

February 2020

Dear Friends of Trinity,

In case you missed the Annual Congregational Meeting, I wanted to briefly explain what I called my "Seminar In a Box" (the box is me). It has to do with in-reach, as opposed to outreach. What I would like to offer are some ways you can put yourself "out there" within the walls of our church.

If you see someone you don't know in church, introduce yourself. It doesn't matter if that person is brand new or has been attending Trinity for 30+ years. The point is you don't know each other. Before heading out of the church sanctuary, introduce yourself. You could say something like, "I don't believe we've met. My name is..." or "Have we met before? I can't seem to remember. My name is..." It's quite alright to do this.

If you see someone who seems lost during the worship service, ask them if you could show them where we are in the service. Show them the hymnal, open it, and help them see where we are. You could also show them the order of service in the bulletin. Explain briefly how it works. And...presto! There's someone who isn't lost in the worship service. It's very helpful and will go a long way in helping someone feel welcome.

If you see a mom or dad struggling with little ones, offer to help them. Be careful with this one though...some parents can become a bit suspicious about your intentions. Ask them if you could help them or get something for them. Offer to hold the baby/child for a little while or offer to sit with the squirmy ones for a bit. The parents might be a little bit embarrassed, so reassure them that we understand that little ones can get noisy. DO NOT offer to take the child out of the sanctuary. That could send up red flags to the parents. In any event, you've offered a helping hand and that also shows we are welcoming.

Remember that the worship service is not a theatrical production where you ignore the theatergoers around you. It's a communion and fellowship of saints and it's okay to be friendly and helpful before leaving the sanctuary. Use your best judgment in situations, and don't be a stranger!

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag



FEBUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

We had our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 26th after the second service. Attendance was a bit less than half of the number who attended in 2019, but there was no lunch this year so perhaps we'll bring back the potluck in 2021 to boost attendance! Thanks to those who did show, though, and for the spirited discussion that occurred around a number of topics.

A few highlights from the meeting include the following:

- We had a tremendous December in terms of giving, with more than 38% given to Trinity this year than last year. Wow! Thanks to all of you who made that possible, as it allowed us to finish the year with a surplus instead of a deficit. This happened despite reduced attendance (see below), making it all the more remarkable. Thanks to all who give so generously to Trinity!
- We spent just over \$52,000 in 2019 on development projects as opposed to \$32,000 in each of the prior two years for various improvements around Trinity. Notable items this year includes new baseboard heat in the basement fellowship hall, installation of a new fire panel (replacing our badly outdated one and giving us a LOT more flexibility going forward) and a host of kitchen-related expenses (flooring, appliances down payment, cabinet down payment, drain repairs, construction permits, etc.).
- Discussion around welcoming new members took place. In summary of that conversation, let's just say that if you don't know someone at church, chances are good that they don't know you either. Why not introduce yourself? Maybe it's a new member or maybe it's someone who regularly attends - either way, make a connection. You have everything to gain and nothing to lose! Most of us really love our church family. Love like that is only enhanced when it is shared.
- Chancel meets the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the church (no meeting on 2/1, however). If you have any interest in being part of this group, come to a meeting and hear what they do. Being involved can be very rewarding.
- Social Ministry meets at 7 p.m. on the second Monday of each month (the day after council meets). If you're interested in joining that group, please see Jan Toepke or call the office for more details.

- Our attendance numbers were down in 2019 - quite a bit more than what we have seen in recent years. We discussed several options for trying to expand our reach, but that is an area where we can ALL lend a hand. Invite a friend or neighbor to join you at Trinity for our services. If you invited them before and they said no, ask them again! What have you got to lose? Bob Bleck, our Outlook Director, has some ideas on this that he will be pursuing in 2020, but please see Bob if you have other ideas you think would help here.
- Our online presence is being boosted. If you aren't following our Facebook page, please check us out and "Like" our page. This is a great way to keep up with what is going on at Trinity.
- The Youth remodeled and redecorated the Youth Room downstairs and the cracked windows in that room are being replaced any day now. If you haven't been down there yet, go check it out. It is a vast improvement over what it used to be!
- The kitchen project continues. All of the FRP board is up and the new sink arrived this week. The cabinets are being fabricated at this moment and will be added next, along with the rest of the appliances and a host of other finishing touches. We remain hopeful that this newly remodeled space will be available for our use in this year's Lenten suppers. It promises to be a marked improvement over the old kitchen. Thank you for your ongoing support of that project, and thank you to all who have donated time and energy to this project!
- A spirited debate about this year's budget occurred and a motion was made to increase our charitable giving to the English District in 2020. This motion passed, but not unanimously. Discussion of our ever-increasing budget took place and valid points were made both for and against this increase, but the majority ultimately approved the increase as part of a budget in 2020 of just under \$231,000.

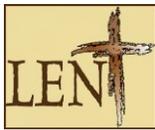
I am always open to input and feedback on the job we are doing representing this congregation, so please feel free to reach out to me or to drop a note in my inbox in the office. 2019 was a productive year for us at Trinity and we look forward to what the new year holds for us. Thanks to each of you for your membership!



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 Tammy Doerrer. If you received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



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



LENT BEGINS February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 26th at 7:30 p.m.

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



Soup and sandwich suppers will be held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service starting on March 4th. The groups below will be serving:

- March 4th – Chancel
- March 11th – Social Ministry
- March 18th – Youth
- March 25th – Church Council
- April 1st – Sunday School



Social Ministry

There will be shoe cutting party on Sunday, February 2nd at 2:00 pm here at church. If there is still cutting to be done after that day, another session will be scheduled. A special collection will be taken during the month of February to cover shipping and production costs. We need to send \$10.00 per pair of shoes that we cut out. Keep watching the bulletins for more information.

The very successful Valentine Candy Sale will return on February 2nd following each service. Stock up on homemade candy for someone special or just for yourself. There will be toffee, fudge, and caramels. Proceeds will go to the kitchen remodel project.



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 \$65.00 per student. School year beginning September 2020 the tuition per month will be \$115 for two-day students and \$145 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2020. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.



MorningStar Mission: The next serving dates for February are the 3rd and 17th. 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.

MorningStar would like to thank everyone at Trinity for their generosity at Christmas. They were able to provide over 300 families with food for the holidays and all their families received gifts through the *Stars of Hope*.



Chancel Guild News! Attention ladies of Trinity. Our Chancel Guild is changing our meeting times for 2020. We will have meetings this year on the first Saturday of the months of March, April, May, September, November & December. Our one evening meeting will be the night before our Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, October 6th. Saturday meeting times will be at 9:00 am. We are hoping that this change will encourage more of our ladies to consider joining our Chancel Guild. For more information please Call Denise Buchanan at 815-320-6018 or cell: 815-485-2729, or speak to any of our members.

Please remember that we will ***not*** meet this month but if you have any questions, please contact Denise Buchanan or Wendy Kaun.

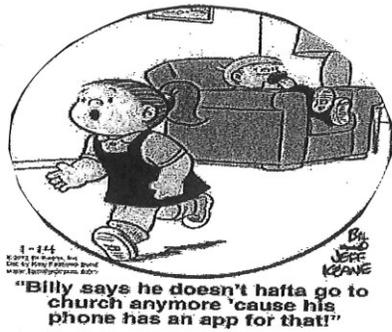


Candy Bars for sale! Rita Larson is selling Fannie May candy bars for \$1.00 each. The candy bars are available after services or in the church office. Please deposit your payment in the envelope inside the candy bar box.



THESE MAKE GREAT VALENTINE GIFTS!

Church Humor:



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 7:30 p.m. and are always looking for additional voices.

Unfortunately, due to Julie Verchimak's recent accident choir will be canceled until further notice.



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. 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 or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537).

The next deadline for turning in orders along with payment is Monday, February 3rd at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 8th and 9th).

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

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 the Church Office at 815.485.6973.**



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 February is in the hallway.



Confirmation Class - During Lent, the students are expected to attend Lenten Services on Wednesday night at 7:30 PM and to fill out a sermon sheet. 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!



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 old bathroom next to the lift in the church basement. If you could, please place the items you are donating in boxes or bags to make it easier to load up when the time for delivery comes.

We would like to make a run to St. Matthew's with the items that have been donated. We have several drivers but we need people to help load up the cars and trucks.

There will be a signup sheet on the hallway table for anyone able to help load items. Please put your name, phone number, and dates you would be available to help load.



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 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.

Flowers left in the refrigerator will be disposed of after two weeks.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

