TRINITYnews

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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



Instagram trinitylutheransg trinityyouth203



Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Fellowship - *select weeks* 10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM www.kvikradio.com

and on Facebook

Saturday Worship 5:00 p.m. 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month

STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor prelizabeth.trinitysg@gmail.com

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Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist Scott Solberg, Choir Director Logan Olson, Handbell Director Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader Rick Sundet, Technology Lead

Looking for gifts that make an impact? Gifts that help make a difference in others' lives?

Then Trinity's Impactful Gifts Catalog is just what you need! These gifts are always the right size!

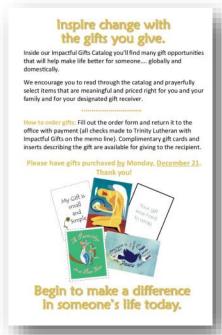
Catalogs are available in the office, in the sanctuary, or view it on our website.

<u>How to order gifts</u>: Fill out the order form and return it to the office with payment (checks to Trinity Lutheran with Impactful Gifts on the memo line). Greeting cards and inserts describing the gift are available for giving to the recipient.

Please have gifts purchased by Monday, December 21. Thank you!

God's love in Jesus is a gift. Giving gifts like these is just one way to share that love with others.





Mark your calendars!

LIVE @ 5 — Daily Advent devotions on Facebook Live

GUEST PREACHER — **Bishop Regina Hassanally** Sunday, December 12

SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM — "New Star" Sunday, December 19 • 9:15 a.m

TRINITY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT— "Comfort & Joy"

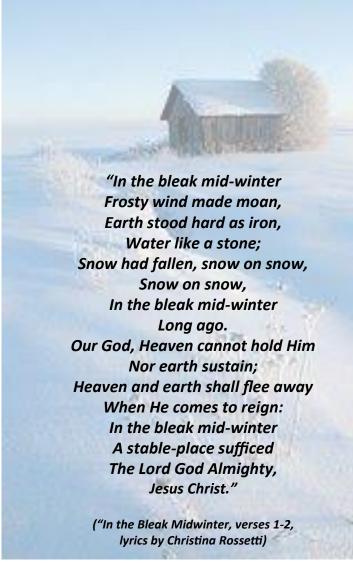
Sunday, December 19 • 7:00 p.m. • virtual (104.7FM, Facebook Live)

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Friday, December 24 • 3:00 pm • 5:00 pm • 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

Saturday, December 25 • 10:00 am



Dearest people of God,

In 2008, the BBC (British Broadcasting Company) asked choirmasters in the United Kingdom and United States to name their favorite Christmas carol. Harold Darke's setting of Christina Rossetti's "In the Bleak Midwinter" topped their list.

The poem first appeared in 1872 in a holiday issue of Scribner's Monthly, which had asked Rossetti for a contribution appropriate to the season. Though she never collected the poem in a book, her brother William included it in the edition of her Poetical Works that he published in 1904, ten years after her death. The poem – and the hymn – remind us that though it is cold and dark now (at least in the Northern Hemisphere), the sun will shine again, bringing light and warmth and hope in Jesus our Savior.

The holidays can be challenging times for anyone who has suffered loss or hurt. I have been thinking a lot, lately, about how it can be a "Blue Christmas" for many. In the last year and a half, we have lost nearly 800,000 people in the U.S. alone from COVID-19. Millions more have died around the world.

And, of course, many others have suffered losses that haven't attracted the headlines. It can be hard to celebrate when we are in the midst of illness, when we get a serious diagnosis, or when we face our own mortality. It can be even harder for those who love us.

But in the season of preparation and expectation, we are called to remember that Jesus came into this world of sin and brokenness not to save us from all sorrow, but to remind us that sorrow and death are not the end.

"Lord God, in the deepest night there rises the star of morning, of birth, the herald of a new day you are making, a day of great joy dawning in yet faint shafts of light and love. I hear whispers of peace in the stillness, fresh breezes of promise stirring, winter sparrows chirping of life, a baby's cry of need and hope – Christmas! In the darkness I see the light and find in it comfort, confidence, cause for celebration, for the darkness cannot overcome it; and I rejoice to nourish it in myself, in other people, in the world for the sake of him in whom it was born and shines forever, even Jesus the Christ." (Ted Loder in "Guerrillas of Grace")

Jesus, our consolation and our joy, is coming!

~ Pr. Elizabeth



But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." Luke 2:10

Ah, it is December. This text is where most of us are heading or looking forward to or focusing on in our faith journey. What does this mean for our souls? Trinity is offering a number of devotional opportunities this year such as 498-HOPE where we will be reading the devotions from *Filled with Hope and Gratitude*, and there is Live @ Five by Pastor Elizabeth. There are also a number of concerts that can be attended. There of course will be the feel-good secular offerings of movies to pick from like "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

It seems to me that when we arrive at Christmas Day we should have a fullness of heart, satisfaction, or some sort of warmth that will sustain us. When I was a child, I liked to fall back into snowdrifts. Mom had wrapped and insulated me with numerous layers of clothing so I didn't feel the cold. I would lie there in the snow, enjoying it supporting every inch of my body. It is perhaps as close to floating as I have ever sensed.

How you get to this point, only you know. Look inside to what sustains you. Do the things necessary to get there. Maybe don't watch "Jingle all the Way" or "Christmas Vacation" so you have more time!

~ Pr. Lane

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP

December 12: 6:30 p.m.—8 p.m. • December 26: No Youth group Our High School Youth Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the Trinity Center. We spend time in community, games, and deep faith conversation. HSYG is for ALL 9th -12th grade youth — invite a friend to come with you!



There is still time to register for the Youth Gathering! ALL 9th -12th grade youth are invited to attend and welcome to invite a friend along, too. We will be doing fundraisers to help offset the cost of the Gathering. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to be with thousands of other Lutheran youth from across the US and world. Please contact Kerri for more information and with any questions.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH LOCK-IN

December 10 • 9 p.m. - 7 a.m.

9th -12th grade youth invited! Games, food, all-around-the-church challenges and games. Stay up late! Faith Community, and time to worship our God! An email with more details will be sent to eligible youth families soon. Watch your inbox for details!

4TH - 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP

Wednesday, December 15 • 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. • Fellowship Hall Christmas Bingo! Watch for more details coming soon!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM • "New Star" • December 19 • 9:15 a.m.

RELEASE TIME

We have more than 100 kids participating in Release Time this year! All Kindergarten—5th grade youth are invited to attend regardless if they belong to a church or not.

SCHEDULE UPDATE

No Sunday School or youth programs December 23 - January 3. See you in the new year!



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.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT DURING 2021! Your financial support helps us do great things in God's ministry for the church. Please have any year-end gifts into the office by 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 29, 2019. Thank you for all your support this year! ~ The Finance Team

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY! Trinity is looking for someone to



schedule the Meals on Wheels delivery people from our congregation. Delivery weeks are shared with other area churches and community groups. We have an established group of volunteers that have been delivering for years. Thank you! Your task would be to send them a schedule every 5-6 months. Training and mentoring is available from Laurie Moen. If interested in helping with this opportunity, please call the office, 498-5291, or Laurie Moen, 498-3327. Also, if you are interested in being a meal delivery person,

please let Laurie know. Thank you!

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED, GIVE WHAT YOU CAN Our Little Free Pantry has been a great success. If you'd like to donate non-perishable items (one serve chili, stew, ravioli, etc.; canned meats: chicken, tuna.; potato packets, gravy; canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, jello) please drop them off by the pantry — southwest door on Main Street, open 24/7, or add the items to the shelves in the appropriate spots placing new food at the back of each grouping. Monetary donations also help us shop for needed items. Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the office, please indicate "Little Free Pantry" on the donation. Thank you very much! ~ Care Ministry Team

LOOKING FOR A DELICIOUS HEALTHY MEAL? CHECK OUT SENIOR DINING! Carry-out meals are available Monday-Friday. Call Annette at the Legion, 498-3385, from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. to sign-up for a meal, please give 24 hours notice. A donation between \$3.75-\$7.00 is requested, whatever you can pay. Delicious meals include such things as chili con carne, enchilada casserole, chicken pot pie, vegetable soup, porcupine meatballs, and more sides and dessert. Yum! You can also contact the Rushford SEMCAC office to sign up for meals, (507) 864-2786.

SEMCAC FUNDRAISER Semcac empowers and advocates for people to enhance their self-sufficiency by maximizing community resources. In 2020.... 21,786 clients were served from 11,831 households plus 41,423 bus rides were provided and 609 clients were assisted via the new COVID Housing Assistance Program.

2021 was another unprecedented year with ongoing and new hardships for southeastern Minnesotans. The COVID pandemic has proven to be an ongoing challenge; Semcac is doing all that they can to meet the needs of the community. Staff have worked diligently to help vulnerable Minnesotans, as the number of people in crisis continued to rise. Consider a gift to Semcac this year.

Ways to give: checks payable to Semcac and mailed to PO Box 549, Rushford, MN 55971. Or securely online with a card: semcac.org/donate or via PayPal or GiveMN.org.



NOVEMBER 10, 2021 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Updates:

- We have 55 youth in Confirmation this year; 10 Mentor Groups.
- We have adults in the congregation leading elective courses for our youth to learn and experience faith in real life.
- Starting a Youth Praise Band, to play and lead worship every other 2nd Sunday of the month.
- We have 104 students in Release Time.
- Care Ministry Team has launched the HIP program with 14 meals packed.
- Communications Team is working with the office staff for a list of members. Looking at calling all members by the end of the year to help update contact information and ask each member what they are thankful for regarding Trinity. Inquire with each member to see how they would be willing to serve or how they see themselves serving at Trinity.
- Outreach Team sent 30 boxes to young adults and 27 cards to nursing home residents. Now looking to send cards to Assisting Living and shut-ins.
- Property Team reported that Tim Ladsten will do the snow plowing for the year. Gary has been working on the door entrance where the ramp was located. Looking at and working on projects at the parsonage.
- Mission in the World Team is working on the alternative giving for Christmas.
- Staffing Team reported that annual staff evaluations moved to April to avoid scheduling conflicts that occur at the end of the year. Staff will be informed of this change.
- Discussion on the percentage of church budget designated for staff. Research suggests a bench mark of 50% although churches may be as high as 65 to 70 percent. Volunteer engagement impacts the need for additional staff and with more staff, members may be less likely to volunteer. A congregation is healthier when it has both qualified staff and engaged volunteers working together in ministry.
- Facilities Planning Committee meeting next on November 30. Committee needs some guidance on if they only look at the addition or look at the entire church building plus the addition.
- Electric lines north side of church—estimate of \$20,000 to put the electric lines underground.

Motions passed:

- Kim made a motion to create a committee to develop a comprehensive plan to look at the improvement and update of the church properties to continue the mission of the church.
- Finance Team made a motion to have an external audit of Trinity's books to be conducted by Mike Betz on Sat., January 15, 2022, at the rate of approximately \$30/hour. Treasurers of various committees need to get a list of requirements from Lorilyn Dehning, that they will need to present to Mike on that date. Committee treasurers will need to meet with Mike and cannot simply drop off their materials at the church office. This is to include Beary Patch, all Endowments, and all church books.

Next Meeting: December 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES!

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries.

We have several options to receive your offering:

► ELECTRONICALLY: via our website, <u>www.trinitysg.org</u>. Click on the "Contribute" link on the right-side of the page.

▶ BY MAIL: Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember — sponsorships for the Media Ministry Fund (\$100) or Missionary for a Day candle (\$40) can also be done. Do you have a certain date in mind? Give us a call, 498-5291, or send us an email, trinity@springgrove.coop.





WHAT TALENTS DO YOU HAVE THAT YOU COULD SHARE WITH TRINITY?

There are many ways to share your talents at Trinity. One of the ways is to be a member of one our 10 teams — Care Ministry, Communications, Education, Finance, Outreach, Mission in the World, Property, Staffing, Stewardship, and Worship. We also have three endowments — Heritage, Mission, and Scholarship. Plus council members — treasurer, secretary. and president.

There are various openings on these teams: Treasurer, Communications Team lead, Staffing Team lead, Outreach Team lead. Are you called to fill one of these positions? The Nominating Committee is actively working to fill all open positions before the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022. Please reach out to one of the Nominating Committee members: Milly Halverson, Gary Wilhelmson, or Mary Zaffke or contact Pastor Elizabeth. Thank you for considering how you can share your God given talents at Trinity.



DOING HOLIDAY SHOPPING? REMEMBER....TRINITY IS PART OF AMAZON SMILE



AmazonSmile is a simple way to support a favorite charity (Trinity!) every time amazonSmile you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you! When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices and selection just like on Amazon.com with the added benefit that Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the charitable

organization of the shopper's choice. There is no cost to the shopper for shopping through AmazonSmile and there is no cost to the charitable organization.

Here's how to shop through AmazonSmile....

- 1) Visit this website and it will automatically put Trinity as the charity that will receive the AmazonSmile donation: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0724052. Or you can simply go to: smile.amazon.com and search for "Trinity Lutheran Church" as the charitable organization you want to select.....make sure to look for Trinity from Spring Grove, MN.
- 2) Shop as usual! Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. These products will be marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail page.

Please note.....if you have previously chosen a charitable organization through AmazonSmile, you can easily change it to Trinity....you can take turns selecting your favorite organizations to receive the donation!

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS Do you have an account with Thrivent? Then you might be eligible to have a Thrivent Action Team. Supporting your community is easy with Thrivent Action Teams. Apply to lead a group in a fundraiser, educational event or service activity. Then, gather a team of volunteers to make an impact together. Thrivent provides a customized kit of resources to get you started. Your team provides the passion to bring it to life. For more information about Thrivent Action Teams, visit their website: www.thrivent.com/what-we-offer/ generosity/thrivent-action-teams.html.

PODCAST — "OUR FUTURE IS STILL IN OUR HANDS" Katharine Hayhoe is one of the most esteemed atmospheric scientists in the world. She's made her mark by connecting dots between climate systems and weather patterns and the lived experience of human beings in their neighborhoods and communities. She's also an ambassador, if you will, between the science of climate change and the world of evangelical Christian faith and practice, which she also inhabits. To delve into that with her is to learn a great deal that refreshingly complicates the picture of what is possible and what is already happening, even across what feel like cultural fault lines. If you want to speak and walk differently on this frontier, this is a conversation for you. Listen to the podcast here: https://onbeing.org/programs/katharine-hayhoe-our-future-is-still-in-our-hands/





Dec. 5	Jen Solberg
Dec. 12	Nolie Kapplinger
Dec. 19	Roxie Finnesgard
Dec. 24, 3pm	Bev Nelson
Dec. 24, 8pm	Phil Griffin
Dec. 25	Scott Solberg
Dec. 26	Jim Gray



Dec. 5	Olivia Wennes, Elle Berns		
Dec. 12	Christian Bjerke		
Dec. 19	Ezekiel Gengler, Tysen Moen		
Dec. 26	Siri Konkel		

Usher Schedule



December Ushers

Rob Gross (captain) Christian Myrah Chris Strinmoen Gary Jahnke Roger Stenhoff Jerald Oakes



December Altar Guild

Milly Halverson (chair) Carolyn Olson Carolyn Kampschroer Dawn Hewitt Carol Sherburne



Mon. Nov. 29	Barb & Dennis Gulbranson
Tue. Nov. 30	Barb & Dennis Gulbranson
Wed. Dec. 1	Laurie & Mike Moen
Thu. Dec. 2	Barb & Steve Morken
Fri. Dec. 3	Barb & Steve Morken



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Nov. 28 - Dec. 11	Nolie Kapplinger		
Dec. 12—25	Deb Spence		
Dec. 26 - Jan. 8	Lori Wilhelmson		

Christ in our Home devotional booklets and 498-AMEN instructions are located right inside the southeast entrance of the church.



Chain 1	Chain 2				
Joyce Landsom	Karen Gray				
Nolie Kapplinger	Bev Nelson				
Terry Holland	Janet Wold				
Bonnie Solberg	Jan Lochner				
Dawn Hewitt	Ruth Johnsrud				
Lynn Rostad Anderson	Judy Bratland				
Milly Halverson					







WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY

- **498-HOPE** (4673)
- -short daily messages and updates
- 498-AMEN (2636)-daily devotions
- www.trinitysg.org-news, updates, info
- Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove -updates, music, worship, info

- YouTube:
 - Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove -video recordings of worship, and more!
- Instagramphotos, updates
- KVIK 104.7FM
 - Sunday worship service,
 - www.kvikradio.com

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY

L	JECLIAL		I I LINIIN	00 / (1	11/11/11	
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MR = Middle Roor GR = Gathering Roo TC = Trinity Center		s) ar men's bathroom)	1:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 2:00pm Release Time (K) 5:00pm Live @ 5 6:00 Trinity U: Revelation 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir	5:00pm Live @ 5 Cub Scouts, FH 5:30pm Stewardship Team		10:30am AA 5:00pm Worship/ Communion 5:00pm Live @ 5
2 nd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship, Communion 10:30am Sunday School Christmas program practice, Finance Team, FH 5:00pm Live @ 5	6 5:00pm Live @ 5	5:00pm AA 5:00pm Live @ 5	9:30am Adah, Tweeten Apts. 12:00pm Release Time (5 th) 1:00pm Release Time (4 th) 2:00pm Release Time (3 rd /4 th) 5:00pm Live @ 5 7:00pm Council, Handbells 8:00pm Choir	9 5:00pm Live @ 5, Cub Scouts, FH	5:00pm Live @ 5 9pm-7am High School Youth Group Lock-in, church	9am-12pm Christmas Cheer bags assembly, FH & kitchen 10:30am AA 5:00pm Live @ 5
3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship with Bishop Hassanally 10:30am Sunday School Christmas program practice 11:15am Nursing Home service 5:00pm Live @ 5 6-8:00pm High School Youth Group	13 5:00pm Live @ 5	9:00am Deborah 9:30am Anna 5:00pm AA 5:00pm Live @ 5	15 1:00pm Release Time (3 rd) 2:00pm Release Time (1 st) 2:00pm Eve 3:30-5:30pm 4 th -6 th grade Youth Group, FH 5:00pm Live @ 5 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir	9:30am Worship at Manor 5:00pm Live @ 5, Cub Scouts, FH	9:00am Love Day 5:00pm Live @ 5	18 10:30am AA 5:00 pm Worship/ Communion 5:00pm Live @ 5
4 th Sunday in Advent 9:15am Worship, with Sunday School Christmas program 5:00pm Live @ 5 7:00pm Trinity Choir Concert, virtual 26 9:15am Worship No Sunday School No High School	20 2:30pm Phoebe, GR 7:00pm Hannah, GR 5:00pm Live @ 5	21 5:00pm AA 5:00pm Live @ 5 28 5:00pm AA	1:00pm Release Time (2 nd) 2:00pm Release Time (K/1 st) 5:00pm Live @ 5 8:00pm Choir Jan/Feb newsletter info due! 29	9:30am Worship at Tweeten Apts 5:00pm Live @ 5 30 2:00pm newsletter prepped	24 Christmas Eve office closed 3:00pm Worship 5:00pm Worship 8:00pm Worship — Candlelight 31 Welcome 2022!	25 Christmas Day 10:00am Worship
Youth Group						



- ◀ Trinity U: CPR class led by SG Ambulance head EMT, Angie Halverson (far left).
- ► A beautiful display for our Thanksgiving Worship service.





■ Busy youth making Thanksgiving pies! It was a delightful day of rolling and mixing and baking with wonderful scents filling the church!

Special thanks to Peggy Landsom for her help and expertise in pie-making!

Thanks for your support! The youth made 85 pies!! Wow!!

Proceeds will go to the youth attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July 2022.











Thirty youth attended the Confirmation Retreat to Expeditions Unlimited in Baraboo, Wisconsin in November.

They had excellent weather as they spent time with God in nature and in community. At the retreat they got to do a high ropes course and zipline, play capture the flag, worship around a campfire, and spend intentional time in relationship with Jesus.

Thank you to the chaperones that went along for the weekend and to Lonny Tweeten for driving the bus.



Would you like to honor a special loved one with a gift to Trinity?

☐ Trinity General Fund

☐ Houston County Food Shelf



☐ in honor of

is....

☐ in memory of

☐ in celebration of

☐ in appreciation of

My name:



Please turn this form in by Friday, December 17 in order for the honorary name designation to be listed in the Christmas Eve and Day bulletins. Thank you!

Let's decorate the sanctuary for Christmas with poinsettias!

I will provide one poinsettia (or more!) for the sanctuary.

My poinsettia is....

in honor of

☐ in memory of ____

in celebration of

u in appreciation of

My name:

Please turn this form in by Friday, December 17 in order for the honorary name designation to be listed in the Christmas Eve and Day bulletins. Thank you!

Poinsettias may be taken home after worship on Christmas Day.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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A Prayer for Christmas Morning

by Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

"Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen."

"Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift."
- 2 Corinthians 9:15