

Trinity Weekly Tidings For April 2, 2017

“God’s Love – Our Hearts – God’s Work – Our Hands”

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!

Cookies for Jail Ministry - One of the ways we can share God’s message is to share some of our baking for our “Cookies for Jail Ministry” program sponsored by the Joy Circle. They are asking you to give two or three dozen chocolate chip cookies for this project. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. Please bring your cookies to the church by **Palm Sunday, April 9**. They will be packed and delivered before Easter. Your help is greatly appreciated, especially by those who receive your gift!!



Holy Smoke – We reached our goal on the Furnace Fund three weeks ahead of our plan for Easter Sunday, our final tally on funds raised was \$24,925 as of March 27th! Thanks to all of you for your support, great team effort. Bill McClain

Help Wanted... The three evergreen trees on an edge of the parking lot have a disease and should be taken down. We need one or two people to work with Eldie Erickson on this on any date that all can make. He has a chain saw and trailer so you can help if you have more of that equipment or not. Call Eldie or the Office if you can help and also if you have the name of someone to grind the stumps. Thank you.

Annual Book Sale - Matching Funds Book Sale will be on **Sunday, April 30th and Sunday, May 7th**. This is our annual fund raiser for the Matching Funds. Donations of paperback and hardcover fiction books, children’s books, cookbooks, and DVDs will be accepted until mid-April. Please place books in the box by the front entrance.

Rewarding Opportunity – Parish Ed is looking for people to join their team. If you are interested please call Anita Jensen or Mary Herrman.

Those for whom we are praying...

For Russ Bernett, Nancy Dickenson, Jack Benning, Austin Zwiefel, Pauline Haug, Ed Peterson and Amy Mosley Erickson. Altar flowers were picked up by Gary and Carol Haskins.

Youth & Family Announcements for the week of April 2, 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: thehyattfive@gmail.com for additional information.

Any young person currently in grades 7 – 11 interested in going to the **2018 Houston Youth Gathering** can start their fundraising efforts by selling candy bars. Please talk to Michelle to pick up a box. Also, the first NON-REFUNDABLE deposit of \$150 is due on Sunday, April 30. From there, we will figure out our timeline together as we plan out this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime trip for YOU!! Please talk to Michelle if you have any questions or concerns. Keep up online with the Gathering at: www.elca.org/gathering.

Join us next Sunday for our annual Palm Sunday Breakfast!

Bring your family! Bring your friends!

9:00 – 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall

We will also have our annual **EGG HUNT** for our young friends up to grade 5 following our 10:30 worship service next Sunday. Older youth will be needed to help hide the eggs. As long as the weather cooperates, the hunt will be held outside on the church property. If not, the hunt will move to the Fellowship Hall & Ed Wing. Either way, it’s the day the Lord has made, so let us rejoice & be glad in it!

Sugar Creek Bible Camp, here we come!

Summer Camp Catalogs can be found outside of the Youth Room, & all of the important information is found in it. You can also check it out on the web: www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org. Trinity Weeks are June 18 - 23 & July 9 - 14, & Explorer dates are being finalized, so please stay tuned for them! Grab a friend, & get registered NOW for the week that works best for you! Help us reach our goal of sending 50 amazing young people to camp!

Save the dates for FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) Camp!

It will be Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29, on the beautiful Luther campus in Decorah, IA. Check out the website at: www.fcacamps.org. Boys can choose from the following sports: basketball, baseball, cross country, football, soccer, or tennis. Girls can choose from the following sports: basketball, cross country, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, or volleyball. To get registered, please fill out the camp brochure found outside of the Youth Room, & return it to Michelle with your \$100 deposit. Checks can be made payable to "FCA." Help us fill the bus on our journey to camp!

As always, scholarships are available for ALL kids wanting to go to either camp. There are also fundraising opportunities to help offset the cost of camp. Please mark your calendars for the following fundraiser: Sunday, April 9 (Palm Sunday Breakfast & Egg Hunt). We are also going to sell candy bars as an individual fundraiser. Please let Michelle know if you would like to participate in either of these fundraisers to help towards your camp costs. We want every young person to get to experience camp, & if you want to go to camp, please know that our awesome, supportive congregation WILL get you there!

In the Midst of the Impossible – Fear No Evil -J Barnes

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." –Psalm 23:4

As athletes, we all experience fear. Whether it's the fear of injury, fear of failure, fear of disappointing others, it doesn't matter. It comes in all forms! When I was 17 years old, I was a highly recruited Division 1 football prospect out of California. On the last play of the last game of my high school career, I pinched my spinal cord and was paralyzed from the waist down. At that point, I wasn't even worried about losing my scholarships; I was more afraid of never being able to walk again.

Thankfully, God laid His healing hands on me. I raised my hands in my wheelchair and prayed to Him, telling Him that I would, just as it says in Psalm 23:4, "fear no evil, for thou art with me." After I left it all in God's hands, He blessed me with the ability to walk again. I was told that I would never be able to lift weights or run again, let alone play college sports. Much to everyone's surprise, however, I recovered fully from my injury and went on to play football at Washington State University. In an unexpected turn of events, I had to give up football just weeks later to return home and care for my mother, who was dying from ovarian cancer. She passed away 12 days before my 19th birthday with her unyielding faith.

After that, I never thought I would play sports again due to my previous physical injury and my internal fear of failure, which I would not have to face without the support of my mother. Once again, though, I raised my hands and prayed to the Lord: "I will **FEAR NO EVIL**, for thou art with me."

Later, I began attending the University of Alabama—which has always been one of my dream schools—and joined their club lacrosse team. My life is a testimony to the fact that, with God, we do not have to fear, for He casts all our fears away and leads us to the light. Whatever you are going through, never doubt that your prayers are being heard. The Lord does care about you! Whenever you feel fear in your heart, raise your prayers to the Lord Most High. Tell Him you trust Him and will walk confidently in His ways regardless of the circumstances. Never forget that He has a reason for everything. As Christians, we know that we will be put in harm's way daily, but, with Him as our sword and shield, we can **FEAR NO EVIL!** To God be the glory!

What is your biggest fear? Have you ever talked to God about this fear? Do you trust Him regardless of the circumstances? What would your life be like if you truly trusted God and didn't allow fear to dictate your actions?

Further reading – Deuteronomy 31:6; Isaiah 41:13; Matthew 17:14-20; Luke 1:37