



Christ the Savior is Born!

Trinity Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) | DECEMBER 2019

GOD LIGHTS A CANDLE

Several years ago I came across a great reflection offered by N. T. Wright on the significance of Christmas. I'm not exactly sure where I read it. But, I'd like to offer it to you this month as we prepare for Christmas through Advent:

For many, Christianity is just a beautiful dream. It's a world in which everyday reality goes a bit blurred. It's nostalgic, cozy, and comforting. But real Christianity isn't like that at all. Take Christmas, for instance: a season of nostalgia, of carols and candles and firelight and happy children. But that misses the point completely. Christmas is not a reminder that the world is really quite a nice old place. It reminds us that the world is a shockingly bad old place, where wickedness flourishes unchecked, where children are murdered, where civilized countries make a lot of money by selling weapons to uncivilized ones so they can

You don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight

blow each other apart. Christmas is God lighting a candle; and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Christmas, then, is not a dream, a moment of escapism. Christmas is the reality, which shows us the rest of reality. And for Christmas, here read Christianity. Either Jesus is the Lord of the world, and all reality makes sense in his light, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world. There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies.

Christ is the light of the world!
—Pastor Tim Vadis

Worship With Us this Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE

This year we are adding a third worship time on Christmas Eve to help us provide enough seating and parking. We will be trying a 3pm service. It may be a good option for families with young children or those who do not want to drive after dark.

3:00 pm—Candlelight service especially for families with children

5:00 pm—Candlelight service especially for families with children

7:00 pm—Traditional Candlelight Service

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am—Service of Lessons & Carols

Communion is served at all services.

A Heartfelt Bazaar Thank You

Proceeds used to support local and global charities.



The annual WELCA Christmas Bazaar is a much anticipated annual event at Trinity Lutheran. Once again this year there were beautiful crafts, wreaths, center pieces, collectables and fun white elephants. The bakery tables were heavily laden

with wonderful breads, cookies, bars and pies. The 150 packages of lefse were sold out in less than one hour to many happy shoppers. The Warm Welcome and Luncheon served lots of goodies. A good time was had by all!

The event netted just over \$4300 dollars to be used by WELCA for local and global charities. We celebrate the impact that all our work will have as we help others.

A big thank you to the many people who worked so hard to make this year's Christmas Bazaar a huge success. It took many hands to create and provide all the great and tasty items that were sold on Saturday, November 9th.

Hope you attended and enjoyed the crafts, food and fellowship of this special day. If not, we look forward to seeing you next year!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS



Honor or memorialize a loved one or date at Christmas by ordering red poinsettias to decorate the worship space.

Order forms are available on the IOC Table. The plants are \$15.50 each, and you can drop your payment with order form at the office or in the offering plate. Forms are due by Sunday, December 8. Pick up your poinsettias after the 10 am worship Christmas day or donate to someone who is homebound to spread the joy of Christmas.

Time for The Giving Tree

Brighten Christmas for someone in need.

Make a difference for someone in our community who might not receive a gift this holiday season by sharing your blessings and picking a gift tag from the Giving Tree in the Gathering Area.

Tags will hang from the tree with gift suggestions from those in need this year.

Gifts need to be returned by December 8th for sorting and delivery on December 16th.

Thanks to your generosity, last year Trinity was able to provide a gift for 120 appreciative recipients.



Trinity Lutheran's Cross+Gen
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:00pm



**Bringing Scripture to Life through
Puppets, Dance, Drama and Music**

Serving dinner for all at 5 pm.

Call Pastor Kari with any questions at 715-437-0770

Help Provide a Meal for the Homeless

Serve those in our community with a meal

When Frederick Place became a reality ten years ago, our congregation adopted a room to paint and refurbish. And our volunteers were there!!

Then Frederick Place asked churches, organizations, restaurants and individuals to help provide meals for each day of the year. Again our congregation said, "Yes, we'll provide a meal each month," and so the second Tuesday of each month became ours to serve a meal.

Frederick Place can house up to 16 people--men, women and children. While the men and women are there, they, with their assigned caseworker, develop a plan of action leading toward independent housing along with learning new skills to help improve their lives. Lives have been changed with the help of Frederick Place, and we are blessed to be part of their ministry.

We need your help so that we can continue to be a vital part of this ministry to those in need. Could you and your friends be counted on to fix a meal for those at Frederick Place?

What does serving a meal at Frederick Place involve?

- ⇒ Get a group of friends and sign up!!
- ⇒ Pick a lead person and decide together what to serve.
- ⇒ Pam, our secretary, will call the lead person the week before serving to tell you how many to expect to feed at Frederick Place.
- ⇒ Make your part of the meal at home or church or at Frederick Place.
- ⇒ Be at Frederick Place by 4:30pm to get organized. The house mates at Frederick Place will help with the set-up and clean-up.
- ⇒ Serve our guests, and if possible, stay, eat and have fellowship with them! The best part!

Because of many reasons, some of us aren't able to physically participate with making a meal, yet would love to be part of this ministry. You may give money to help defray the cost of a meal and, thus, allow others who love to cook, do it! Place your donation noting "NATH Dinner" in the offering plate or drop off at the church office.

If you would like to be on a list to be called in case help is needed by another group, please complete the information in the "Sharing Your Gifts" brochure at the IOC table and drop off at the church office or offering plate.

Thank you for your support of this important ministry in our neighborhood!



Here is a group from Trinity Lutheran in action. They cooked the meal at church and brought it over to Frederick Place to serve.



From Our Missionaries

Pastors Rachel & Zachary serve in Hungary & Serbia.



The first week of December, we will bring the Young Adults in Global Mission together for their Advent Retreat.

One last note—applications for the 2020-2021 YAGM year are now open! If you know someone between the ages of 21-29 interested in serving in Young Adults in Global Mission, please refer them to the YAGM page on the ELCA website for more information on how to apply.

God's peace to you all!

*Pastor Rachel Eskesen
ELCA Global Mission
Pastor serving in
Hungary & Serbia*

Pastor Rachel Ekeson and Pastor Zachary Courter invite you to share in celebrating the baptism of their daughter, Dorothy Eskesen Courter, on Sunday, December 15, at the City Park Congregation of Fazor Lutheran Church in Budapest by lighting a candle and saying a word of blessing for Dorothy!



Greetings friends at Trinity Lutheran in Rhinelander,

Thank you for your continued prayers and support! We are delighted to share with you our latest update from our ministry here in Central Europe.

Advent is on its way and we are excited for the season. This coming weekend we will have a bilingual congregational retreat with City Park Lutheran and Fazor Lutheran Church.

ACTS 1:8

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

What's YAGM?

It stands for Young Adults in Global Mission and is a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The program invites ELCA young adults ages 21-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world. More info at the website: elca.org

Cross+Gen Event



The next Cross+Gen Event is **Wednesday, December 18th** and is for anyone in our community who wants to connect with all generations and grow in faith together. We start the evening with an open meal time from 5:15-5:50 pm. Our time of worship is at 6 pm followed by a large group

activity. This month we will be singing Christmas carols, exploring scripture, sipping cocoa and hot cider along with games and more surprises. A fun way to build your **"faith web"** and make connections with people of **ALL AGES**.

Can we get some help for this little guy?



There are many activities and meetings happening at Trinity that require table and chair set up. Table/chair set up or take down is a 20 to 40 minute job depending on the size of the event. Frequency of set up varies throughout the month.

If you would like to be on the list to be called when needed, please complete a **"Sharing Your Gifts"** brochure located on the IOC Table and return to the church office or drop in the offering plate.

From the Council President

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

I came across this picture of an iceberg and it reminded me that no matter how things appear ON the surface there's always so much more BELOW!

The same of our communal report our weekly and it has questions. that our weekly has de- slightly we are still about our growth.



can be said worship ty. A graph in the annu- regarding attendance, us asking It showed average attendance clined even though talking continuing

We are amazed by Sunday worship attendance fluctuates, 125-185 from week to week and when we look closer at the faces of those in worship, we see MANY different or new people each week. Look around the next few Sundays just to get a feel for how many DIFFERENT people make up our congregation and that not everyone attends weekly. In fact according to recent research, most people consider once a month as regular worship!

We see similar trends on Wednesday as well, which is one of the reasons we were on hiatus this summer as we evaluated and retooled that ministry. As we look below the surface, we believe that our actual regular worship community is closer to 350 people and the kicker is... we're never sure what any given Sunday or Wednesday is going to look like. And the challenge is, how do you minister to such a community and how do build the relationships that sustain a community of believers?

One thing is certain. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Hebrews 13:8. How we meet Him and introduce Him to others is what changes.

I pray that God will continue to work here at Trinity and that we will have the courage to adapt our ministry to help people live Christ-centered lives!

Blessings,
Kevin Eggers, Congregation President



Stewardship Principles

Our giving is done first, as a joyful and faithful response to God's gift of grace in Christ.

And, our gifts are joyfully given that the ministries of one's congregation can grow and be vibrant in the proclamation of Christ and God's grace.

Giving in Gratitude

Thank you to everyone who returned your *Plan for Giving cards*. We have received **108** cards. We celebrate the participation in faithful and generous stewardship of all that God has given us. May we continue to grow in our proclamation of Christ and God's grace.

Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Year-to-Date Through October 31, 2019

Actual Giving: \$55,710

(Actual Giving represents the contributions we have received thus far)

Projected Needs: \$53,880

(Projected Needs represents the contributions we need to support our ministry plan)

Thank You

A huge Thank You to everyone who donated to the projector upgrade project and supporting this tool for ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

2020 Offering Envelopes

Remember to pick up your 2020 envelopes. They will be located near the IOC table.



We now have an electronic giving options on our website. This QR code will take you directly to the giving portal. You can also access it by clicking on the "Give" tab.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Altar Prep Opportunity**

Preparing the altar for Sunday worship is a perfect way for a family to teach sharing their time and talents. The time commitment is about 45 minutes on a weekend you choose. Training is provided. For more information, stop by the sacristy on Sunday or contact Sue Underberg at 262-719-7898 or Karen Scholtes at 715-369-0668.

- **LiveStream of Church Service**

We are Livestreaming our worship service on the first and third Sundays of the month. If you are interested, please email the church office at tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com to request the link that we will send you to connect to the service. The link is available for 21 days.

- **Staffed Nursery**

A staffed nursery is available from 9 AM-10:30AM 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 help families have a good worship experience.

- **Join Us in Fellowship**

Immediately following the 9:30 am Sunday worship, you are invited to join us in the gathering space and enjoy a cup of coffee, a variety of refreshments and fellowship.

- **RAFP**

Every second Monday of the month from 3-6 pm volunteers are needed at the Rhinelander Area Food Pantry to distribute, weigh, and carry food. If you would like to help, please sign up at the IOC table.

- **RAFP — Senior Distribution**

On the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month from 11:45 am to 1:30 pm. Help seniors choose food items. For information contact Georgia Mielke.

- **RAFP — Home Delivery Packing**

Every other Friday from 9:30 am to 11 am. For information contact Nancy Eisele.

- **RAFP Milk Collection**

On **Sunday, December 8** we will be collecting milk for the Rhinelander 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.

- **Sharing Your Gifts**

Are you looking for a way to share the gifts the Spirit gave you with your church family and community? Check the IOC Table for the "Sharing Your Gift" brochure for ideas that might feel right for you.

- **Calendar Is Online**

The church calendar is now available on our website, www.ComeToTrinity.com. Go to the tab "Calendar" tab on the top menu bar. The public calendar is in Outlook. A "pop out" button gets you to the page.

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 is current.

- **From the Office**

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

The calendar, serving schedule and birthdays and anniversaries can be found posted in the church gathering area or at the IOC table.

If you 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 emailing her at tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com.

- **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 Mon-Fri from 8:00 am-noon.

- **Office Hours**

Monday-Friday, 8 am to noon

- **Office Contacts**

Pastor Tim: 715-437-0774
tvadis@cometotrinity.com

Pastor Kari: 715-437-0770
kvadis@cometotrinity.com

Marina Benoy, Treasurer: 715-362-4258
mabenoy@cometotrinity.com

Pam Karoliussen, Administrative Assistant
715-362-4258
tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com

- **Change of Address Request**

If your address, email or phone number has changed, please complete the form in the bulletin and drop it in the offering plate or in the church office. You can also email Pam in the church office at tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com or call 715-362-4258. Keeping our records current ensures you stay informed of the activities and programs here at Trinity.

- **Giving Options**

Simply Giving is an easy cost effective way to give. This program is managed by Thrivent Financial Services and is set-up through our office. Giving options allow you to give weekly, bi-weekly or monthly and amounts are automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

- **Family Faith Night December Break**

The Wednesday evening Family Faith Night will be **on break Wednesday December 25 and January 1**. We will resume on Wednesday **January 8**. The evening begins with and open meal time from 5:15-5:50 pm. Worship is from 6:00—6:30 pm and break out groups are 6:30-7:00pm.

- The Rhinelander Historical Society Inc., Museum will have a Holiday Open House on **Saturday, December 7**, from noon to 4 pm. Visitors will be treated to live holiday music by local musicians and refreshments.

- The Rhinelander Lions Club Community Christmas Dinner will be held **December 25th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm** at Nativity of Our Lord Church at 125 E. King St. For home delivery call 715-282-5904m 715-490-1899 or 715-362-6534 before Dec. 24th. Contributions can be sent to: Rhinelander Lions Club, PO Box 1005, Rhinelander, WI 54501. If you would like to volunteer, call Dick at 715-490-1899 or Sandy at 715-360-3581.

QUAKE

February 14-16, 2020
@ Wilderness Territory Resort, WI DELLS



**A Transformational Weekend
for grades 6-12
where lives & faith will be renewed.**

Register by December 1: \$250
After December 1: \$300

Scholarships Available**Friends Welcome

**Cost includes most of the food, transportation,
Program with Concert, Waterpark & Hotel.**

Here's How: Bring a check payable to "Trinity" Memo Line: "Quake"

For more information contact Pastor Kari @ 715.437.0770

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Giving Tree—in Gathering Area. Gift return deadline is Dec. 8th.
- RAFP Milk Collection, December 8—drop off milk donations at kitchen.
- Christmas Program, Wednesday, December 11 at 6 pm.
- Cross+Gen Event, Wednesday, December 18 at 6:30 pm.

A LOOK AHEAD

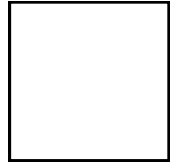
January

- ELCA Good Gifts—purchase a gift that provides economic support

February

- QUAKE—February 14-16 in Wisconsin Dells. For grades 6-12.

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