

Trinity Tidings

A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

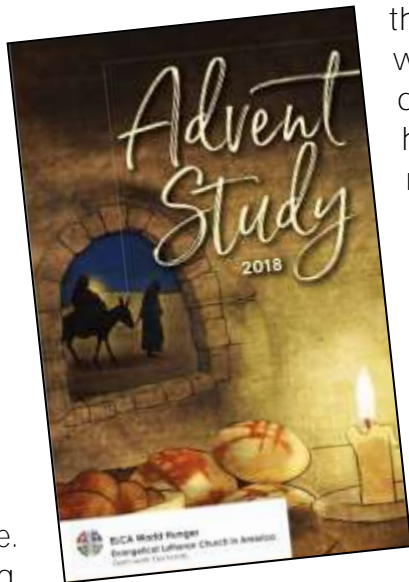
December 2018

Responding to Hunger

I have heard people who have **had to seek out help** say, “I just never imagined I would be in this position. I lost my job and the bills just started stacking up **and now I can’t make ends meet**. So, here I am at the food pantry looking **for help.**”

Food is a significant part of our lives. It shapes our day. For many of us we have a vast array of choices to make when it comes to our food. Sadly, for too many people this is not the case.

This year during the four weeks of Advent we are going to take on a special emphasis that will help us look at the significance of food and how we can respond to the needs of hunger in our community. The sermons and prayers in our worship services will lift up this theme. We will also have a companion study produced by the ELCA to help get the conversation going



about how our congregation might respond to these needs. You can join Pastor Tim on Sunday mornings from 8:30am -9:15am in the lower level Moses Room for a time of

discussion on this theme. Each week we will focus on a different aspect of how sharing food relates to who we **are as God’s people**. A main point of emphasis will be to have a conversation about our role in responding to the needs of people who do not have enough to eat. Getting the

conversation going in our congregation is one of our top goals. No registration is needed. If you cannot attend the Sunday morning sessions you can pick up a copy of the booklet at church.

As we anticipate the coming of Christ this season let us take some time to reflect, study and grow together.

■ *Pastor Tim Vadis*



Worship Times:

Christmas Eve
4:30 pm *Candlelight service especially for families with children*

7:00 pm *Traditional Candlelight Service*

Christmas Day
10:00 am *Service of Lessons & Carols*

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Christmas Bazaar In Review



On Saturday, November 10th we held our much anticipated and planned for Christmas Bazaar. It was a fun day in which we thoroughly enjoyed interacting and extending friendship to the people of our community.

The bazaar was an amazing success and I, along with everyone who worked and planned for the event, would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your generous donations. Over 4,000 dollars was taken in and will be used by WELCA for their mission projects.

You provided delicious bakery, food items for the lunch-

eon and the traditional Lefse making, lovely crafted items, beautiful wreaths & center-pieces, interesting art & collectibles and fun white elephants. Somehow it seemed more plentiful than ever and we know it would not have been possible without you.

The photo shows some of the ladies who worked so diligently and selflessly on the day of the Bazaar. It was my privilege and joy to work with these wonderful ladies.

Looking forward to next year!

■ Judy Nossor,
General Chairman

QUAKE

January 18-20, 2019
Wilderness Territory Resort,
Wisconsin Dells



A transformational weekend for grades 6-10 where lives and faith will be renewed.

Register by December 8: \$275

Cost includes most of the food, transportation, program with concert, waterpark and hotel. Scholarships are available as needed.

Here's how: Bring a check payable to "Trinity" memo line: Quake

For more information contact Pastor Kari at 715-437-0770

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."
Romans 12:2

Trinity Lutheran's Cross+Gen Christmas Program



Wednesday, December 12 @ 5:30pm



From the Council President

Greetings.

A couple years ago I wrote an article about my root bound tomato plants. I had placed my plants in five gallon pails and was less than impressed with the yield. The plants had become root bound as their environment (the pails) had limited their growth.

This summer I bought a dozen tomato plants for my new 4x8 raised planting bed; only eight fit in the new space, so I dug out some pails and planted the remaining

four in the pails beside the new garden. All received the same amount of water and fertilizer, and all were

planted in the same compost from our compost bin. The difference is stunning! The environment matters!

We have been wrestling with growth and change here at Trinity for a while now. We've been getting hung up on what seems like small issues that snowball and take us off track and prevent us from taking advantage of the opportunities God is placing right in our laps. We continue to experience growing pains. We're afraid to make changes or face the real limitations of

our building and our GOVERNANCE. We are set up as a pastoral-sized congregation and we are fighting that very system even though we've grown in to program-sized congregation with heavy demands on staff and volunteers. Frustration and burn out is evident.

As a council we are beginning to look at solutions to **our struggling "SYSTEM"**. Part of this system is an out dated and ill functioning

board structure that has poor communication channels between the boards and

council, not to mention the various committees and leadership . It is a difficult process to reshape something that has existed for decades but is essential that we succeed.

Environment matters, and not just the space. How we function in that space is every bit as important and will be the key factor to our ability to live out our mission statement and be agents of change in this increasingly secular world.

■ God bless, Kevin Eggers



COUNCIL OFFICERS

2018-2019

President—Kevin Eggers

Vice President—Carole Hansen

Secretary—Jerry Dykstra

Trustee—Josh Pudlowski

Trustee—Lori Grinde

Trustee—Rob Wienandt

Rep Witnessing—Tammy

Wienandt

Rep. Worship—Mary Taylor

Rep. Education—Jody Doro

Rep. Property—Peter Leick

From the Office

Trinity Lutheran is a busy church! To help us keep track of our space, please contact Pam in the church office to get your meeting, practice or set-up information on the calendar so you or your group can use the area needed without any conflicts.

Former newsletter items such as the calendar, serving schedule and birthdays and anniversaries can be found online, posted on the bulletin board in the church gathering area or at the IOC table.

If you are unable to attend worship and would like copies sent to you, please contact the church office Monday-Friday from 8 am to 12 pm. by calling Pam at 715-362-4258 or tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com

Sometimes we find our **computer programs just don't cooperate as well as we'd like them to** with each other. If you need a document that was emailed but you are unable to open, please let Pam know and she will get it mailed out to you instead.

Share Your True Tale of Faith!

Do you remember “True Tales from Trinity”? Using a radio program format, members of Trinity shared a time in their lives in which they clearly felt the active hand of God. Some stories were of life-changing events that took place over months or years. Others were quick and even quirky, the kind of experience that's dismissed as a coincidence at first, but in which the presence of God becomes clear over time. These True Tales provided an opportunity to share our faith during worship—and, as we found out, to promote faith conversations outside of worship.

Well, here comes season two of “True Tales from Trinity”, and we would like YOU to take part! We're going to use a video format which will help in sharing our stories—we can show them at both the Sunday

and Wednesday services.

If you'd like to be a part of “True Tales”, please provide a written description of your experience for review, and plan on setting up a convenient time to record your story. If you're not comfortable talking about your experience, or if you'd rather people didn't know it came from you, somebody else can read it on the video. We'd like to try and keep the stories fairly short—ideally they should take only a couple of minutes to tell (although exceptions are allowed).

Please contact Pastor Kari, Pastor Tim, or any member of the stewardship team if you'd like to share your faith story in a “True Tale from Trinity!”



The “Giving Tree” is up outside the Fellowship Hall with name tags on it.

Share your blessings and pick a tag off our tree. Purchase the gift listed on the tag and return to the church office by December 12th.

Make a difference to those in our community who might not receive a gift this holiday season.

Thank you!

■ The Board of Witness

CROSS+GEN EVENT

JOY
LOVE
PEACE
BELIEVE
CHRISTMAS

Wednesday,
December 19th

Cross+Gen Worship—5:30pm
Cross+Gen Event—6:10—7pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Christmas Carols, Scripture,
Cocoa & Hot Cider, Games,
Blessings and more Surprises...
A fun way to build our “Faith
Web” and make connections
with people of ALL AGES.



Save the date

Wednesday, January 16th
Cross+Gen Worship—5:30pm
Cross+Gen Event—6:10 to 7pm
in the Fellowship Hall
Scripture, Skits, Music, Games,
Blessings and more Surprises...



Charitable Giving Accounts

The Stewardship Team plans to write a series of articles about *Giving in Grace* for the newsletter. **This month I'd like to discuss** an option that I use for my giving, a charitable giving account. A charitable giving account allows you to make a large donation in one tax year, and spread the distribution of the gift out over several years and to multiple causes. I do not give because I get a tax deduction for it, but I do use the tax laws to leverage my giving so that I can give even more.



Here's how it works: Let's say you usually give \$2,000 to charity every year. Depending on your other deductions, odds are good that you will not be able to itemize this on your taxes, due to the increased standard deduction in the new tax law. Instead, you could give \$10,000 to a charitable giving account. You would get a deduction for the full \$10,000 the first year, and then could designate \$2,000 a year to your favorite charity, which is of course, Trinity. The \$10,000 could be cash, but you will get the best leverage if you give an appreciated asset, like a stock or mutual fund that has risen

in value. By giving an appreciated asset you avoid paying any capital gains taxes that could be triggered by the sale of the asset. The remaining \$8,000 stays in your account and earns dividends, so the amount you can give is increasing with no additional

tax liability for you. After the first year, you **won't get a tax deduction** for your designations, unless you put more funds into the account.

Charitable giving accounts

are available from the large mutual fund companies and other brokerages. Just search for **"charitable giving account" on the internet and you will see many options.** Each one has different fee schedules, minimums, and different rules for distributing the donations.

They also have different options for investing the balance remaining in the account. Note that this article is based on my own personal experience and should not be considered professional financial investment advice.

■ *Jerry Dykstra*

Stewardship Team Member

Wednesday Worship Note

Please note that there will be no worship service on Wednesdays, December 26th and January 2nd.

Wednesday worship services will resume on January 9, 2019.

Help at RAFFP

Since the food pantry opened in April, 2005 Trinity members have been active volunteers. We now need additional help in three areas.

- Senior distribution: 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 11:45 to 1:30. Help seniors choose their food items. For information contact Georgia Mielke at 715-362-4042 or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the elevator.
- Packing baskets for home delivery: Every other Friday from 9:30 to 11:00. For information contact Nancy Eisele at 715-369-2864 or see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the elevator.
- Monthly food distribution: 2nd Monday of each month from 3:00 to 6:00. Helping community members select food items. Sign up on the green sheet by the elevator or call Ginger Chrobak at 715-360-9466.

Thank You Prayer Partners!



Five Trinity eighth graders were confirmed on Reformation Sunday in October, and for the past three years Sharon Mecklenburg, Tom and Connie Pallin, Rick and Yvonne Molinski, Hal Berndt and Gail Strid have prayed for these students and remembered them with monthly notes and gifts.

The Prayer Partner Program is a way caring adults get matched up with one of our confirmation students.

Prayer partners remain anonymous to the kids during those years until the confirmation banquet when they are able to finally "reveal" their identity.

Now the confirmands, their families, and the prayer partners all have new friends at Trinity to include in their Christian faith webs.

Just like Kevin Eggers mentioned in last month's newsletter, you DO make a difference! A handwritten note, a hug, or even just a smile from you might be that "spark" that ignites another Christian on their lifelong faith journey. And we all know there's no age limit to being a Christian...from your baptism to your death you remain a Christian...and one of our prayer partners was age 90! Everyone *can* make a difference.

Thank you to Trinity's most recent prayer partners.

- *Deb Johnson*
Confirmation Prayer
Partner Coordinator

High School Trip for Grades 8-12

HOUSEBOAT

July 14—19, 2019

In the stillness and beauty of God's creation, Trinity youth (*current grades 8-12*) will experience Christian Community while on a unique faith adventure on a houseboat on Rainy Lake in Voyageurs National Park.

Hosted by Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, we will experience the Adventure Course (High & Low Ropes), Bible Parties, Games and a lot of fun!

Getting away from our



schedules, and every day pressures we will connect with God and one another during this week of worship, swimming, fishing, hiking and building one another up in love.

Space is limited!

Sign up with your \$250 deposit by February 15.

(scholarships available so don't let money keep you away!) Questions?

**Call Pastor Kari @
715.437.0770**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter deadline is the *15th of each month*. Please email submissions to the office email: tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com or drop them off in the church office. Office hours are Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-Noon.

Food Pantry Milk Collection

On the 2nd Sunday of the month we collect milk for the Rhineland-er Area Food Pantry. Needed are 1/2 gallon and gallons of skim or 2% milk. Please leave your donations in the milk crates by/in the refrigerator in the kitchen at church.

NATH/Frederick Place Meals

Reminder that we still need people to help provide the evening meal for the residents at the Frederick Place homeless shelter. This for the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Information and signup sheets are available at the IOC table. Trinity is committed to this community service for the remainder of this year and hope to continue to do this with your help.

Adult Faith Formation

The Adult Faith Formation with Pastor Tim Vadis will continue to meet through Sunday, December 23rd but will not meet on December 30. The sessions will resume in January and meet from 8:30am-9:15am downstairs in the Moses Room. No registration is required.

THANK YOU

Thank you to my Trinity family for the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, rides and meals after my recent knee surgery.

In addition to learning to slow down, be patient, rest, ask for (and accept!) help, and attempt to live "in the moment", I've learned there is no age limit on helping out your neighbor: the first get-well card I received was from a 95-year-old, a meal brought to my house was deliciously made by an 89-year-old, and a cheery phone call I received was made by a 91-year-old.

I've also learned you're never too old to need your mother (sorry I can't divulge her age!). Mom gave me rides, brought me ice cream and chocolate, newspapers, magazines, and shared a glass of wine (or two?) with me. So I guess this means you're never too old to stop being a mom either. So thanks Mom!

Lastly, thanks to my twins, Morgan and Asher, for doing fall yard work, laundry, grocery shopping, trash duty, picking up the mail, and toting me around town. I am so blessed!

■ Deb Johnson

Calendar Is Online

The church calendar is now available on our website, www.ComeToTrinity.com

Go to the tab "Events"

And then to "Calendar." The public calendar in Outlook will come up.

Double clicking on individual events will bring up additional information including a brief description of the event,

room, and contact person.

If you see any corrections needed or your group is not meeting on a certain day, please notify the office so the calendar can be up to date.

This is the best way to find the most current info!

Check out the IOC Table

The IOC Table (Information and Opportunity Center) is located in the gathering area outside the worship space. On Sunday morning it is staffed so that someone will be there to answer questions or help you sign up. Please stop by the IOC Table to check out upcoming events.



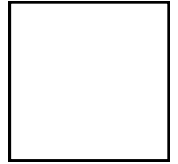
Gift and Memorial

Keith and Josie McCaffery gift in memory of Rollie Richardson designated to the Choir

Carol Alderton in memory of Rollie Richardson

Carol Richardson in memory of Rollie Richardson designated to the Choir, Quilters and the Youth Trip

Trinity Lutheran Church
235 N. Stevens St.
Rhineland, WI 54501



Address Service Requested

*Read our Newsletter on our website at
www.ComeToTrinity.com*



***Our Mission is to help
people of all ages become
active and engaged
followers of Christ.***

We are a Lutheran congregation with a variety of ages, backgrounds and passions. We are a community striving to grow in our walk of faith with Jesus Christ to love and serve the world. We are a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (often referred to as the ELCA) in the Northern Great Lakes Synod. These relationships help us to share the saving message of the gospel in our congregation, in the Rhineland community, in our country and throughout the world. We welcome you to be part of our community and join us in the mission we share in Christ. For more information about Trinity Lutheran, to get involved in our ministries, or to learn more about becoming a member, please contact us.

Phone: 715.362.4258

Email: tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com

Website: www.ComeToTrinity.com

You can also find us on Facebook