

## **Trinity Weekly Tidings For September 17, 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](http://tlcsparta.org) Phone: 608-269-5081 Office Email: [office@tlcsparta.org](mailto:office@tlcsparta.org)**

**Pastor Mark Kvale / Email: [pastorkvale@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkvale@gmail.com)**

**Youth and Family - Michelle Hyatt / Cell & Text 608-343-0324 / Email: [thehyattfive@gmail.com](mailto: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!*

**Loose Change Today** - This month’s Loose Change offering will go towards the Sparta Hunger Walk . Join us on **Sunday, October 1 at 1:00 pm** for our Sparta Area Hunger Walk. This is an opportunity for you to participate with your church family and other church families in Sparta area to raise money for fighting hunger in our local area and overseas.

As last year, 25% the money raised goes to the Food Pantry. It is our hope that each church designate a world hunger mission where their other 75% should go. Hunger Walk packets are available on the Information Tables in the entryway or in the church office.

**Blood Drive – On September 25 and 26** Trinity will be hosting a blood drive! The Blood Center is in need of 500 pints for this blood drive. Let’s make it happen! Please call Karen Edwards to make your appointment 269-5243.

**Logo Contest** - The Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) are in need of your help. We need a logo to represent us in advertising our craft fair, on correspondence, etc. Get your creative juices flowing and submit a design. Please incorporate the initials TLCW in the design. One gifted person will receive a \$25 gift card of their choice! All entries must be received by SEPTEMBER 29. Please submit them to either [pconrth@yahoo.com](mailto:pconrth@yahoo.com) or [morton49@charter.net](mailto:morton49@charter.net).

**Looking For Crafters** - If anyone is interested in getting together to make craft items for the Fall Festival, please contact Linda Winterton at 269-7214.

**Fellowship** - Fellowship at the Fireplace will be hosted by Jan and Al Jenkins on Monday, September 18 at 5:30 pm. Baked meatballs will be served along with dessert. Attendees are asked to bring a side dish if they are able. Please RSVP directly to Jan via phone at 269-6875. The Jenkin’s address is 10773 Gage Ave.

**It’s “Soap Time”** – Can you imagine going into your bathroom and not having a bar of soap? I just checked our ½ bath and we have 3 open bars and 6 in the cabinet, yet there are people in the world that have no soap and we can help! Now, we are talking about soap, not Yardley Lavender but Palmolive at 3 bars for a dollar at the Dollar Tree store. We are looking for volume to help as many people as we can. We currently as of September 14<sup>th</sup> have collected **156 bars**. In the past we have collected over 900 bars. Can we make a 1,000 bars this year? Lunch at a local eatery is \$10-\$15 for 2 people, but if we were to eat at home for that one meal, that \$10-\$15 could buy 30-45 bars of soap! Contributed by Mr. Clean

**My Neighbor is Muslim**- *Recent statistic studies show that there are 3.3 million Muslims in the United States, and 1.6 billion Muslims in the world, second only to the number of Christians in the world. And yet, what do we truly know about the Islamic faith?*

Join us for a study called, *“My Neighbor is Muslim: A Small Group Study Exploring the Muslim Faith.”* This study was produced by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. It was written primarily by Todd Green, professor of religion, at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Topics include: “What are the Five Pillars of Islam?”, “What does the Qur’an Say about Jesus?”, “What does the Qur’an Say about Jews and Christians?”, “What is the Islamic Understanding of Charity?”, “What does Islam teach about Violence?”, “What is Islamic Finance?”, “What is an Islamic State?”

This study is an unbiased, objective view of Islam that will help us grow in our understanding of the Muslim faith, while at the same time, help us grow in our understanding of our own Christian faith.

We will meet on **Sunday Evenings, beginning on today, September 17 – November 5 at 6:30 in the Shalom Room**. Study materials will be provided.

**Hunger Walk** – Join us

**Second Harvest Mobil Food Pantry Delivery** -Next event: **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>** at 1800 block of Milwaukee Avenue. For anyone still wishing to volunteer or if you are looking for more information, please call the St. Patrick’s rectory at 269-2655. Many thanks for your dedication to ending hunger in our community!

*Those for whom we are praying... for the family and friends of Joyce Swiggum.*

*Also for Kenneth Smith, Lois Harr, Deb O’Rouke, Karla May, Joanie Olson,*

*Dalton Mattke, and Michelle Clark.*

*Altar flowers were picked up by Cora Aschwander.*

## **Youth & Family Announcements for the week of September 17, 2017**

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

You are BeYOUtiful because you are fearfully and wonderfully made.

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](mailto:thehyattfive@gmail.com) for additional information.

THANK YOU to EVERYONE that supported our tailgate fundraiser this past Sunday! It was a GREAT day, & we appreciate all of you! Over \$1,500 was raised in our efforts to get to the Houston Youth Gathering! Our tithe will be going to Lutheran Disaster Response to help in the recovery efforts in Houston. We feel it is so important to give back to Houston who will be hosting us next summer for the Gathering! Each of our future fundraisers will also be tithed, and we ask for your continued support & prayers.

JAM (4 years – grade 5) meets this Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us in this special time of sharing in a meal; digging into God's Word; & worshipping together. See you there!

Faith Formation (grades 7 – 9) continues this Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See you then!

### **SAVE THE DATES!! Sugar Creek Fall Retreats**

**6 - 8th Grade Retreat - October 6-8, 2017**

**7:00 Friday – 1 p.m. Sunday**

Do you miss camp? If you've been missing camp and can't wait to come back, these retreats are for you! Come hang out at camp with your favorite camp friends and staff for 3 days of games, hiking, Bible study, worships, campfires, and all your other favorite camp activities. In March you will get a taste of the summer theme and in October you will study topics related to confirmation. Retreats start at 7:00 PM Friday and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Cost : \$85 (includes 5 meals – Trinity will offer \$40 scholarships)

**3 – 5th Grade Retreat - October 28 - 29, 2017**

**1 p.m. Saturday – 1 p.m. Sunday**

Come join us here at Sugar Creek for a time of fun and faith exploration. Enjoy time away with your favorite camp friends and Sugar Creek counselors playing games, singing songs, worshipping together, and studying the Bible. The April retreat is a taste of the summer to come and the October retreat is filled with fun, fall activities! Retreats start at 1:00 PM on Saturday and end at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Cost : \$40 (includes 3 meals – Trinity will offer \$20 scholarships) \*Talk to Michelle if you would like to go to the retreat!\*

**D365 Devotional Reminder** (check out [d365.org](http://d365.org) for a daily devotion)

Asking for forgiveness is hard. It means that you've hurt someone. It means accepting responsibility. Asking for forgiveness is also deeply intimate. It means acknowledging that the relationship you have with someone is close enough that you *can* hurt them. It means being vulnerable.

*"Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan."* Matthew 18:23-27

Jesus tells us a parable—a story intended to teach a lesson about something important. This parable starts with a considerable debt being forgiven. What is noteworthy here is that the debt is forgiven when the servant asks his king for patience. The servant asks the king for time to repay what is owed, and in response the king acts extravagantly—cancelling the debt and letting the servant go.

When have you been in the king's position, realizing that there are people out there who owe you something? When have we been in the servant's position, begging for the chance to make it up to the king? How have we reacted in those situations? There is nothing here the servant did to deserve this mercy, and yet the king, when asked for patience, responds abundantly.

Can we forgive so big? Kirstin Swanson

God, I know you call me to be like the king: to forgive a person when the debt they hold against me is insurmountable. Open my eyes and ears and heart to cries for forgiveness, that I may be abundant in my response and attentive to restoring relationships. Amen.

Each day is a new chance to act with compassion and offer forgiveness. May your eyes, ears, and heart be opened to the new beginnings forgiveness can offer, for the forgiver and the forgiven.