

January 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Now that the dead of winter has arrived, I find the phrase “dead of winter” to be fascinating because it appears to be so true. All of nature has been stripped bare and covered with a blanket of snow. It serves as an apt metaphor for our lives.

As we are dead in trespasses and sin, we are covered with a veil of death which Isaiah describes as “a covering that is cast over all people” and “the reproach (disgrace) of His people”.

But then Spring comes soon enough.

The blanket melts away. Life returns to nature as the leaves sprout, the flowers open, and the grass greens and grows. Death has been swallowed up by life.

On a much bigger scale, we are given hope through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that death will be swallowed up in victory and our mortal bodies will be clothed with immortality. It is the eternal springtime that is here now but has yet to be fully realized. We wait for this in confidence as the sting of death is removed through the forgiveness of our sins and is replaced with the covering of the innocence of Christ.

I pray that you and your families have a very Blessed and Happy New Year!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag



JANUARY 2018



We begin by saying thank you to so many.....



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.



The Chancel Guild would like to thank those who purchased poinsettias to help decorate the chancel area for the Christmas services. The flowers were beautiful!

Biff & Debbie Aiken, Dunc & Allene Bachmann, Bob & Kim Blecke, The Buchanan Family, Les & Ginny DeCarlo, Janet DeForest, Jack & Lois Dobbs, Ernie & Jan Falk, Paul & Pat Fuerst, Betty Hopkinson, Bill & Sally Jackson, Tom & Wendy Kaun, Les & Cheryl Koenig, Joe & Renee Lavazza, The Jeff Lorenz Family, Mike & Liz Lyman, Phil & Sharon MacFarlane, The Al McCullough Family, Jennifer Mudrock, Gary & Kay Purnell, Rich & Jackie Rohner, Doug & Jan Schlak, Steve & Rita Tinker, Damon & Caton & Brandy Tinker, Rex & Jan Toepke, The Wheeler Family, and Daniel & Susan Willenborg.

What we have accomplished during 2017 and what we have to look forward to in 2018, an update from Church Council President, Jeff McDonald.

As we put 2017 officially in the books, January brings us a great opportunity to look forward as we plan for the new year. We have a few things pending before we'll be able to finalize the office moves, but we expect to soon have the Church Secretary moved into Pastor's old office and then open up the current Secretary's office for general use by our other groups at Trinity. Anyone who has tried to walk into that office on a Sunday morning knows that having more space in there will be a welcome change. Thanks again to all who helped with Pastor's new office. It really is a tremendous improvement to our building.

Our major property-related goal for 2018 will be to have our stained glass window work completed. We received some very generous donations in recent weeks, and I am pleased to report that as of this time we have raised a little more than \$32,400 for this project! We will continue to work toward raising funds for this project, as the cost to maintain the glass - while admittedly expensive - is a mere fraction of what it would cost to replace these windows. Our last estimate for this work was approximately \$45,000 and that was several years ago. We assume it will be closer to \$50,000 now but we didn't want to get any estimates until we had raised at least half of this amount. Now that we have reached that mark, we plan to seek out bids for this work with the goal of having it completed in 2018. I do realize this is not the most exciting project as the windows really won't look any different than they do now. But they will open and close again and we'll be preventing them from sagging to the point of breaking, so this is a much-needed maintenance project that should get us another 50+ years of enjoyment of our beautiful church windows. Thanks to all who have contributed so far. This is a great way to preserve our building for years to come.

The only other major project on my radar is a kitchen renovation for our fellowship hall. Some ideas for updating and improving that space have been suggested and that is definitely something I could see us do in the next year or two. I do think it is important to see the stained glass project through to completion first, but once that is done, I think we can all agree that updating the fellowship hall kitchen would be a valued improvement at Trinity. I am confident there will be other projects that will come about as well, but these are the two main projects on my radar as we look ahead to 2018 and beyond.

I want to thank Bob Blecke, Dan Bay and everyone else who helped with the creation of a welcome video that was created and released a week before Christmas. The video was posted to Trinity's Facebook page and viewed and shared more than any other video in the history

of that page. This type of outreach was a first for us, but it definitely seems to have been effective at promoting our church to the community. In that same spirit, I ask that each of you reading this newsletter consider whether there are others you know who might enjoy worshipping with us. We'll finalize this at the annual meeting in January, but it appears our attendance figures for 2017 will be right in line with where they were in 2016. That's an accomplishment in its own rite, but we are always looking for ways to expand our outreach and there is a lot of evidence to suggest that one of the most effective ways to get others to church is for a friend or neighbor to simply extend that invitation. How about adding this to your goals for 2018?

In closing, I want to thank each and every one of you for being a part of our church family at Trinity. There are a lot of people who put a LOT of effort into keeping Trinity going and we have a tremendous member support at Trinity for all that we do. I hope your holidays are joyful and I look forward to worshipping alongside you in 2018.

2018 Church Council Officers



Jeff McDonald, President; Kim Blecke, Secretary; Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary; Tim King, Treasurer; Bob Blecke, Director of Outreach; Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz, Co-Directors of Property; Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing, Co-Directors of Spiritual Life; Jeanine Welsh, Director of Social Ministry; Judi Donovan, Director of Parish Education; Michelle Hoag, Director of Youth Ministry.

Annual Congregational Meeting

Join us on Sunday, January 28th, at 12:15 p.m. All members are invited to attend.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS

Thank you so very much to those of you who participate in the scrip card fundraiser. We greatly appreciate your support! Scrip Cards are in and ready for pickup! Next order will be January 15th, 2018 with the proceeds going towards the Youth Convention. The pickup will be the following weekend. Any questions can be directed to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or [\(815\)467-2537](tel:8154672537). Also, check out shopwithscrip.com to learn more about this simple way to help the youth earn funds.



ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every weekend to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. **A 2018 flower chart showing open weekends has been posted in the cabinet across from the church office.** The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet. If you would like to sponsor flowers on a particular weekend, complete the form and place it along with a **check made out to Trinity Lutheran Chancel Guild** in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. Please note the cost of the flowers has increased to \$30.00. If you want a date already chosen, it may be possible to share the date and the cost with permission from the person who has already selected the date. If you have any questions, please call Kay Purnell at (815) 485-9017 or email her at purnellk51@hotmail.com. Flowers may be picked up **after** the 10:30 service. Thank you to all who participate!

CHANCEL GUILD



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. Our next meeting is Monday, January 8th at 6:30 p.m. when we will be remove the Christmas Decorations. Hostesses for the evening will be Rita Larson and Jennifer Mudrock.



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. We will be on a Christmas break for a couple weeks but will resume in January 10th.



Women's League

There will be no meeting in January. The next meeting will be February 27, 2018 at Williamson's Restaurant in New Lenox for the annual birthday luncheon.



Love. Grow. Serve.

SOCIAL MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

The next meeting of the Social Ministry Committee will be held at Jan Toepke's house in January. See Jan Toepke for date and time.



St. Matthew's.

We are continuing to support St. Matthew's Lutheran church in Chicago by collecting donations of non-perishable food items, as well as household goods. Please place the food items in the collection box by the parking lot door. The household items should be placed in the storage closet area at the far North end of the church basement. Please place items carefully so they do not block the aisle to the boiler room.



If anyone is interested in helping with the hauling of these items to St. Matthew's, please contact the church office. Extra help is always appreciated.



MorningStar Mission Serving. Trinity has been helping with serving meals at MorningStar twice a month for a number of years. We help by serving dinner on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, and need 3-4 volunteers each time. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign the sheet on the hallway table, or call the church office. You must be at MorningStar by 3:45 pm. If you are not able to make those times/dates you may call them at 815.722.5780 or visit their web at www.morningstarmission.org for other volunteer positions.

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 January is in the hallway.



Confirmation Class is held each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. unless there is no school that day. 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 yellow sign-up sheet is on the hallway table for volunteers for the 4th Sunday of each month in 2018. **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.*



TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

PRAYER CHAIN: Share the love of God, faith and compassion with someone needing support in praying for health problems, sorrow, praise, thanksgiving. Receive a phone call; make a phone call, pray. Or would you like that kind of support for your prayer? All strictly confidential. Phone Pat Fuerst at 815-485-6441 or Ginny DeCarlo at 815-485-2001. You may also email Ginny at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com.



Preschool Registration for the school year beginning September 2018. **Trinity members get priority registration and may register now.** Already enrolled students may register the first two weeks in January. Registration for new students will begin the third week of January. If you know of anyone who falls into one of these categories, please have them call the pre-school at 815.485.6973. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. The tuition per month for the school year beginning September 2018, will be \$110.00 for two day students and \$135.00 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2018. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

The next Preschool Board meeting is Sunday, January 21st at 9:15 a.m.



Wishing everyone a blessed and healthy 2018!

Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-1 pm

