



# Trinity *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA) | JANUARY 2020

## BEING MISSIONAL

For the past year Trinity has embraced the concept of Small Groups. We have groups who meet weekly and groups who meet monthly totaling 11 groups. These groups have sermon-based discussions while taking the time to check in with each other and pray for one another. In the past year members of these groups have gone through major life events together including: weddings, funerals, graduations, new babies, adoptions, cancer, surgery.... One small group leader said to me, "Being in a small group is exactly what I needed to get through the last year, I just didn't know how much I would need it."

This new year, as we think about lifting weights or eating our vegetables, we also should think about getting into spiritual shape. We don't do that by depriving ourselves of what we really want but instead by giving ourselves exactly what we need—community. We are at a point in history where we are the most connected we have ever been and yet many are more depressed and it's happening younger and younger. We can blame the cell phone or social media, but those things have entered our culture

and aren't going anywhere. The remedy isn't to eliminate technology but is about BEING MISSIONAL and intentionally having face-to-face conversations that challenge us to think about how God is working in the world around us. When was the last time that you prayed for somebody or have someone pray for you? Wouldn't it be amazing to be in relationships with other Christians who say, "How can we pray for you tonight and this week?"

As a pastor, I see people at times of trauma, transition and celebration. And I want to be there in those times, but what about a "Tuesday"? A regular day when you are just having trouble balancing work and family and all the pressure? Your small group is a group of friends who get to know you and are able to be there to support you on a regular day when there isn't anything major but you just want to know that you are not alone.

This January, talk to Pastor Kari about joining a Small Group. We have existing groups that will open up to invite new group members in as

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## Family Faith Night

Family Faith Night is for anyone in our community who wants to connect with others and grow in faith together.

The evening begins with an open meal time from 5:15-5:50pm. This is followed by worship from 6:00-6:25pm and then there are break out groups for all ages from 6:30-7:00pm. We hope you can be part of the entire evening but even if you can only come for part of the evening please know that you are welcome. We will resume on Wednesday January 8.

# Welcome New Trinity Members!

Take a moment to read about our new members who recently joined Trinity

## **Curt and Julie Krouze**

Pastor Kari married Curt and Julie 10 years ago. They have six children, nine grandchildren, and two on the way between them. They are returning members to Trinity.

Julie is a 6<sup>th</sup> grade English Language Arts teacher at JWMS who will be retiring in a year and a half. She's from Rhinelander and her hobbies include: music, cooking, walking, skiing, hiking and motorcycling.

Curt retired from Airpro Fan/Blower and Oneida County. He was a Sugar Camper and now lives in Rhinelander. His hobbies include: music, motorcycling, fishing, hunting, skiing and hiking.



## **Betsy and Darrell Juedes**

We are the brand new Juedes'. Pastor Kari married us in October! As a couple we live in Rhinelander and have a cottage in Tomahawk that we plan on making our full-time home.



Darrell grew up in the Tomahawk area and is one of two sets of twins in a fourteen-kid family! He was drafted and sent to fight in Viet Nam, receiving two purple hearts. Darrell retired from the Oneida County Highway Dept. and now enjoys golfing and doing projects at the cottage. He raised two sons, and is the proudest grandpa you'll ever meet. Darrell and his family were members of this church for many years, and he is looking forward to being a part of the TLC congregation again.

Betsy grew up on a farm in Wittenberg, one of four daughters. Prior to moving to Rhinelander, she ran an antique store in Wittenberg. Since moving up north, she has the best job in the whole wide world—special education teacher assistant for the Rhinelander School District. Two children, a daughter-in-law, and two of the smartest, cutest, special grandchildren ever, are her sunshine. Betsy's Grandma Johnson was a parochial school and Sunday school teacher and made sure that we got to church. Thanks to her parents and grandma for some of her best memories. Betsy is looking forward to being a member of this church and making new memories.

## **David and Laura, Jacob, Evelyn, MacFarland**

The MacFarland family has lived in Woodboro for 10 years now. They enjoy a variety of outdoor activities together including skiing, hiking, biking and canoeing.

Laura and David both work for the Department of Natural Resources.

Jacob and Evelyn attend Crescent Elementary. They enjoy playing soccer and racing BMX bikes.

Dave and Laura have enjoyed getting to know folks at Trinity and are looking forward to being more involved as members.



## **Eric and Tiffanie, Nolan, Olivia, and Simon Ory**

Eric works for a forestry equipment company, enjoys reading, music and history and board games.

Tiffanie is currently a stay-at-home mom, but used to be a choir teacher in Minnesota. She teaches music lessons and play piano at church. She also loves horses and like to compete at horse shows.

Nolan is 7 years old and in first grade. He loves Pokémon, reading and playing basketball.

Olivia is 4 years old and in 4K. She loves horses and competed in her first horse show this summer.

Simon is 7 months old. He's very smiley and loves his brother and sister.



## **Ron and Jean Hankel**

Ron and Jean have had land here for 20 years. They are retired and love it here.

When Ron was younger, he loved camping, so they bought land up here to do that very thing. Now, as he is aging, he loves a campfire and a cozy house instead of a trailer. He loves the woods and family.

Jean quilts, loves to read and help others.





# Our Stewardship Initiative

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

Trinity Lutheran is in the midst of a three year Stewardship initiative called, "*First We Give of Ourselves.*" This year's emphasis is "Giving in Gratitude". During October we kicked off the year with a four week sermon series on our theme with devotions, Bible Studies and a commitment celebration.

One of our biggest goals in this initiative is to shift the conversation about stewardship from one that understands stewardship simply as a fund raising activity to fulfill a budget, to one that is centered in and through God's abundant grace in Christ. This is proving to be a big goal to work towards. It is so easy to slip into the "bill paying" mindset.

One of the questions we have looked at is whether our stewardship efforts make a difference for the ministry of our congregation. Are we helping peo-

ple as they follow Christ? Here are some highlights of our initiative and the impact it is having thus far:

- **278** households were sent a *Plan for Giving* Card invitation this year.
- **43%** of the households returned a *Plan for Giving* Card.
- Of those who had a *Plan for Giving* last year, **96%** of plans were fulfilled.
- Last year we received **81%** of our income from those who made a *Plan for Giving*.

One of the things that these numbers indicate is that by asking people to fill out a Plan for Giving Card it helps them fulfill their stewardship goals. While we never specify an amount a Christ follower should give, that is always between them and God,

we do ask that they be intentional in their stewardship plans. So, another one of our stewardship goals is to increase the number of our members who participate in this Plan for Giving process.

It is amazing to see how these intentional plans positively impact our ministry. A major portion of our income comes from those who have made a Plan for Giving. And what is even more exciting is to see how faithful our members are in fulfilling their plans. Thanks be to God and thank you to all our members for your generosity.

Looking ahead the Stewardship Committee is working to implement a year-round emphasis. One thing to be looking for is an invitation to consider Simply Giving (see note on side column). Many of our members have found this a helpful tool for their giving.

## 1 JOHN 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

Grace is the foundational reason why we give. In Christian stewardship, giving is not centered on the budget or what is needed for it to balance. Nor is our giving centered on the need of the day. That is simply fund raising. Rather, our giving is based on the cross of Christ and the abundance of God's grace. God's grace envelops all of who we are in Christ. The most precious gift we can receive for our lives is God's life giving and life changing grace in Christ. Our giving is a thankful response to God's love for us.

(from *First, We Give of Ourselves*, by Rev. Kurt Nordby)

## Sharing Joy Of The Giving Tree

For many of us it is hard to imagine not being able to have enough money to be able to purchase a gift for someone in our family. However, that is the reality for some people in our Rhinelander community. That is where a loving and generous spirit comes into play here at Trinity Lutheran.

On December 16th, Tammy Wienandt along

with Pat and Jerry Dykstra delivered 81 gifts provided by members of Trinity to those in need in the Rhinelander area. This is the third year Trinity has participated in The Giving Tree program.

Thank you to everyone who brightened Christmas by selecting a tag from the tree, purchasing and wrapping the gift and returning to Trinity for distribution.

Thank you to Rick and Jodi Brice, Pat and Jerry Dykstra and Tammy Wienandt for putting up and decorating the tree, sorting and delivering the gifts. This is a great example of our "test and learn" culture where our four boards seek to create committees that involve people from outside to the board to help make these ministries happen.

Simply   
giving®

**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. More information and enrollment forms are available at the church office or on our website at [ComeToTrinity.com](http://ComeToTrinity.com)

# Proceeding on Relationship Enhancement Project

Project information meetings are Sundays January 12 & 19

Have you had the challenge of making your way through the Gathering Area after a worship service? On the one hand it is exciting to see so many people taking time to greet each other and share in meaningful conversations. On the other hand it can be really difficult to enjoy being in the cramped space. Here at Trinity the council and the board of property have been looking at ways we can better use our available space while seeking to enhance the ministry that is happening here.

In January of 2014 & 2017 we invited ELCA Building Consultant Pat Dever, and then Anne Gerreits, to Trinity to help us look at our facility needs. They met with both the council and the board of property members. They affirmed what we were doing with our fellowship time and gave us some additional information to guide our process of enhancing this ministry.

Here is the information they provided:

*The Gathering Area ideally is located directly adjacent to the worship space.*

*It performs two primary functions: it is where we most effectively meet and greet the visitor and it is where we nurture and care for one another.*

*The atmosphere should be warm and bright and allow people to visit. This is where the coffee fellowship is held before, between or after worship to encourage building community with members and visitors.*

*Visitors will not typically attend coffee/fellowship in more remote parts of the building. Thresholds are bar-*



*riers to visitors as they have already used up their risk tolerance for the morning. Current high tables ("cocktail-type tables") are great! Round tables with seating tend to look exclusive and exclude newcomers. Standing and milling as at a cocktail party is what you want. **You've got 20 minutes or less to greet most people.***

*The Gathering Area also becomes the communication center where people can learn of activities and events being offered within the congregation and the community. Some congregations have staffed information centers where questions can be answered and information obtained.*

*There should be signage in this area, and throughout the building, which provides directions to the offices, restrooms, nursery, classrooms and other areas. The recommended place for directional signs is hung from the ceiling or extending from the walls with letters big enough to be read from a distance.*

The Building Consultant made several recommenda-

tions to meet our the fellowship space needs. The Board of Property acted on the recommendations to add signage in the entryway and Gathering space. They also added fire door openers to the lower level and painted. We also noticed some factors that are limiting the relational ministry that continue to this day.

The council has been talking about addressing these limiting factors for the past five years and has a plan to take action this year. The Board of Property has expressed the need to replace the carpet in the Gathering Area for several years. It is almost 20 years old and has served us well especially in such a high traffic area. So the time is right to work on enhancing this area of our ministry.

In January the council will be holding information meetings to share the scope of the project to enhance our relational ministry. **Information meetings will be Sundays January 12 & 19 after the 9:30am worship service in the Fellowship Hall.** We look forward enhancing our relational ministry.

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well as a few new leaders who are looking to start new groups. You can go to one grouping and see if it's a good fit for you before you join a group. And groups are organic and change and so even if you join a group you can always take a break or leave a group when needed.

When I was in college I joined a small group and I experienced the Church in a brand new way. That College Small Group was a huge faith-shaping experience that encouraged me to pursue ordained ministry. I've been in two different small groups here at Trinity and those groups have walked with me through a cancer scare as well as many "Tuesdays" when I just needed friends who would love me through my confusion and questions. My hope is that every member of Trinity would have three "church friends" they could call at 3 am if they had an emergency and needed a friend. My hope is that we would all feel the love and support of this community and that it would help us to feel loved and supported through the "Tuesdays" of our life as well as the major events. May you engage in missional relationships this New Year.

*Pastor Kari*

## 2020 Envelopes



If you haven't already picked up your 2020 envelopes, please do so. They are located on the IOC Table in the Gathering Area. This helps save money on postage.

# From the Council President

Greetings All,

I hope you are beginning to hear some conversation of the upcoming Gathering Area enhancements. This space is crucial to our ministry and to emphasize that, I'd like to **revisit an article written for the March newsletter 2017**. Here's what I wrote back then:

Not long ago on a Sunday I was asked by a more "Seasoned" member of Trinity, why don't our Pastors stand by the doors and greet worshippers anymore? My answer was simple, "come, I show". We left the worship space through the double doors at the front and turned to see 80 plus of our brothers and sisters in awesome fellowship! And in the middle were our Pastors. We watched for nearly 20 minutes as Pr. Tim went from group to group. We saw him spend time with a visiting family who have since become new members. We watched as Pr. Kari worked her magic too! She found time for that same family and all the kids in the area as well! As we watched together our seasoned member responded with a smile, "Now I see".

The time in the gathering area is crucial to our mission at Trinity! Friendships are strengthened, new relationships begin and real ministry happens every week. We are blessed!

We are also a bit crowded in this space as well. Council has formed a committee to look at "enhancing the gathering area by increasing its square footage".

While nothing has been decided yet, we are looking at several options and are meeting with an outside consultant to help us evaluate our space and our entire facility. Council will be receiving a report at the February meeting and we will meet with the consultant the next day. We have also met with the local building inspector who was very helpful. Others and Sisters, please be patient as we work. Council will process our options and the congregation will have the final say. God is blessing us with growth!

Praise God!  
*Kevin Eggers*

## Members of Council

**President:**  
Kevin Eggers  
**Vice President:**  
Josh Pudlowski  
**Secretary:**  
Jerry Dykstra  
**Trustee:**  
Mary Taylor  
**Trustee:**  
Lori Grinde

**Trustee:**  
Rob Wienandt  
**Rep. Witnessing:**  
Carol Hansen  
**Rep. Worship:**  
Margo Morey  
**Rep. Education:**  
Jody Doro  
**Rep. Property:**  
Peter Leick



## 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.

## Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Year-to-Date Through November 30, 2019

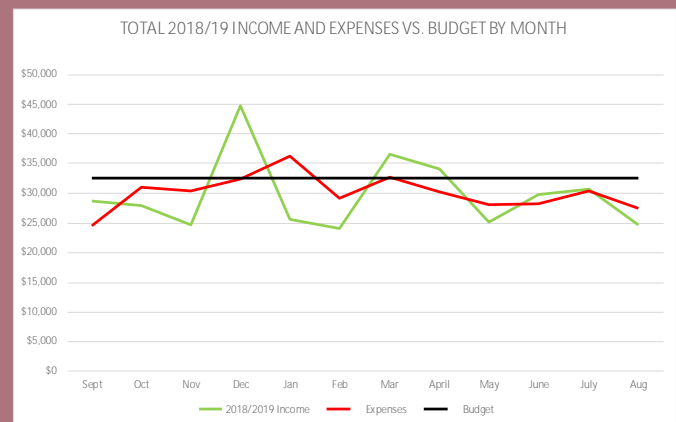
**Actual Giving: \$81,576**

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

**Projected Needs: \$91,791**

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

The graph below represents are income and expenses for last year. Notice how much our income AND our expenses fluctuate each month. It can be challenging to manage this throughout the year.



## Gift and Memorial

John and Gina Scheuer in memory of Fred Voss

Carol Alderton in memory of Bev Keso  
designated to the Quilters



# 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.

- The new year's altar flower chart is now up on the bulletin board in the back of the Gathering Area. Altar flowers brighten our worship area. A bouquet can be given to remember someone who has died, honor a special occasion or in thanks for God's blessings. Bouquets are \$13 and envelopes are available next to the sign up board. Please mark paid next to your name when you turn in your envelope.

- **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](mailto: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 9AM-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 3pm-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, January 12** 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.

- **Calendar Is Online**

The church calendar is now available on our website, [www.ComeToTrinity.com](http://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](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com).

- **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 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](mailto:tvadis@cometotrinity.com)

Pastor Kari: 715-437-0770  
[kvadis@cometotrinity.com](mailto:kvadis@cometotrinity.com)

Marina Benoy, Treasurer: 715-362-4258  
[mabenoy@cometotrinity.com](mailto:mabenoy@cometotrinity.com)

Pam Karoliussen, Administrative Assistant  
715-362-4258  
[tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com](mailto: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](mailto:tlcsecretary@cometotrinity.com) or call 715-362-4258. Keeping our records current ensures you stay informed of the activities and programs here at Trinity.

## Parking Concern

Frasier's Plumbing and Heating reported a conflict over parking in their lot Wednesday evening, December 11. Two different 'parishioners' coming to attend the Christmas program confronted a business owner in that building over parking in a vacant parking space they were attempting to hold open for a handicapped client.

This was unfortunate and does not enhance our parking relationship with Frasier's and their renters or their view of us as a Christian community.

Trinity has had an informal agreement with Frasier's for years that we may park in each others lots when space is available. This has historically benefited them and their renters during the week and us on Sundays. As both parking lots are used more during the week, some conflicts are bound to arise. Both Trinity and Frasier's hope to maintain this parking arrangement.

A counseling firm, *Center For Well Being, Inc.*, leases the space in the Frasier's Plumbing and Heating building nearest Brown Street. The Center is open, by appointment, weekdays between 8 AM and 8 PM. Please do not park in the two spaces in front of this business during weekdays or evenings.

## Kitchen Reminders

Thank you to everyone who so generously brings food for fellowship at Trinity! There are many bowls, containers, trays and plates left in the kitchen. Please label your containers if you would like them returned. Otherwise, unlabeled containers will be used elsewhere.

Please label any food items you are putting into the refrigerator or freezer with the freezer tape and sharpie provided. Add the date and for what the item is to be used. This will help avoid wasted food, milk, etc.

Thank you for your help to better organize our kitchen with the many activities we have going on at Trinity.



## Tanzania 2020: Companion Synod Visit to the Eastern and Coastal Diocese

**Thursday, July 23 to Thursday, August 6**

Assistant to the Bishop, Jim Duehring invites you to travel with him to Tanzania to build relationships with your Companion Congregation in Tanzania.

This is open to pastors and lay people who already have a companion relationship in Tanzania or those interested in forming a companion relationship with a congregation in Tanzania.

**Total cost: \$3,000-\$4,000\***

\*Some designated grant money for companion congregation relationships could be available from the synod to help defray some costs.

Plan on spending about half of your time with your companion congregation in Tanzania developing relationships and half of your time with the Northern Great Lakes Synod group visiting various ministries of the Eastern and Coastal Diocese in Tanzania.

A safari trip is also an option!

**Contact Pastor Jim Duehring by January 4 if you are interested or have questions.** 906-228-2300 or [jduehring@nglsynod.org](mailto:jduehring@nglsynod.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

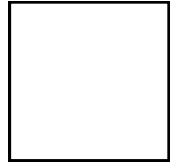
- Jill Flickinger, Mission Interpreter with the Northern Great Lakes Synod will speak at 9:30 am worship on Sunday, January 5
- RAFP Milk Collection, January 12—drop off milk donations at kitchen
- Information Meetings on Relationship Enhancement Project January 12 & 19
- Cross+Gen Event, Wednesday, January 29

## A LOOK AHEAD

### February

- QUAKE, February 14-15, Wisconsin Dells (contact Pastor Kari for details)
- Ash Wednesday, February 26

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