

# Trinity Tidings

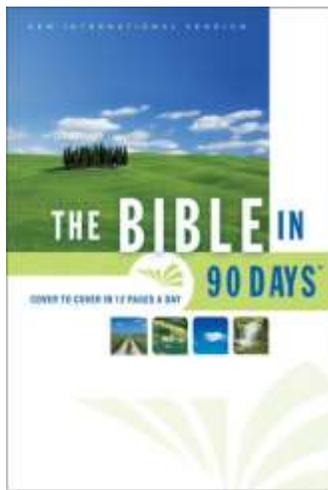
A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

January 2019

## Read Every Word of the Bible!

Have you ever tried to read the Bible on your own and got so bogged down that you stopped reading? If you have, then you are not alone.

Starting this January you will have an excellent opportunity to read the entire Bible — cover-to-cover — in just 90 days. The **“Read the Bible in 90 Days”** class is a fast paced and highly intense Bible reading program that guides you through the pages of scripture. The course provides a detailed plan that will enable you to read every word of the Bible. While it does take a good deal of effort and commitment to complete the course, you will find that the simplicity of this reading plan will give you the best chance for success. Two class times will be offered, one on Wednesday evenings and one on Thursday mornings. The Wednesday evening class meets from 6:15pm — 7:00pm in



the Moses Room downstairs and the Thursday morning class from 10:00am — 11:00am in the Fellowship Hall. The first class dates are January 16 or 17, 2019. Please note: a minimum of 6 people is required to hold a session. So please sign up today. You can sign up for this course at the information table at church or by emailing Pastor Tim. The cost for the class is \$10 which covers the cost of the participant materials. You will need your own Bible for the

class. You have the option of purchasing a Bible that goes with the course but you are certainly welcome to use one you already have as well. We will talk about Bibles during the first class session. Please see Pastor Tim Vadis with any questions. You can contact him at the church office 362-4258 or by email: [tvadis@cometotrinity.com](mailto:tvadis@cometotrinity.com)

■ *Pastor Tim Vadis*

### *High School Small Group*

Wednesdays 7am  
Resumes January 9th  
(9am on late starts)  
@ the Briar House  
Coffee is on PK—  
*bring a friend/guest/sibling...*  
Contact Pastor Kari to Sign  
up/Questions @ 715.437.0770



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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# The Story of Christmas for All Ages



The Story of Jesus was told through puppets, dance, songs, skits and live action in our Christmas Program. Once again this year a cross-generational element was part of the program. You can see more great pictures on the bulletin board at church.



## From the Council President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

We did it. We had our first trial runs at live streaming--a Sunday worship and the Wednesday Christmas program. We still have a ways to go but we're on our way. The plan is to stream Christmas Eve worship and to have monitors set up in the gathering area for the overflow of worshippers. Remember that last year we had over 350 worshippers at the 4:30 service!

It has taken a lot of effort to get all the parts in place. Chris Bartelt and Jody Doro have designed and installed the system and are continuing to work out the bugs and expand its capabilities. Pastor Tim has received positive feedback from some former members that he reached out to and provided links for viewing, and Charlotte and I received a Christmas card from Cheryl Page with the note "... I was able to join



the Trinity service last Sunday-how wonderful. (thanks to a lot of work by folks on that **end**)". She worshiped with us in her new home down in West Bend, WI via the live stream!

Just over two years ago we did an exercise at an annual meeting and one of the "wishes" was to have services available online. This was also prioritized in the Visioning and Planning process. It takes a lot longer here at Trinity to get things done than my "activator" talent likes, but I'm always encouraged by the quote "Slow progress, is still progress."

I pray for patience and for God to continue to guide us as we embrace the contemporary realities of today's world, and make EFFECTIVE change to help us live out our mission statement!

Praise be to God.

■ Kevin Eggers

## Cross + Gen Events

### At December's Cross+Gen

Event, we enjoyed cocoa and cider, building indoor snowmen while sharing stories of Christmas and participated in a gift exchange to the story of the birth of Jesus.

Wednesday, January 16th is our next Cross+Gen Worship at 5:30pm with Scripture, Skits, Music, Games, Blessings and more Surprises. The evening concludes by 7:00pm.



## 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

## LIVE STREAM LINK

If you are interested in the live stream worship services please email the church office requesting a link that we will send you. This link is how you will connect to the service. We are working on how we can download recorded files so that these can be shared for future viewing.

## A Short Good News/Bad News Building Maintenance Story



**GOOD NEWS:** Kulp's of Stratford finally arrived Tuesday, Dec 4 to fix the leak above the cry room and back coat rack where the steep Worship Area roof meets the flat Fellowship Area roof. They removed three feet of shingles, 'welded' four feet of membrane to the existing flat roof membrane and attached new shingles — as proposed.

**BAD NEWS:** When Kulp's workers exposed the roof 'boards' they found wet fiberglass insulation and discoloration on the roof 'boards' — evidence of condensation created when warm air meets cold air in the ceiling/roof area, at least partially due to inadequate insulation and venting. This has very likely been responsible for some of the ceiling tile discoloration and apparent leaks.

**GOOD NEWS:** There was no structural damage to the building. No boards had to be replaced. After much consideration by Kulp's staff, they felt that they could solve the condensation problem by remov-

ing roof 'boards', sealing the area where the two roofs meet with foam, installing proper vents in the Worship Area roof and replacing our deteriorated heat tape with two new automatic heat tapes along the steep/flat roof juncture and into the roof gutter.

**BAD NEWS:** The condensation solution cost estimate was \$3,000 over the \$4,000 that was allotted by the congregation to fix the roof leak.

**GOOD NEWS:** Kulp's cost estimate to return to address the condensation issues later was considerably more than to deal with the issue when they already had workers on site and the roof exposed. Considering all the options, we (Kevin and Guy) decided that it was most prudent to spend the extra \$3,000 and **(hopefully) have Kulp's address both the roof leak and condensation issues** — so they did.

We hope that you agree.

■ *Guy Hansen*  
*Board of Property Chair*

## True Tales from Trinity

We are beginning 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 share a time in your life in which you clearly felt the active hand of God, please provide a written description of your experience for review, and plan on setting up a convenient time to record your story. Some stories in the past 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.

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!"



## A Practical Side of Generous Giving Donating Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's)

Being generous in our giving is a great way to share in the abundance that God provides to us. One way we can increase our generosity is by learning what options are available to us so we can make the best use of our gifts. Last month we began an effort to provide our members with information about different giving options. This month we continue with part two.



Traditional IRA's are a great tool to save for your retirement. You get a tax deduction for your contribution, and your earnings are **not taxed**. **What's not to like?** As I near age 70 1/2, I am finding out. Uncle Sam wants to make sure that he recoups those taxes that you have deferred over the years. To do that, the I.R.S. takes your IRA balance, divides it by your life expectancy, and requires that you withdraw at least that amount every year after age 70 1/2. This amount is called a "required minimum distribution," or "RMD."

Some people are in the envious position of not needing the money they withdraw as their RMD. The recent tax law changes have included an op-

tion to donate all or part of your RMD to any qualified **charity**. **In fact, if you're feeling extremely philanthropic,** you can donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA to charity. You **don't get a tax deduction** for the contribution, but it does

satisfy your RMD requirement for the given year. If you read the column last month on charitable giving accounts, you might think that such an account would be an ideal target for your

distribution. However, the **current law doesn't allow** using a charitable giving account for an RMD, so you must contact the trustee of your IRA account to complete the transaction. **You'll either be able to** send the money directly to the charity, or get a check made out to the charity that you must then deliver. This law has changed multiple times over the last few years, so *check the current tax law*. Your IRA trustee will most likely know of any changes. This information is based on my own personal experience, and is not to be considered professional financial advice.

■ Jerry Dykstra  
Stewardship Team Member



### First Communion

Fourth graders and older youth who are ready to prepare for their First Communion are invited to an orientation with a parent & Pastor Kari on **Saturday, February 2nd 9am-11am at Trinity.**

First Communion will be celebrated in worship at the 9:30 am service on **Sunday, February 10th**

Contact Pastor Kari to Sign up/Questions @ 715.437.0770



### Middle School Small Group

*Starting January 9th Immediately Following Worship On Wednesdays Games, Highs & Lows, Faith Talk, Friends... Get connected & bring a friend/guest/sibling.*

Questions? Contact Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770

## Giving Tree Gift Delivery



Thanks to the generosity of the Trinity Lutheran Church faith community, members of the Board of Witness delivered Christmas cheer and gifts the week before Christmas.

The agencies were very appreciative and they commented on how the 120 recipients demonstrate joy and appreciation for what they receive.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Thank You For Decorating

Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the worship center and church for Advent on Saturday, December 1. The time and talents of young and old alike was greatly appreciated. It was beautiful! If you are interested in helping decorate for special events contact a board of worship member.



## Special Guest

Our Northern Great Lakes Synod Bishop Katherine Finnegan will be at Trinity Lutheran for worship on Sunday January 20, 2019. Bishop Finnegan will be preaching this day and sharing about her work in our synod and greater church of the ELCA. We look forward to welcoming Bishop Finnegan to our congregation.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Newsletter Deadline

The Newsletter deadline is the *15th of each month*. Please email submissions to the office email: [tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto: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 meets Sunday mornings from 8:30am-9:15am downstairs in the Moses Room. Our sessions resume on Sunday January 6th. No registration is required. Please see Pastor Tim if you have any questions.

**Electronic Giving Option**  
You can now give online through our website portal under the **"Connect" tab/Share Faith Giving/Give**. This is a secured transaction with many giving options from one-time gifts to recurring donations. For your convenience you can simply scan the QR code with your phone to take you to the giving portal.



### Calendar Is Online

The church calendar is now available on our website, [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://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!

### Staffed Nursery

A staffed nursery is available from 9:00AM-10:30AM located downstairs for children during the worship service. While children are ALWAYS welcome to be in worship this option is available if needed. We want to support families and help them have a good worship experience.

## New Year's Schedule

The church office will be closed **New Year's Day**.

There will be no worship service on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

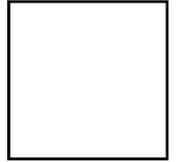
## Check out the IOC Table

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  
Guy and Carloe Hansen in memory of **Ellen Leick's** mother designated for the purchase of soundproof gym tiles

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



**Address Service Requested**

*Read our Newsletter on our website at  
[www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://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](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com)

Website: [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://www.ComeToTrinity.com)

You can also find us on Facebook