

February 2019

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The Epiphany Season continues in the church. Each week, the Scripture readings reveal another aspect of who Jesus is and what he came to do. Not only do we get indicators of who Jesus is, but we also get directions to where Jesus is heading. Every incident in his ministry is leading us to a particular point in time—the Passion, death, and resurrection of Christ. They are all pointers to Calvary and the empty tomb, which comprise the very heart of the Gospel.

Greatest of all, we learn that God's love for humanity is love of which God is solely capable. To put it another way, nobody and nothing can love like God can. Not even close!

But someday that will change. One day we will love as we ought and serve as we never have before. We were created to love and to serve one another wholeheartedly. But we don't.

But we will someday. Meanwhile, we receive the love of Christ and the gifts he offers for forgiveness. I pray that the continuing Epiphany season brings the joy of Christ Jesus and his love to you!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



FEBUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

We had a good turnout on the 27th for our annual congregational meeting. This capped off a 20-year run by Janice Prospero as our Financial Secretary. Those in attendance got to hear Janice give her final report as our Financial Secretary. Janice hands the reigns officially off to Tamara Doerrer, whose experience as an Accountant will surely be useful to her in her capacity as our Financial Secretary. We look forward to working with Tammy on council and despite the tremendous efforts Janice put in over the years, we are confident that Tammy will serve the congregation well in this role.

Attendees at this year's annual meeting also got to hear about several other things, a few notables being:

- the many capital improvement projects that were completed in 2018
- our final report on giving in 2018 (about \$3,000 more than 2017 - thank you to ALL for your generous giving!)
- our budget for 2019 (up about 2% due principally to higher benefit costs and a 2% pay raise for our employees)
- plans for a Trinity Tailgate in June that will be open to all members (co-sponsored by outreach and Social Ministry)
- an upcoming benefit concert at Trinity on Saturday, February 16th from 7-9 p.m. (free entry and a free-will offering will go to our Youth, six of whom are planning to attend the National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July)
- Explore God Chicago - an outreach program aimed at answering some questions many people have about God. This will be the subject of Pastor Hoag's sermons during Lent this year.
- plans for our kitchen remodel (much of this remains tentative at this time, but we hope to have plans available in time that you can see at Trinity so you know what we're hoping to accomplish with this project)

These are some highlights that come to mind. We had a good Q&A session at the end of the meeting where some great questions gave rise, leading to some productive conversations. We remain in a good place as a congregation, and we have reason to be optimistic about our future at Trinity Lutheran Church.

This is a recurrent theme but give some thought in 2019 to inviting a friend or two to join us for services. While our total membership is up in 2018, our attendance is modestly

down (our average per service declined from 56 to 55 this year, but we had 50 fewer attendees in 2018 on two fewer services). We know from research that one of the main reasons people decide to start regularly attending a church is because a member of that church asked them to join them. Maybe this process takes a few tries but make a point of asking a friend to join you at Trinity this year.

Here's to a great 2019! Thank you all for your membership.



Contribution statements for income tax purposes are available for members using the offering envelopes. If you have not received a statement in previous years and would like to request one, please contact the church secretary or Janice Prospero. If you received a statement in the past you are on the list to automatically receive one each year.



February Sign-Up sheets for Readers, Greeters, Mr. Christman and MorningStar Mission are on the hallway table! Please help by taking a turn.



LENT BEGINS March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday Service will be on March 6th at 7:30 p.m.

Lenten services will be held each following Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m.

**JOIN US FOR A
7-WEEK SERIES
WHERE WE WILL
EXPLORE THE
BIG QUESTIONS**

- 1 Does Life Have a Purpose?
- 2 Is There a God?
- 3 Why Does God Allow Pain & Suffering?
- 4 Is Christianity Too Narrow?
- 5 Is Jesus Really God?
- 6 Is The Bible Reliable?
- 7 Can I Know God Personally?

COMING ON THE *SUNDAYS* DURING LENT!

Beginning March 9 and 10 at each service, and for the following 7 weeks, Pastor Hoag will be presenting this sermon series that grapples with the big questions of the Christian faith. We all struggle with these questions. But by asking them we'll gain a more clarity on what the Bible teaches us. Bring family and friends, especially those who you know are struggling with these issues.

DISCUSSION GROUP

Beginning March 10 during Adult Bible class at 9:15am, Pastor Hoag will facilitate a discussion group that will wrestle with these important questions. You are invited! There is no cost to attend. Sign up on the sheet that can be found on the sign-up table next to

the gym, or let Pastor know that you will be attending. This will be a great opportunity to bring friends and family who really struggle with these issues to discuss them in a safe and welcoming environment. Contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions about this series.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES 2019

With the upcoming Lenten season, we will once again be having Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Beginning on March 13, a video series from The Bible Project will be presented as food for discussion. These very entertaining videos will be sure to pique our curiosity and bring clarity to themes that weave their way through the Bible. Themes that we will be exploring are: The Image of God, Exile, The Way of Exile, The Son of Man, and Sacrifice and Atonement. Bring family and friends to this insightful and meaningful series!



Soup and sandwich suppers will be held at 6:30 p.m., just prior to each Lenten service.



Social Ministry

Social Ministry will be sponsoring a Valentine Day Cupcake Party for the Sunday School children and their families on February 10th during the Sunday School hour.

There will be games for the kids and their families. Cupcakes will be provided for all.

There will also be a “Kissing Booth” consisting of bags of Hershey Kisses for sale with the proceeds being donated to Lutheran Child and Family Services Regenerations Program.

February 24th – LCFS will provide a follow up presentation to the one the did for the Regeneration Program two years ago. It is entitled “See the Change Tour”. Join us between services to see the “change” the Regeneration Program has accomplished. The “Kissing Booth” will be open again during this presentation also.



Trinity Pre-School – Registration for Fall Pre-School is now open. Please tell your friends and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. School year beginning September 2019 the tuition per month will be \$110 for two-day students and \$135 for three-day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2019. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.



MorningStar Mission: The next serving dates for February are the 4th and 18th. If you are interested in helping, please be sure to sign up on the sheet on the hallway table, so we know we have enough helpers to serve.

MorningStar would like to thank everyone at Trinity for their generosity at Christmas. They were able to provide over 300 families with food for the holidays and all their families received gifts through the *Stars of Hope*.



Chancel Guild News! Attention ladies of Trinity. Our Chancel Guild is changing our meeting times for 2019. We will have meetings this year on the first Saturday of the months of March, April, May, September, November & December. Our one evening meeting will be the night before our Salad Luncheon on Tuesday, October 2nd. Saturday meeting times will be at 9:00 am. We are hoping that this change will encourage more of our ladies to consider joining our Chancel Guild. For more information please Call Denise Buchanan at 815-320-6018 or cell: 815-485-2729, or speak to any of our members.

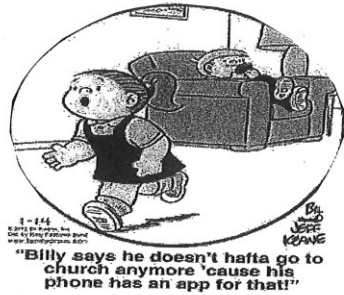


Candy Bars for sale! Rita Larson is selling Fannie May candy bars for \$1.00 each. The candy bars are available after services or in the church office. Please deposit your payment in the envelope inside the candy bar box.



THESE MAKE GREAT VALENTINE GIFTS!

Church Humor:



Chir

Thanks to the choir for the beautiful singing and music in our regular church services, as well as the Christmas services. The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and are always looking for additional voices.

During Lent, the choir rehearsals will be done a little differently. Since we will be having church services on Wednesday night at 7:30 pm, choir will not meet at 7:00 pm. Rehearsal times will be announced as they will change from week to week.



Scrip Fundraiser - This is a gift card fundraiser - they are the same gift cards you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement, etc. **We order the gift cards at a discount, and you pay face value for the gift cards. (For example, you pay \$25 for a \$25 Speedway gift card - the youth group obtains the card at a discount and keeps the difference.)** You can purchase gift cards by filling out an order form (located by the youth bulletin board) or by placing your order online at shopwithscrip.com. If interested in placing orders online, you will need an enrollment code. Ask Angie Minett for the code or stop by the church office. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537).

The next deadline for turning in orders along with payment is Monday, February 4th at noon. The cards will be ready for pick-up at church the following weekend (February 9th and 10th).

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our efforts!
Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

SCRIPTURE READERS



We are asking you to become involved in our worship services, without committing too much time! Just read The First and Second Lessons!! To do so, place your name on the Sunday you would like on the sheets in the hallway. **The actual readings are available ahead of time and may be acquired by contacting Pastor or the Church Office at 815.485.6973.**



GREETERS

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and the result might be very surprising. Signup sheet for February is in the hallway.



Confirmation Class - During Lent, the students are expected to attend Lenten Services on Wednesday night at 7:30 PM and to fill out a sermon sheet. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Hoag or call the church office at 815.485.6973.



Wednesday Morning Bible Class is held at 8:30 a.m. Please join this very interesting group.

Thursday Evening Bible Class is held at 7:00 p.m. Please join us!



Coffee Hour A new sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2019. ***Please take a turn.*** Without your help, coffee will not be served on the 4th Sunday. *If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.*



St. Matthew's Outreach. We are still collecting food, clothing and small household items for St. Matthew's Church. Please place food items in the bin at the top of the stairs coming in from the parking lot. Other items should be carefully placed in the storage room at the East end of the church basement. If you are interested in helping take these items to St. Matthew's please contact the church office at 815.485.6973.



Altar Flowers: A new 2019 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted. You can find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across the old office. If you would like to reserve a weekend for 2019 in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings, please fill out a sponsor sheet. Sponsor sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. **Please do not fill in the calendar. Fill out a sponsor sheet and put it in the Chancel Guild mail box in the general office.** Flowers are \$30.00 for both arrangements. If you would like a weekend already spoken for, it is sometimes possible to share the cost and arrangements with permission from the person already sponsoring. Chancel Guild members would like to thank those of you who sponsored a weekend this past year. We appreciate your efforts to help us enhance and beautify the altar area. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017.

Thrivent Workshops: Thrivent Financial will be hosting a workshop here at Trinity entitled "Investing. Retiring. Passing It On. What's Your Strategy?". It will be on Tuesday, February 26th at 7:00 pm in the gym. If you are interested in attending, please call 708-326-4750 or email amy.pickert@thrivent.com to reserve your place.

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm