

Trinity Weekly Tidings For January 15, 2017

"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!

Mission Endowment Committee – The Mission Endowment Committee will have an informational meeting during coffee hour today! Please join us to learn more about the purpose of this committee and how your gifts to this mission are distributed.

Couch and Chair – We have a beige colored couch and chair that are being given away. If you are interested please call Al Jenkins at 269-6875 for more info!

Calling all Offering Counters (or those who would like to be an offering counter) – On **Monday, January 16 at 8:30 am** there will be an informal but **important** training/refresher course for everyone who does counts the offering. With it being a new year we would like to make sure all of your questions are answered and that everyone is 'on the same page'. We are requesting that all counters attend, as this is beneficial for everyone. We have an amazing group of offering counters...thank you for all you do!

Annual Meeting - The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on **Sunday January 29, 2017** immediately following the 10:30 worship service. The meeting will be held in the Sanctuary.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear the annual reports of Pastor, officers, committees and teams. We will also be electing the officers for the congregation. This year's election will be for President, Vice-President, 4 council members, 1 Personnel committee member, 2 Mission Endowment board members, 2 Sugar Creek representatives, 2 male, 2 female and 1 youth delegate to the Synod Assembly and 3 members for next year's nominating committee. The nominating committee will be meeting in December and names will be available in January about two weeks prior to the annual meeting. We will also be voting on changes to the By-laws of the Constitution and to the Constitution, the need for new furnaces and the 2017 Budget.

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

Loose Change Offering Today! - Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere to develop communities with God's people in need by building and renovating houses, so that there are decent houses in decent communities in which people can live and grow into all that God intended. Monroe County Habitat for Humanity (MCHFH) has been an affiliate since 1999 building fifteen homes in the past seventeen years throughout the county. Habitat provides a "hand up not a hand out". Partner families not only work on their home build, but they pay back MCHFH. "A Brush With Kindness" is a new MCHFH program. It was designed to help more families with smaller projects. Projects like building a ramp, cleaning a lot out, caulking windows, or doing critical repair jobs can improve the life of homeowner. The home repair project also serves low income families 25 to 50% below the median income.

MCHFH anticipates that more community volunteers will help with these smaller projects and shorter timeline. MCHFH will continue to build houses but "A Brush with Kindness" will help more families between the home builds. The January Loose Change contribution will support MCHFH commitment to safe, decent, and affordable homes.

If you know of a family for a future home build or who could benefit from the new repair focused project, contact Habitat for more eligibility information. Thanks to Kathleen Sumrall and Anita Jensen for their leadership with MCHFH.

Praying for Human Trafficking – January 11 was Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The La Crosse Women of the ELCA and the La Crosse Synod determined we would start praying for those victims of human trafficking **and continue till the Super Bowl on February 5**. Human trafficking is the second largest and fastest growing illegal trade in the world. It is a modern day form of slavery and a crime against humanity, and the symptoms are often hidden and hard to recognize. Human trafficking tends to be worse during this time of the year so our prayers for these victims are vital. A prayer for today: On this National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness, we pray for an end to human trafficking of every kind right here in our area and around the world. Help us learn about human trafficking and then see how we can help put an end to this crime that enslaves millions of girls, boys, women and men and is the second largest and fastest growing illegal trade in the world.

*Those for whom we are praying...
for Joanne Dexter, Clara Herold, Greg Hesel and Warren Isbell.
Altar flowers were given by Sandra and Jerry Osborne in loving memory
of Esther and Earl Fox and Allen Fox.
Altar flowers were picked up by Gary and Betty Peterson.*

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of January 15, 2017

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: theyattfive@gmail.com for additional information.

Our Youth & Family Ministry Team will be serving lunch at Mathew's on Wednesday, January 25, as a fundraiser for camp scholarships as well as the furnace fund. Please check out the purple "Do" sheet for how you can get involved! Remember that none of us is as good as all of us working together to bring glory to God!

Calling all Middle Schoolers! Let's go to Sugar Creek!

Friday, January 27 – Sunday, January 29

Our synod is planning a FUN retreat just for you! You are welcome to bring a friend! Some final details are still being worked out, but if you are interested, please talk to Michelle. Sugar Creek **IS** the place to be!

Calling all families! Let's go to Sugar Creek for Winter Fun Days!

Sunday, 1/29; Sunday, 2/12; Sunday, 2/26: 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Come to camp for a Sunday afternoon of snow tubing, broom ball, snow shoeing, wagon rides, & more! We have the tubes & broom ball equipment. You can bring cross country skis and/or ice skates. Enjoy a wonderful family outing or bring your church group for the day. We will serve warm drinks, a mid-afternoon lunch (chili, hot dogs, etc.), & we'll have a toasty fire ready for you. Cost: \$7 per person, \$25 family maximum (includes lunch). Talk to Michelle to get signed up for this day of FUN in the snow!