

January 2019

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The Epiphany season has now come upon us and has an almost Christmas feel to it, at least at first. It begins with the visit of the Magi, which is affectionately called “The Gentile Christmas”, and ends with the Transfiguration of Jesus.

We have all had “Epiphany” moments in our lives. They come to us as “Aha!” moments; times when something all of a sudden “clicks” in your mind and another piece of the puzzle we call life fits into place.

The Epiphany season functions much like that. Each week we are given answers to the question, “Who is Jesus?” His multifaceted identity is revealed, and more pieces of the Biblical puzzle fall into place to give us a big picture of what God did to rescue us from sin and death.

And so, another calendar year begins! The Day of Epiphany falls on a Sunday this year (January 6), which doesn’t happen very often and I’m really looking forward to it. I pray that the new year of 2019 will give you many epiphany moments and that your knowledge and faith in Jesus is strengthened during the Epiphany season.

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag



JANUARY 2019



*We begin by saying thank you to so many.....*



**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.



The Chancel Guild would like to thank those who purchased poinsettias to help decorate the chancel area for the Christmas services. The flowers were beautiful!

Biff & Debbie Aiken, Duncan & Allene Bachmann, The Buchanan Family, Les & Ginny DeCarlo, Janet DeForest, Lois Dobbs, Ernie & Jan Falk, Paul & Pat Fuerst, Bill & Sally Jackson, Tom & Wendy Kaun, Les & Cheryl Koenig, Joe & Renee Lavazza, The Lorenz Family, Mike & Liz Lyman, Phil & Sharon MacFarlane, The McCullough Family, Jennifer Mudrock, Gary & Kay Purnell, Rich & Jackie Rohner, Doug & Jan Schlak, Bob & Christine Stark, The Tinker Family, Rex & Jan Toepke, The Wheeler Family and Daniel & Susan Willenborg.

## **An update from Church Council President, Jeff McDonald.**

2018 was another good year for Trinity. We appear to be on target to come in just under what we budgeted for the year, and we also completed upwards of 20 projects throughout the year (some of them were planned, others were not). The cost of these projects was nearly \$33,000 and we have been able to fund all of them as of this writing, with only modest contribution from our savings for this. We also provided financial support to a number of outside organizations in addition to what we took care of within our own four walls. Tim King has put together a nice exhibit of these expenditures and it will be available for your review at the 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting. Whether or not you've attended this meeting in the past, it is open to all members and it will occur after the late service on Sunday, January 27th, in the gym. Please join us if you'd like to hear more details about the workings of the church.

We will also be bidding adieu to Jan Prospero, who is resigning her post as Financial Secretary in 2019. Janice has been Trinity's self-taught Financial Secretary since 1999 and she has given an enormous amount of time and energy to Trinity over the course of the last twenty years. My tax statement from Trinity is always the first one that I receive each year and while I keep pretty meticulous records of my own, I have come to rely on Janice's records for not only being very timely, but extremely accurate as well. I hope you will join me in thanking Janice for her two decades of support - as a congregation, we owe her a debt of gratitude. We welcome Tamara Doerrer in 2019 as our new Financial Secretary, and we very much look forward to having Tamara on council with us.

Our big project for 2018 was to restore our stained glass windows. As you may recall, we discovered earlier this year that with some minor maintenance, we should be able to get another 10-20 years out of them so we went ahead with that maintenance instead. We are just waiting on some parts before that is done, and we expect Suevel Studios to complete their work in the first week or two of January. We are still doing exploratory work on a kitchen remodel project, and we recently had a plumber do some investigative work for us to help us determine the feasibility of remodeling our kitchen in the downstairs fellowship hall. As you might guess, we will also be working closely with the Village on this to confirm that they are also on board with what we propose doing, and that we won't have to incur any additional costs as a result of this project other than those we expect. If we get all green lights on this, which regrettably remains an "if" at this point, we would look to begin this work soon after our Easter breakfast in April. Please look for more updates on this project early in 2019, as I am hopeful that we'll find a way to push forward with this much-needed remodeling effort.

As we look ahead to 2019, we have much to be thankful for at Trinity. We look forward to another successful year with our members and to continuing to make Trinity a church we can all be proud to call Home.

## **2019 Church Council Officers**



Jeff McDonald, President; Kim Blecke, Secretary; Tammy Doerr, Financial Secretary; Tim King, Treasurer; Bob Blecke, Director of Outreach; Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz, Co-Directors of Property; Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing, Co-Directors of Spiritual Life; Judi Donovan, Director of Parish Education; Michelle Hoag, Director of Youth Ministry.

## **Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Join us on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>, at 12:15 p.m. All members are invited to attend.**



## **SCRIP GIFT CARDS**

Thank you so very much to those of you who participate in the scrip card fundraiser. We greatly appreciate your support! Scrip Cards are in and ready for pickup! Next order will be Monday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at noon with the proceeds going towards the Youth Convention. The pickup will be the following weekend. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at [minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:(815)467-2537). Also, check out [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com) to learn more about this simple way to help the youth earn funds.



**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](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) or call her at (815) 485-9017.



Our Trinity Chancel Guild is changing a few things for 2019! Our new meetings time is on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 am with the exception of January, February, June, July and August. February, June, July and August will be months of no meetings. In January, we will meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 service to take down the Christmas decorations.

Anyone who is looking for a way to be of service to our wonderful church is welcome to come on January 6<sup>th</sup> to help us take the decorations down. Or if you would like to speak to someone first without committing to a meeting, please call Denise Buchanan at 815-485-2729 or stop in the office.

Working on Chancel Guild is a great way to serve your church and it doesn't take a lot of time. We are a great group to work with and would love to have you as a member! Give us a try.

## Member Updates

### Deaths:

Jack Dobbs – December 7, 2018



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.

Choir will resume practices on January 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY HAPPENINGS**

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held at Jan Toepke's house in January. See Jan Toepke for date and time.



### **St. Matthew's.**

We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran church in Chicago by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as household goods. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the storage closet area at the far North end of the church basement. Please place items carefully so they do not block the aisle to the boiler room.



***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 by serving dinner on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 not able to make those times/dates you may call them at 815.722.5780 or visit their web at [www.morningstarmission.org](http://www.morningstarmission.org) for other volunteer positions.

### **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 January is in the hallway.



**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!



**Coffee Hour** A new sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month in 2019. **Please take a turn, we are only asking for a one month commitment.** Without your help, coffee will not be served on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday. *If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.*



TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

**PRAYER CHAIN:** Share the love of God, faith and compassion with someone needing support in praying for health problems, sorrow, praise, thanksgiving. Receive a phone call; make a phone call, pray. Or would you like that kind of support for your prayer? All strictly confidential. Phone Pat Fuerst at 815-485-6441 or Ginny DeCarlo at 815-485-2001. You may also email Ginny at [vdecarlo1952@gmail.com](mailto:vdecarlo1952@gmail.com).



Preschool Registration for the school year beginning September 2019.

**Trinity members get priority registration and may register now.** Already enrolled students may register the first two weeks in January. Registration for new students will begin the third week of January. If you know of anyone who falls into one of these categories, please have them call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2018, will be \$110.00 for two day students and \$135.00 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2019. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.



Wishing everyone a blessed and healthy 2019!

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