

TRINITYnews

DECEMBER 2018

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street
PO Box 188
Spring Grove, MN 55974

507.498.5291
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10a.m. – 4 p.m.

Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship

10:15 a.m. Fellowship

10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM

STAFF

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Scott Solberg, Choir Director
Rachel Storlie, Organist
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS

We invite you again this year to pick up one of the Reverse Advent Calendars. The idea behind these calendars is much the same as your childhood calendar...There will be a window to open, and a message inside. But here is the change...each day there will be a suggestion of a way that you can thoughtfully be celebrating Advent with acts of kindness, hospitality, and generosity.



When you pick up a calendar, we invite you to also pick up the devotional booklet. You may also find it handy to have a basket or box ready for receiving the gifts you will be collecting during Advent.

An example of how this might work would be, sit down alone or together as a family, read the devotion and open the window that matches the day, such as December 1, open the window with a number 1 on it. Inside the window will be an idea of something that can put in the basket/box. It might be a can of tuna for the food shelf. It might be a pair of socks for the homeless shelter. Maybe it is a suggestion that you write a Christmas card to one of Trinity's members who has been ill, or alone this season.

You can participate in The Reverse Advent Calendar as an individual, or you might want to have a group do this together.

At the end of the Advent season, your box/basket will be full of great gifts to others, as we look forward to celebrating the gift of the Christ Child. We will have a spot for collecting the gifts at the church between Christmas and Epiphany. On the Sunday that we celebrate Epiphany, we will bring our gifts as an offering. Following that service, the Outreach Team will distribute your gifts to the food shelf, housing shelter, etc.

We hope that you will try this lovely way of celebrating the season.

If you have any questions, you can call any member of the Outreach Team. Thank you to Karen Fried for the work of putting the idea to paper.

Peace to you, as we celebrate this season of preparation and hope —

~Outreach Team

Mary Zaffke

Cindy Thorson

Joyce Landsom

Linda Nerstad Kemp

Cindy Melbostad,

Janice Messner

Judy Gerard

Terri Holland

Dear friends in Christ,

I read this article (edited for length) in the paper this morning, and just had to share it:

Swiss Guards let 6-year-old Wenzel Wirth run around Pope Francis at the Vatican last Wednesday. The boy's mother came on stage to fetch him and explained to Francis that he couldn't speak. Francis told her "Let him be, let him be." Francis explained to the crowd that the child was speech-impaired.

"He has something that made me think: He's free. Undisciplined-ly free, but he's free," a chuckling Francis said to applause from the crowd. "It made me think, 'Am I so free before God?' When Jesus says we have to be like children, it means we need to have the freedom that a child has before his father. I think this child preaches to all of us."

[You can read the whole article here: <http://strib.mn/2BB6ZJQ>]

There are so many things I love about this story. That the Swiss Guards stood by as the child ran around the pope. That the pope embraced the situation so warmly. And that the pope immediately created a mini-sermon from the event!

It's that little sermon that I think can be a lesson for all of us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child in a few weeks. It's so easy to feel burdened during Advent and Christmas, as we make our preparations, decorating, baking, buying, traveling ... Of course we're adults! We have to do this FOR our children, right?

I encourage you, during the coming weeks, to take a moment every day and be like Wenzel Wirth. Jesus came not only that we adore him from afar, but that we run right up to him like a child.

Jesus is coming! Let's be like children.

~ Pastor Elizabeth

P.S. Remember, "Thirst Day" begins next month! If you're thirsty for conversation about the Bible and topics of faith, I hope to see you at the parsonage on Thursday, January 17 at 7:30 p.m. BYOB! (Bring Your Own ... Bible ... book you'd like to share ... topic that challenges your belief ... or idea that makes you feel blessed. Oh, and you should bring a beverage as well!) Extra copies of the book "Love Wins" are available in the church office.



(Credit: AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia.)



Trinity's 2018 Alternative Giving

Alternative Giving Catalogs are now available in the church office, on Trinity's website and at the church entrances or Fellowship Hall on **December 2, 9, 16.**

Browse the catalog to learn about the various giving options. With each project purchased, you will receive a complimentary card along with an insert describing the project.

Begin to make a difference in someone's life today.

Spend Less. Give More. Worship Fully.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOME TO BE BUILT IN SPRING GROVE IN 2019!

The La Crosse chapter of Habitat for Humanity has chosen Spring Grove as a sight in which to build a new home. A residential lot has been purchased with the plan of having a family in this new home by the fall of 2019.

What is needed to make this project a success is YOU! If you have expertise or a desire to serve on a subcommittee, please contact Steve Nelson at (507) 421-2212.

The subcommittees are:

- 1) Fundraising
- 2) Family selection
- 3) Volunteers
- 4) Supplies and Subcontractors



If you are interested, the next meeting is Wednesday, December 5th at 5 p.m. in the Spring Grove Communications Building, Room 100.

BEAN BAGS FOR SALE

The Education Team is selling some extra bean bags Trinity has! We are selling them for \$20 each. If you have any interest in purchasing a bean bag (or a few!) contact Bekah at the church office or via email, bekah@trinitysg.org.



SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL RETURN TO CHURCH!

After much consideration and looking over surveys (Thank you to all who completed!!), we will be moving Sunday School back to the church. The Trinity Center has a wonderful set-up for rotational Sunday School; however, we are hoping to create a welcoming Christian community at church that is also functional for Sunday School. Babel in the Belfry will also return to the church. It is fun to have everyone under one roof on Sunday mornings! If you have any questions regarding the survey, feel free to email Bekah or stop into her office!

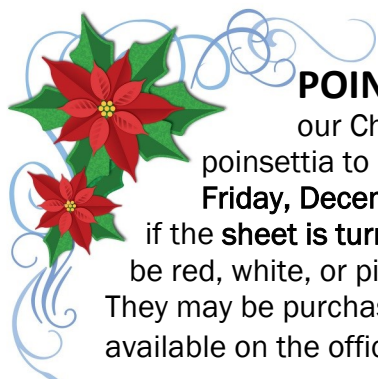
NOVEMBER CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Motions approved:

- To recommend the changes to the By-Laws, as presented to the Congregation Council, at the Annual Mtg.
- To hold an Empty Bowls fundraiser on January 20, 2019, with monies to be given equally to ELCA World Hunger and the Houston County Food Shelf.
- To proceed with securing and hiring a bookkeeper position.
- To approve paying the second boiler bill of \$87,195.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 12 at 7:45 p.m. at the parsonage.

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Poinsettias will beautify our sanctuary for our Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. If you wish to buy a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary, please have your **plant in the sanctuary between Friday, December 14 and Friday, December 21**. Gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletin,

if the **sheet is turned into the office by Tuesday, December 18**. We prefer the poinsettias to be red, white, or pink. You may take your poinsettia home after the Christmas Day service. They may be purchased in honor of / in memory of / in appreciation of someone. Forms are available on the office door.



WINTER WEATHER IS HERE! Unless weather conditions are so severe around Spring Grove that travel is unsafe, services will be held at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday. Announcements about the Sunday service will be made by 7:30 a.m. that day and broadcast on KVIK 104.7 FM, KQYB 98.3 FM, KTTC Channel 10, and WXOW TV-19. Decisions about the Saturday service will be made by 3:30 p.m. that day and broadcast in the same way. Please stay safe when considering traveling in bad weather.



LUREN CHRISTMAS CONCERT For the first time in 150 years, the Luren Singers will present their Christmas Concert at Trinity on Sunday, December 9 at 3:00 p.m. Featured soloist this year is Rachel Storlie. Trinity members that are also members or Luren are Dan Alstad, Kenny Anderson, Fred Arnold, Fordyce Brevig, Bill Fried, Eric Frydenlund, Jim Gray, Paul Gray, Kim Kapplinger, Brent Newgaard, David Storlie, and Stewart Storlie. The congregation will have the opportunity to participate with two songs, "Jeg er så glad" and "Her kommer dine arme små."

DO YOU HAVE THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS? "With Thrivent Choice, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$330 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide." (www.thrivent.com) Trinity Lutheran is one of the options for which to direct Choice Dollars. If you have Choice Dollars to direct, consider Trinity as an option. Thank you!



LOOKING FOR A SWEET CHRISTMAS GIFT? Maple syrup harvested from Zaffke's maple woods makes a delicious gift! It's not just for pancakes and waffles; drizzle it on yogurt, stir it into coffee, make ice cream with it, mix it into oatmeal, make salad dressing; the recipes are endless! A pint is \$10. Syrup is available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall or the church office. Proceeds go to Trinity Youth.

DAILY DEVOTION BOOKLETS Did you know that Trinity offers free daily devotion booklets — Christ in our Home. They are available at the church entrances or in the office. Each booklet contains three months of devotions. Pick up yours today!



TREAT SMORGASBORD! For Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, December 30, bring any extra holiday treats that you have and we'll make a smorgasbord of delicious treats! Thank you!

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN GIVE ELECTRONICALLY? Through Trinity's website, you can set up a Direct Debit Giving account to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account, or credit card, to go directly to Trinity. You set the schedule as it best fits for you! It's convenient and easy. Consider setting up your electronic giving account. Visit www.trinitysg.org. On the right-hand side of the home page, click on the link "Contribute" then click on the bar "Contribute Online" and it will bring you to the site to set up your online giving account. If you set up using your debit card there are no additional fees charged to the church...BUT If you use your credit card for the automatic payment the church is charged a fee for the transaction. Questions? Just let us know! Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM CARE TEAM Bag-a-Buck bagged \$291.85 for the Houston County Food Shelf. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has become an important ministry. Prayer shawls are made by women in the congregation and a member of the team brings them to people who are in need along with a devotion. IF you know of someone who needs to be wrapped in love and comfort, let Milly know. We are working on Christmas cheer for the community. These will be delivered in December. We have a Thrivent grant that was given to purchase books and material for families who are grieving. This should be coming out in the days ahead. We have 10 children who are receiving HIP backpacks every week at school. With our construction winding down we want people to use the food shelf in the church. My team is busy and doing a great job. ~ Milly Halverson, Care Team leader

BLESSINGS



▲ Confirmation Service

◀ special music by Loren Esse for Confirmation Service

► Our faithful newsletter ladies



YOUTH NEWS

**CHRISTMAS PARTY!!!**

Hey youth grades 7-12! Come to Bekah's house (231 1st Ave SW) for a Christmas party on December 15 at 7:00 pm! Bring a fun and inexpensive gift (\$5 and under) for a gift exchange game. Be prepared to play fun Christmas games, eat Christmas cookies, and listen to Christmas music!

**PLEASE
NOTE**



There will be **no Sunday School or Babel in the Belfry** on Sundays, December 16 (Sunday School Program), 23, and 30.

Babel folks....if you do a worship note, please write on the Babel blog. Thanks!



YOUTH GROUP 3:16s is a group for 9th-12th grade youth that meets **Sundays at 8:00 p.m.** at Bekah's house. We discuss questions the youth have about their faith, the church, God, world events, and everything else! We also have time for fellowship, playing games (ping pong, air hockey, board games), doing homework, practicing yoga, and more! Bring a friend....all are invited, Trinity member or not!

**QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING YOUTH RELATED?**

Bekah would be happy to answer your questions!
She can be reached at 498-5291 or bekah@trinitysg.org

Heating / Cooling Project update by the numbers Total amount committed with donations and matching fund gifts = 203,474.24! Amount includes \$30,000 anonymous gift, \$10,000 gift from Norman Ellingson, and \$50,000 from Andrew J. Gray Memorial to cover air conditioning costs. Project goal is \$250,000.

What's next? To strive to meet our project goal and if necessary to take out a loan, making it as small as possible.

Donations to the project are still needed and do not have to be paid in one lump sum, they can be paid in installments.

How to donate? Pick up a form in the office. Visit trinity's website, www.trinitysg.org, and download a form under "Quick Links" on the home page. Give electronically, following the "Contribute" link on our website.

Received since November's newsletter.....

DONATION FROM	IN MEMORY
Steve & Peggy Landsom	
Jean Ellingson	
Marie G. Hanson	
Richard Sundet	
Jeremy & Danielle Myhre	In memory of Rick "Dusty" Dehning
Lorilyn Dehning	In memory of Lloyd & Nancy Sanness
Anonymous	In memory of Andrew J. Gray
Sandy Gordon	
Edith Nerstad	
Paul & Helen Solum Family	
Anonymous	In honor of Janice Dokken
Oscar & Kathy Rosendahl	
Jeff Ellingson	In memory of Jerome & Audrey Ellingson
George & Alliene Schrimper	
Steve & Bev Nelson	
Mike & Laura Moen	
Dave & Carol Alstad	In memory of Luverne Schroeder
Wayne & Marian Bunge	
Geri Worden	
Dennis Gulbranson	
Barb Gulbranson	
Vernon Roble	
Kathleen Storlie	In memory of Melbourne Storlie
Anonymous	
Al & Laurie Wendel	
Willy & Bekah Leafblad	
Phillip & Kristi Griffin	
Lee Hoekstra	In honor of Rick Sundet
Dean Lindholm & Mary Jo Haugan Lindholm	
Mike & Deanna Solum	
Janet & Wayne Wold	
Abe, Laura, & Olivia Mendez	
Nathan Wiste	
Brett & Molly Wiste	
James Wilhelmson	
Michelle & Wayne Jahnke family	
Roger Tollefsrud	
Jim & Darla Hunzeker	
Lane & Mary Zaffke	
Janice Storlie	
Maria Albrecht, Ellie Halverson, Austin Conway	
Owen & Gayle Hagen	
Llewellyn & Sharon Storlie	
Jeff Engen	
Brian Rosaaen	
Lee Grippen	

*thankful
&
blessed*

BLESSINGS



◀ Thanksgiving pies made by our youth. Yum!

▼ Youth outing with Faith Lutheran of Blackhammer to an Escape Room in La Crosse



Thankful Brass was our special musical guest on Christ the King Sunday. ▼

PHOTOS



▲ We met the challenge —
Pastor Elizabeth will have blue hair
on Sundays, December 2 & 9!
Don't miss it!



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 8:30am Altar Guild cleaning sanctuary 10:00am Worship Team decorate 5:00pm Worship/ Communion
2 1st Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Property, pr offc 10:30am Sunday School, church 6:45pm Praise Band practice 8:00pm 3:16s	3 7:00pm SGHS Choir Concert in sanctuary	4 6:00pm Stewardship, MR 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	5 1:00pm Release Time (K) 5:00pm Worship Team, MR 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper 6:30pm Staffing Team, GR 7:00pm Advent Vespers 7:25pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	6 5:30pm Education, MR 7:00pm Finance, MR	7	8 10:30am Praise Band practice
9 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sun School, church 10:30am Mission in World 11:30am TCC Service 3:00pm Luren concert 6:45pm Youth Handbells 8:00pm 3:16s	10 7:00pm Adult Handbells play with the SGHS Band at concert at school	11 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support Team, FH 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	12 9:30am Adah Circle 2:00pm Release Time (1 st) 6:00pm Confirmation w/ Supper / Fellowship Night 7:00pm Advent Vespers 7:25pm Adult Handbells 7:45pm Council, @Pr.Elizabeth 8:00pm Choir	13	14	15 5:00pm Worship/ Communion 7:00pm Youth Christmas Party at Bekah's
16 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship/ Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, church 10:30am Outreach, pr offc 7:00pm Trinity Choir Concert	17 7:00pm Hannah, MR	18 10:00am Anna Circle 2:30pm Phoebe 7:00pm Al-Anon, TC	19 2:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 2:00pm Eve Circle 6:00pm Confirmation caroling 7:00pm Advent Vespers 7:25pm Adult Handbells 8:00pm Choir	20 9:30am Communion at The Manor 12:00pm Newsletter info deadline 7:00pm Outreach	21	22
23 4th Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship 10:15am Fellowship no Sunday School	24 Christmas Eve 3:00pm Worship 8:00pm Candlelight Worship	25 Christmas 10:00am Worship/ Communion	26 No Confirmation	27 9:30am Communion at Tween Apartments 10:30am Communion at Assisted Living 2:00pm Newsletter mailed	28	29
30 9:15am Worship/Servant Sunday 10:15am Fellowship no Sunday School						

VOLUNTEERS

	DECEMBER 2	DECEMBER 9	DECEMBER 16	DECEMBER 23	DECEMBER 24 3:00pm 8:00pm	DECEMBER 25 10:00 am.	DECEMBER 30
LECTOR	Kathy Rosendahl	Joyce Landsom	Janna Myrah	Milly Halverson	3p: Bev Nelson 8p: Scott Solberg	Jim Hunzeker	Jim Gray
ACOLYTE(S)	Ellie Halverson, Jonah Udstuen	Caleb Griffin	Elijah Solum, Ava Olerud	Tysen Grinde	3p: Hunter Holland 8p: Nathan Solberg	Jaxon Strinmoen, Brielle Neeley	Haley Ellingson
COMMUNION SERVERS	Mary & Howard Deters, Karen Bingham	n/a	Jean Ann & Lonnie Tweeten, Jessica Sherburne	n/a	n/a	Janna & Len Myrah, Al Lochner	n/a
COMMUNION	Karen Bingham	n/a	Karen Bingham	n/a		Terry Holland	
ALTAR GUILD	Danielle Myhre (chair), Paula Karlsbroten, Judy Roble, Linda Pierce, Rose Stadtler, Lorilyn Dehning						
USHERS	Jim Hunzeker (captain) Christian Myrah, Terry Olerud, Gary Jahnke, Roger Stenhoff, Jerald Oakes				3pm: Darla & Jim Hunzeker, Stewart Storlie 8pm: Rob & Amy Gross, Mark Udstuen	Kim Kapplinger	Jim Hunzeker team
COFFEE HOSTS	Bonnie Solberg, Sharon & Dale Buxengard, Mike & Laurie Moen	Kim & Doris Sherburne, Mike & Carol Sher- burne, John and Jana Halverson	Linda Nerstad Kemp, Judy Tollefsrud, Mary Zaffke, Jackie Parker, Joyce Landsom	Finance Team	n/a	n/a	Treat smorgasbord! Everyone invited to bring their extra holiday treats to share!
498-AMEN	Dec. 2-15— Mary Deters	Dec. 16-29 Deb Spence					



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So many wonderful events happening at Trinity this month!
We look forward to seeing you!

- ♦ **Monday, December 3**, 7:00 p.m. is the Spring Grove High School Choir Concert held at Trinity, celebrating the 200th anniversary of "Silent Night."
- ♦ **Sunday, December 9**, 3:00 p.m. We're honored to host the **Luren Singers Christmas Concert**.
- ♦ **Monday, December 10**, 7:00 p.m. is the Spring Grove High School Winter Band Concert (at the school), featuring Trinity's own Handbell Choir on one song!
- ♦ **Sunday, December 16** is a double-header: Our **Sunday School kids** will present their **Christmas program** at the 9:15 a.m. service, and our **Trinity Choir** will present their **Christmas Concert** that evening at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ **NEW THIS YEAR: Wednesday Advent Vesper services** at 7:00 p.m. on **December 5, 12 and 19**. These will be short (20-25 minutes), contemplative services that will help us prepare for Christmas.
- ♦ Our **Christmas Eve services** will be **Monday, December 24 at 3:00 p.m.** and Candlelight Service at **8:00 p.m.**
Note the new time for the second Christmas Eve service.
- ♦ Our **Christmas Day service** will be **Tuesday, December 25 at 10:00 a.m.**
- ♦ **Sunday, December 30** is **Lessons and Carols** and also a **Servant Sunday**. Bring something extra for the Food Shelf for Servant Sunday. Leftover goodies? Bring them along to share during Coffee Fellowship — we'll have a smorgasbord of treats!