

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The New Year presents opportunity for us to reflect on the past and hope for the future. We can recall the ups and downs, the twists and turns, the joys and sorrows of our experiences. We can also envision how we'd like our lives to unfold knowing that it might or might not turn out exactly as we had thought. There are too many variables in the mix and obstacles in the way. Such is life—unpredictable, trying, and sometimes out of control. So we forge ahead anyway and meet the challenges as they inevitably come.

While we are uncertain of many things, there are certainties on which we can rely—time will tick away but the love of God will remain constant. There is an anchor that will hold us while changes take place all around us. That anchor is Christ Jesus.

*We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain (heaven), where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf... (Hebrews 6: 19,20)*

I pray that Christ will always be your sure hope and your unwavering anchor in this New Year and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag

# JANUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

## **New Year's Resolution**

How about being a reader, a greeter or an usher for one of our services. The Choir is always open to new voices! Try getting involved in one of our ladies groups or helping out with the Property Committee. These are all great ways to get acquainted with fellow church members.

## **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 Doris at (815) 485-6973.

## **GREETERS**

We come as friends, a family of believers, greeting one another with a warm welcome, thankful for the gifts of a community in which we can live out our relationship with God through our relationships with one another. There are sign-up sheets located on a table near the gym if you would like to extend a warm welcome to your fellow members and visitors.

## **Annual Congregation Meeting**

All members are invited to attend this meeting on Sunday, **January 26th immediately following the 10:30 a.m. worship service.** There will be coffee and snacks to enjoy. The 2014 Budget will be presented as well as highlights and recaps from the various organizations for 2013.

2014 Offering Envelopes boxes are in the table in the hallway. Please pick yours up to save the church the expense of mailing it!

If you have not received offering envelopes in the past, and would like to request them for the year 2014, please fill out a request with your name, address and telephone number and give it to Doris, church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox.

## **TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN**

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. To request a prayer, please call Ginny DeCarlo (815) 485-2001 or email Ginny at [vdecarlo1952@gmail.com](mailto:vdecarlo1952@gmail.com) or call Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b.

If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny or Pat a call. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

## Preschool Registration

Preschool Registration begins February 1<sup>st</sup>. Non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. School year beginning September 2014 the tuition per month will be \$100 for two day students and \$125 for three day students. Children must be 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815 485 6973.

The next Prechool Board meeting is **Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**

**CHOIR.** The choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and are always looking for additional voices. The choir will be on a Christmas break until Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CHANCEL GUILD** The next meeting is **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Hostesses are Sharon MacFarlane and Lois Dobbs.

Thank you to the following people who donated the poinsettia plants which adorned the altar for the Christmas Services: Bob and Kim Blecke, Denise and Bob Buchanan, The Cuthbert Family, Janet DeForest, Jack and Lois Dobbs, Bob and Tammy Doerrer and Family, Ernie and Jan Falk, Paul and Pat Fuerst, Betty Hopkinson in memory of Gilbert, Bill and Sally Jackson, Tom and Wendy Kaun, Bob and Debbie Look and Family, Jeff and Sharon Lorenz, Mike and Liz Lyman, Phil and Sharon MacFarlane, Albert McCullough, Gary and Kay Purnell, Rich and Jackie Rohner, Rob and Ann Romadka, Doug and Jan Schlak, Robert and Christine Stark, The Tinker Family, The Verchimak Family, and The Wheeler Family.

The 2014 Flower Chart is up in the hallway across from the church office with many opportunities for you to place flowers on the altar, if you wish. Just complete the order form found near the flower chart and return to the office. For more information, please contact Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at [candb.stark@gmail.com](mailto:candb.stark@gmail.com). The cost is \$17.00 for two vases. Flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

All ladies of Trinity are welcome to attend and/or join the Chancel Guild. For more information please contact Denise Buchanan, President at 815.485.2729.

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The next meeting will be **Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.** Hostesses will be Karen Dickson and Cheryl Mork. All ladies are invited to join. For more information, please call Pat Fuerst at 815.485.6441.

The annual Cookie Walk, their only fundraiser, was a huge success. Thank you to all the bakers, shoppers and workers, plus Chancel Guild members, Jan Falk, Sally Jackson and Doris Klemm for working the day of the sale.

Thanks to Pastor and Michelle Hoag, the Confirmation Class and the Youth Group for setting up the tables. The profit was \$2,028.45 which will be used for special needs of the Church and local charities.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**

**MorningStar.** What a wonderful, caring congregation Trinity is! Thanks to all the benevolent shoppers, who so willingly and carefully selected, wrapped and marked \$80.00 of gifts for eight (8) MorningStar submittals. Thanks, also, for the generous donations at the Giving Tree; we, at Trinity, can forward \$934.85 to the MorningStar monetary fund, after deducting some submitted receipts for purchased gifts. The final donation amount will be listed after the tree is removed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, with the check sent shortly thereafter.

The next meeting will be on **Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** at Sue Kunce's house. This will be our "delayed Christmas party" so don't forget to bring your white elephant gift!

From all of us in Social Ministry mission work, to all our church family, Happy New Year!

### **MorningStar Serving Dates**

Serving dates for 2014 will continue on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays of each month at 3:45 p.m. The volunteer sign-up sheet is on the hallway table. Please contact Judy Wilmsen with any questions. 815 462 1374.

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

**Thank you to everyone who donated blood on December 16<sup>th</sup>. Your donation is very much appreciated. Another blood drive will be held in February. Watch the bulletin and calendar for the date.**

**Feed My Starving Children:** As mentioned in recent weeks, there is a more immediate need for the meals that Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) provides in light of the typhoon that recently struck the Philippines. Our congregation stepped up to help in August with a great response to the Lincoln-Way Area Mobile Pack (LAMP) event, but next year's event has been moved up to January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> in hopes of getting much needed supplies to the Philippines right away. How can you help? **The 20 spots we had reserved for Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. have been filled.** **If you would still like to volunteer, please go directly to [www.fmsc.org](http://www.fmsc.org) to sign up.** You may also use a designated offering envelope or write a separate check made payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with "Feed My Starving Children" in the subject line to donate to this effort. If you would like to help with the onsite check-in or registration process, please see Jeff McDonald for details or call him at (815) 462-2454.

**January Sign-Up Sheets are on the hallway table. Sign up today!**

**“Thank you notes”**

From Edna De Lair:

Thank you to Pastor and everyone for all the get well cards, and prayers, bringing me God’s love. I’ve been given a second change. Love to all, Edna.

From Rita Larson:

Thank you to my “church family” for all the cards and words of condolence at the time of the death of my husband, Terry.

**Thank You!** Christmas services require the work of a lot of people. Some get their names in the bulletin.

Many do not. We could try and list them, but inevitably, we would miss someone. So, whether you came and helped set up the tree, folded bulletins, swapped out candles, ushered, set up Communion, cleaned up after Communion, set up flowers, donated flowers, sang or played an instrument, a very warm and heartfelt THANK YOU! May the love that you showed be reflected back to you a thousand times over in the year to come.

Church office hours: Monday, 9-3; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4, Friday, 9-12.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Betty Dunn	1
Karl Backhus	2
Dale Bormet	2
Noreen Bormet	3
Brittany McElmury	3
Ashley Renwick	3
Hannah Handorf	4
Cody Harbin	4
Erik Johnson	5
Christine Bormet	6
Samantha Buell	6
Jeffery Niemann	6
Bud Sherman	7
Jack Dobbs	8
Duncan Bachmann	9
Debra Look	9
Ben Toepke	10
Ryan Jennings	11
Kyle Pigney	11
Rex Toepke	11
Will Lyman	12
Alexandra Sutton	12
Ean Schultz	13
Madeline Baxa	14
Hunter Valentine	14
Terry Anzalone	15
Donna Brunmeier	15
Valerie Zielinski	18
Jeri Sandt	19
Kim Huntington-Alfano	20
Saanvi Ray Purnell	20
Jane Schrank	20

Samantha Sutton	20
Cynthia Fandl	21
Ernie Falk	22
Tessa Valentine	22
Cameron Lerner	23
Andrea Valentine	24
Rachel Fox	25
John McClaughry	25
Nancy Minnick	25
Deborah Koehler	26
Thomas Ritter	26
Reese Rourke	26
Kyle Conrad	27
George Opiola	27
Samantha Pecoraro	27
Jacklyn Thompson	27
Adam Varju	27
Tim McCure	28
Madison Kosel	29
Debbi Hodo	30
Rebecca Aiken	31
Mark Lorenz	31
Brandon McCure	31
Lindsey Woodcock	31

## ANNIVERSARIES

Mike and Sue Kunce	20
Craig and Nicole Black	22