

Trinity Lutheran
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 office@tlcsparta.org
 608-269-5081

God's Love-Our Hearts-God's Work-Our

Calling all Ladies and Gentlemen

Calling all ladies and gentlemen who would be willing to lend a hand to help clean the church kitchen, defrost the freezers and to take inventory of kitchen supplies. The date will be **Thursday, February 23 at 9 a.m.**

Please bring your own bucket and rags. Hoping we will have a good turnout so we can be done in a couple of hours! If you have items in the freezer or refrigerator, please make sure that these items are removed before this date. Thank you!



Happy
 VALENTINE'S
 day

Book Sale

The Matching Grants For College Fund committee is planning its annual book sale for spring. Donations of paperback and hardcover fiction books, children's books, cookbooks, DVDs and other up-to-date books will be accepted from now until early-April. Please place books in the box by the front entrance. The funds collected are distributed to Trinity youth who attend Lutheran colleges and universities. Each school matches Trinity's donation dollar for dollar up to \$750 per student. Donations to this fund can be made at any time through memorials, and honorariums. Thank you in advance for your help! You can also donate your empty aluminum cans in the can cage in the parking lot to benefit this fund.



Women's Ministry



Shalom Circle Thursday, February 9th MaryCrest Activity Room~

Our hearts and chocolate will join together on **February 9th** to share the Bible lesson from Galatians 2:19 -3:29. From the previous scripture we were reminded of receiving God's grace through faith. From this scripture reading we will see the role of God's Law and the Holy Spirit in our Christian life and how it shows in our relationship with others.

If you would like to join your Trinity friends please call Lois Harr, 269-6744 or the church office. Our circle happenings can be found in the Trinity Annual Report. Join us on the 9th for chocolate and the Word!!! Lois

If you would like more information about joining a Women's Circle, please contact one of the following women and they will gladly assist you.

Shalom Circle - Lois Harr 269-6744

Joy Circle - Jean Hays 269-6121

Mary Circle - Deb Bassett 487-0960



Mary Circle - February 6 & 20- Shalom Room 6:30 pm

Shalom Circle - February 9 - MaryCrest 1:30 pm

Joy Circle - February 9 - Shalom Room 9:00 am

PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL
"Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray
always and not to lose heart." Luke 18:1

On the 24th of each month you are invited to pray for all who are suffering in the Holy Land and for peace in the Middle East. This is part of an International Prayer Vigil for Peace that will continue on the 24th of every month until the Israeli occupation is dismantled, violence in the Middle East ends, and all can celebrate a just and lasting negotiated resolution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

The Synod Middle East Subcommittee encourages
you to use the following prayer:

O God of love, we pray with and for our sisters and brothers in the Holy Land, lifting up prayers for the peace of Jerusalem, of Israel, and Palestine. Lord, where relationships are broken, where people are isolated - from each other and also from goods and services that alleviate suffering - and where political processes meant to restore dignity instead produce cynicism and anger, grant that your mercy and life-restoring steadfastness may astound us, animating in us an eagerness to forgive and be forgiven. Empower individuals, communities, and nations to be generous and tenderhearted. Bless Palestinians and Israelis who dare to take risks for peace. Guide and refresh all those who accompany them. Amen

CELEBRATING 500th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION
WITH A TRIP TO GERMANY

PATH TO REFORMATION:
A Tour of Luther's Germany

Join a synod-hosted tour to Germany - Brochure available at the office. June 12-21, 2017. Discover your roots as a Lutheran in the footsteps of Martin Luther when the La Crosse Area Synod ELCA travels to Germany in celebration and honor of the 500th Anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

For Going That Extra Mile

*thank
you*

If you know of someone who has gone that extra mile, doing something they don't normally do...please send the office an email, note or phone call to let us know.

We want the people of Trinity know that we appreciate them!!

~ Gary Haskins for shoveling snow at Trinity

~Joyce Anderson and Mary Madison for keeping things neat and organized in the quilting room. Also, all of the wonderful quilting ladies that do so much work at home.

~Jan Jenkins for working in the office while Lori was out.

~Carol Glaman for covering the office.

~Tammy Barclay and Jan Jenkins for hosting a training/ Q n A for our offering counters

~ Dennis Glaman for taking all of the items collected for the Reverse Advent to the Food Pantry

~Nancy Oswald, Alice Olson and Gary Peterson for watering the poinsettias

~Diane Dammen for removing all of the staples in a mailing

~Joan Roche for helping out in the office

~ Dennis and Carol Glaman for visiting members of Trinity while Pastor Mark was gone

~Barb Selbrede for all of the paper she donated to the office

~ All the ladies who worked so diligently in cleaning the Heritage Room...Jean Hays, Mary Herrman, Linda Erickson, Janelle Wood and Barb Selbrede.

~Les Stanley and Darren Helgerson for delivering furniture to the Morrow Home

Easter Lillies

Remember or Honor your loved one(s) with an Altar Plant **or** with a Donation to our local Food Pantry. Please write on the memo line of your check or on your cash donation envelope your preference for giving. Plants may be taken home after the last Easter service. Acknowledgment of your gift will be printed on our Giving Sheet. Prices are as follows

Single Stem Lilies-\$12

6 inch Tulips - \$12

6 inch Begonia - \$16

Orders are due by March 27

**In lieu of flowers make a monetary donation to
Trinity Lutheran Church for the Local Food Pantry**

In Memory of

FOOD  PANTRY

In Honor of

**Glorify our church and altar with lilies and spring
flowers with a monetary donation**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Name

Phone Number _____

Scout Sunday Celebration!



Attention all: Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Brownie Scouts and Girl Scouts!!

We would like to invite all Tiger Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Brownie and Girl Scouts to attend the Trinity Lutheran Church Scout Sunday Celebration Church Service on **Sunday February 12th at the 8:15 AM service.** We would like all Scouts to wear their uniform and be in attendance whether you are a member of Trinity Lutheran church or not or a member of Cub Scout Pack 67 and Boy Scout Troop 67 or not. You do not have to be a member of Trinity Lutheran church's Scouting program Pack 67 or Troop 67 to participate in the Scout Sunday Celebration service.

If you are in Girl Scouting or Boy Scouting come and help us celebrate the anniversary of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts on Sunday, Feb 14th at the 8:15 Am Service. **Please contact the church office and give them your child's name, Unit# and that you will be attending. We would like to recognize all the Scout's names in the church bulletin on that day!**

Kettle Campaign

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the outstanding Kettle season we just completed. Once again it has been proven that Sparta is truly a giving community. Our weekly totals are as follows...

Week 1 - \$1513.60

Week 2 - \$4910.19

Week 3 - \$2907.20

Week 4 - \$2081.80

Total - \$11,412.79

Thank you so much for your support and may God bless our volunteers!

Sincerely, Chuck Amundson

What's Happening at Trinity



Fellowship at the Fireplace will be at Jake's Northwoods on **February 16 at 5:30 pm**. Please join up for a night of good food and fellowship. If you have somewhere else in the community you think we should try, please let someone on fellowship committee know.



NEW MEMBER

After late service on **February 26th** we will be welcoming new members with a potluck. Please join us to welcome and get to know the newest members of our congregation. Please consider bringing a dish to pass. To help ensure we have everything covered please bring the category designated by the first letter of your last name.

A-G: Side or salad - H-N: Main dish - O-Z: Dessert



Don't forget that Trinity has a Facebook page www.facebook.com/groups/trinitysparta/ Request to join our group so that you can connect with other members, find opportunities to serve and get the latest information!

Youth

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, February 25th at 6:30 pm Guitars & Hammers Talent & Variety Show, Meal & Silent Auction, 5:00 pm

Stay tuned to the bulletin for more details to come, & start brushing up on your many talents. Jokes, juggling, dancing, solo & ensemble pieces from school, musical acts – singing, playing an instrument, etc. are meant to be shared! Talk to Chris Martin about your talent! Talk to Michelle if you would like to help (meal, silent auction, etc.,) with this AWESOME event!

Calling all families!

Let's go to Sugar Creek for Winter Fun Days!

Sunday, February 12, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 26, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come to camp for a Sunday afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, & more! We have the tubes & broom ball equipment. You can bring cross country skis and/or ice skates. Enjoy a wonderful family outing or bring your church group for the day. We will serve warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch (chili, hot dogs, etc.), & we'll have a toasty fire ready for you. Cost: \$7 per person, \$25 family maximum (includes lunch). Talk to Michelle to get signed up for this day of FUN in the snow!

Sugar Creek Bible Camp, here we come!

Summer Camp Catalogs can be found outside of the Youth Room. They have all of the detailed information in it. You can also check it out on the web:

www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org. Trinity Weeks & Explorer dates are being finalized, so please stay tuned for them! Help us reach our goal of sending 50 amazing young people to camp!

YOUTH

2017 Spring Craft Fair

The annual Spring Craft Fair is fast approaching, and it will be held on Saturday, March 4, at Sparta High School. EVERYONE is invited to help, and there are numerous ways for YOU to get involved: donate BBQ; donate baked goods; sign up to volunteer for a 2-hour shift; come up and have lunch to support our youth; help with clean-up; keep our youth and adult volunteers in your prayers. The menu will still include our favorites: BBQs; taco boats; Papa Murphy's pizza; and homemade baked goods. For those planning to donate baked goods – cookies and bars sell the best. Please bring your baked goods or BBQ to the Youth Room by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, March 3, or bring them up to the high school food court on Saturday, March 4, anytime in the morning. If this does not work for you, please give Michelle a call for other arrangements to be made. Money raised benefits our many youth programs including Sugar Creek, FCA Camp, "Trinity Cares" and the 2018 Houston Youth Gathering. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Save the dates for FCA Camp!

It will be Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29, on the beautiful Luther campus in Decorah, IA. Stay tuned for registration details. Help us fill the bus on our journey to camp! As always, scholarships are available for ALL kids wanting to go to camp. There are also fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of camp. Please mark your calendars for the following fundraisers: Saturday, February 25 (Guitars & Hammers); Saturday, March 4 (Spring Craft Fair); Wednesday, March 8 (Lenten Supper); & Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday Breakfast). If you want to go to camp, our awesome congregation WILL get you there!

All Who Are Weary (part one)

In a world full of frenzy, still your heart and rest in Christ. – Sarah Rennie

Frantic doesn't fit around your heart. It longs to prod and jam its way into you, to disrupt the flow of freedom and rob you of rest. It laughs and jests that if you're not running around from one activity to the next, not closing your calendar to the brim, then you're out of step with a society that's already on the fritz.

But God doesn't rush things—not our transformational process, not His global plan, not answering prayers. Not even creation. He shaped space and time, formed clay and water, and breathed man into existence. Then, ***“on the seventh day...He rested from all his work.” (Genesis 2:2)***

Since calm was God's idea, why are we so swept up in chaos? Travel teams filling up every weekend. Schoolwork, jobs, extracurricular activities, pressure from parents, and stiff competition at younger and younger levels. Meetings, temptations of the world, replacing what's best with what's right now. The world says rush; God says rest. And Jesus promises that if we get away with Him, we'll recover our life.

“Be still, and know that I am God!” –Psalm 46:10

We often pride ourselves on our busyness, but this façade only distracts from our dissatisfaction. Working oneself to exhaustion is not a virtue, but probably a sign of fatigue. Whenever we set smart goals, we achieve so much and feel less exhausted. Jesus came to a weary, worn-out world for our replenishment. He came to diffuse so much “doing” and bend culture backwards with “just be.” The least we can do is cut out the striving and simply sit still. We may be surprised by how good it feels.

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.” –Mark 1:35

Jesus was in step with the Father's heart, always open to a fluctuating daily agenda, attune to where to go and with whom to speak. He knew His main path and would not tarry on the ultimate road to the cross, but He never found Himself running on empty to perform healings, diffuse arguments or teach His disciples along the way.

Youth continued...

Rest can erode when we become swept up in our jam-packed schedules. As children of the King, we are promised to rest in green meadows and be led beside peaceful streams. (Psalm 23:2)

Instead of fighting the current, find that still spot where God can meet you. The pace and attractions of the world can be enticing and mesmerizing. But, God gently calls us to a quiet place, where He can be found, and the noise can be silenced, and everything slows down and comes into sharper focus.



From the Office....

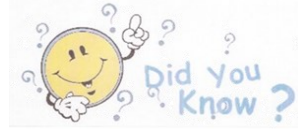
- Articles for the March Tidings are due **February 21**. If you could get your articles in earlier, that would be greatly appreciated as I (Lori) will be out of the office at the end of the week. Thank you!
- We are going to need office coverage on **February 23 and 24** as I (Lori) am going to be off. If you think you would like to provide office coverage please call the church office. Training available if needed. Thank you in advance! 😊
- We are in need of volunteers for a few positions, if you would like to volunteer for any of these positions please call the church office...**10:30 am communion serving and delivering bulletins to the nursing homes.**

Thank you!

Mission Moment

Where does my offering go?

Mission Support to grow the ELCA



ELCA Mission Moment

Mission Support provides 80 percent of the resources to enable the ELCA to begin new ministries and accompany existing congregations as growing centers for evangelical mission. These funds also provide the staff and resources for the development of new leaders, partnership with churches around the globe, alleviating poverty, working for justice and peace, and so much more.

Almost 15% of mission support develops current and future leaders in the ELCA.

As Lutherans, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbors, restoring and reconciling communities. But the continued vibrancy of our work faces a considerable challenge: **over the next 10 years, the ELCA will need 4,000 new pastors just to replace our current leaders.**

Your contribution to Trinity:

- Supports the work of eight ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.
- Recruits, prepares and implements a system for the assignment of 9,500 rostered leaders.
- Offers events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults..

We need leaders who will ground us in God's love and forgiveness through word and sacrament, renew our congregations, grow our existing communities of faith and inspire us to do God's work in the world. For more information about ELCA Leadership programs: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Leadership>

Families First of Monroe County

7th Annual Trivia Night

Saturday, March 11

Doors open at 5:00 pm with

Trivia starting at 6:30 pm

Monroe Country Fairgrounds, Gold Building in Tomah



Gather coworkers, friends and family for a night of Trivia, food, prizes and fun! All proceeds to support Families First of Monroe County and our mission to support and assist Monroe County residents through financial and life challenges with respectful and empowering services.

Loose Change

Families First Loose Change Offering February 19



For over 20 years Families First of Monroe County has served residents of Monroe County. Families First strives to provide resource, referral and emergency services to individuals and families who are in need. Families First is a proud member of a collaborative network of partners in the county working to ensure that less fortunate members of our communities receive effective services to support their most basic need. Examples of Families First supports: restoring disconnected utilities, infant supplies, employment support items and general budget and case management services. Current Families First programming emphasizes Homeless Prevention Programming, for residents experiencing imminent loss of their primary night time residence. If you know a family in need, call (608) 374-4141 www.familiesfirstofmonroecounty.org/

8:15 am**Communion** - Dave and Joanie Olson - Dale Frei**Reader** - Gretchen Caron**Greeter** - Dan and Robin Kohls**10:30 am****Communion** - Ron and Karen Wall - Bonnie Amundson**Reader** - Ann Kvale**Greeter** - Larry and Lana Zwiefel

February 5

8:15 am**Communion** - Dennis and Carol Glaman - Janice Janzen**Reader** - Debbie Bassett**Greeter** - Connie Jerome - Luther Larson**10:30 am****Communion** - Jeanne Button - Doug Dengel -

Edie Habegger

Reader - Meghan Perry**Greeter** - Raymond and Donna Boland

February 12

8:15 am**Communion** - Bill & Mary Herrman-**Opportunity to Serve****Reader** - Dale Frie**Greeter** - Larry and Nila Larson**10:30 am****Communion- 2 Opportunities to Serve** - Dawn Jacobson**Reader** - Shannon Perry**Greeter** - Michael and Deb Bonello

February 19

8:15 am**Communion** - Shirley Hobson-Chuck Hogan-Marie Grewal**Reader** - Jeremiah Erickson**Greeter** - Bill and Sherry McClain**10:30 am****Communion** - Larry and Nila Larson - Gary Peterson**Reader** - Roxanne Powell**Greeter** - Diane Dammen - Siri Donskey

February 26

Money Counters

February 6

Pat Heser
Alice Olson
Gary Peterson

February 13

Janice Janzen
Dave Olson
Pete Perkins

February 20

Fred Olson
Nancy Oswald
Opportunity to Serve

February 27

Tootie Burnett
Rita Bernette
Roger Strom



Memorials

Matching Grants

*In Honor of Dave Olson's 80th birthday from
Russ and Tootie Burnett*

In Memory of Ida Meissner From

*Paul Amundson
David and Paulette Widener
Elroy and Mary Osmon
Ralph and Marlene Zick*

Furnace Fund

*In Memory of Ida Meissner from Bev Lisney
In Memory of Ida Meissner from Phil and Diane Dammen
In Memory of Ida Meissner from Stan and Rita Bernette
In Memory of Ida Meissner from Paul and Nancy Oswald
In Memory of Ida Meissner from Judy Schure
In Memory of Bob Olson (Ron Olson's brother who passed away)
from Wayne and Connie Slotten*

Quilting Group

In Memory of Ida Meissner from Jack and Joanne Benning.