

Trinity Weekly Tidings For December 24th and 25th, 2016

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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!

Help us to continue to enjoy the WARMTH -Bad news is never good. Especially at Christmas time. Our sanctuary has been heated by 3 twenty to twenty five year old furnaces. A couple of weeks ago 2 of the 3 furnaces failed. The third furnace has been set at 70 degrees so as to minimize strain on the furnace because it is also in danger of failing. The fellowship hall is heated by 2 even older furnaces. The Buildings and Grounds team presented a quote to replace the furnaces to the Council on Tuesday evening. To replace the three furnaces that heat the Sanctuary, the cost would be \$16,355. To replace the two furnaces that heat the Fellowship Hall, the cost would be \$11,564. Since the Council has no authority to enter into a contract that exceeds 3 percent of our Annual Budget, the Congregation will be asked to vote on replacing 3 or all 5 furnaces at the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2017. We are exploring what available funds we have to cover the cost, but we are opening a dedicated Furnace Replacement Fund. Several Council Members have already contributed to the fund. If you are able to and wish to contribute to this fund, please make sure that this is noted on the check. Donations to this fund should be in addition to your annual giving. This is a hard time of year to be asking for extra money, but if we want to continue to keep warm in worship we need to ask for your help.

Sincerely, The Church Council

Please HELP – We have a lot of bakeware and storage containers that are needing to go home with their rightful owners. If you have misplaced an item, please check our ‘stash’ located on the bench outside the youth room and take what belongs to you. Thank you so much!

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

Christmas in Norway- Enjoy Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir. Savor the rich holiday choral traditions of the 2 countries. This can be viewed on Public Television, Charter channel 12 or 195 on December 24th at 9:30 pm.

Good Blood Drive! Thank you to our wonderful donors and volunteers! A special thank you goes out to Rita Bernette, Ardel Muehlenkamp, and MaryAnn Bolstad for all of the volunteer hours they put in and for the cookies from Morrow Home! We had 90 people donate and received 70 pints of blood. We saved 210 lives!! Thank you for your continued support!

From the Office- Reports for the *Annual Report* are due by **December 30!** The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and will reopen on Tuesday, December 27. Have a very Merry Christmas!

Reverse Advent - Thank you to everyone who participated in our **Reverse Advent project**, the outpouring has been **beautiful**. Reverse Advent begins on December 1st and we add an item to the box every day for the next 23 days. We then bring the boxes back to Trinity and they will be donated to our local food pantry. This is a great way to give back to the community and to cultivate the spirit of giving throughout the coming year! Thank you for making someone's Christmas a little brighter!

Sparta Area Theatre Enthusiasts....Take Note! - Anyone interested in singing and/or acting in an Award Winning Musical or perhaps working ‘behind the scenes’ in a theatre production? The Sparta United Methodist Church and SUMMIT Spirits Theatre Group will present: **“THE STORY OF RUTH”**. This Old Testament account of Ruth comes to life in a powerful character study. The touching story of love and devotion recounts Ruth's marriage - a union granting her a special place in the family lineage leading to Jesus. An exciting, contemporary score evokes ancient biblical times and combines folk dances, lush ballads and stirring anthems for an inspiring portrait of redemption.

Auditions:

Friday, January 6th from 6:30 to 8:00pm &

Saturday, January 7th from 10:00am to 12:00pm

Auditions will be at the Methodist Church (210 N. Court Street). Please use the “K” Street entrance.

Hope to see you there! Anyone not able to make these dates, but wishes to be a part of the play...or maybe you'd like to ask a few questions first, please contact Joanne Dexter – 608-633-1791 or Tyna VanBeek – 608-487-5178.

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 the Hopkins family in memory of Gary and Christopher Hopkins.

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of December 25, 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.

Trinity Cares

The deliveries have been made, & my heart is full! I have story after story to share, but please know just how grateful these families were to receive blessings from us! I wish I could have taken all of you with me as I got the privilege to remind them how much they are loved by our awesome God & by all of us! It truly is the **BEST** feeling in the world with the reactions of joyful, happy tears, glowing smiles, & warm, precious hugs! It is such an honor to give God all the glory by reaching out & serving our brothers & sisters in Christ! Thank you to each one of you for making the biggest difference ever! I **NEVER** stop thanking God for **ALL** of you! We are **BLESSED** to be a **BLESSING!**

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!!**