

Trinity Weekly Tidings For April 23, 2017

"God's Love – Our Hearts – God's Work – Our Hands"

Trinity Lutheran Church – 612 N. Water Street – Sparta, WI 54656

Church Website: tlcsparta.org Phone: 608-269-5081 Office Email: office@tlcsparta.org

Pastor Mark Kvale / Email: pastorkvale@gmail.com

Youth and Family - Michelle Hyatt / Cell & Text 608-343-0324 / Email: thehyattfive@gmail.com

Welcome Guests! We are so happy to see you today! If you are traveling through the area, we wish you Godspeed on your journey. If you live nearby, we hope you will return and worship with us again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to make Trinity Lutheran that home. Please sign the guest register located at the entrance into the Sanctuary and/or fill out the yellow card in the pew rack located in front of you, so that we can know who you are. Although you have come as a visitor, we hope that we leave worship as friends!

Blessing of the Animals Today - Blessing of the animals will be held in the courtyard between worships (9:30). Please enter the courtyard through the southwest entrance, off of the west parking lot.

Thank YOU- We would like to thank Eldie Erickson, Paul Oswald, Gene Olson, and Bill McClain for planting the trees in the area by the circle drive and for removing the pond in the courtyard. We would also like to thank John Sund for donating the crab apple trees that were planted!

Office Help Needed – We are looking for someone who would be willing to answer phones in the church office, on April 27 and 28. If you are able to help, please call the church office. Thank you!

Calling All Sunday School Teachers - First, thank you for all you give to our children, our church, and our faith. You truly are "blessed to be a blessing."

As the Sunday School year ends, by the last Sunday will you please leave your room ready for the volunteer cleaners to come in? They will wash chalk boards, desks, tables, chairs, windows and floors during the month of June. Please throw away or store the materials you have used so cleaners can do their jobs. Thanks to all!

Jean Hays

Annual Book Sale - Matching Funds Book Sale will be **NEXT Sunday, April 30th and Sunday, May 7th**. This is our annual fund raiser for the Matching Funds. Donations of paperback and hardcover fiction books, children's books, cookbooks, and DVDs will be accepted until mid-April. Please place books in the box by the front entrance.

Loose Change Offering TODAY for Family Promise Monroe County -Trinity is one of area churches working to establish a Family Promise program. Through a collaborative network of local congregations, Family Promise seeks to rebuild lives with compassion by providing resources and services to help homeless children and their families and achieve sustainable independence. For more information about Family Promise Monroe County Wisconsin: <http://goo.gl/H9bg5M> Contact Anita Jensen, Trinity Family Promise board volunteer.

Parish Ed Survey - We are looking for your input because **your opinion matters!** Please email your responses to office@tlcsparta.org or marty_m1@hotmail.com

Day Camp - 4 days in a row during daytime hours

Weekly Day Camp - 1 day per week for 3 or 4 weeks

Monthly Day Camp - 1 time per month for June, July and August

Family Evening Camp - 3 evenings in a row

Family Evening Camp - 1 evening per week for 3 or 4 weeks. Either a Wednesday or Sunday.

Family Evening Camp - 1 time per month for June, July and August.

Those for whom we are praying...

*Hildur Devine – Pastor Mark's Mother, Michelle Clark, Nancy Dickenson,
Amy Moseley Erickson, and Pauline Haug.*

Altar flowers were picked up by Cora Aschwander.

Flowers today were given in Honor of our Quilters by Joyce M. Anderson

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of April 23, 2017

God is good all the time, and all the time, God is good!

You are BEAUTIFUL because you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You are enough! You are loved!

Please talk to Michelle face-to-face; by phone at 269-5081; call or text at 343-0324; or by e-mail at: thehyattfive@gmail.com for additional information.

JAM will meet on Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. We hope to get outside & enjoy God's creation! Kickball, here we come!☺

Faith Formation will have class on Wednesday from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing all of you there!

Houston, we have a Gathering!

Any young person currently in grades 7 – 11 interested in going to the **2018 Houston Youth Gathering** can start their fundraising efforts by selling candy bars. Please talk to Michelle to if you would like to pick up a box. Also, the first NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$150 is due on Sunday, April 30. Please talk to Michelle if there are any financial concerns, & rest assured that we will work it out for you to be able to go to the Gathering!☺ Once everyone is signed up, we will have a meeting to plan out our timeline together as we prepare for this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime trip for YOU!! Talk to Michelle if you have any additional questions. Keep up online with the Gathering at: www.elca.org/gathering.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp, here we come!

24 of our incredible young people have signed up to go to Sugar Creek. Join them by signing up today! Registration forms can be found outside of the Youth Room. You can also check it out on the web: www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org. Trinity Weeks are June 18 - 23 & July 9 – 14, & Explorer dates are being finalized, so please stay tuned for them! Grab a friend, & get registered NOW for the week that works best for you! Every young person will get a \$250 scholarship from Trinity through fundraising, donations, & Thrivent Choice. Woo hoo! We are SO grateful to our very generous congregation! Help us reach our goal of sending 50 amazing young people to camp!

Save the dates for FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Camp!

It will be Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29, on the beautiful Luther campus in Decorah, IA. Check out the website at: www.fcacamps.org. Boys can choose from the following sports: basketball, baseball, cross country, football, soccer, or tennis. Girls can choose from the following sports: basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, or volleyball. To get registered, please fill out the camp brochure found outside of the Youth Room, & return it to Michelle with your \$100 deposit. Checks can be made payable to "FCA." All of you will receive a \$100 scholarship from NW FCA, & in addition, you will get a scholarship from Trinity for the remaining \$145 ☺." Help us fill the bus with our awesome young people on our journey to camp!

As always, scholarships are available for ALL kids wanting to go to either camp. There are also fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of camp. Please mark your calendars for the following fundraiser: Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday Breakfast & Egg Hunt). We are also going to sell candy bars as an individual fundraiser. Please let Michelle know if you would like to participate in either of these fundraisers to help towards your camp costs. We want every young person to get to experience camp, & if you want to go to camp, please know that our awesome, supportive congregation WILL get you there!

www.d365.org – Sign up for this FREE daily devotional! It's how I start my day with God!

After the empty tomb, Jesus appeared to His disciples with the words: Peace be with you. This encounter began the rest of Christian history; even today, we live with "Resurrection Faith." It's a time to reflect on what the joy of resurrection and the peace-giving Spirit of Jesus mean for our lives. Peace be with you. Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this book. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name. John 20:29-31

The old saying goes, "Seeing is believing." We don't have that luxury. While we weren't alive 2,000 years ago to see the events take place, we have these testimonies, "so that you will believe." One interesting aspect of faith is that it requires limited factual knowledge. When we have ALL the facts and concrete evidence, it is no longer faith. It is certainty. In this translation, Jesus claims that we are "happy" when we believe without seeing. Other translations use the word, "blessed." Jesus seems to see value in our willingness to trust and believe without experiencing the miracles first-hand.

But, we DO see miracles first-hand, don't we? Children are a miracle. I have watched numerous young people transformed from lives without direction and understanding of purpose to become agents of the Way of Jesus Christ. In areas of pain and suffering, I have seen the Kingdom take root and blossom.

Look around. Take notice. You will have life in Jesus' name. –Tyler Spradling

God of salvation, thank you for the witnesses you provide so that I would believe and have life. Give me the vision to recognize your Kingdom. Give me the courage to call attention to it. Amen.

You might have come here in pieces. Receive the Holy Spirit. Go in peace.