

Trinity Weekly Tidings For November 20, 2016

"God's Love – Our Hearts – God's Work – Our Hands"

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

Church Website: tlcsparta.org Phone: 608-269-5081 Office Email: office@tlcsparta.org

Pastor Mark Kvale / Email: pastorkvale@gmail.com

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!

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.

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!

Help Wanted/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 1974, 1981, 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.

Loose Change Today - Trinity's loose change offering today 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 *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.**

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.



Trinity's Newest Addition... please join us in welcoming Owen Matthew Erickson to Trinity. Owen is the son of Jessica (Hemmerich) and Kyle Erickson and the grandson to Joe and Debby Hemmerich. Owen was born on November 16 and was 8 lbs 8 oz and was 21.75 inches long. Congrats to Mom and Dad!

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.

Boxes – The youth 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. The boxes are needed by November, 23.

Those for whom we are praying...

For Eleanor Hansen with the passing of her sister Marie, Dennis Kuhn, Edye Eklov,

Kathleen Sumrall, Pastor Gerald (Jerry) Nordsiek, Jr. and Joanne Dexter.

Altar flowers were picked up by Barb and Jim Moorhead. Altar flowers were given by Barb and Wayne Selbrede in memory of Ray and Evelyn Wanlass.

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of November 20, 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.

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 23. We will decorate the boxes, & then they will be available to take home from worship on Sunday, November 27. 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!

SAVE THE DATE!! Sunday, November 27th

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!

CALL A TIME OUT

"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." - Psalm 46:10 (NASB)

Solitude is a topic that has been on my heart for a long time. It seems like solitude and silence in the presence of God has become optional for us in today's productivity-driven society. Because we aren't tangibly achieving anything we can physically see, we don't think there's use in it. Or, that if we do take time out to sit silently before the Lord, it's a waste of time since we're not getting better at anything or furthering any sort of progress.

Deep down, though, I think we're all a little desperate for solitude and stillness. And that's a good thing! We should be desperate for it because we were designed by God to desire it! It's just that our world is so outcome-driven that we don't think we are allowed to take a moment's rest. What we need is for someone to tell us that it's okay to get away and unplug-for someone to give us permission to stop "doing" all the time and just rest in God's presence.

Let me be clear: You have that permission. God has given it to you. Not only is the practice of solitude Scriptural, it was actually clearly modeled by Jesus. He knew that He needed time alone with His Father if He was going to complete any of the work that He had been given. Now, that kind of thinking is completely counter to what our culture facilitates today. Our world tells us to keep "doing doing doing" and only take breaks if you're done getting ahead. (Which, let's be honest, never happens.)

We live in a busy, frantic, chaotic world, and athletics can be one of the most driven parts of it. There's always something more to do-a way we can work on our game, a new workout to try, another tournament to play in, another race to run. But we can't forget that our primary role here is not to "achieve" athletically or otherwise; it's to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength ([Mark 12:30](#)). But how can we possibly do that if we never spend time alone with Him?

Today, let's really evaluate our mindset regarding true progress and the value of solitude. And, if you're waiting for someone to give you permission to take a break, wait no more. You already have permission, and it's straight from God Himself. And that is all you need. Don't let the world drown out the voice of the Lord. Take His Word above theirs and rest in His peace.

