

# Trinity Weekly Tidings For November 13, 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!

**The Trinity Lutheran Mission Endowment** Committee has made the following distributions.

- Sugar Creek Bible Camp for disaster relief from flooding --\$200
- Trinity Lutheran Youth Organization --\$200
- Trinity Lutheran Church for sanctuary improvement --\$200
- ELCA Disaster Relief Fund --\$200
- Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry--\$200

These distributions represent the interest earned on donations given to the Mission Endowment Fund. This is why a gift to this fund is truly a **"gift that keeps on giving."**

**Good Gifts**--a donation of \$10 and up through the ELCA will send a gift toward a cow, chickens, pig or school supplies, water, health care or 50 other things to the desperately needy. Send in honor of friends or loved ones! CATALOGS ARE ON THE WELCOME TABLE IN THE HALL FOR YOU.

## Needed

Are you creative, enjoy scrapbooking or just need something to do? Well, do we have a job for you! We are looking for someone to take charge of the bulletin boards in the main entrance, for those in the military and new babies in the congregation. No experience needed! Please call the Office if you can help.

## Directories

We want to have a copy of each of our congregational pictorial directories in our Archive's. We now have a copy of 1993, 1999, 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2016. We do not know if there were other years they were done. If you have any of another date, please call the Office and possibly we can get a few of each year donated to the church.

## Food Pantry Donations:

One of the ministries at Trinity is donating food and toiletry items to the Ecumenical Food Pantry in Sparta. As part of our November Fall décor at Trinity we are once again emphasizing, **"Trinity Cares"** by lining our halls and worship area with brown bags of food items. Gardens are now put to rest but our church members will help fill the bags for others. Monetary donations that are used for fresh produce and meats can be given by writing a check to Trinity and writing **"Food Pantry"** on your memo line. If you know of a family that can use a bag of groceries please inform the church office. You may get a brown bag from the food cart by the church office or bring one from home... Happy Shopping for Others, **Trinity Cares!**

*"God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God's many kinds of blessings."* 1 Peter 4:10

## Loose Change – November 20

Trinity's loose change offering on November 20th will help fund the St. Clare Mission prescription costs. Clinic patients receive six weeks of medications from the onsite licensed pharmacy at no charge the night of their visit. Volunteer pharmacists fill 35 - 50 prescriptions each evening clinic. Trinity's loose change offering will be the gift of health for many people in Monroe County.

## From the Office

Just a few reminders...

Articles for *December Tidings* are due by November 15.

Articles for *January Tidings* are due by December 20.

Reports for the *Annual Report* are due by December 30.

The church office will be closed on November 24-25. It will reopen on Monday, November 28.

## Fellowship at the Fireplace

Fellowship at the Fireplace will be at Jake's Northwoods on November 17 at 5:30 pm. Please join up for a night of good food and fellowship. If you have somewhere else in the community you think we should try, please let someone on fellowship committee know.

## Praise and Pie



Please join us for fellowship and pie after Thanksgiving Eve Service. If you are able to bake a pie or two (use disposable tins), donate whip cream or help serve, please call Renee Gavilan at 608-487-2387 or sign up on the sheet available in the Narthex.

*Those for whom we are praying...*

*For Ed Peterson, Kathleen Sumrall, Pastor Gerald (Jerry) Nordsiek, Jr  
and Joanne Dexter.*

*Altar flowers were picked up by Barb and Jim Moorhead.*

*Altar flowers last Sunday were given by Edie Habegger in memory of Ruby Meiller.*

*Altar flowers this week were given by Dennis and Carol Glaman in Thanks.*

## Youth & Family Announcements for the week of November 13, 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](mailto:thehyattfive@gmail.com) for additional information.

We are in need of empty, medium-sized boxes for our upcoming **Reverse Advent** project, & we need them big enough to hold a month's supply of non-perishable food items. Please bring the boxes in by Wednesday, November 16. Our JAM kids will decorate the boxes, & then each family is welcome to take one home. During each day of Advent, put a canned good or another non-perishable food item in your box, & at the end of Advent, we will collect everything together to be donated to our Ecumenical Food Pantry. We encourage EVERYONE to get involved in this awesome & worthy cause of reaching out to serve our brothers & sisters in need!

Help our youth continue to build our **PYRAMID OF CARING** in the Youth Room. Non-perishable food items (canned goods, etc.) will be collected throughout the month of November as we reach out with loving hands and hearts to help feed our hungry brothers & sisters in Christ. Remember that we are blessed to be a blessing, & let's all be a blessing to others as God has called us!

### **Trinity Cares**

Thanksgiving & Christmas projects are being planned by our teams of youth & adults, & we'd love for you to get involved, too! We welcome all ages! Our hope is to assemble "gifts of love" food baskets for families at Thanksgiving. Once again, we will reach out to sponsor families at Christmas with our "Trinity Cares" tree that will be full of tags with needs. Please talk to Michelle if you would like to become more involved in these most worthy causes of supporting & lifting up our brothers & sisters in Christ! Help us answer the call of serving one another through God's love!

### **SAVE THE DATE!! Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>**

Join us for our annual **COOKIE DECORATING** day starting at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall! If you are able, please bring one dozen, unfrosted cookies. All are welcome as we join our hands for a fun time frosting cookies and making delicious treats to sell at our upcoming Bake Sale as well as deliver to our shut-ins & families we will be sponsoring at Christmas. Let's all reach out to share God's love!

### **Challenged By Trials, Strengthened in Hope**

*"You turned my lament into dancing; You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, so that I can sing to You and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise You forever."*  
Psalm 30:11-12

We all know that falling short of our expectations leads to disappointment. However, if we keep looking forward to even a small hope of success, we'll often be glad we did.

King David knew about keeping his eyes fixed on his goal. Even though he had been chosen by God to lead his people, he faced many struggles and much grief along the way. However, when he cried out to God in his pain and clung to the hope found in Him, David's mourning was turned into dancing.

The Son of David, Jesus Christ, experienced far greater trials when He came to earth. He endured the cross but submitted Himself to God for the joy that was set before him (Hebrews 12:2). He also knew that mourning would soon be turned to dancing. Sometimes God changes or perspective in difficult situations so that we are able to endure them (2 Corinthians 12:7-9). Other times He relieves us by setting us free from the difficulty (Exodus 6:6).

Whatever our circumstances may be, we can submit ourselves to Him because of His love and faithfulness toward us in Jesus, offering Him thanks that His joy is our strength. As we seek Him in the midst of daily challenges, we may not be certain of when or how He will relieve us, but we can be certain that somehow, some way, He will meet us there.

Have you undergone a struggle where you have seen God working in you as a result? How can trials be beneficial? Have you allowed God to turn your sorrow into joy?

Lord, Let me recognize that You are the reason for my dance and song today so that I might praise You forever. Amen.

Further reading: Ecclesiastes 3:1-4; Isaiah 61:1-3; Jeremiah 31:4; John 16:33