### TRINITY TIDINGS



January, 2018

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

### Thinking Out Loud With Pastor Josh.

I was watching a new Western on Netflix a few days ago, and in typical Western fashion, everyone was on horses. In typical Western fashion, there was a bad guy and his posse racing around doing bad and there was a good guy trying to stop him. And in typical Western fashion, it was all coming straight for a battle in a dusty, secluded mining town.

I was struck by the fact that, even though the townspeople knew this was all about to go down well in advance, they were not going to be "rescued" in time by the US Calvary that was half a state away. Because they were on horses, too. Typical.

The strange awareness I had was how much I take my car for granted. And I know, Westerns are minimally realistic and take place in the 1880's. Still, in 2018, I can drive to the ELCA offices in Chicago for a daylong meeting and be home in time to make supper. Some of us drive to Florida, Texas, or Arizona in two days and don't think much of it.

Cars have changed our economy, our work habits, our schooling, our communications. Just about everything, even the US Calvary. They are a necessary tool that we use without thought, until the day arrives when we walk outside and they won't start.

And this is only one of countless tools, skills, and resources we use that transform how we do what we do. We regularly compel ourselves to rethink how we get by in the world.

All this to say, I wonder how we as a church are being called by God to rethink the way we get by. I know that in saying it, one can assume I am arguing that we wipe the slate clean and stop all that we do. That is definitely not the case. Trinity's been in Mt Morris since 1846. That warrants some appreciation for God's staying power and trust in our work on Christ's behalf.

We don't have to throw everything out. However, we can easily recognize that churches are no longer a go-to resource for fellowship, service and hearing about God's love. And again, I am not saying we need to be like a reed blowing in the wind of culture and bend to every want.

We are being asked by our neighbors, our community, our family members who no longer see value in organized religion why we do what we do. It means we don't get to take this building, our words, our old patterns and ministries for granted anymore. It means we may need to wonder out loud how we are being Called to Grow and Sent to Serve and what that even means.

It feels awkward and a little scary to think about altering how we extend God's love. Where to begin, what needs to be addressed, what no longer connects with our people. We should probably ask our neighbors these questions. We can also, by God's wisdom, use our spiritual gifts and abundant creativity to reimagine our identity as a body of Christ.

The good news is that God is with us. God will guide us, if we are open to being led. God will forgive us when we put our faith in our patterns, and God gives us all we need. We are in the midst of changing norms and some of what we know may not be what connects with our people. Because it is for our community that we've been given this church and this good news we cherish. What an opportunity we have to put our hope in Christ and our energy into extending God's Grace in innovative, inspiring ways.

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Trust in God's Grace. Pastor Josh

#### RESPONDING TO GOD

For 2018, we are challenging our financial giving to God by doing three things:

### REFLECT, PRAY, GIVE.

#### REFLECT

Take time during the week and consider the ways Trinity has impacted our community, connected our members, and enriched our young neighbors. Whether through weekly worship, Choristers, Sunday School, YC, choirs, Summer Lunch Program, the Pajama Project or the countless ministries that often go unnamed, God is at work through this body of Christ. It is possibly why you count yourself as part of this congregation. Either directly or as a fellow disciple, God's Grace has been made abundant in your life. It is good for all of us to pause and give thanks for this glory.

**PRAY** As you are reminded in faith that life is a gift from God, ask God for the wisdom to share your life with others. Pray for the worship leaders and staff who strive every week to represent God's name in word and deed. Pray for the Council leaders who gather and consider all the ways our congregation can be a meaningful presence in Mt Morris. Pray for the visitors, the neighbors, the children, the widows, the singers and silent meditators who gather for worship and give themselves away for the glory of God.

Once you have been reconnected with **GIVE** God's abundance in your life, offering your gifts to God becomes a natural response. Each of us is invited every week in worship to consider how our money can be combined to fund great ministries, and divided out into the world for the sake of God's people. Pray with your checkbook, your wallet, your portfolio. Imagine what God is continuing to provide our community and church through Trinity's annual budget.

### STUDY SMALL CATECHISM WITH COUNCIL

In January the Council is studying the Ninth and Tenth Commandments. You are invited to read through the 10 Commandments on your own as we Grow together in faith.

9<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

10<sup>th</sup> Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs To your neighbor.





### **DEEP DIGS SPECIAL**

**PRESENTATION** Sunday, January 21, 11:00 am

**Topic: My Muslim 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.

### THANK YOU FROM PASTOR JOSH & VICAR KARYN

Every year folks are generous with your Christmas gifts and cards toward myself and my family.

Thank you for sharing your love and support to me, it is deeply appreciated.

Thank you for continuing to hold our family in your thoughts and prayers.

Pastor Josh



Merry Christmas, everyone! Thank you for your thoughtfulness! I have enjoyed the goodies and your cards! I appreciate your generosity. Sincerely,

Vicar Karyn

## INFORMAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 11:00 am

**Topic:** To Discuss Proposed 2018 Budget with

Council Members.

**Annual Reports** will be available at church on Saturday and Sunday, January 13 & 14. Please call or email the church if you need one emailed or mailed.



# OF THE CONGREGATION SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017 10:45 am in the Church Sanctuary

The primary items on the agenda will be the adoption of the 2018 budget and the election of Council members.

### RECRUITING CHURCH COUNCIL CANDIDATES

It's not too late! Please consider putting your name up for election!

The 3-year service terms for four of our council members are completed in January: Those who have faithfully served are: Ellen Finfrock, Joshua Keene, Ron Lewis and Rob Urish.

Four new members will be elected at the January Annual Congregational meeting.

If you have questions regarding being a Council member, please contact Pastor or any of the 12 present members. The other 8 are:

Linda Borneman Melody Dula Dave Link Joe Ricks Joe Dettloff Tom Dula Leonard Martin Al Ulferts



### LOOKING FORWARD TO LENT

Merry Christmas! I hope all of your celebrations have been safe and enjoyable. My time here is flying by and Lent is just around the corner. I know, you are probably thinking that we are just barely into Christmas and it is too

early to be thinking about Lent, but hang in there with me.

This year for Lent, we will be focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures which tell story after story about God's covenant with the people of Israel and thus with us. As we celebrate the arrival of our Lord incarnate, through whom God has made the ultimate covenant with us, we prepare to explore again the meaning of our baptisms into the death and resurrection of Christ. Mark your calendars for Wednesday nights (Feb 14-Mar 21) and Sunday mornings (Feb 18– Apr 1) so you can join us in worship! 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.

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018, 9 am - 12 pm (Location TBA)

All newly elected and returning council members will gather for prayer, election of officers and planning for our 2018 year at Trinity.

We appreciate your prayers!

### MEET OUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Who is Melissa? Whether you have known her for her entire life or you haven't had the chance to meet her yet, we would like to introduce our new Christian Education Director, Melissa Nicholson!

Melissa is a daughter of Trinity, but after graduating from Oregon High School in 2001 she has been on many adventures. We are so glad that God has finally brought her back to us. Here are some pictures to help you get an idea of what Melissa has done over the past 15 years...Feel free to ask her if you want to know more and be sure to remind her of your name!



(More pictures are on the board in the belltower hallway)





### THANK YOU

to the following people for placing poinsettias at the altar this Christmas:



- \*In loving memory of Janice Baker, Lillian Baker, Dallas Baker & Jeanne Baker, by Robert Baker
- \*In loving memory of my loving wife, Elsie G., by Joseph Dettloff
- \*In loving memory of Lois Steffen, and in thankfulness to God for our friends and family, by Robert & Amanda Cowen
- \*In loving memory of Emerson & Helen Borneman, Phyllis Dilbeck and Betty Dilbeck, by Dan, Mary Jo and Carolyn Dilbeck
- \*In loving memory of Scott Beaty and Art & Grace Dietze, by Jack & Val Glotfelty
- \*In loving memory our parents, Hollie & Janet Guist and Bruce & Jane Schultz, by Hollie & Anne Guist
- \*To the Glory of God, by Frank & Carrie Lay
- \* In loving memory of My Sweet Jimmie Mongan
   & My Loving parents, Leone & Al Larson, by Marcia Mongan
- \*In loving memory of my grandchildren, Joshua Branthaver & Angela Richards; and in thankfulness to God for Rob, Joshua & RJ Keene, by Ruth Myers
- \*In loving memory of Everett & Wilda Lundin, & Leland Nelson, by Kevin, Larry & Nancy Nelson
- \*In loving memory of our parents, John & MaryLee Condit; and Dick & Ethel Robinson, and by Brother, Scott Condit, by Rick & Julie Robinson.
- \*In honor of Ruth Stauffer & in loving memory of Clarence Stauffer, by their family
- \*In loving memory of Oren & Mary Louise Stengel, and in thankfulness to God for Trinity's council members, Sunday School teachers and clergy for their spiritual leader ship, by Sandra Stengel
- \*In loving memory of our sons: Jim and Thaddeus and in honor of our son Seth, & our grand children: Stephanie, Brett, Stephanie, Lauren & Lexie, by Philip & Salley Wessels
- \*In honor of Karen Larson, by Nellie Winters
- \* The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God, and in celebration of our 50th wedding anniversary, by Dennis & Shirley Hoffmeister



### SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & RECEPTION

On December 17th, Trinity's worship space was transformed into a modern-day setting for the timeless telling of the "First Christmas" by Louise Egan.

Thank you to each and every child and adult who helped to ensure the program was delightful! Kelly Handschuh directed the program, and she was assisted with many helpers who: built the stable and props, provided hay, helped children into and out of costumes and made sure they were right on cue. Thank you to every person who baked cookies, set up and cleaned up for the reception. Great job everyone!

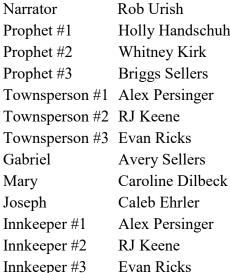
CAST:	Angels	Jazlynne Armstrong, Adalyn Bocker,
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Farrator Rob Urish Riley Ricks, Lexi Sarver

Prophet #1 Holly Handschuh
Prophet #2 Whitney Kirk
Prophet #3 Briggs Sellers
Caesar Augustus Ed Handschuh
Rownsperson #1 Alex Persinger
Townsperson #2 RJ Keene
Prophet #3 RJ Keene
Roman Solider Ashton Persinger
Pig Elliott Armstrong

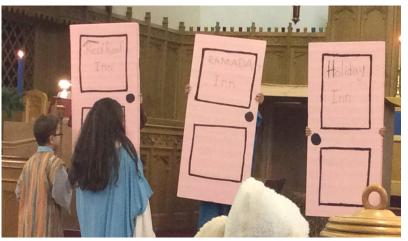
Sheep Kasen Bocker, Levi Bocker

Shepherd #3 Evan Ricks
Wise Woman #1 Sofia Dula
Wise Woman #2 Kendra Ehrler
Wise Woman #3 Vicar Karyn Kost











### RECAP OF PAJAMA PROJECT 2017

Thank you, to each and every person and family who donated money and/or time toward this project on behalf of Trinity!

Thanks to your overwhelming Generosity, 70 children, comprised of 23 families, received a gift. Children from birth through grade school were given a new pair of pajamas and a new Christian themed book. Youth in junior and senior high each received an Oregon Hawks hoodie and an Oregon Hawks T-shirt. (Game Day Apparel, from Oregon, generously donated the t-shirts and gave Trinity a discount on the hoodies too!)

On December 16th, 12 individuals and families gathered to wrap and distribute the gifts!



### YOUTH GROUP GATHERING Saturday, January 20, 4pm @ Trinity

Hard to top our White Elephant but we'll just have to persevere. We promised ourselves we'd read the book "Ruth" together, so we will. Ruth is a strong, dynamic woman in the Bible who persists in fulfilling God's work through her love for her mother-in-law.



### MONTHLY THIRD FRIDAY FREE MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, January 19, 7:00 pm

"It's A Wonderful Life"

(Full Color 60th anniversary Edition)

(see trailer on YouTube)

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 & Close promptly at 9 pm

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.

Please note: We are in need of adult chaperones. If you are interested, sign up sheet is posted in bell tower Hallway. Questions? Talk to Melody Dula. 6

### 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 321 clients for November. We are in need of canned vegetables, canned kidney beans, paper products: paper towels, toilet tissue & Kleenex.

Ouestions? call Sharon 815-222-6712.



### LADY'S BOOK CLUB NEWS

Please watch in the weekly Refrigerator Reminders for updates regarding the book club.

### SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB



There will **NOT** be a breakfast in January, due to low attendance. If you are interested in continuing this group, please talk with Ron Bjorklund.

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 <u>A Stand-up Comic Sits Down with Jesus</u>, 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!



### 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 November, the pantry served 120 households, comprised of 311 individuals. Four new families were served, representing 13 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 Representative: Barb Diehl 815-734–4011

Thank you for donating hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the pantry Christmas sharing. They were very much appreciated.



### **WORSHIP CANCELLATIONS DUE TO WEATHER**

It's that time of year! If the weather turns troubling and you are not sure whether or not we are gathering for worship, here are your information options:

- Check local (Rockford) TV stations WREX (NBC 13), WIFR (CBS-23), WTVO (ABC-17) or WQRF (Fox 39). Channel numbers may be different pending your video provider. Cancellations will scroll across the bottom of the screen.
- Check Trinity's Facebook page. Will say "Cancelled"
- Check local Radio Stations: WRHL 1060 AM, WIXN 1460 AM or WSEY 95.7 FM
- When in doubt, stay home. Thank you for your love for worship and yet, please keep yourself safe. Ice and snow do not discriminate by age or ability.

### CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

A summary of the Dec 11, 2017 Church Council Meeting:

- A majority of council members was not present, therefore, the meeting was not able to take place. Council President, Al Ulferts, initiated an email to all council members asking for a vote for the agenda items that required a vote, due to time sensitive issues having a December 15, 2017 deadline.
- Floyd's healthcare insurance was discussed, and an email majority vote was obtained for his 2018 plan.
- Motion passed to move the \$1,370 balance of Thrivent Choice Funds to Family Assistance Fund.
- Youth Education Committee reported Sunday School Curriculum is to be ordered. Rotation and Children's Ministry Curriculum.
- Outreach/Social Ministry/Stewardship Committee Reported 7 people attended the November Third Friday Free movie night. December Ministry Café went very well. Doris Bolhous made muffins & Melody Dula made biscuits and gravy. \$27 was raised for Loaves & Fish Food Pantry.
- Pastor's request for Housing Allowance for 2018 was passed.
- Informal congregational meeting for the 2018 budget has been set for January 14, 2018
- Annual congregational meeting has been set for January 28, 2018.
- Summer Lunch Program Day Camp planning is well on the way. 3 volunteer OHS students are taking on the project and organizing the details. Pastor Josh will seek out grants from the Social Ministry Committee and Congregation Life Committee for additional resources.
- Wendell Voss family memorial gift preference is for funds to be used for youth.
- Meeting was adjourned with prayer.



### FINANCIAL REPORT NOVEMBER, 2017

Total Monthly Budget Income \$ 17,227.38 Total Monthly Budget Expense \$ 17,493.60 Year-to-date Budget Income \$204,987.30 Year-to-date Budget Expense \$ 205,477.33 Year-to-date Surplus (Deficit) \$ (490.03)

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.

### NOISY OFFERING FOR JANUARY Lutheran Disaster Response

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

Fires throughout the Western states. Hurricanes along the Gulf Coast. Earthquakes and devastating floods in Mexico and India. For every natural tragedy, the ELCA responds with Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR has an international reputation for showing up shortly after an event and staying longer than most other organizations to aid in rebuilding lives and communities. LDR is committed to directing nearly 100% of funds designated to a particular event to arrive onsite and benefit local agencies. Your gift of coins, cash and contributions will serve people who have been displaced, lost supplies and need direct support.

Thank you for your gifts.

Results of the Collection for Loaves and Fish = \$170.14 through Dec 24th, (includes Ministry Café)

### SUMMARY OF 2017 NOISY OFFERING GIFTS

Jan/Feb	Vacation Bible School	\$642.71
Mar/Apr	Rescue, Release & Restore	\$388.60
May/Jun	LOMC	\$236.01
July	Compassion Child	\$175.86
Aug	TWELCA Quilt Project	\$167.01
Sept/Oct	Vacation Bible School	\$305.80
Nov/Dec	Loaves & Fish Food Pantry	\$356.94*
	(*as of Dec 24)	

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### **TRINITY'S SERVANTS FOR JANUARY 2018**

### Altar Guild

All month: Carrie Lay &

Sunny Hughes

### Acolytes

7 Carolyn Dilbeck

14 Carolyn Dilbeck

21 Kendra Ehrler

28 Ashton Persinger

### Ushers/ Greeters

All month: Kevin Nelson—Sat. Joe Dettloff, Joshua, Robin & R.J. Keene—Sundays

### Song Leaders & Cantors

7 Mary Jo Dilbeck

14 Lily Welp

21 Linda Borneman

28 Lily Welp

#### **Assisting Ministers:**

6 Arika Black 7 Ashton Persinger 13 Arika Black 14 Ashton Persinger 20 Arika Black 21 Ashton Persinger 27 Arika Black 28 Carolyn Dilbeck

#### Coffee Hour Hosts

Blood Pressure Checks
(Normally Last Sunday of Month)

28 Robin Keene

<u>Pinecrest Video Ministry</u> (2nd & 4th Monday of Month)

8 22

### Lector Schedule\*

7 Melody Dula

14 Melody Dula

21 Melody Dula

28 Melody Dula

#### \*Scripture Readings

6/7 Ephesians 3.1-12 Psalm 72.1-7, 10-14 Matthew 2.1-12 13/14 1 Samuel 3.1-10 Psalm 139.1-6, 13-18 John 1.43-51

20/21

27/28 Deuteronomy 18.15-20 Psalm 111

Mark 1.21-28

### Altar Flowers

(Calendar for 2018 is on bltn board in Narthex (back of worship space) 6/7

13/14

21/22

27/28

### 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/tlcmm 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@tlsohio.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

Assist. 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

308 East Brayton Road, Mt. Morris, Illinois 61054 Office: (815) 734-6354 E-mail: trinitymm@frontier.com web-site: www.trinitymm.net; Facebook: facebook.com/tlcmm

### **JANUARY 2018**

### 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: **Resumes Jan 10th** 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir: Resumes January 24th

Full Chancel Choir: 7:00 pm (Men rehearse at

6:45 pm; Women rehearse at 7:30 pm)

Choristers: **Resumes January 21st**Sundays at 11:30 during Sunday School

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

- Sun Jan 7, Ministry Café 8:30—9:30 am\*
- Sun Jan 14, Informal Congregational Meeting to Discuss proposed 2018 Budget
- Fri, Jan 19, 7:00 pm Third Friday Free Movie Night\*
- Sat, Jan 20, 4:00 pm Youth Group Gathering\*
- Sun Jan 21, 11:00 am Deep Digs -Adult Learning\*
- Tues, Jan 23, 9:00 am Dorcas Meeting, at church\*
- Sun Jan 28, 10:45 am Annual Meeting of the Congregation\*
- Sat, Feb 10, 9 am 12 pm Council Leaders'
   Retreat, Location TBA 10