so far, and by that same grace we will be sustained as a new creation in Christ. God bless each of you, and I pray that you have a very blessed and joyous New Year!

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag

# JANUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

## **New Year's Resolution**

How about being a reader, a greeter or an usher for one of our services. The Choir is always open to new voices! Try getting involved in one of our ladies groups. These are all great ways to serve the church and get acquainted with fellow church members.

## **SCRIPTURE READERS**

We are asking you to become involved in our worship services, without committing too much time! Just read The First and Second Lessons!! To do so, place your name on the Sunday you would like on the sheets in the hallway. The actual readings are available ahead of time and may be acquired by contacting Pastor or Doris at (815) 485-6973.

## **GREETERS**

We come as friends, a family of believers, greeting one another with a warm welcome, thankful for the gifts of a community in which we can live out our relationship with God through our relationships with one another. There are sign-up sheets located on a table near the gym if you would like to extend a warm welcome to your fellow members and visitors.

**Sign-up sheets for Readers and Greeters are on the hallway table. Please take a turn and sign up.**

**Thank You!** Christmas services require the work of a lot of people. Some get their names in the bulletin. Many do not. We could try and list them, but inevitably, we would miss someone. So, whether you came and helped set up the tree, folded bulletins, swapped out candles, ushered, set up communion, cleaned up after communion, set up flowers, donated flowers, sang or played an instrument, a very warm and heartfelt THANK YOU! May the love that you showed be reflected back to you a thousand times over in the year to come.

**.Thank you to the following people who donated the poinsettia plants which adorned the altar for the Christmas Services:** Allene & Duncan Bachmann, Kim & Bob Blecke, Denise & Bob Buchanan, The Cuthbert Family, Ginny & Les DeCarlo, Janet DeForest, Lois & Jack Dobbs, Bob & Tammy Doerrer & Family, Judi Donovan, Pat & Paul Fuerst, Betty Hopkinson, Wendy & Tom Kaun, Jeff & Sharon Lorenz, Liz & Mike Lyman, McCullough Family, Debbie & Larry Miller, Jennifer Mudrock, Kay & Gary Purnell, Jackie & Rich Rohner,

Ann & Bob Romadka, Jan & Doug Schlak, Tom Malecki & Kari, Morgan, Wayne Thomsen. The Tinker Family, Jan & Rex Toepke, and The Wheeler Family.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

All members are invited to attend this meeting on Sunday, **January 25th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** There will be coffee and snacks to enjoy. The 2015 Budget will be presented as well as highlights and recaps from the various organizations for 2015.

**The 2015 Church Council officers are as follows:** Jeff McDonald, President; Kim Blecke, Secretary; Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary; Bruce Hasch, Treasurer; Bob Blecke and Phil MacFarlane, Co-Directors of Outreach; Dan Bay and Bob Jackman, Co- Directors of Property; Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing, Co-Directors of Spiritual Life; Jeanine Welsh, Director of Social Ministry; Judi Donovan, Director of Parish Education; Michelle Hoag, Director of Youth Ministry.

2015 Offering Envelopes boxes are in the table in the hallway. Please pick yours up to save the church the expense of mailing it! Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2015, please fill out a request with your name, address and telephone number and give it to Doris, church Secretary, or place it in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. You may also contact Janice at 815.485.3558 or call the church office at 815.485.6973. Request forms are on the table in the hallway. Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Doris or Janice.

A new "Membership Directory" is in process. This will be done by Lifetouch Directory and will be used as our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book. Pictures will be taken here at Trinity on February 11-14, 2015. **SAVE THESE DATES!** Members will receive a free 8 X 10 and have the option, but not the obligation, to purchase additional pictures if they wish. The church will also receive a photo montage with all participating members included in it that will make a great picture to commemorate our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would like all our members to participate, if possible. You can sign up online by visiting our web site or you can request a time by contacting the church office either by phone, e-mail, or with a form available at church.

### **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. To request a prayer, please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 or email Ginny at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com or call Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441. If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny or Pat a call. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

**Preschool Registration for the school year beginning September 2015.** Preschool Registration begins February 1<sup>st</sup>. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2015 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two day students and \$125 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2015. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815 485 6973.

The next Prechool Board meeting is **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

**CHOIR.** Thanks to the choir for the beautiful singing and music in our regular church services, as well as the Christmas services. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and are always looking for additional voices. The choir will be on a Christmas break until Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>.

***YOUTH:*** *We will be taking down the Christmas tree on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please mark this date on your calendar now so you will able to help with this project.*

**CHANCEL GUILD** The next meeting is **Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Hostesses are Rita Larson and Doris Klemm. All ladies of Trinity are welcome to attend and/or join the Chancel Guild. For more information please contact Denise Buchanan, President at 815.485.2729.

**The 2015 Flower Chart** is up in the hallway across from the church office with many opportunities for you to place flowers on the altar, if you wish. Just complete the order form found near the flower chart and return to the office. For more information, please contact Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at [candb.stark@gmail.com](mailto:candb.stark@gmail.com). The cost is \$17.00 for two vases. Flowers may be picked up after the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.** Pastor Hoag will be our speaker.

Hostesses will be Karen Dickson and Cheryl Mork. All ladies are invited to join. For more information, please call Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441.

The annual Cookie Walk, their only fundraiser, was a huge success. Thank you to all the bakers, shoppers and workers. The profit was \$1,865.00 which will be used for special needs of the Church and local charities.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

**MorningStar.** What a wonderful, caring congregation Trinity is! Thanks to all the shoppers, who so willingly and carefully selected, wrapped and marked \$80.00 of gifts for ten (10) MorningStar children. Thanks, also, for the generous donations at the Giving Tree which has been given to MorningStar.

The next Social Ministry meeting will be **Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** at Jeanine Welsh's house. All ladies of Trinity are invited to join this group. We are always open to new faces and new ideas. If you have any questions please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

**Thank you to those who have signed up to host the coffee hour after the 8:00 a.m. service on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month. There are still a few months open. If you have not taken your turn, please sign up now.**

### MorningStar Serving Dates

Our congregation has been helping with the serving at MorningStar for a long time, but our volunteers have been dwindling down. Your help is needed! Serving dates for 2015 will continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 3:45 p.m. We need 4 volunteers at each serving. **If you plan to go please sign ahead of time, so we know how many people will show up.** The sign-up sheet is on the hall table. Please contact Jan Falk with any questions at 815.423.6414 or call the church office at 815.485.6973.

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thank you to everyone who donated the much needed blood on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Your donation is very much appreciated.**

The property directors, Dan Bay and Bob Jackman, along with the help of Virgil Switzer, have been hard at work repairing, cleaning and painting various items at the church. Please take the time to thank them personally for their hard work.

Survivors of Suicide Support Group “Healing Hearts” provides a Safe Place where family & friends who have lost loved ones can share their stories and experiences, and work through their grief. Meeting location is New Lenox Police Department, 200 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox. For dates and times please contact Daniel Martin, Public Safety Division chief at 815.462.6128 or email [dmartin@newlenox.net](mailto:dmartin@newlenox.net)

**New church office hours: Monday, 9-3; Tuesday, 9-12, Thursday, 9-3; and Friday, 9-12.**

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Betty Dunn	1
Karl Backhus	2
Dale Bormet	2
Noreen Bormet	3
Brittany McElmury	3
Ashley Renwick	3
Hannah Handorf	4
Cody Harbin	4
Erik Johnson	5
Christine Bormet	6
Samantha Buell	6
Jeffery Niemann	6
Bud Sherman	7
Jack Dobbs	8
Duncan Bachmann	9
Debra Look	9
Ben Toepke	10
Ryan Jennings	11
Kyle Pigney	11
Rex Toepke	11
Will Lyman	12
Alexandra Sutton	12
Ean Schultz	13
Madeline Baxa	14
Hunter Valentine	14
Terry Anzalone	15
Donna Brunmeier	15
Valerie Zielinski	18
Kim Huntington-Alfano	20
Saanvi Ray Purnell	20
Jane Schrank	20
Samantha Sutton	20
Cynthia Fandl	21
Ernie Falk	22
Tessa Valentine	22
Cameron Lerner	23
Andrea Valentine	24
Rachel Fox	25
John McClaghry	25

Nancy Minnick	25
Deborah Koehler	26
Thomas Ritter	26
Reese Rourke	26
Kyle Conrad	27
George Opiola	27
Samantha Pecoraro	27
Jacklyn Thompson	27
Adam Varju	27
Tim McCure	28
Madison Kosel	29
Debbi Hodo	30
Rebecca Aiken	31
Mark Lorenz	31
Brandon McCure	31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Sue Kunce	20
Craig and Nicole Black	22