

December 2019

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Our Lord came to our world in flesh and blood in order to take the worst of our sin into Himself and do away with it once and for all. That is what Christmas is all about. But there's more.

In doing away with our sin, God fills us with His love and presence and makes new creatures out of us who are pleasing to Him. It is the greatest gift the world has ever received. And we have received it in full!

In the person of Jesus Christ, God lived on our planet to gather for Himself and people who will declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light. As we are His Church, He continues to live in us and with us by the Holy Spirit. He is our righteousness and holiness.

There is no greater love in the world. Our love for one another, which can be quite powerful, is only a glimpse into this greater love.

This is to be celebrated! Jesus, the Incarnate God, and whose love is everlasting, has given us Himself as our Redeemer and our Sin-Bearer in order to grant us forgiveness and salvation. I pray that your celebrations of Jesus' birth during this month will be joyful. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor Hoag



December Newsletter 2019



Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

We are making steady progress on the kitchen remodel project. Our new baseboard heat system has been installed in fellowship hall. While this was an unexpected \$18,000 expense, it will serve us very well and it prevented us from having to have it installed later as an emergency repair. So, all things considered, the timing of this was not that bad. Jeff Lorenz is currently working on the carpentry part of this project and has framed the room for now. Insulation and drywall will follow and then flooring, cabinets, appliances and a host of other things will need to be done. Our Social Ministry committee is planning a 'kitchen shower' for when the project is complete, so be on the lookout for details of this in future newsletters. But it will be a nice way for us to celebrate our newly remodeled space, which we hope will bring us years of food and fellowship. Thanks once more to all who have helped to get us this far and thanks in advance to those who will help us across the eventual finish line. I don't have updated totals for this project yet as we are in the process of having some bids revised, but I can confidently say it is going to exceed our budget. If you were contemplating any sort of year-end giving, I am sure your gift could be put to good use with this project.

Other than the kitchen, we are at long last having the broken windows in the newly renovated youth room repaired. Most were cracked but one was shattered, which necessitated the replacement of all four windows. We are fortunate to have the funds on hand to cover this cost, and we hope the new windows will enhance the space now that our youth have done such a nice job redecorating that room. If you haven't seen it lately, take a walk downstairs and check it out. You're welcome to go explore the kitchen project as well, just use caution depending on what the condition of that room is.

I am looking forward to what the year 2020 has in store for our church and to worshipping alongside you in the coming year. But before we get too far ahead of ourselves, let's not overlook the coming month of December and all that it means to us. Trinity is a special place to all of us, but the Advent season is truly a special time to come together and worship. Hope to see you at one of our many services in the next month.

Member Updates

New Members:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Jessica Lorenz and Daniel O'Sullivan Jr. on November 9, 2019



CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2020, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Judi, the church secretary, or place in Tammy Doerrers, 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 Tammy.

Members using church envelopes may pick up their 2020 envelope boxes on the table in the hallway. 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 Tammy, 815 485-3558 or Judi, Church Secretary

Thanks! Tammy, 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.

"Stars of Hope" - All "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 Wednesday, December 5th, so they can be delivered to MorningStar. Your continued support of this project is very much appreciated.

Sole Hope Events – They will also be supporting Sole Hope again. Thank you to everyone that has brought in jeans. We will be collecting old, clean jeans through January. There is a box available to put any donations. So, sharpen those scissors and watch for the dates we will be having the Cutting Party coming in January.



Annual Congregational Christmas Celebration, hosted by Social Ministry, will not be this year due to the kitchen remodel. It will return next year!!



“Annual Cookie Walk” will be held Saturday, December 7th 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. 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 2nd & 16th 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.

Additionally, on December 5th & 6th you can purchase gift cards with your credit card but without any extra fees! There will be special deals that day too. Go online to ShopWithScrip.com and sign up for an online account! Check with Angie Minett for our church's code and try out this great opportunity! Delivery for these cards will be December 15th.



Stained Glass Windows – Our windows project has been completed. 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 once again. 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 2020 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 2020 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 mailbox 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 Saturday, **December 8th** after the 10:30 service. 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 15th. The cost of each plant is \$21.50.

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 15th

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 14th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 am. (Preschool and Kindergarten children should arrive around 10:00 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.

On December 22nd between our services, the Youth Group would like to invite the congregation to an Open House to visit the newly redecorated Youth Room. Stop in and see what has been done by our youth!



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 Servng. 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.

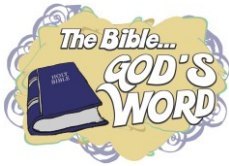


Greeters -

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 date as a reader



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.



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 15th

10:30 am Sunday School Christmas Program

Saturday, December 21st

Regular Saturday 5:00 p.m. Contemporary Service

Sunday, December 22nd

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!***