

# Trinity Tidings

A Monthly Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)

February 2019

## Christ In the Passover Event

Jesus' Last Supper was actually a Jewish Passover. Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce of *Jews for Jesus* will re-create the traditional Passover service and explain how it foreshadowed Jesus' death and resurrection in a presentation called "Christ in the Passover" here at Trinity Lutheran Church on Monday April 8 at 5:30 PM.

Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce will set a table with items traditionally used at the Passover meal and detail their spiritual significance. She will also explain the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Christian communion celebration today.

*Jews for Jesus* has presented "Christ in the Passover" at over 38,000 churches. It has been enthusiastically received by Christians who appreciate learning more about the Jewish background of their faith. Moishe Rosen, who founded *Jews for Jesus* in 1973, has also co-written the book, *Christ in the Passover*, with his wife, Ceil. This seminal work includes a look

at Passover in ancient times and how it is practiced today. It will be available after the presentation. Also available will be a DVD of the Christ in the Passover presentation with David

Brickner, the executive director for *Jews for Jesus*, officiating.

Brickner, a fifth-generation Jewish believer in Jesus, succeeded Rosen as Executive Director in 1996. Brickner has kept *Jews for Jesus* on the cutting edge as

the ministry has expanded and established branches in eleven countries, including the United States, Brazil, Israel, Russia, France, and South Africa. "We exist to make the Messiahship of Jesus an unavoidable issue for our Jewish people worldwide," Brickner states. "There are still a few that haven't heard of us!"

After the presentation our leader, Giselle Le'Aupepe Bruce will be happy to answer questions. There is no admission charge. We would love to be able to share this with more people so please consider inviting a friend. We look forward to this experiential faith formation event.

■ Pastor Tim Vadis



### 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

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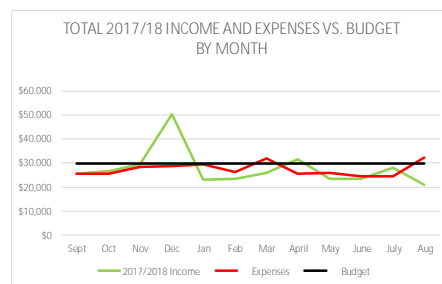
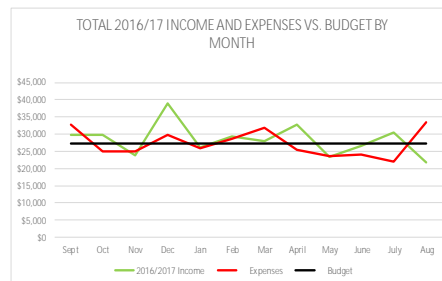
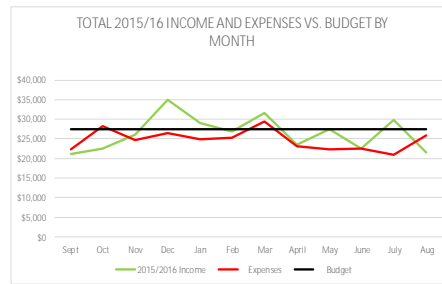
# The Financial Portrait of Our Ministry Plan

We are making a move in the way we present financial information to the congregation. Thank you for your generous financial gifts. They are helping us joyfully and faithfully respond to **Gods' gift of grace in Christ.**

The move we are highlighting here is the presentation of financial information from the weekly bulletin to the monthly newsletter. There has been some confusion about the information being presented and the conclusions about our ministry plan. In addition to the confusion among our members we also felt that people who are checking out our congregation as a possible worship home could get a misleading impression of our church. We have a strong and growing congregation and we want to see this reflected to guests and visitors.

It is important that we are able to fund our ministry plan. The Budget is a tool to help us do this. By using the newsletter we can better help our members see where we are at in supporting our ministry plan.

For the past several years we have been plotting our financial information to see how we receive income and map the flow of monthly expenses during the year. The three graphs (in the middle) reveal some interesting patterns. For one thing neither our income nor our expenses happen in a nice even manner. They fluctuate widely month-to-month throughout the year. There are some noticeable patterns in our income. For example, there is always a spike in December most likely due to the Christmas season



and year-end tax giving. While we typically see increased gifts during this month, we never know for sure what that will look like each year. We only know that the historical pattern is that we will see increased giving during December. The other noticeable up-swing in giving happens around March or April. This is probably due to Easter. But, once again, we never really know how this giving will impact us.

We have also analyzed our budgeted expenses. We have found that over the last 10 years we typically spend between 91% – 96% of our budget. This is due in part to our budgeting process. While many expenses are well known, such as staff compensation, other line items require esti-

mates in the budgeting process. We want to help the congregation see the budget as a tool for ministry and how our financial gifts are being used for ministry. To do this we are working on developing a narrative budget to help us translate the numbers.

So one of our strategies is to begin using projections to help us portray our financial position. Here is what the new financial portrait of our ministry plan will include:

FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019  
YEAR-TO-DATE  
THROUGH DEC. 31, 2018

Actual Giving: \$124,402  
(Actual Giving represents the *contributions* we have received thus far)

Projected Needs: \$134,101  
(Projected Needs represents the *contributions* we need to support our ministry plan)

Note: The Fiscal year is September 1-August 31 each year. One of the things that the Finance Committee and Council keep an eye on is the trend of our income as it relates to our ministry plan as the year progresses.

We hope that by presenting a monthly portrait we can lessen confusion and provide a helpful source of financial information for you to review. If you have any questions about our financial position please contact Marina Benoy – Trinity Treasurer or Harvey Mathisen – from the Finance Committee. They would be happy to help address your questions.





# From the Council President

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We had a great council meeting last night! Yes, I said great. We have been looking at roles and responsibilities in our leadership and while the problems are not new, we believe we've turned the corner and are prepared to address them. In a VERY spirit-filled room, we filled the white board twice with perceived roles, the struggles faced, the frustration, and a path forward.



Everything was looked at through a common **question.** "How is this hurting our ministry?"

It is interesting that the initial impetus for "roles and responsibilities" came out of an initiative with council (Heathy Start) from 12 years ago! And is still an ongoing issue. Also interesting is that as our finance committee member Harvey Mathisen watched the process his comment was, "we were struggling with this when I was in leadership in the late 80's."

As a council, we have invited

ALL members from the four boards to our next council meeting on February 19th, to work WITH us on further clarifying our roles, cleaning up communication and prioritizing our mission and ministry goals.

The issues we face are not insurmountable, but if we fail to address them, they will continue to undercut everything we attempt to do.

A good analogy is that we are all in a voyagers canoe and everyone is trying to paddle their own way and we're going in circles and getting frustrated with everyone else on board. We're going to take a moment and add some direction, so everyone is paddling as a team with a common goal.

God is blessing us! We continue to grow and with that growth are growing pains, but with open hearts and minds, the Spirit will guide us in our efforts to reshape our leadership structure and live out our mission.

■ Blessings, *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

## Middle School Small Group



*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

## Cross+Gen Event



The theme for February is "Love." Join us for a Cross+Gen Event on **Wednesday, February 13th.** We begin with worship at 5:30 pm followed by Scripture, Skits, Music, Games, Blessings and more. The evening concludes by 7:00pm.



## A New Look at Generous Giving: E-giving Option



Being generous in our giving is a great way to share in the abundance that God has given us. Last year we introduced a new method of automatic giving through our website. I would like to use this month to focus on this new online electronic giving (e-giving) option and explain a bit about how it works.

E-giving is a convenient way to give financial gifts. The amount and the frequency of the gift is deducted from your account at an interval that works for you. You can access this giving option via our website (look for the purple **“Give” button or under “Connect/Sharefaith Giving”** from the top menu) You can also use your phone to scan the QR code that has been in our bulletin.

Once you are on Trinity’s website you may notice that when you press the button you are taken out of our website and into a new one. The new site has all the required security features needed to keep your financial information safe. You will see a donation information page displayed first. You must then decide if you

would like to establish an account. It makes sense to create an account if you plan on giving electronically more than once, or plan on setting up a recurring gift. The account will use your email address as the primary identifier. You can then enter the amount along with the frequency of the gift. It can be a one-time gift, or you can set up a recurring gift to match your preferences. The donor details page will appear next. If you have registered, it will be prefilled with your account information. Enter or edit your name, address, phone, and email information.

Finally you will see the payment details page. You must decide whether you want to use a debit or credit card, or an e-check. The screen displayed is for a debit or credit card. For an e-check, you will need to enter your bank routing number and account number. Insure that you get the numbers correct **before pressing the “Give Now”** button. For a credit or debit card, enter the card number,

expiration date, and security code from the back of your card. The next field is an optional check box which will allow you to cover the cost of the transaction with your gift of what you would like. It will display the amount of the transaction cost in the body of the check box message. Please note that this is optional.

E-giving does differ from *Simply Giving*, which you may be familiar with. The e-giving option can be used for a one time gift, which is not what *Simply Giving* was designed to handle. It also allows you to stop a recurring gift, or change the amount, frequency, or bank account you are using via the web. For *Simply Giving*, changes like this require paperwork to be submitted to the church office. E-giving offers more options for giving frequency, so you can fine tune it to your own cash flow. So if you foresee the need to make changes to your giving, it is very convenient to do with the e-giving option. Please consider trying it out as an automatic giving option.

■ Jerry Dykstra  
Stewardship Team Member



## Update About ACES Work

ACES is Rhinelander's Associate of Churches for Emergency Support. It is the gathering of Rhinelander Churches to show the love of Christ in tangible ways to those in need.

The purpose of the ACES is to coordinate emergency aid, utilize a pool of funds, draw a connection between Rhinelander area churches and public service agencies, and to divide the administrative tasks that come with providing such aid. In essence, our goal is to see emergency aid delivered to people, who are in need, in the most efficient, effective and Christ-like manner.

Several churches participate in ACES, both through volunteer hours and finances. Any church wishing to join in participation can inquire with the Executive Committee and will be allowed to do so after **the committee's approval**. Membership dues are individually based on the resources of the participating church.

Churches are responsible to recruit, retain and release competent volunteers to represent ACES and all of its members. That volunteer will handle all calls, issue vouchers, and document interactions of the requests coming into **Rhinelander's ACES**. Each shift is for two weeks. After the two-week period, both the outgoing and incoming church volunteers must meet to verify all paperwork



and voucher inventory as well as deliver the phone and current client needs. Training sessions are offered and mandatory to all volunteers. All volunteers will have clear expectations, procedures and resources to accomplish their integral role.

For the fourth quarter of 2018 ACES had received 168 calls and were able to help 33 clients. Totals for the years so far are 682 calls and 136 clients helped. Many of our clients are out of the area so we are unable to help them which is the reason there are many calls versus how many we

help. ACES does give them other organization contacts that might be able to help them. In the Rhinelander area we probably help 90% of them.

There were also 16 homeless clients provided with a motel stay. This is done with the help of the Salvation Army monies.

Most calls were for help with rents, some for WPS, and also food, diapers, clothes, gas and furniture. We are now also using Aldi gift cards for clients that might need help with food due to homelessness or just moving into the area. Most clients do go **to the food pantry and Ruby's**.

If you would like to help with this organization or want more information, please contact Pastor Kari at 715-437-0770. ■

*Trinity  
is going to camp!!*

FORTUNE LAKE  
LUTHERAN CAMP



JULY 14-19, 2019

Camp changes lives & leads youth to a deeper relationship **with Jesus...plus, it's a lot of fun!!**

Camp is recommended for youth in 4th —8th Grade. Spend your week in Crystal Falls, MI with Pastor Kari, Camp Staff and youth from Trinity & area congregations. Love Jesus! Love One Another! Love Camp! Fund Raisers & Scholarships Available.

[www.FortuneLake.org](http://www.FortuneLake.org)  
Contact Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770

## The World Day of Prayer



The World Day of Prayer is a world-wide ecumenical prayer service. Prayers are offered all day long around the globe following the sun's path. Prayers begin with the first sunrise and end with the last sunset.

We focus on one country each year and learn about the trials and tribulations of that country. But, more than that, we learn of the beauty and culture of the country and get a feel for it through the music and readings.

Prayers this year will be offered up for the country of Slovenia. They have chosen as their theme in 2019 an invitation from Luke, **"Come – Everything is Ready"**. We will be exploring welcoming God and preparing a table for all.

People from all churches in our community are invited to come **together to worship and pray for the people of Slovenia**. If you've never attended, come to experience Christian prayer in a new way. Friday, March 1, 2019 @ 1:00 pm Trinity Lutheran Church Sanctuary.

Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service. Parking available in back of church.

For more information, please contact Joan Schluter or Karen Scholtes or visit the World Day of Prayer website at [www.wdp-usa.org](http://www.wdp-usa.org).

## ELCA Good Gifts



You may have noticed the tree is still up in the fellowship hall next to the IOC filled with ELCA Good Gifts Ornaments.

During January and February, the Board of Witness invites you to take an ornament and make a donation in full or partial amount on the ornament to purchase a pig, sheep, chickens, bees, bibles, clean water, school supplies, etc. If you would rather donate to ELCA Good Gifts instead of picking an ornament, the Board of Witness will match your donation with one of the ornaments.

Please put your ornament and check to Trinity Lutheran Church in the envelopes located at the IOC marked "ELCA Good Gifts" and place in the offering plate or bring to the church office.

ELCA Good Gifts support the ministries of the ELCA in the United States and 83 countries.

**Your gift carries God's love to others around the world and makes a difference in the lives of so many of our neighbors both near and far.**

■ Jane Prod, Board of Witness

### Update Your Info

Please keep the church office up to date with any changes to your name, address, phone number and email address. We are updating our database and want to be sure we have your current information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip and drop off in the church office. Thank you!



## 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.

### LiveStream of Church Service

We are Livestreaming our worship service on the first and third Sundays of the month. 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. Note that the link must be watched during the service time at 9:30am. We are working on how we can download recorded files so that these can be shared for future viewing.

### 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.

### Bazaar Thank you

Proceeds from the Christmas Bazaar held on November 10th totaled \$4,005.

Money raised has been distributed to WELCA missions including **World Hunger, Katie’s Fund, Tanzanian Student Scholarship**, mission projects including health kits, school kits, baby care kits, and quilts.

We have also set aside money for Trinity WELCA Retreat Scholarships and made donations to several local organizations that serve our community.

A heartfelt THANK YOU to all who donated items, worked at and attended the bazaar to make this another successful even this year.

■ Trinity Lutheran WELCA

### Gift and Memorial

Marilyn Bradley in memory of Ruth Kitzman designated to the Garden Fund

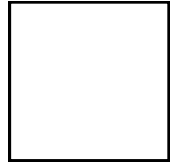
Cheryl Page in memory of Ruth Kitzman

Deb Johnson in memory of Ruth Kitzman designated to the Gym Ceiling Tile Project

Bob & Sharon Riebe and Jim & Sharon Hohman in memory of Ruth Kitzman designated for WELCA Baby Care Kits



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