



# TRINITY TIDINGS

December, 2017

*Believing in Christ, we are called to grow  
and are sent to serve.*

## Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh.

A while back I was part of conversation between three people, one of whom was wrestling with their faith in God. All three of us grew up in a church, we still participate in some way in the life of a church, we are comfortable talking about God and faith.

The one with the deep questions was speaking out of a deep frustration with their life, the news, a couple broken relationships in their orbit (to name only a few). This one was voicing a doubt in God's ability to be present in the midst of pain and disappointment, as well as a general lack of trust that we humans care much for each other.

The one with the questions was venting and for good reasons. I have had similar needs to vent my steam toward God, I can only imagine you have had those moments, too. Life is out of control, bills are piling up, people we love treat us poorly, words of war and divisions among people get thrown through our newsfeeds, the car won't start. It can all add up.

The one with the most to say about God was then asked by the second friend, "Why not just give up on God? If you think God has given up on you, become an atheist or something."

"Because I can't. I already know about God."

We can't help ourselves, we know too much. We've seen too much. We've heard too many times that we are loved by God. We've talked to God more often than we can count.

Friends, you and I, like my two friends and I in this conversation, have been encountered by God and now we can't turn back. We can't go a different path. We can't unknow God's Grace.

That's not to say that we haven't fallen away from God. Maybe we haven't shadowed a church door in years or we've denied God's nearness to our life. Maybe we got tired of all the churchy words that don't sound like our words. Maybe we got pushed out by cranky church members who had forgotten their promise of forgiveness.

We take our path, we walk our roads, we move in and out of belief in God. And yet, somewhere in our hearts and our heads we have experienced God's love. And especially this season of Advent, when we wait (im)patiently for the good news of Christ's birth, we are confronted by the depths of God's love for us. That our LORD who crafts the heavens and the earth cares for us with such compassion that God enters our daily lives and becomes us. Not like us, not a shadow of us, not a vision of our best selves.

Jesus comes to be us. With all our doubts. With all of our frustrations at God and our neighbors and the world. With all our hang ups, our addictions, our mistakes, our sadness. With all our joy, our loved ones, our enduring hope.

We can't help ourselves, we keep being turned back to God. Because God comes to be us.

In this December season, try giving it all, whatever it is, to our God who loves you. If it's been awhile, give worship for God another go. Come, bring your questions. Come, revel in the mercy and Grace that God continues to offer all of us. Come, be with God who knows you.

## RESPONDING TO GOD

*Our Mission Support dollars are used by the ELCA churchwide organization to fund new congregations like Misión Pan de la Vida.*

One Sunday every month, a small group of Lutherans congregates in the parking lot of the Home Depot in Passaic, N.J., before services start at St. John Lutheran Church. They're not there to buy home supplies—they're there to worship.

Four years ago when St. John was looking for a way to become more integrated in its community, the congregation came up with the idea of a breakfast ministry. Their first attempt at breakfast after church didn't bring any visitors. Then a member suggested taking food to the Home Depot parking lot, as there were always day laborers who waited there to be picked up for jobs, and they could use a good breakfast.

"Sure enough, they welcomed us," said Jay Unzaga, the congregation's former pastor. "From that Sunday on, St. John hasn't stopped going there in four years and feeds a hot breakfast to about 40 to 50 men every week." In addition to sharing breakfast, the community worships together once a month. "We do a holy service of word and sacrament in about 15 minutes right there in the parking lot," Unzaga said.

They call the ministry Misión Pan de la Vida (Mission Bread of Life). The worship services are led in Spanish, and Unzaga always invites the men to take part by reading a lesson or helping serve communion. "Imagine how hard it is to get a reader out of a parking lot when most of them didn't go past elementary school," he said. "But the Holy Spirit always provides and these men do it for the glory of God."

Holding worship in a parking lot brings an array of variables that can't be controlled—whether it be interruptions when a van approaches to pick up some workers or if store security asks the group to move. "To go to a parking lot and claim that as the house of the Lord is powerful and beautiful, especially in the dead of winter," Unzaga said. "To share the cup of salvation with our immigrant neighbors in the snow is just a humbling and beautiful sight."



Who Is My Neighbor? You will want to clear your calendars for this important conversation with Rev. Brant Clements about our relationships with people of the Muslim faith. Rev. Clements is well versed in Islamic traditions and practices, has taught a recurring course on the topic at Sauk Valley CC, has spoken at synod events and would love to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with us. Rev. Clements will worship with us Sunday, January 21, then we'll reset our worship space for his discussion. Come with your questions and your readiness to learn.



## STUDY SMALL CATECHISM WITH COUNCIL

This month the Council is studying the Eighth Commandment. You are invited to read through the 10 Commandments on your own as we Grow together in faith.

**8<sup>th</sup> Commandment:** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. Luther writes, "We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

### DEEP DIGS

#### (ADULT LEARNING)

#### SCRIPTURE AND SCIENCE: PUTTING A FACE ON GOD

SUNDAY, DEC 3, 11:00 AM



I have always been fascinated with exploring the world around me. I wanted to understand how things worked. Why do the leaves fall? Where did this snow come from? Why is there a crack in the sidewalk? I wanted to understand the world around me. If I asked a science teacher about what I had observed, he or she would explain the science behind the falling of the leaves or the production of snow. If I asked a pastor or other person at church they would explain these events as God's work and God's creation. Which is correct?,,,science, theology, both, neither? Join me for a discussion about God and science. How do the two relate and what does this mean for us as children of God and followers of Christ?

Bring your questions and thoughts. Bring a friend.  
Bring your coffee.  
See you there!  
Vicar Karyn

### DEEP DIGS SPECIAL PRESENTATION Topic: My Muslim Neighbor

Sunday, January 21, 11:00 am

## FROM VICAR KARYN

### Psalm 139: The INESCAPABLE GOD

*“O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
3 You search out my path and my lying down,  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
4 Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O Lord, you know it completely.  
5 You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
7 Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
9 If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
10 even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
11 If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and the light around me become night’,  
12 even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.*

As many of you already know, I am taking an online course this semester titled, *Where Scripture and Science Meet*. As a class we have spent some time talking through many of the common topics that are cause for debate between theologians and scientists. We have discussed the existence and creation of the universe, evolution, intelligent design, quantum physics, miracles and human sexuality.

Our discussions about quantum physics and Psalm 139 have been most intriguing to me. Quantum physics being the study of the smallest forms of energy and matter and Psalm 139 being a beautiful psalm about creation make an interesting pair.

I have read Psalm 139 many times because it is one of my favorite psalms, but I have never read it with quantum physics in mind. The psalm speaks to how God knows us intricately and intimately as individuals, the children God created us to be and how God is present with us wherever we go. We are fearfully and wonderfully made, and in order to create us God worked with the tiniest parts of matter and energy – the parts we study with quantum physics.

Scientists and theologians have been studying the beginning of this universe for a long time – trying to form observations and conclusions about how we came to be and what makes us who we are. We strive to gain a better understanding.

In 139:6 the psalmist expressed that God’s knowledge is not something the Psalmist can attain – that God’s “knowledge is too wonderful” and in 139:14 the psalmist expressed that God’s works are well known. While the knowledge God has is not some thing that we humans can have – neither as a gift, nor as something we obtain or earn, we know God’s works – we see and experience God’s action, even if we can’t understand what God understands.

*13 For it was you who formed  
my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my  
mother’s womb.*

*14 I praise you, for I am fearfully  
and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that  
I know very well.*

*15 My frame was not hidden from you, when I was be-  
ing made in  
secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.*

*16 Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your  
book were written all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.*

*17 How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!*

*18 I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.*

*19 O that you would kill the wicked, O God,  
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—*

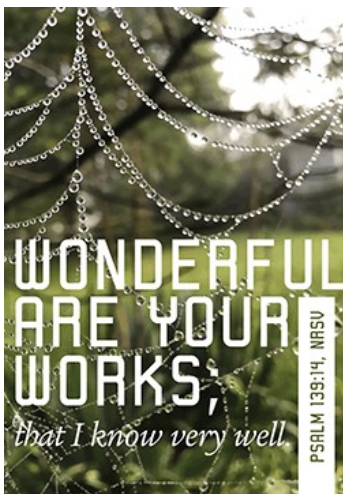
*20 those who speak of you maliciously,  
and lift themselves up against you for evil!*

*21 Do I not hate those who hate you, O Lord?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?*

*22 I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.*

*23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.*

*24 See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting” (NRSV, Psa 139).*



*(continued on page 4)*

(continued from page 3)

As we are preparing ourselves for the celebration that is the Christmas season, marking the birth of our Lord, I can't help but think that the "knowledge is too wonderful" that knowing the story of Jesus – Emmanuel – God with us, is knowing one of the greatest works of God (let's not forget the resurrection and creation) and it is too wonderful for me.

The birth of Jesus is a birth of the ages. From afar it looks, feels, smells, and sounds just like any other birth, but amidst the details of the story we learn about Mary and Joseph – teenagers who were not yet married, but now about to have a child, the angel Gabriel – who announces these events to Mary, and Jesus who is Emmanuel, God with us, the one who is the Messiah.

The "knowledge is too wonderful...it is so high that [we] cannot attain it" (NRSV 139:6). We, as humans cannot attain the knowledge that Jesus is the Son of God, so God must come to us. This Advent season we prepare again for the celebration and worship of a God who comes to us when we are not able to go to God. God's gift to us is so much more than the knowledge of God – it is the gift of God's presence, a gift we can feel, hear, smell, taste, and see. God's gift is a gift that is in all of the details, the smallest parts of matter and energy!

Vicar Karyn

# FAITH5 – "EVERY NIGHT IN EVERY HOME"



- Share** (highs and lows).
- Read** (a Bible verse or story).
- Talk** (about the Bible reading).
- Pray** (for each other).
- Bless** (one another).

5 formative steps that may take 5 minutes or much longer before supper or getting into bed. Look for the book marks in the pews and take one home for your own use. Use the verse of the week found at the top of every Refrigerator Reminders as a way to open the Bible together. Take 5 to Faith 5 as a family, with friends, on your own.

## PONSETTIA ORDER

### FORM



**(Due to Office by Dec 3rd)**

Help us decorate the church sanctuary with red poinsettias for Christmas. Five to eight bloom average in an 8" pot with traditional wrap of foil costs **\$13.00 each**.

Please turn in your order form with money or check (payable to Trinity Lutheran Church/Flowers to the office by **December 3rd**. Plants will be purchased from *The Flower Patch* in Oregon, IL.

Please designate how you would like the plant(s) to be listed in the bulletin:

To the Glory of God....

1. and in loving memory of \_\_\_\_\_

2. and in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

3. and in thankfulness to God for \_\_\_\_\_

Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be taken home after the 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion Service. \_\_\_ Will Take \_\_\_ Won't Take

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of plants ordered

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount



**MINISTRY CAFÉ**  
**DEC 3, 2017**  
**(1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH)**

Please join the Outreach & Social Ministries Committees for our Ministry Café. The Café is a regular fund raiser that we are coordinating with our regular ministries the Noisy Offering collects for during Sat & Sun services. This will be our third monthly café.

We are offering treats such as home baked goods, breakfast casseroles and coffee to enjoy while socializing with fellow members and guests **starting at 8:30 AM and serving until the 9:30 worship service starts.**

This is a “Free Will Offering.” Your generosity is very much appreciated!

**Interested in donating a baked treat or a breakfast casserole** to help raise money for the current ministry? Please see the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside of the Chapel. Thank you for your support!



**ADVENT DEVOTIONS FOR YOUR HOME**

The season of Advent is great time in our faith calendar to add a small, meaningful discipline to our routines. Consider including one of these in your weekly or daily

pattern as a way to prepare your home for the arrival of our Lord on Christmas.

**Advent Wreath** – All your home needs is four blue candles and four white candles, maybe 12 small votive candles for the 12 days of Christmas. Each blue candle represents a Sunday in Advent (just like the candles in worship) and on Christmas Eve the blue candles can be replaced with white ones. Find a time to light the candle(s) each night, maybe before supper or going to bed. Read the scripture texts appointed for the week (below) and offer the prayer for the week (below). Since this your devotion, add your own prayers, consider singing/humming a song and give thanks that Christ is coming to be among us.

**Candle Lighting Prayers:**

Week #1 (Dec 3) – Lord Jesus we do not lack any spiritual gift as we wait for your coming. Keep us awake and help us use our gifts to serve those who look for the dawn of your justice and mercy. Amen.

Week #2 (Dec 10) – God our shepherd, gather us as lambs in your arms. Forgive our sins so that we may rejoice in your coming. Amen.

Week #3 (Dec 17) – Lord Jesus, you continue to do great things for us. Give us your gift of peace as we await your coming. Amen.

Week #4 (Dec 24) – God our Savior, nothing is impossible for you. Prepare our hearts to rejoice in your glorious advent. Amen.

Week #5 (Dec 31) – Lord God, may your Word become flesh through our lives so that we may see him the fullness of his glory. Amen.

**Daily Scripture Readings:**

Week 1 Sunday, December 3: Isaiah 64:1-9  
 Monday, December 4: Psalm 80:1-7  
 Tuesday, December 5: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
 Wednesday, December 6: Mark 13:24-37  
 Thursday, December 7: Psalm 85:8-13  
 Friday, December 8: Jeremiah 1:4-10  
 Saturday, December 9: Ezekiel 36:24-28

Week 2 Sunday, December 10: Mark 1:1-8  
 Monday, December 11: Isaiah 40:1-11  
 Tuesday, December 12: Psalm 27  
 Wednesday, December 13: Luke 1:5-17  
 Thursday, December 14: Habakkuk 2:1-4  
 Friday, December 15: Philippians 3:12-16  
 Saturday, December 16: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Week 3 Sunday, December 17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
 Monday, December 18: Psalm 126  
 Tuesday, December 19: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
 Wednesday, December 20: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
 Thursday, December 21: Luke 1:26-38  
 Friday, December 22: Luke 1:39-45  
 Saturday, December 23: Luke 1:46-55

Week 4 Sunday, December 24: Luke 2:1-20  
 Monday, December 25: John 1:1-14  
 Tuesday, December 26: Psalm 148  
 Wednesday, December 27: 1 John 1:1-9  
 Thursday, December 28: Jeremiah 31:15-17  
 Friday, December 29: Isaiah 49:5-15  
 Saturday, December 30: Psalm 148

Week 5 Sunday, December 31: Isaiah 61:10—62:3  
 Monday, January 1: Galatians 4:4-7  
 Tuesday, January 2: Luke 2:22-40  
 Wednesday, January 3: Psalm 110  
 Thursday, January 4: Isaiah 60:1-6  
 Friday, January 5: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14  
 Saturday, January 6: Matthew 2:1-12

## USHER/GREETER PLAN

Our Council President, Al Ulferts, has devised a plan to ensure we have ushers and greeters each and every week of the year. We'd love for **you** to be part of it.

We need **20 people to commit to usher during the year.**

If you signed up to be an usher/greeter at our first Ministry Fair last May, we have already reached out to you with an email or phone call. If you did not sign up, NOW is your chance to join a team! Here is how it will work:

Four (4) permanent teams of 5 ushers each, and each of those teams will usher three (3) months of the year - not 3 months in a row. (See proposed Schedule below) With 5 members on each team, this allows members to trade Sundays off and allow for 5 members to usher on the special days when communion is held at the rail

Team 1 would usher: Jan, May & Sep

Team 2 would usher: Feb, Jun & Oct

Team 3 would usher: Mar, Jul & Nov

Team 4 would usher: Apr, Aug & Dec

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board outside the office, or, call the church office (815-734-6354) or email us at [trinitymm@frontier.com](mailto:trinitymm@frontier.com) and we'll get you connected.



## PAJAMA PROJECT 2017

Since 2013, Trinity has been committed to providing pajamas to community children through our Pajama Project.

We would like to provide a Christian book with each pair of pajamas as we have been able to do the past two years.

A warm pair of pajamas and a good book is a tangible expression of a community expressing God's love. We will be collecting money for the purchase of pajamas and the books throughout November and into December.

**\$25 will sponsor a new pair of pajamas and a new book.** Please make checks payable to Trinity, and note "for pajama project" on the check. There are also envelopes available for cash donations. You may place them in the offering plate or leave in the office.

**Pajamas will be wrapped & delivered Saturday, Dec 16th.** If you would like to help with this project, please contact Melody Dula at 815-994-8837 or the church office at the number above.

## ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

On All Saints' Weekend, November 4 & 5, we remembered with prayer and thanksgiving the members and friends of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church who have been laid to rest from their earthly labors, and who are now in God's eternal care and keeping. In the midst of our memories of those who have gone ahead, we also remember our people among us who have been newly washed in your holy Baptism.

### MEMBER LOVED ONES (Nov 6, 2016 - Nov 5, 2017)

Helen Borneman (November 22, 2016)

Robert Stouffer (March 3, 2017)

Francis Michael (March 16, 2017)

Gladys Osborne (June 7, 2017)

Margaret Potts (July 15, 2017)

Wendell Voss (August 14, 2017)

### NON-MEMBER LOVED ONES (Nov 6, 2016 - Nov 5, 2017)

Charles Carlson (April 15, 2017)

Virginia Bradford (June 16, 2017)

Jarmanda Danielowski (June 20, 2017)

Harry Schelling (July 11, 2017)

Dennis Wurster (August 17, 2017)

H. Fern Sellers (October 11, 2017)

Amos Taylor (October 26, 2017)

### BAPTISMS (Nov 6, 2016 - Nov 5, 2017)

Fiona James Guist (April 15, 2017)

Sterling Broughton Guist (April 15, 2017)

### BAPTISMS (Continued)

Jeremiah Theodore Anderson (April 22, 2017)

Luke Nelson Zadlo (October 7, 2017)

### MEMORIAL GIFTS USED 2017

Doris Kuntzelman (printer ink & file jackets for choir Library & hymnal bookplates)	\$96.95
Mt. Morris Jamboree-Fri. Concerts)	\$125.00
Everett Lundin (2 air cond. VBS & S.S.)	\$583.41
William "Ole" Hiteman (Plaque—annual Hiteman Scholarships)	\$353.50
Helen Borneman (5 trees for church lawn)	\$989.96
Mary Louise Stengel, & John Sundvall, (Chancel Choir Music)	\$127.71
John Sundvall & Doris Kuntzelman (Chancel Choir Music)	\$123.85
Robert Stouffer (Village of Progress-Flood Damage)	\$315.00
Art & Grace Dietz (1 year movie license)	\$235.00



# YOUTH GROUP – SET YOUR CALENDARS

**Saturday, December 16, 4pm @ Trinity**

Our gathering December 16 will be a white elephant party. What in the world is that? Google it! It's a party in which we each bring an object of minimal value that we unload on a friend. The challenge is to see how ridiculous the gifts can be. Bring a friend, they can bring a bad gift, too. We'll have holiday food, you can even wear an ugly sweater (unless it's a real sweater, then we promise we won't call it ugly).

# ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL DAY FOR "BE THE CHURCH"

Despite being rained out on October 22nd, Trinity tried again the following Sunday and accomplished a LOT in a little time!

"I thank you for weeding my flower garden and washing my windows. I have appreciated all your hard work. Thank you and God bless you."

Sincerely,  
Margie Stouffer



Highway 64 clean-up is always a part of the day.

Many tasks were done at David L Rahn Jr. High. Floyd had helpers with the church lawn, and the day concluded with a pizza lunch!



# MONTHLY THIRD FRIDAY FREE MOVIE NIGHT



**Friday, December 15, 7:00 pm**

**This is for Everyone of Any Age!**  
We meet in basement Fellowship Hall.

**Free Popcorn & Kool-Aid or Juice!**

**Doors Open at 6:45 pm and Close promptly at 9:00 pm**

Watch the weekly reminders for this month's movie title!

Please note, unless the movie is rated **G**, if your child is under the age of 18 and will be attending without a parent, he/she must have a completed Permission Form **when they come that evening**. Children who come without a completed form will need to go home to have one completed.

Permission forms are on the church's website each month. [www.trinitymm.net](http://www.trinitymm.net). Thank you.



## TWELCA

T.W.E.L.C.A. stands for Trinity Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



**Dorcas group** meets the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:00 am. at the church. They are studying A Stand-up Comic Sits Down with Jesus, a devotional booklet.

**Naomi group** meets the 4th Monday at 1:00 pm from April through November at the church. Their studies are taken from *Gather* magazine (publish. by ELCA.)

**Both groups invite all women to join them!**



On Sat. Nov 18th, 17 women enjoyed a Thanksgiving breakfast & short program at Sunrise Restaurant in Oregon.

The Dorcas & Naomi groups invite all women to join them for their next Combined gathering in December. See below!



## LADY'S BOOK CLUB NEWS

Due to the busy holiday season, the book club will **not** meet in Dec.

We will resume in January, so please watch for details as we re-organize for the new year.

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB



The next meeting of the Breakfast Club will be **Saturday, December 9, at 8:00 am.** We will meet at **Fiesta Palace Rest.** in Mt. Morris. We will order from the menu. Each person is responsible for cost of his/her meal. **Everyone is welcome!**

### QUILT GROUP



The fall session of the Quilt Group wrapped up their weekly sessions on November 15th.

Please watch the Tidings for when the spring session begins. They always welcome sheets in good shape to use for quilt backs and material in good shape for cutting into squares.

### DEEP BREATHING & MEDITATION WORKSHOP

Gregorian chanting provided a soothing background, as Pastor Frank Lay welcomed the 10 attendees, then lit a candle to further the experience. Pastor Lay introduced the group chanting, meditation, slow walking and the "how to and why" deep breathing is vital. He also demonstrated a Himalayan Singing Bowl and explained why labyrinths are a spiritual process. We learned that Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) located just south of Oregon, has a labyrinth on the prairie.

Thank you Pastor Lay, for taking your time to share this interesting and vital workshop with us. As Pastor Lay said, "the more you believe you are too busy to take the time to meditate, attend a spiritual retreat, etc.. the more you NEED to."

### WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS COFFEE MONDAY DECEMBER 11th, 10:00 am

All women are invited to join the Dorcas & Naomi Groups for a light "breakfast" of coffee cake & coffee in the Chapel (gathering space)

The program will be Jan Dietrich, sharing her experiences with the Las Vegas Shooting and Missouri Spring Flooding as a member of the Special Disaster Child Care Team through the Brethren Church. Please RSVP to Carol Reckmeyer or the church office by noon on **Dec 8th.**





## LOAVES & FISH FOOD PANTRY SERVING MT. MORRIS AND LEAF RIVER



The Pantry is located on the lower level of the Church of the Brethren:  
409 W Brayton Rd, Mt. Morris.

Hours are:

1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month: 4:30 – 7 pm

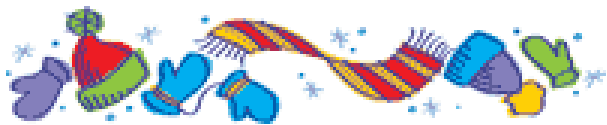
2nd & 4th Mondays of each month: 2:00 – 4:30 pm

For October, the pantry served 110 households, comprised of 294 individuals. Six new families were served, representing 16 individuals.

Loaves & Fish could use volunteers to help unload food deliveries and help in the pantry. The dates are listed on our monthly calendar.

If you would like to volunteer to help unload food deliveries or help in the pantry, please contact Trinity's Pantry Representatives: Barb Diehl 815-734-4011 or Marilyn Pazera 815-734-7268

Thank you for your contributions allowing us to give Thanksgiving meal boxes to our pantry patrons.



### HATS, MITTENS, GLOVES....NEEDED!

As the holidays approach, Loaves & Fish Food Pantry would once again like to share much needed items with our food pantry patrons. We are looking for the following **new** items to offer as a "gift" for those who have such a need. **Needed Items—All Sizes:**

**Hats, Mittens, Gloves, Scarves, Socks**

If you have any or all of these new items to donate, please bring them to the church any Sunday **thru Dec. 20th.** Thank you!

## LIFELINE FOOD PANTRY NEWS

LIFELINE is located in Conover Square at 203 N 3rd St, Suite 6, Oregon, IL. (old piano factory)

Hours are:

Tues 9:30—Noon\*; Thurs 1:30—4:30 pm  
Fri 1:30—4:30 pm\*; Sat 10:30—1:30 pm.

\*Food is available on Tuesday & Friday.

We THANK everyone who helps us. Special thanks to those who come without much notice to help unload the trucks and those who stock the shelves. Thank you also goes to our volunteers who sort the clothing and those who serve our clients. We are very grateful for all of those who help us. Thank you!

Lifeline served 293 clients for the month of October. We are in need of soda crackers, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, box type soup, cereal: hot and cold, small bars of hand soap, paper towels and toilet tissue.

Questions? call Sharon 815-222-6712.

## 13TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Sunday, December 3, 2017  
3:00 pm



Here at Trinity in Sanctuary  
(Handicap Accessible)

Under the direction of Christy Lewis, singers and musicians of high school age and up from all over Ogle County have been rehearsing.

Spend an afternoon enjoying beautiful vocal and instrumental music from "Invitation to a Miracle" as we prepare for Jesus' birth. Refreshments in basement fellowship hall following the Cantata.

**Free Admission, Free Will Offering.** After Cantata expenses, donations will benefit Loaves & Fish Food Pantry and Lifeline Food Pantry.

## COOKIES & HELPERS for CANTATA

If you signed up to provide cookies for the Cantata, please have the cookies to the church Kitchen on either Saturday, December 2nd, or by 11:00 on Sunday, December 3rd.

Helpers are needed at 11:00 on Sunday morning and again in the afternoon starting at 3:45 pm until the reception is over.

If you have not signed up, but would like to help or donate cookies, please contact the church office before noon on Friday, December 1st.



## CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



A summary of the Nov 13, 2017 Church Council Meeting:

- Devotions were from Exodus 20: 1-17 and the Small Catechism, focusing on the Ten Commandments, highlighting Commandments 5 through 7.
- Finance Committee presented motion to present congregation with 2018 Budget Proposal on the last Sunday in January for a congregational vote, with 1 to 2 informal meetings with the congregation prior to final presentation. Motion passed.
- Property Committee discussed boiler repair estimates and finding volunteers for running lift, sound operators and maintenance substitutes.
- Executive Committee approved the Youth & Ed. Committee recommendation to hire Melissa Nicholson for the Christian Education Director. Following discussion, motion passed.
- Youth/Education Committee discussed Christmas program script and music, Sunday School volunteers and using memorial money to purchase Spark Bibles.
- Outreach/Social Ministry/Stewardship Committee reported 31 people helped with "Be the Church" Sunday. The October movie night went well. The committee requested a special offering on the weekend following Thanksgiving. \$25 is needed per child. Ages served will be 0-18. Elementary school aged children will receive pj's and older children will receive hoodies.
- The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

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## NOISY OFFERING FOR DECEMBER TO SUPPORT LOAVES & FISH FOOD PANTRY

The purpose of our Noisy Offering is to teach the joy of giving to God.

Our local food pantry has been helping meet the emergency food needs of Mt. Morris and Leaf River residents every month of the year since July 2008.

During December, in addition to the noisy offering, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for the pantry. We will have a place to put the items each Saturday & Sunday. Please also see page 9 of this Tidings for more information on the pantry.

Results of November Collection for Loaves & Fish Food Pantry (as of Nov 19) = \$134.44 Ministry Café raised an additional \$21, for total of \$155.44

## FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER, 2017

Total Monthly Budget Income \$ 17,407.11  
Total Monthly Budget Expense \$ 18,562.96  
Year-to-date Budget Income \$187,759.92  
Year-to-date Budget Expense \$ 187,983.73  
Year-to-date Surplus (Deficit) \$ (223.81)

Many of us find it much easier to make online transactions than to use cash or checks. If you use direct deposit or electronic bill pay on a regular basis, please know that Trinity offers that option for regular giving as well. Talk with the church office for details and to receive the form needed to get started.

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## PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The council is pleased to announce that Melissa Nicholson has been hired as our Christian Education Director. Melissa began on November 19th, but will be officially installed at a later date. Please watch the Reminders. We will also feature Melissa in our January Tidings. Melissa grew up in Trinity, then left for college and her travels took her many places, and allowed her opportunities to share her faith and leadership talents. We are very happy to welcome her back to the community!

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## COMMITMENT CARDS REMINDER November 26, 2017

During the month of November we invited our friends and families to make a stewardship commitment to the ministries of Trinity Lutheran Church. It is because of your generosity of time, finances and prayer that we are able to serve free lunches in the summer, develop partnerships with area organizations, distribute pajamas before Christmas, and offer weekly worship and learning opportunities throughout the year.

If you have not returned your commitment card, please consider putting it by your checkbook or on your fridge. Talk about it, pray about it. Then, fill it out, mail it to the church or drop it in the offering plate. Give thanks that you are part of a strong congregation committed to Grow and Serve with our neighbors in Mt Morris and throughout the world!



# TRINITY'S SERVANTS FOR DECEMBER 2017

## Altar Guild

All month: Linda Borneman & Mary Jo Dilbeck

## Acolytes

3 Ashton Persinger  
10 Laura Wright  
17 Kendra Ehrler  
24 Laura Wright  
24 4 pm  
8 pm Alexys Davis  
31 Alexys Davis

## Ushers/ Greeters

2 Kevin Nelson 3 Ricks Family  
9 Kevin Nelson 10 Ricks Family  
16 Kevin Nelson 17 Ricks Family  
23 Kevin Nelson 24 Ricks Family  
30 Kevin Nelson 31  
Dec 24, 4 pm  
Dec 24, 8 pm

## Song Leaders & Cantors

3 Linda Borneman  
10 Steve Pearson  
17 Mary Jo Dilbeck  
24 Linda Borneman  
31 Lily Welp

## Assisting Ministers:

2 Arika Black 3 Avery Sellers  
9 Arika Black 10 Avery Sellers  
16 Arika Black 17 Avery Sellers  
23 Arika Black 24 Ashton Persinger  
Dec 24 4:00 pm Avery Sellers  
8:00 pm Kendra Ehrler

## Coffee Hour Hosts

3 Joe Dettloff  
10  
17 Sunday School Program  
Reception  
24  
31

## Blood Pressure Checks

(Normally Last Sunday of Month)

31 Robin Keene

## Pinecrest Video Ministry

11 Steve Pearson  
26 Steve Pearson

## Lector Schedule\*

3  
10 Amanda Cowen  
17  
24  
31

## \*Scripture Readings

2/3 1 Corinthians 1.3-9  
Psalm 80.1-7, 17-19  
Mark 13.24-37  
9/10 2 Peter 3.8-15  
Psalm 85.1-2, 8-13  
Mark 1.1-8  
16/17 Luke 1.46b-55  
Psalm 126  
John 1.6-8, 19-28  
23/24 Luke 1.46b-55  
Psalm 89.1-4  
Luke 1.26-38  
24 4 & 8 pm Serv. Isiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96  
Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]  
30/31 Various

## Altar Flowers

2/3 In honor of Nelson & Joanne Miller  
9/10  
16/17  
23/24 Dennis & Shirley Hoffmeister  
30/31

## Home Communion

(Normally 1st Sunday of Month)

Melody Dula  
Dave & Cindy Link  
Sandra Stengel



## **OFFICE HOURS:**

**Mon. — Thurs.**  
**8:30 am — 12:00 pm**  
**1:00 pm — 4:00 pm**

**Friday:**  
**8:00 am — 12:00 pm**

## **TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

308 East Brayton Road  
Mt. Morris, IL 61054  
815-734-6354

Email: trinitymm@frontier.com;

Website: www.trinitymm.net

Follow us on Facebook—  
facebook.com/tlcm

Instagram: trinitymtmorris

**Believing in Christ,  
we are called to grow,  
and are sent to serve.**

Ministers: All Members of  
Trinity

Pastor: Josh Ehrler

Office 815-734-6354

Email: prjoshehrler@gmail.com

Pastor Intern: Karyn Kost  
779-548-2995

Email: kkost@tsohio.edu

Christian Education Director

Melissa Nicholson

815-440-0279

melissa8305@gmail.com

Office Manager: Nancy Nelson

Office 815-734-6354

Email: trinitymm@frontier.com

Sexton: Floyd Drumheller  
815-734-6354

Parish Musician: Karen Larson  
815-734-6358

Chime Choir Director: Matt Guschl  
217-417-5952

Email: matt.guschl@gmail.com

Financial Secretary:

Louise Suttman

815-938-2650

Assistant Financial Secretary:

Linda Duffy

815-440-9503

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
308 East Brayton Road  
Mount Morris, IL 61054

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## TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### DECEMBER 2017

#### WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE (\*DETAILS INSIDE)

SATURDAY evening worship service at 5:30 pm

SUNDAY: 9:30 am Worship Service  
Fellowship Time following Worship

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:45 am (4 yrs — 6th grade)  
\*

#### WEEKLY MUSIC REHEARSALS

Chime Choir: 6:00 pm\*  
Full Chancel Choir: 7:00 pm\* (Men rehearse at 6:45 pm; Women rehearse at 7:30 pm)

Choristers: Sundays at 11:30 as an extension of Sunday School

#### UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE (\*DETAILS INSIDE)

- Sun Dec 3, Ministry Café 8:30—9:30 am\*
- Sun Dec 3, 11:00 am Deep Digs -Adult Learning\*
- Sun Dec 3, Poinsettia forms due to Office
- Sun Dec 3, 3:00 pm Community Cantata\*
- Sun Dec 10, 10:30 am Lector Training Event\*
- Fri Dec 15, 7:00 pm Third Friday Movie Night\*
- Sat Dec 16, Wrapping & delivering pajamas\*
- Sat. Dec 16, 4:00 pm Youth Group “White Elephant” Party
- Sun, Dec. 17 Sunday School Christmas Program
- Sun, Dec 24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Sun, Dec 24 8:00 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service