



Joyful Noise

DECEMBER 2019

A Message from Your Pastor...

Dear Friends of Trinity,

On this particular Sunday morning, I was walking into the narthex of a church, trying to get my bearings. I glanced around and found the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, and the donut tables, but what I really needed – rather, what one of my children really needed – was a restroom. I had never been to this church before, and outside of my immediate family, I didn't know anyone. I was a visitor.

My family and I were attending this church to celebrate the baptism of my wife's niece. After inquiring where the restrooms were from an usher, I found a place to stand along the side wall of the narthex next to my in-laws and family. This spot seemed ideal as we were not disrupting the flow of people moving about, but we were close enough not to miss anything.

I found the moment quite fascinating. Standing there, observing people interact and converse with one another before church, I began wondering who, if anyone, was going to talk with us, the visitors. People saw us. Some people smiled at us. Many people walked right by us without any acknowledgement at all. Everyone (it seemed) knew we were newcomers. Finally one friendly lady came towards us and greeted us. She introduced herself, welcomed us, briefly talked with us and shared in the joy of the baptism. Then another person came over and briefly said hi, and then another. Before I knew it, 20 minutes had passed, and it was time for church. It only took 3 people – 3 conversations – to quickly pass the time and help us feel welcome in an unfamiliar place.

At His birth, Jesus didn't have a warm welcome. Luke 2:7 tells us, "And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because *there was no place for them in the inn.*" (*emphasis added*) The King of Creation, who left His home in heaven, was not welcomed to this earth with a warm house and a soft bed. Rather, his welcome was a manger, His bed made of straw. And who was there to greet Him? Mary and Joseph, of course. But the first visitors were shepherds, who were "out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). I wonder what Mary and Joseph thought when these men from the field came to see their newborn infant. I seriously doubt those shepherds ran home for a shower before greeting this new baby. I don't even think they used hand sanitizer. Yet they were still welcomed to glimpse and gaze upon this baby, their Savior Jesus.

This time of year, our congregation sees lots of people. Most are familiar with the church, knowing where to go and recognizing familiar faces. Still, many are visitors. Unfamiliar with where to go, what to do, who to speak to. How do we welcome these newcomers? With Christ's Love.

It's easy to smile and make eye contact, yet remain distant and disconnected. It's much more meaningful to take a few minutes, stretch out your hand and say, "Hi, my name is....I'm so glad you're here." In so doing, you are welcoming our guests to gaze upon the love of their Savior, Jesus.

This month, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus, we will be gathering in worship on Wednesdays evenings at 6:30. Before worship, we share a meal together at 5pm. Many times, we have guests and visitors who join us for the meal. Continue to be the loving, welcoming, Body of Christ that you are. In fact, just this past week, a newcomer who had been with us for about 3 weeks and initially was looking to join our congregation said, "I really appreciate how kind your congregation has been to me. They are very welcoming." Keep up the good work in the name and love of Jesus, who welcomes us.

In Christ,

Pastor Keinath



Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

School and YOUTH NEWS



GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT

Greetings from your main mission outreach to the Billings community. I have had the honor of working with a lot of His people in my 28 years here at Trinity. The Lord has blessed this congregation with people who love the Lord and share His love with others. It is always a pleasure to watch His people in action. One of those people has decided to retire. Mrs. Erger has announced this is her last year. Did you know that she actually attended school here as a child? I still have not figured out how many years she has been here at Trinity as a student and teacher. I still remember when I first met her, I told her she could have easily taken on the role of Principal. Sue and I consider her one of our closest friends. Yes, we will miss her. Yes, the students will miss her. Thank you for serving here at Trinity, Mrs. Erger!

– Richard Thomas, *Principal of Trinity Lutheran School*



THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Thanks to your partnership this Thanksgiving we were able to put together 19 baskets, providing a Thanksgiving meal for 96 people!! Additionally, thanks to your financial contributions, we were able to provide families with younger children board games to enrich their holiday together, diapers for babies, as well as other basic needs! Thanks for your continued support in Knowing Christ and Making Him Known in our community!



YOUTH!

Mark your calendars for youth events this Christmas Season! Be on the lookout for more information!

Flicker – Saturday, December 14, Noon-2 PM @ TYM Square (White Elephant Christmas Party)

Flame – Sunday, December 8, 2-4:30 PM (Baking Cookies for Christmas Program AND White Elephant Christmas Party)

Fire – Sunday, December 15, 2-7 PM (Decorate/Deliver cookies to shut-ins, potluck at the Heiligers' with a White Elephant gift exchange)



SEND "UP" YOUR PRAYERS!



One of the blessings of the Manitoba Mission Winter Trip is that the team is able to have extended individual time with people of Cross Lake. We lead fewer structured "programs" than during the summer trip, allowing us more time to really listen to people and care for them. This often involves catching up on life, playing cards and watching hockey, laughing and crying together, and praying for one another. It is a wonderful and unique experience.

It is easy to think of mission trips as events where *we* go and minister to *them*. If the singular result of these trips was that we shared Jesus with the community, that would be reason enough to do them. **But God accomplishes SO much more!** The truth is, God has used these opportunities to grow and bless our missionaries and our congregation in incredible ways.

2020 will be our 12th year serving in Cross Lake, and it has become a year-round ministry of our congregation. Friendships with those in Cross Lake have grown to the point that every day of the year our missionaries are connecting with our friends up north. We love the people there and they love us. **We ask them, "How can we be praying for you?" and they ask us, "How can we be praying for you?"** What an amazing blessing!



your prayer requests with us. Specifically:

- **Write out a prayer that we can share with the community.** You may also include a favorite Scripture passage, if you would like.
- **Write out your personal prayer request.** It could be for yourself, a family member, or a friend. We will ask the community of Cross Lake to join with us in praying for your request!

While in Cross Lake, we plan to share your prayers, Bible passages of encouragement, and prayer requests on the local radio, which everyone listens to! Please take a minute to thank God for the amazing ministry that He has allowed us to be involved in! Then, **jot down your prayers and drop them by the church office by January 1** (or email them to jboll@trinitybillings.org). Thank you!



RECIPE Mom's Sweet Potato Bake

3 c. cold mashed sweet potatoes
(Prepared without milk or butter – you may also use canned yams)

1 c. sugar
½ c. milk
¼ c. butter/margarine, softened
3 eggs
1 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Topping:
½ c. packed brown sugar
½ c. chopped pecans
¼ c. all-purpose flour
2 tbsp. cold butter/margarine

In a mixing bowl, beat sweet potatoes, sugar, milk, butter, eggs, salt and vanilla until smooth. Transfer to a greased 2-qt. baking dish. In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, pecans, and flour; cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over potato mixture. Bake, uncovered, at 325 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until golden brown. Yield: 8-10 servings

←
*This recipe is
for those who
requested it from
the Wrinkled
Righteous
Thanksgiving
Dinner.*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <i>Psalm 8</i> Mite Box Sunday 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 1pm Christmas Decorating Party at the Church	2 <i>Mark 16</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 7pm Adult Class	3 <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am Quilting 6:30pm Christian Ed.Mtg Youth Bd. Mtg. 7pm Worship Team 2 8pm Worship Team 1	4 <i>Romans 13:8-14</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 1pm Visitation Guild Mtg. 1pm Kitchen Guild Mtg. 2:15pm Chapel at TLS 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	5 <i>Matthew 21:1-11</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Worship Teams 3 & 4 practice 6:30pm Early Childhood Program & Band & Bells Concert	6 <i>Luke 1</i>	7 <i>Proverbs 7</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship w/Communion
8 <i>Psalm 9</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 2-4:30pm FLAME Youth Group	9 <i>Luke 2</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 5:30pm Stewardship Mtg. 6:30pm Evangelism Mtg. 7pm Adult Class	10 <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am Quilting 6pm Cradle Roll Guild 6:30pm Fellowship Bd. 7pm Worship Team 2 8pm Worship Team 1	11 <i>Romans 15:4-13</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS Noon P.A.R. at TYM 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Sunday School Christmas Service 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	12 <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm PPC Meeting 6pm Worship Teams 3 & 4 practice 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13 <i>Luke 3</i>	14 <i>Proverbs 8</i> Noon-2pm FLICKER Youth Group 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship
15 <i>Psalm 10</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 2-7pm FIRE Youth Group	16 <i>Luke 4</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 6:30pm LWML Christmas Celebration 7pm Adult Class	17 <i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> 6am Men's Bible Study 9am Quilting 7pm Worship Team 2 8pm Worship Team 1	18 <i>James 5:7-11</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 1pm W.R.Game Day 1:30pm TLS Christmas Program Matinee 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	19 <i>Matthew 11:2-15</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Worship Teams 3 & 4 practice 6:30pm TLS Christmas Program	20 <i>Luke 5</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS	21 <i>Proverbs 9</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship w/Communion
22 <i>Psalm 11</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes	23 <i>Luke 6</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 7pm Adult Class	24 <i>Isaiah 7:10-17</i> Christmas Eve Worship Services 2pm, 4pm & 6pm 11pm Candlelight Vigil	25 <i>Romans 1:1-7</i> 10am Christmas Worship Service <i>with Communion</i>	26 <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i> Church Office Closed	27 <i>Luke 7</i>	28 <i>Proverbs 10</i> 1pm Pickle Ball 5pm Worship
NO SCHOOL AT TLS - Christmas Break - December 23 - January 1						
29 <i>Psalm 12</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	30 <i>Luke 8</i> Noon P.A.R. at TYM 7pm Adult Class	31 <i>Isaiah 63:7-14</i> 6:30pm New Year's Eve Worship Service <i>with Communion</i>	ACOLYTES: Saturday: Avaree Thompson Sunday 8:00: Samuel Reinker Sunday 10:30: Luke Winchell ALTAR DUTY: Shared Duty	LAY MINISTERS: Saturday: Roger Kesler Sunday 8:00: Tom Runge Sunday 10:30: Ted Loomans		
No School at TLS						Trinity Worship Services on Community 7 8am Sundays & 5pm Tuesdays



LWML MEETING

December 16 | 6:30 pm

Opening Devotion by the Executive Board

Christmas Celebration joined by the
Cradle Roll Kids – *we will be serving
appetizers and desserts*

ADDRESS CHANGES

Andrea Kober
262 Wicks Lane
Billings, MT 59105

Tristyn & Jen Shaw
207 Whistlers Way
Billings, MT 59106

BAPTISMS

Kinzley and Ryleigh Hilderbrand, daughters of Anthony and Apryl Hilderbrand, were born on July 2, 2019. They were baptized by Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht on Sunday, November 3rd, at the 10:30am service.

Orin Ryan Harris, son of Barbara Harris and Christopher Peter, was born on September 16, 2019. He was baptized by Rev. Daniel Keinath on Saturday, November 9th.

Emerson Anne Rae, daughter of Andrew and Rebekah Rae, was born on October 11, 2019. She was baptized by Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht on November 17th, at the 10:30am service.

FUNERALS

Rena Naumann passed away on November 18, 2019. Her funeral was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalispell, MT, on November 25, 2019.

ALTAR DECORATING!

Help us decorate the altar for the Christmas season by ordering your poinsettias now! The cost of each poinsettia is \$10, and order forms are available in the narthex. Please complete the order form by December 15th, place in the envelope provided (along with your cash or check payable to Trinity), and drop in the box that is also located in the narthex. *Please also note on the envelope if you are purchasing your poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone. This will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of December 21 & 22nd.* You may pick up your poinsettias following the Christmas Day worship service. Thank you for helping us decorate the altar during this special season!

–Trinity's Altar Guild

Financial REPORT

October Finances		
Income		149,598
Expenses		150,584
Net Margin		-986
2019-2020 Finances		
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Target</i>
Offerings	275,739	305,593
Total Income	648,804	651,160
Total Expenses	624,241	651,160
Net Margin	24,562	0
Phase I Completion Drive (Goal of \$325,000 to Pay Off Loan)		
Gifts and Pledges (through October)		\$150,000
Remaining Needed to Complete		\$175,000

A reminder that all 2019 contributions must be received by the office or postmarked by December 31, 2019. Please contact the church office if you plan to give a stock or IRA gift to ensure that the maximum tax benefit is received. *Thank you for your faith-filled support of the ministry and mission at Trinity!*

Special Events

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, @ 1PM
Christmas Decorating Party

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4
Advent Dinner @ 5pm
Advent Worship Service @ 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, @ 6:30PM
Early Childhood Program/Band & Bells Concert at TLS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11
Advent Dinner @ 5pm
Sunday School Christmas Service @ 6:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18
Wrinkled Righteous Game Day @ 1pm
TLS Christmas Program Matinee @ 1:30pm
Advent Dinner @ 5pm
Advent Worship Service @ 6:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, @ 6:30PM
Christmas Program at Trinity School

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship @ 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm
Candlelight Vigil @ 11pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, @ 10AM
Christmas Day Worship & Communion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, @ 6:30PM
New Year's Eve Worship



News



FUNERAL LUNCHEON VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Trinity's Funeral Luncheon Committee needs a few more volunteers to serve in this important ministry! Most of us know what an important service this is to the grieving families who are dealing with the loss of a family member or friend. It takes such a load off their shoulders to have the luncheon taken care of on the day of the funeral or memorial. We serve about 10-12 funeral luncheons a year - providing the food, luncheon set-up, serving during the luncheon, and the clean-up afterwards. And we do not ask you to be available for every funeral. We are so blessed to serve our members in this way. Please contact the church office, Charity Tecca, or Connie Klundt if you would like to serve in this way!

Please join us! We could use you!



Knowing Christ and Making Him Known