



Joyful Noise

DECEMBER 2018

A Message from Your Pastor...

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are many things happening at Trinity. I could highlight the youth activities – last month hosting the Hot Dish Cook-off & Potluck, organizing and delivering Thanksgiving Baskets. I could talk about the Wrinkled Righteous Thanksgiving Dinner that served more than 50 people. Then there is Pizza and Prayer at TYM Square that is becoming a monthly activity to reach people in our community. There is the regular ministry of Cradle Roll, Bible Study Groups, LWML, Visitation Guild, the work of the Properties Board, all the people involved with singing in choirs, on worship teams, and those who help with the various aspects of worship – ushers, Lay Ministers, Altar Guild, sound, etc. Of course this doesn't include things happening at the school, with regular classes serving 227 students (60 of those are preschoolers!) sports schedules, field trips – I know the 2nd Graders just went to Autumn Springs to sing to the residents, and the 4th Graders walk across the street each month to The Springs to do the same thing – and other classes doing servant events. Now there is practice for the Christmas Program.

There are certainly many things happening at Trinity, some of these things you are probably familiar with, but there are also some things happening at Trinity that may not be as well-known, and I'd like to give an update on two of those things.

First, a little more than 2 years ago we began the process of updating Trinity's Constitution. You may recall some of the informational meetings, or the Bible Study that Ted Kober led for a few weeks on Sunday morning to look at Church structure and organization. The process of updating our constitution – which was written more than 35 years ago when there was one pastor and possibly a secretary – is to bring us in line with Trinity's current form and structure of ministry. That re-writing process has been taking place through committee work and boards. A rough draft was given to the Montana District Office and to an Attorney for preliminary review, to make sure it met both Synodical and legal standards for a congregation; it received approval from both. Right now, the timeframe is that in January or February the congregation will be asked to study the proposed constitution. There will be a voters meeting scheduled to discuss, amongst other things, the proposed constitution.

I ask that you would take the time to read through the proposed constitution and provide your input so that the new constitution may serve Trinity's ministry for many years just like the last one has.

Another aspect of Trinity's ministry that I want to make sure everyone knows about is the vacancy in our Director of Music position, which Mrs. Cindy Speed held until the Lord called her Home to eternity. The Director of Music is a position designed to lead children and adults at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in worshipping and glorifying the Lord through music and singing. The Board of Lay Ministers – who has the responsibility of overseeing the call process – has designated a Call Committee to fill this vacancy, with Roger Kesler serving as the Chairman. If you know someone who is Synodically-trained and would serve both our church and school well as a Director of Music, please share his or her name – and contact information if you have it – with Roger Kesler, one of the Pastors, or the Church Office. The plan is to have a full-time person in place before next school year. At the same time, I would like to thank Mrs. Karole Michel and Dr. Ken Kosche for leading music in various roles at the church; and Ms. Judi Lacy who is serving at the school.

As I think about the many things happening at Trinity, I am reminded of Paul's words in Philippians 1:6: "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Our work and ministry for the Lord will never end until Jesus returns. Then it will be complete. Until that time, let us continue to do the Lord's work together as Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

In Christ,

Pastor Dan Keinath



Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

School and YOUTH NEWS



END OF YEAR GREETINGS

Can you believe it? 2019 is almost here. It is also that time of year when people need to make donations for tax purposes. I am always looking for ways to assist our families. The Student Assistance Program is constantly being used by our families that need that extra help to make a Christ-centered education possible. This fund is totally supported through our friends. The Lord's people are blessed and are moved to help others that are struggling. Maybe this is the year that the Lord is speaking to you. Your gift really goes a long way and families are touched. Thank you for considering this request.

– Richard Thomas,
Principal of Trinity Lutheran School

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Give thanks with a grateful heart, and, Trinity, *we are so thankful for you!* With your help, Trinity's youth were able to help provide Thanksgiving baskets to 15 families which will help feed over 75 people this Thanksgiving! We also had some fun with a "Mystery Can" that was donated. The youth all guessed what was in the can, with the winner receiving a prize.



DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

Saturday, December 8

2:00-4:30pm – *Flame*: Cookie Baking & Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15

2:30-4:30pm – *Flicker*: Christmas Party

Sunday, December 16

Noon-7:00pm – *Fire*: Servant Event & Christmas Party



Missionary Greg Holz talked to the youth about being a missionary in "Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." We also sent notes of encouragement home with him to Cambodia.

Great Things

THE LORD IS DOING GREAT THINGS FOR US!

As we approach our 100th Anniversary, we will be focusing on Psalm 126:3, which proclaims, “The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” Indeed, the Lord has done great things for us, and He continues to do great things for us! Three years ago, we were in the midst of completing Phase 1 of our expansion plans. This project included adding 8,000 square feet of beautiful education space onto our school and significantly expanding our church parking. Do you remember what our church parking lot used to look like? If not, here are a couple of reminders:



Our Phase 1 construction was finished when we held our ribbon-cutting ceremony at the school in January, 2016, but this \$2.8M project won't be fully completed until we have made our last payment on the loan for this project. Many of you, our faithful members, have been donating to the Expansion Fund on a regular basis. These donations, along with the expansion fees from school families, do make a difference. As of November 1, our \$700K loan had been paid down to about \$550K.



Just before Thanksgiving, Trinity received a large estate gift from Fran and Dean Elliott. The Elliotts were never able to have children, but they loved kids and believed in the importance of Christian education. As part of their lasting legacy, they left nearly \$175K to the school, which will be applied to our Phase 1 project. The Elliott's gift, combined with other donations to our Expansion Fund, allowed us to pay down our loan by \$200K this past week. This means that we only have \$325K remaining to fully complete this project. This is less debt than when we started our Phase 1 project 4 years ago!

This is one example of the countless ways that God is showering us with His blessings (see Pastor Keinath's article for more examples!). Trinity has been experiencing the overflow of God's bounty for nearly 100 years. As we recognize His goodness during our centennial celebrations, we will also be making a concerted effort to pay off our Phase 1 loan. In the coming weeks we will be asking you to prayerfully participate in this effort. As you seek the Lord's direction regarding your participation, please take time to also thank Him for His incredibly abundant gifts – both temporal and eternal!

The Lord *is doing* great things for us, may we be filled with joy!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ACOLYTES: Saturday: Kaci Hensel Sun., 8:00: Brooklyn Baker Sun., 10:30: Jessie Belcourt						
ALTAR DUTY: Shared Duty						
LAY MINISTERS: Saturday: Nathan Thompson Sun., 8:00: Tim Grove Sun., 10:30: Ted Loomans						
2 <i>Psalm 106</i> MITE BOX SUNDAY 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 1pm Church Christmas Decorating	3 <i>Matthew 5</i> 7pm Adult Class	4 <i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i> 9am Quilting 6:30pm Christian Ed Mtg Properties Mtg. Fellowship Mtg Youth Board Mtg 7pm Ladies Small Group	5 <i>1 Thessalonians 3:9-13</i> 1pm Visitation Guild Kitchen Guild 2:15pm Chapel at TLS 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	6 <i>Luke 19:28-40</i> 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	7 <i>Matthew 6</i>	8 <i>Proverbs 17</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 2-4:30pm FLAME Cookie Baking and Christmas Party 5pm Worship
9 <i>Psalm 107</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Noon Ladies' Christmas Luncheon & Ornament Exchange	10 <i>Matthew 7</i> <i>Pastors' Circuit Meeting - Our Savior LC - Billings</i> 5:30pm Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm Evangelism Mtg. 7pm Adult Class	11 <i>Malachi 3:1-7b</i> 9am Quilting 9:30am Rock of Ages at Home - Christmas 7pm Ladies Small Group	12 <i>Philippians 1:2-11</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Service 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	13 <i>Luke 3:1-20</i> 10:30am Bible Study 7pm Choir Rehearsal	14 <i>Matthew 8</i>	15 <i>Proverbs 18</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 2:30-4:30 FLICKER Christmas Party 5pm Worship w/Communion
16 <i>Psalm 108</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Noon-7pm FIRE Servant Event and Christmas Party	17 <i>Matthew 9</i> 6:30pm LWML Christmas Celebration 7pm Adult Class	18 <i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i> 9am Quilting 7pm Ladies Small Group	19 <i>Philippians 4:4-7</i> 1:30pm TLS Christmas Program Matinee/Dress Rehearsal 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	20 <i>Luke 7:18-35</i> 10:30am Bible Study 2:30pm Wrinkled Righteous Moss Mansion Tour 6:30pm TLS Christmas Program	21 <i>Matthew 10</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS Noon TLS - Dismissal for Christmas Break	22 <i>Proverbs 19</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship
23 <i>Psalm 109</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	24 <i>Matthew 11</i> Christmas Eve Worship Services 2pm, 4pm & 6pm 11pm Candlelight Vigil	25 <i>Micah 5:2-5a</i> 10am Christmas Day Worship w/Communion Church Office Closed	26 <i>Hebrews 10:5-10</i> Church Office Closed	27 <i>Luke 1:39-56</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Heiliger Wedding Rehearsal	28 <i>Matthew 12</i> 5:30pm Heiliger Wedding	29 <i>Proverbs 20</i> 5pm Worship 6:30pm King Wedding Rehearsal
No School – Christmas Break - December 21 – January 2						
30 <i>Psalm 110</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 4:30pm King Wedding	31 <i>Matthew 13</i> <i>New Year's Eve</i> <i>Worship</i> <i>With Communion</i> 6:30pm	Church Phone: 245-3984 School Phone: 656-1021				
Trinity Worship Services on Community 7 8am Sundays & 5pm Tuesdays						

100TH CELEBRATION

The committee for the 100th celebration would like to let you know what we have going on for this very special time for our church. We are getting closer to March 17, 2019. In fact, it will be here soon. In October, we had the LWML kick-off the fun by sharing about LWML through the years. In November, the youth sponsored a HOT DISH Cook off to celebrate 100 years of youth ministry (and Lutheran potlucks). In January, the Lay Ministers will be sharing their celebration of Trinity's first 100 years. In March, it will be the school's turn to join the celebration. Save the date! The weekend of March 17th will be the big celebration. Pastor Thompson will be back at Trinity to preach for this special occasion. There will also be a banquet brunch on March 17th at the Double Tree with Pastor Forke as the guest speaker. Watch for details after the New Year and for tickets to go on sale. We have other surprises, too, but you will have to wait to find out what they are!



ADDRESS CHANGES

Correction:

Phyllis Burns

1990 Weston Drive
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-4494

Donald & Johanna Brutlag

306 Stonegate Circle
Billings, MT 59102

BAPTISMS

Athena Mae Edelman-Frost

Daughter of Tiffany Edelman & Kelly Frost

Born on August 27, 2017 / Baptized on November 10, 2018

Jonathan Karl Nathan Schlepp

Son of Mari Jo Schlepp & Anthony Moffitt

Born on October 9, 2013 / Baptized on November 11, 2018

FUNERALS / MEMORIALS

MaryJane Weathermon

Passed away on 11/1/2018, Funeral on 11/6/2018

Irene Gribble

Passed away on 11/22/2018, Memorial service on 11/28/2018

MEMBERSHIP LOSSES

Transfer Out:

Don & Betty Bagley

Jeff Bagley
5205 Georgetown Dr.
Loveland, CO 80538-6809



**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LWML MEETING

December 17

6:30 pm

Christmas Celebration

Heavy appetizers and desserts

LAMB TREE

Cradle Roll would like to invite everyone to please come up and see our lamb tree in the narthex. If you see your child's lamb, we ask that you please take it home. Have a blessed holiday season and a very Merry Christmas!

Financial REPORT

October Finances		
Income		145,789
Expenses		145,170
Net Margin		619
2018-2019 Finances		
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Target</i>
Offerings	294,297	288,216
Total Income	616,296	626,857
Total Expenses	585,647	620,122
Net Margin	30,649	6,735
Expansion Project Contributions		
October 2018 Gifts		5,072
July 2017–October 2018 Gifts		81,339

Special Events

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Advent Dinner at 5pm
Advent Worship Service at 6:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

Ladies' Luncheon & Ornament Exchange at Noon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Advent Dinner at 5pm
Sunday School Christmas Service at 6:30pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Advent Dinner and Music (Jinguji Benefit) at 5pm
Advent Worship Service at 6:30pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Wrinkled Righteous Moss Mansion Tour at 2:30pm
Christmas Program at Trinity School at 6:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm
Candlelight Vigil at 11pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Christmas Day Worship & Communion at 10am

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Worship at 6:30pm



6TH ANNUAL LADIES' CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE!

Sunday, December 9 | Noon | Fellowship Hall

Bring your wrapped ornament to exchange, an item for the Food Pantry and a salad to share at the luncheon. This year we will be decorating gingerbread men...and eating them!

Join us for all the Christmas fun & fellowship!

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known