



Trinity *Tidings*

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

SIMPLY GIVING

Have you ever wondered how churches came to use envelopes for offerings? According to Pastor Tim, the practice grew out of a household budget system that was common at the turn of the last century: people would divide their cash wages into envelopes labeled for their expense categories (fuel, electric, rent, loans, food, etc.) A “church envelope” was a simple way for people to include benevolence in their spending.

Samuel Stein was an interesting character in the history of the church envelope system. He was a Lutheran pastor who wrote “A Guide to Church Finance” in 1920, in which he observed:

“We know of a church in which the new system was introduced where the first Sunday so many envelopes came in that the two collection plates ran over again and again. After the service

one of the deacons came to the pastor, all excited, and said rather angrily: ‘This will never do. Why, I had to pick up envelopes off the floor and put them in my pocket.’ After several Sundays the church council was compelled to order five new collection plates of the deep style.”

One has to think that Pastor Stein may have had some selfish motive for this enthusiastic endorsement, but it does make for a great visual image of offering envelopes spread out all over the church floor!

At Trinity we’re using fewer envelopes each year. Some members still use them weekly, but others have gone to monthly or even once-a-year giving. The 100-year-old system still works,
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The Journey of Lent begins:
Ash Wednesday
February 26, 2020
6:00 pm worship

Join us for our special Ash Wednesday worship service where we receive the sign of the ashes that remind us that our mortal life is short but God’s grace is eternal.

As we begin the season of Lent we will also celebrate Holy Communion at this worship service.

Our Worship Life Needs YOU

The gifts the Holy Spirit abound. Add yours to help with our vibrant worship.

We come to worship on Sundays and Wednesdays and rarely think about the mechanics of a worship service. Many hands are responsible for making it happen and we need yours, too. But more importantly, each one of us adds to the life we share here at Trinity Lutheran. Our worship life needs YOU and the unique gifts you bring to our community.

If you would like to try any of these areas to see if it is a good fit for you, please call Pam in the church office at 715-362-4258 or see the contact person listed with each area.

Assisting Minister helps the pastor lead worship on Sundays approximately once every eight weeks. Contact: Pastor Tim.

Altar Guild sets up the worship space, orders flowers for weekly service and holidays. Sign-up sheet at IOC. Contact: Sue Underberg.

Communion Helpers help prepare and serve communion once per quarter. Contact: Pastor Tim.

Musicians/Choir/Song Leaders enhance worship with music. Song leaders are scheduled once every four weeks. Contact: Tiffanie Ory.

Decorating Committee decorates the worship space for special events. Contact: Laura Hetland.

Set-Up Committee sets up tables and chairs for the events happening at Trinity. Contact: Peter Leick

Power Point Operators advance the power point slides on the screens during the worship service and are scheduled approximately once every six weeks. Contact: Jerry Dykstra.

Wednesday Family Faith Night Dinner—help purchase and prepare food, serve and clean up after dinner. Contact: Pastor Kari.

Trinity Connection Café—bring food and set up refreshments for fellowship time following Sunday worship. We would like to build our team to serve once every other month. Contact: Carole Hansen or Ginger Chrobak.

Ushers greet worship attendees, distribute bulletins, counts attendance and pass offering plates. Captains are scheduled every other month and ushers every five weeks or so. Contact: Rich Reitz or Guy Hansen.

Readers read two scripture readings during the Sunday worship service and are scheduled every couple months. Contact: Margo Morey.

Photos by Nancy Dewitt



Preparing refreshments for the Trinity Connection Café on Sunday mornings.



Ahh the life of a Power Point Operator!



Helping with Bible readings for Worship on Sunday mornings.



Be a Vocalist to help lead the congregation in singing or play an instrument to accompany the piano on Sundays.



The Assisting Minister provides a lay volunteer to help the Presiding Minister in leading worship.



One of the duties of the Ushers is to receive the offering and bring it forward to the Altar in worship.



Communion Helpers assist the Pastors with distributing the sacrament of Holy Communion by serving the wine.

Picture yourself in one of these areas of our worship life by sharing your gifts of service and time.

A Godly Play Story

How Family Faith Night turned a bad day into a “God-night”

My name is Laura Hetland and I am blessed with the opportunity to teach Godly Play to our youngest disciples ranging in age from 3K-third grade on Wednesday nights after worship as part of Family Faith Night.

We have had an amazing turn out this year with as many as 32 children some nights. I am teamed up with Mandi Olson who helps with the children, activities and prayers. I am learning so much about the Bible, my faith and how God shows up in my life in amazing ways.

One Wednesday, I was having a horrible day full of work stress and I was thinking it was going to be hard to get to Family Faith Night and I didn't have the energy to prepare the story for the evening. I contacted Pastor Kari and went over some options to make the teaching time more manageable for myself. The story for the evening was Epiphany which included lighting a candle, showing gold, burning frankincense and myrrh as a way of experiencing the gifts that The Wise Men brought to Jesus' house where the star had led them.

After work, I picked up my grandchildren from school and the very first question they asked was, “Can we go to church and Godly Play tonight?” My granddaughter added, “Church is happy.” Feeling energized



by their excitement, we arrived in time to eat dinner (Pastor Tim made hotdish and it was wonderful!).

I listened to the Epiphany sermon, and then the children, where I felt the Holy Spirit begin to soothe my stress level and I tuned into this idea of light leading us to Christ. With the joy of seeing children make a star out of glow sticks as part of the sermon-time I was reminded of my baptismal calling to let my light “so shine before others that they may see my good works and glorify my Father in heaven.”

Following the sermon, the children and I gathered downstairs in the Godly Play room and as we sat in a circle I lit the Christ candle and put it in the middle of the circle. As I told the story of The Wise Men bringing their gifts, a few children asked if we could turn the lights off so they could see the can-

dle's light. And so we did. I looked around at each child's face glowing from the candle light. I could see that they, too, had the light of Christ shining through them. It must have been the Spirit because it was not in my plans but we stood up and held hands and closed our time together saying the Lord's Prayer by the light on the Christ Candle.

I have no words to describe how strongly I felt God's presence around us in that room as we prayed together. It was an amazing reminder that Jesus loves me, that Jesus loves us, and it was just what I needed when I needed it. I am so blessed to be part of this wonderful congregation, and I'm grateful for the time I get to share with the young ones. What started out as a bad day turned into an incredible God-Night.

Laura Hetland



Coming to Trinity:
Joe Davis
Artist. Poet. Storyteller.

Wednesday,
February 19th 6:00pm

FREE & FOR ALL AGES

Questions?
Call/Text Pastor Kari @
715.437.0770
www.ComeToTrinity.com

Joe Davis is a nationally touring writer, artist and educator. His spoken-word style is unique, impactful and beautiful, and his viewpoint highlights God's Love and the power of Community. Join us for a night of hearing the gospel message in a new way.

This event is FREE and appropriate for all ages.

Come for dinner at 5:15pm if you wish.

Joe Davis will lead us in worship from 6-7pm.

Carpet/Remodel Fund Drive

The Board of Property and Church Council are asking you, the congregation, for financial support to fund the installation of new carpet and to remodel the gathering/office area. The new carpet will run from the top of the stairs into the offices and through the gathering area.

We are hoping to raise \$10,000 to help cover the cost of this estimated \$22,000 project. Some funds have already been received from an insurance claim on the carpet which was water damaged and an undesignated gift and memorial totaling approximately \$12,000.

We will be installing about 800 2ft. x 2ft. carpet squares in the gathering/office area. We are asking you to donate carpet squares at \$12.50 each to help fund this project. You may designate your contribution on your giving envelopes as “carpet/remodel” or in a separate envelope in the offering plate or drop off/ mail to the church office.

You can also donate to this special fund appeal through our website at www.ComeToTrinity.com. On the website simply click the “Give” button. You will find a fund type dropdown box. Select the carpet fund designation. You can then enter the amount you would like to donate. The website will deduct the donation amount you enter from your checking account or credit card. There is a fee

Our goal is to raise \$10,000 by selling 800 tiles at \$12.50 each by Easter Week.			
Week of	Week	Funds	Tiles
1/26/2020	1	\$ 657.50	52.6
2/2/2020	2	\$ -	0.0
2/9/2020	3	\$ -	0.0
2/16/2020	4	\$ -	0.0
2/23/2020	5	\$ -	0.0
3/1/2020	6	\$ -	0.0
3/8/2020	7	\$ -	0.0
3/15/2020	8	\$ -	0.0
3/22/2020	9	\$ -	0.0
3/29/2020	10	\$ -	0.0
4/5/2020	11	\$ -	0.0
4/12/2020	12	\$ -	0.0
Target		\$ 10,000.00	800
Total		\$ 657.50	52.6
%		7%	7%

A weekly update of the progress we have made towards our goal will be in the announcement slides shown before worship.

that the church pays for this convenience so please consider checking the box to cover the fee. This will be a 2.5% transaction fee. Covering the cost of the fee helps but don't let that stand in your way of using this method of donating. We are hoping for participation by as many of our members as possible and want to make it easy for them donate. To complete the donation remember to hit "submit". You will receive an email message that confirms your

donation has gone through.

I must stress that any amount you give needs to be in addition to your regular giving for this special fund appeal.

I want to thank you for your past and current financial support of this congregation and hope you would prayerfully consider your support for this project. Thank you.
Peter Leick,
Board of Property Chair

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but perhaps 2020 is a good time to consider a giving alternative based on the way we live today called, appropriately, ***Simply Giving***. Rather than envelopes, ***Simply Giving*** uses electronic funds transfer to automate your giving. This frees you from remembering to write a check before church, or from having to play ‘catch up’ when you’re unable to attend worship. It also helps our church, as it evens out our income and makes it more predictable. To enroll, all you have to do is fill out a simple form you can get at the IOC table and send it to Marina Benoy at the church office. Changes to your plan for giving—whether the amount, the frequency, or the account—are easy to make by sending Marina an updated form.

Another 2020 alternative is an online giving option available on our website. We recommend this especially for convenience, flexibility and even paying registration fees for camps, retreats or other events. One thing to note is that this convenience costs the church a fee. So, if you are able please consider clicking the box to help cover the cost of the transaction fee.

As we start a new year,
please consider using
Simply Giving to help you
share generously, simplify
your life and support the
ministry here at Trinity.

The stewardship team,
Jerry Dykstra, Carole Hansen, Al Hofstetter, Pastors Kari & Tim Vadis

From the Council President

I'd like to thank all of you who took the time and shared your interest with me during our listening/information sessions on our Relationship Enhancement project. You all brought an open mind and great questions. One of the concerns we heard loud and clear was, "If you are going to do this work, why not tackle the office space right now as well?" We all know that our office space is not optimal with no visibility to who is entering the building, wasted space and a bottleneck wall that hides our restrooms. I'm pleased to say that based on your feedback, the council has updated our project plan and will now be doing this work as well. Your comments and questions made sense and we acted upon them.

While we are getting ready to start this project I'd like to state an unusual thank you. **Thank you, the congregation of Trinity, for wearing out our carpet!** Think of how many feet have passed over the existing carpet in working to fulfill our ministry here. Worshippers, volunteers and guests have made this a vibrant and thriving place. I hope we wear out our new carpet in the same way – by helping people of all ages become active and engaged followers of Christ.

Rob Wienandt, Council Trustee & guest columnist



Members of Council

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

Trustee:
Rob Wienandt
Rep. Witnessing:
Carole 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 December 31, 2019

	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Total Income:	\$35,548	\$117,602
Total Expenditures:	\$28,712	\$117,477

Gift and Memorial

In memory of Helen Swanson
designated to the TLC Quilters

Ernie and Joan Schluter
John and Betty Schwanz
Bruce and Renee Bradley
Jack and Mary Gross
Bob and Ruth Aho
Deb Johnson
Marilyn Bradley
Dolores Voss
Connie Griesbach

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 2020 altar flower chart is 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 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, February 9 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. 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.

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.

Thank You

A very big thank you to the anonymous person(s) who purchased worship space flowers in honor of my birthday in December.

—Ruby Bruso

To Trinity Church Members,

Thank you for the Christmas gifts.

—From the residents
at Heritage House

At the NAMI Snowball Gala on January 25th, NAMI Executive Director Mick Fiocchi thanked Trinity Lutheran Church for allowing NAMI Northern Lakes to use the space rent and utility free and for sponsoring a table at the event.



Flowers and a visit warm hearts



Does seeing someone smile make you feel good? If you said, "Yes!", then here's an opportunity for you. Occasionally, altar flowers are donated to be given to someone who needs a smile—the sick or homebound. If you'd like to deliver a bouquet to someone and spend a few minutes chatting, please contact Karen Scholtes at 715-369-0668.

UPCOMING EVENTS

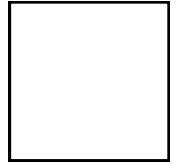
- February 9—RAFP Milk Collection—drop off milk donations at kitchen
- February 14-15—QUAKE, Wisconsin Dells (contact Pastor Kari for details)
- February 19—Joe Davis—Artist. Poet. Storyteller., 6:00 pm
- February 26—Ash Wednesday Worship, 6:00 pm

A LOOK AHEAD

March

- March 4—Cross+Gen Event
- March 18—Spring Break—no break-out groups

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