

Trinity Weekly Tidings For December 4, 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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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!

Calling all bakers - We will once again be supporting the Backpack Programs at Lawrence Lawson and Southside Schools by providing baked items to be sold at the Kriskindmarkt. We are asking that your donations be provided in the pan, uncut. Snack mixes may be packaged in one big bag or container. If you put your name on the container, it will be returned to you. Donations may be delivered to the kitchen by **December 8th**. At 3:30 on those days, we will be repackaging the items for sale. We have a Thrivent Action Team Grant for the hot chocolate and other supplies. Last year we, and the staff and parents from the schools, made over \$1,700. Let's see if we can outdo ourselves! Questions? Call Maureen Sullivan at 269-0999.

Cutting Party – Join us **Thursday, December 8th at 8:30 am** for a ‘cutting party’ to make manger swaddling. We need 400 fabric strips 3” x 2.5’ for the swaddling. We hope that you can join in on the fun! If you are able, please bring scraps, scissors and/or cutting mat/tools.

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.

Sparta Community Choir Presents – Omnia Sol- Let Your Heart Be Staid on Sunday, December 4th at 7:00 pm at Sparta Methodist Church. This is a FREE Concert.

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!

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.

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.

Faith In Action Plans Annual Christmas Fundraiser For December 6. The event will take place at the Masonic Lodge located at 520 East Saratoga in Tomah. A soup supper will be served from 5:00pm-7:00pm for \$5.00 per person. Area musicians will provide Christmas music during supper. The evening will also feature baskets, silent auction items and a bake sale with holiday treats. The community is invited to support Faith In Action's mission of providing assistance to elderly and disabled residents of Monroe County. If you are interested in donating to the event or would like to provide musical entertainment, please contact Faith In Action at 372-0939.

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!

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**.

*Those for whom we are praying...
For David Walker and Joanne Dexter.
Altar flowers were picked up by Dennis and Carol Glaman.*