

Trinity Weekly Tidings For December 11, 2016

“God’s Love – Our Hearts – God’s Work – Our Hands”

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

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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!

Lost Jacket – We have a member who is missing a leather jacket and gloves. If you accidentally took the wrong jacket, please return it to the church office so we can get it back to this member. Thank you!

Trinity Cares - We all know that Trinity Cares; and at Christmas we have a very special way to prove that. There are 10 families represented by ornaments on our Christmas tree in the upper hall. These families each need a little help to be able to enjoy Christmas this year. Also, there are ornaments (that is, envelopes) representing the needs of members and others in local nursing homes. In this case, the tree looks better **WITHOUT** the ornaments. So, please take one or more, shop for the item requested and then return it—**UNWRAPPED**—to the tree area. **Please be sure to attach the original ornament tag with your gift for easier sorting.** In order to give our youth time for wrapping the presents for delivery, it would be best to have them back by **December 14th**. Again, we have the joy and honor of being God’s Hands.

Baptisms – Please join us in celebrating the baptism of Lee Robert Ostrem (parents are Kyle Ostrem and Alissa Smith and Grandma is Alice Olson) baptized on Sunday, December 4th and Carver Matthew Jacobson (parents Matthew and Dawn Jacobson) who is being baptized today, December 11.

Ecumenical Christmas Program -The Big Creek Church will hold their annual Ecumenical Christmas Program on Sunday Evening, **December 11th at 6:00 PM.** Join us for an old-fashioned Candlelight Service at a Historic 1874 Church. It is located on the corner of Hwy. BC and Garden avenue, Rural Sparta, WI. Priscilla Hemmersbach, from United Methodist Church in Sparta will lead the service. Rich Ziddich will play his guitar and sing for your enjoyment. Fellowship follows the program with Christmas Treats, coffee, and hot apple cider.

Trinity’s Christmas Program - Trinity's Sunday School students will be presenting the program, The Living Creche, on Sunday December 18 at the 10:30 service. Practices for the program will occur during the student’s regular Sunday School hour and on Saturday December 17 from 9:00 to 11:00.

Saturday morning rehearsal breakdown is as follows:

Grades 2-6 will need to be there from 9:00 to 11:00.

Grades PreK, Kindergarten and First Grade from 10:00 to 11:00.

Three and four year olds from 10:30 to 11:00.

Please make sure your child is able to attend these rehearsals. Following the Saturday rehearsal there will also be a special pizza and craft event hosted by the Fellowship Committee. All are welcome to join in the fun and food.

Needed for the Sunday School Christmas Program: A red St. Nicholas suit to fit a sixth grade student. Please call Ann Kvale 487-9879 if you are able to help.

Early Bird Registration - Women of Trinity the 10th Triennial convention will be held in Minneapolis next summer, from the 13 - 16 July. You need to register now if you are staying for the whole gathering. Jan 6, 2017 is the last day to register for the reduced price. Who is included women from the ages 6 - 18 up to 102. How do I register, online go to welcatg.org; fax the completed form to 855-710-8061; or mail it to Framework Meetings and Destinations, Attn: Registration TG 2017, 2192E. Grandview Drive, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815. Don’t forget the synod has scholarship money you can apply for, closing for that is in February. Our own Trinity unit has scholarship money also. **ACT TODAY.** Submitted by Kathleen Sumrall

Joy Circle Cookie Ministry - Once again, Joy Circle is asking you to bring cookies for Trinity’s Christmas Jail Ministry. The population in the jail has gone from 70 to 120 people so the need for cookies is great. Two or three dozen Christmas cookies may be brought to the kitchen by **Sunday, December 18** marked “Jail Ministry”. Plates of cookies and a Christmas message will be delivered by Joy Circle members to the Monroe County Jail. Thank you for being a part of this Trinity mission!

Need Help With Your Christmas Shopping? Take a look at the ELCA Good Gifts catalog for plenty of ideas. Catalogs are on the Welcome Table or www.ELCA.org/goodgifts.

A Study of Martin Luther’s Small Catechism - Sunday Mornings between worships (9:15-10:15)

This coming year marks the celebration of 500th anniversary of the Reformation; began with Martin Luther posting the 95 thesis on October 31, 1517. As part of this celebration, we will be gathering together to study Martin Luther’s Small Catechism. Luther wrote the catechism in 1529, as a way of focusing learning and growth in faith around the 10 Commandments, the Apostles’ Creed, The Lord’s Prayer, Baptism and Communion. Please join us on Sunday mornings, beginning **November 27**, in the **Shalom Room** for a great time of discussion and learning!

Loose Change December 11 - Monroe County Faith In Action is a non-profit organization that has been serving elderly members of Monroe County for over 18 years. Services are provided by caring volunteers recruited from the community to help people improve their quality of life and maintain independent living. Our volunteers assist with services such as transportation to medical appointments, delivery of groceries, help with shopping and errands, spring and fall yard cleanup, minor home modifications, friendly visits, welfare checks and assurance, help with letters, forms and companionship. Be sure to bring your loose change to church on Sunday, December 11 to support Faith In Action!

From the Office- Just a few reminders...Articles for *January Tidings* are due by **December 20**. Reports for the *Annual Report* are due by **December 30**.

Decorating Volunteers for Advent 2016 -Lois Harr reported that Trinity transformed from the fall season to Advent with many hands. Thanks to:

Marie Grewal

Julee Hopkins

Paul & Nancy Oswald

Jim & Barb Moorhead

Diane Dammen

Barb Selbrede

Carol Haskins

Alice Olson

Bill McClain

Dennis & Carol Glaman

Jean Hays

Les Stanley

Building Committee

Altar Guild

Trinity Staff

Fellowship Team Opportunity - We would like your help in planning events. This is an excellent opportunity to meet others and help our congregation flourish. We invite anyone that is interested to attend our next meeting on **December 13th at 6:00 pm** in the Heritage Room.

Come join us in worshipping the new-born Prince of Peace, Immanuel, God with us!

Saturday, December 24

Services at 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:30 pm

Sunday, December 25

One Service at 9:00 am

Sunday, January 1

One Service at 9:00 am

Those for whom we are praying...

For Carol Thorsen and Joanne Dexter. Altar flowers were picked up by Dennis and Carol Glaman.

Altar flowers were given by Ed Peterson and family in memory of Camilla Rose.

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of December 11, 2016

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.

Stop by our **BAKE SALE** in the main hallway, & pick out your favorite sweet treats! We will start selling between services & then again after 10:30 worship. Thank you for supporting our young people & our local food pantry to help feed our hungry brothers & sisters!

The Student Discipleship Conference was an **AMAZING** weekend with **AMAZING** kids & **AMAZING** adult leaders! I am so grateful to our "Triple A" adults who gave of their time so selflessly this past weekend to walk alongside our youth during this faith-filled, praise-filled, Spirit-led "FEARLESS" experience! Stories & memories will be shared at future worship services. A special **THANK YOU** to Pauline Fahning; Kylie Holub; Sherrie Kruger; Serena Nelson; Shannon Perry; Dan Amundson; Brandon Riley; & Logan Severson. I never stop thanking God for you!

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL LOCK-IN

Friday, December 30th, 6:30 p.m. – Saturday, December 31, 10:00 a.m.

YOU are invited to a **FUN** night of being together with **FRIENDS!** It's going to be full of some pretty awesome stuff: food, cooking, games, movies, face-to-face, camp talk (FCA & Sugar Creek); worship; how to be leader & servant for Christ; and **PRIZES!** There is **NO** cost to you, but please bring a snack to share! Also, bring a friend, & get a chance at winning a super cool prize! Lastly, please talk to Michelle if you would like to be on the planning team & also to get signed up to make it the **BEST LOCK-IN EVER!!**

DEVO - What are some situations you are currently going through where your team, family, classmates, church community, etc., would benefit from rising up together?

Everybody Needs Somebody: No matter how strong you think you are, we were made to fellowship with likeminded individuals and learn and grow as one people. Read Proverbs 27:17

God Needs Our Unity: We are no good to God when we are fighting and arguing with the body of Christ. A unified church is the only church that will make a significant difference in today's world. Read 1 Corinthians 1:10

What do you need to do today that will better connect you to other believers?

We were created for community. We were built for relationships. That's what the Christian church is all about. Our families, our schools, our teams, and our communities can all be part of that unified body if we choose to set aside our minor disagreements and focus on the foundational truths found in God's Word.

As you seek out others to team up with along the journey, you will then be able to Rise Up Together and experience the power found in this verse:

"This is my command-be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9