DECEMBER 2016

The JOURNEY — Walking Daily with Jesus

Members step up to serve on Council
NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS ELECTED AND 2017 BUDGET APPROVED



Trinity's annual meeting was held November 6, with 51 members present to vote on various items for the upcoming year.

Treasurer Fred Peck reported that the church is debt free, with \$20,000 in the bank. Projects finished this year without incurring debt include repaving/restriping parking lot and new windows in Fellowship Hall. After 10 years as treasurer, Fred announced his resignation due to health issues. The 2017 budget, which included long overdue pay

raises for staff members, was approved.

Newly elected council officers and members are: President — Leo Diehl; Vice President — Wally Thom; Treasurer — Rolf Jostad; Financial Secretary — Dave Webster; Evangelism — Donnarae Carrell; Worship & Music — Barb Kleven; Missions & Outreach — Karen Hayes (1 year to finish Colleen Gindt's term). Two positions remained unfilled: Stewardship and Fellowship.

Nominations were taken for the 2017 Nominating Committee and Rolf Kleven, George Crust, and Melinda Pedersen were elected to the committee.

Ratification votes were taken on the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that were passed at the Special Congregational Meeting on September 18. The changes were ratified by the required 2/3 majority.

[NOTE: Since the annual meeting, Ginny Johnson has agreed to remain as Stewardship Chair and Melinda Pedersen has volunteered to serve as Fellowship Chair (with help from Karen Scott, Karen Hayes, Sue Svitak and Dianne Buxton) until the next Annual Meeting.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS HAPPENINGS

	ACTENT AND CITICO PARA HALLEN
NOV 27	1st Sunday of Advent — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
NOV 30	Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:45 pm)
DEC 4	2nd Sunday of Advent — Worship w/Communion @ 10 am
DEC 7	Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:45 pm)
DEC 11	3rd Sunday of Advent — Cantata / Hear the Prophet Callin' @ 10 am
DEC 14	Mid-week Advent Service at Trinity @ 6:30 pm (Meal @ 5:45 pm)
DEC 18	4th Sunday of Advent — Children's Christmas Program @ 10 am
DEC 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight services w/Holy Communion @ 4:30 and 8 pm
DEC 25	Christmas Day — Worship @ 10 am

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CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES — EVERYWHERE!

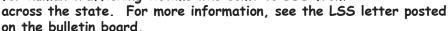
Thousands of organizations deserve your gifts this holiday season. Here are a few to consider:



Operation Santa: The Rice Lake Moose Family Center hosts Operation Santa, a program which gives Christmas gift boxes to needy families in the Rice Lake area. The Moose Lodge requests donations of new toys, games, puzzles, books, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, diapers, stuffed animals, sporting goods, non-perishable food items, and gift cards of all sizes and from most anywhere. Each family is given a food gift card, as well.

Monetary donations are always needed to fill in the gaps. Donations may be dropped off daily at 3 pm, at 40 East Newton Street in Rice Lake. Monetary donations may be sent to: Moose Family Center, 40 East Newton St, Rice Lake, WI 54868. Deadline for donations is December 17. More information is available from Cindy Lammers evenings at 715-234-9304.

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan: There has been a sharp increase in the number of girls caught in the web of human trafficking. LSS is in the process of setting up a new state-funded treatment program (Transitions I) which can accommodate 10 girls at a time. They are planning a second unit which can accommodate 12 more girls, but need support for development of this second unit (Transitions II). These facilities will provide a safe, secure place of healing for human trafficking victims who come to LSS from





Malawi Project: Some Trinity members may remember the Pill Container collection program for the Malawi Project. We have received a request for monetary support for their food and famine relief efforts. By the end of the year, 50 million people will be affected in sub-Saharan Africa. A tax-deductible contribution of \$25 can feed a family of four for 10 weeks; \$50 can feed them for 5 months! Donations may be sent to: Malawi Pro-

ject, c/o Sheila McDonald, 10250 W. 275 N., Thorntown, IN 46071. For more information, visit www.malawiproject.org

From Heaven Above ADVENT DEVOTIONS BOOKLETS

The Season of Advent begins on November 27. This is a time of preparation for Christmas.

Advent Devotions booklets are available at the Welcome Center for anyone who desires one. Entitled From Heaven Above, they are written by Michael Hoy and based on Martin Luther's beloved hymn of the same name.

Martin Luther wrote the hymn to encourage his family to celebrate Christmas. Together with their children, Martin and his wife Katie shared various parts in singing the song of angels ad shepherds announcing the joyful good news: Christ the Lord is born for us!



Beloved Pastor arrested for burglary TRINITY CONGREGATION FACES ANOTHER CHALLENGE

The Trinity family has once again been faced with a challenge. On Oct. 27, Pastor Jon Paquette was arrested and has since been charged with burglarizing numerous homes of Trinity members in search of prescription drugs. This is a felony charge.

The Trinity Council held a Special Council Meeting on Oct. 29, and voted unanimously to terminate his employment as pastor of Trinity, to pay him one month's salary and to direct him to vacate the parsonage in 30 days.

The Shalom Ministry Team, which has assisted our congregation in the past, was consulted regarding an interim pastor. After much prayer, the 10-member Team voted unanimously to recommend Pastor Joan Scheffler as interim pastor for Trinity.

The Council voted unanimously to extend a call to Pastor Joan as interim pastor for a minimum of six months.

A Special Congregational Meeting was held on Oct. 30, to inform the congregation of the situation and actions taken by the congregation.

Vice President Leo Diehl advised that we must follow God's direction of I Corinthians 13 and Romans 13 to love one another. He asked the congregation to love and forgive one another and in so doing we will continue to win against Satan.

Kathy Paquette addressed the congregation and thanked all for their loving support. She has been offered accommodations in the area, and supports the Council in all decisions made and said she intends to continue as a member of Trinity.

Pastor Joan arrived Nov. 18 and began her duties on Nov. 20. Jon is currently at Hazelden Addiction Treatment Center

Please hold our congregation, Jon, and Kathy in your prayers. Trinity

Lutheran

Church

Women

WOMEN OF TRINITY HAPPENIN'S

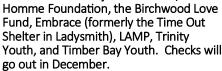
- +We held our meeting on November 17, with ten women present.
- +Altar Guild person for December is Jeanne Dahlby.
- +Lefse Baking Day will be Thursday, December 1, starting at 9 am. Karen Scott and Virginia Johnson head up this activity with many happy volunteers helping them.
- + Prayer Shawl Ministry continues, but yarn and kits will not be given out the last Sunday of December, because this is Christmas Day. If you need a kit of knitting/crocheting instructions, contact

Cindy, in the church office, and she'll get your supplies for you. If you don't knit and would like to contribute \$15, which is the cost of the yarn to make one shawl, make your check out to the "Women of Trinity."

- +Lefse and Bake Sale will be Saturday, December 3, the same day as the Birchwood Christmas Fest. Talented and willing bakers can bring their offerings to the church around noon on December 3, so they can be sorted and priced. We'll sell goods an hour before and an hour after the Christmas Music Festival at our church, December 3, which starts at 2:30 pm, and before and after the morning church service, December 4.
- +Our three vacant positions for Women of Trinity board have been filled!!! A huge thanks to these three women for stepping up: Ginger LaMotte, vice president for 2017, and president for 2018. Sue Jostad, co-chairperson for Service Committee #1 with Kathy Thom. Ginger LaMotte, co-chairperson for Service committee #3 with Barb Hinderman.

- +Advent Meals for youth and those attending the mid-week Advent services start Wednesday, November 30, and continue through December 21. Ginger and Dianne signed up to serve the meal and do cleanup on December 7, but more volunteers are needed. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex.
- +At the end of each year, we decide where our hard-earned money should go.

We give monetary Christmas gifts to the interim pastor, Joanne Schilling, Melinda Pederson, Cindy Westphal and Betty Blanch. We also make considerable donations to: Benjamin's House,



- ♦ We're changing our annual rummage sale from May to September so it will coincide with the Village of Birchwood rummage sales. Heading up that committee are Eleanor Kuala and Dianne Buxton
- +A committee was formed to make sure the kitchen is clean and organized. Ginger LaMotte and Jean Jastram will coordinate the cleaning, and Karen Hayes and Dianne Buxton will go through all the utensils and supplies.
- +Our next meeting is Thursday, December 15, at 11 am, in the Fellowship Hall. After the meeting we'll have a wonderful lunch, then we'll make up cookie boxes for the shut-ins, and get those delivered.
- +We really need and appreciate the women who can attend monthly meetings and be a part of our group. Please consider attending and sharing your time and talents.

Baked Goods needed for sale . . . BAKE & LEFSE SALE AT TRINITY DEC 3 & 4

Yummies, Yummies, Yummies!! The Women of Trinity will sponsor a Bake/Lefse Sale featuring baked Christmas goodies before the Christmas Music Festival on December 3, at Trinity Lutheran Church. Sale will start at 1:30 pm, and finish after the Music Festival. Sales will continue the next day, Sunday, before and after the Dec 4 worship service.



Everyone, anyone, men, women, children, are asked to bring baked goods to the church by noon on Saturday, Dec 3. Cookies, bars, quick breads, cakes, candies, etc., are all welcome.



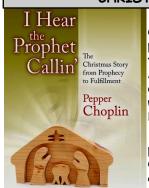
On Friday Nov 5, Colleen Gindt, Karen Hayes and Donna Soper visited Embrace (formerly Time Out Abuse Shelter) in Ladysmith. There were five large totes full of supplies needed by the shelter. There were also seven children's print quilts. Outreach/Missions also sent a \$400 check for them to use as they see fit.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING PARTY!

Come help Sue Svitak decorate the church on Friday, December 2, at 10 am. She will need help putting up the big Christmas Tree, putting up the Crismon Tree, putting out the poinsettias, carolers, angel banners, and a portion of the indoor manger scene. Many hands make for short work!



CHRISTMAS CANTATA SET FOR DECEMBER 11



The Trinity
Cantata Choir will
present the cantata, I Hear the
Prophet Callin',
during the 10 am
worship service,
December 11.

Gifted composer Pepper Choplin is widely celebrated for creating refresh-

ingly different, original anthems that resonate with traditional folk qualities.

This year's cantata is no exception. You will hear distinct folk styles such as Appalachian, Irish, Latin, Cajun, and Early American.

Prophet Callin', A recurring theme leads you through during the 10 am the events of the Christmas story:

I hear...

The prophet calling...

A mother singing...

The shepherds calling...

I see the star of glory...

I hear the people singing...

Come celebrate the Christmas story through the music of this cantata!

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Families of any size are invited to sign up to present the Advent Wreath Lighting readings during this Advent season. Please sign up on the Worship Assistant sheet located on the Welcome Center.



WANTED!

Singers, instrumentalists, poet readers, skit players for Christmas Music Festival, Dec 3!

Contact Joanne at 715-651-4875



As in years past Trinity will participate in the annual ADOPT A FAMILY program. Outreach/Missions has received the wish lists of five families this year. Every year when the lists are picked up we are told that Trinity always goes above and beyond in their giving. Members of Trinity continue to amaze with their generous giving.

Outreach/Missions is happy that the lists were received earlier than before and hope that shoppers won't feel so rushed. (Also you'll be able to get those Black Friday specials!)

The tree in the narthex has all the tags for gifts needed. Take a tag off the tree, purchase your gift, return the gift <u>wrapped and tagged with the original tag.</u> If there are clothing items as gifts, please include a gift receipt in the wrapped present. All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 18.

If you wish to make a monetary donation, checks may be made out to "FBLA" and dropped off at the Birchwood School to Sara Waldron.

 The True Story of Christmas study, led by Pastor Howard Stone, began Monday, November 21, at 6:30 pm. Don't despair if you missed it! Come November 28!



- Women's Monday Night Bible Study also meets at 6:30 pm. Led by Barb Kleven, they are currently studying the book of Mark.
- Wednesday Morning Video Study will start up again on November 30, but at 9 am instead of 9:15. Kathy Paquette will lead this study.
- Women's Thursday Morning Bible Study, led by Jean Jastram, is studying I Corinthians, at 9:30 am. There will be NO study on Dec 1, 22, and 29.



Youth rews



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

• The Children's Christmas Program will be presented on Sunday, December 18, as part of the worship service. The Nativity will be presented by youth in pre-k through 5th grade with confirmation youth providing assistance as needed. Please contact Melinda Pedersen 715-296-2073 if you are interested in participating or helping. Practices will take place during Sunday School time.



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES & MEALS

- The Mid-week Advent Meal held at 5:45 pm on November 30, will be a Loaded Baked Potato Supper, hosted by Trinity Confirmation Youth.
- OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE! Please consider assisting on Wednesday evenings for our Wednesday Advent meals by signing up on the bulletin board. The youth are hosting the first one and we ask for your help with the remaining three. During Advent we are serving more people and, therefore, it will take 3 people to provide meal preparation. serving, and clean up. Support help with menu purchasing is provided. The goal is to keep it simple! There is a sign-up sheet at the information center. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve when asked! Thank you!
- Mid-week Advent worship will include confirmation youth participation.
- THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE HELPING OUT WITH WEDNESDAY MEAL PREPARATION, SERVING AND CLEAN UP FOR OUR YOUTH! YOU ARE A GIFT AND WE ARE GRATEFUL!



YOUTH EDUCATION NEWS

 SUNDAY SCHOOL for age 3 through 2nd grade will be held in the Fellowship Hall during the 10 am worship service. Sunday School begins at 10 am and concludes around 10:30 for children to join with you for the remainder of the worship service. We are celebrating Jesus' birthday and learning songs for the upcoming program on Sunday, December 18. All are welcomed to come join in a lesson and song which honors our Savior's birth.



• L.I.G.H.T. KEEPERS for youth in grades 3rd - 5th is held Wednesdays (when Birchwood school is in session) from 5 pm - 6:30 pm. The program meets in the Fellowship Hall at Trinity Lutheran Church. The L.I.G.H.T. (Learn In God's House Together) Keepers program provides

games, Bible lessons, crafts, a light supper and FUN! This program is free and we look forward to seeing you there! For further information, please contact Sue Jostad at 763-218-3354 or the office of Trinity Lutheran Church. Blessings abound!

 MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIRMATION for youth in 6th, 7th or 8th grades meets every Wednesday! The youth are learning about the New Testament!

OUR NEXT MEETING (NOV 30) WILL BE HOSTING A BAKED POTATO SUPPER! Please arrive as soon as you can to help with table preparation and meal prep. Confirmation will conclude following the Advent worship service and clean-up which should be around 7:30. Several youth may also be assisting with advent services when asked! Thank you awesome youth.

Kathy Paquette is leading confirmation and Melinda Pedersen is assisting. A detailed middle school confirmation calendar is located on the LET'S GO bulletin board. For further information, please call the office or Melinda at 715-296-2073. We are blessed!

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Landen Gindt illustrates the Armor of God!



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Once again, there were not enough signups on the Worship Assistant chart to publish it here. So we encourage you to stop by the Welcome Center and sign up! Whether as a greeter, an usher, communion assistant, or lay reader — WE **NEED YOU!**



Assistant

Lay Reader

It's time to bring in your saved cancelled stamps and place them in the box on the Welcome Center. June Ehrich will be collecting them and sending them to the Bethel Stamp Collection Centre in Germany, which creates valuable jobs for handicapped persons. You're making a difference!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

=						
:	Kevin Kotel	12/02	LeRoy Brensel	12/08	Rodney Corbin	12/28
:	Tyler Marcinske	12/03	Logan Saldana	12/10	Joan Fuller	12/29
:	Bob Skar	12/03	Judith Ede	12/12	Sheila Moline	12/29
:	Brent Wahtke	12/03	Jacklyn Gentry	12/12	Auston Cherney	12/30
:	Jason Ivers	12/04	Cindy Goodwin	12/12	Cody Miller	12/30
:	David Miller	12/04	Eldon Kvale	12/14	Brody Rurup	12/30
:	Stacy Anderson	12/05	Cody Rurup	12/15	Matthew Lobitz	12/31
:	Betty Blanch	12/06	Karen Scott	12/16		
:	Rochelle Christensen	12/06	Donna Willis	12/18		
:	Anne Gilbertson	12/06	Alexander Jasper	12/22		
:	Lauren Gustafson	12/06	Jeff Landes	12/23	HAPI	Py
:	Wally Thom	12/06	Pete Baribeau	12/24	BIRTH	DE
:	JoAnn Schupp	12/07	Ray Buxton	12/24	757 97	3
=					a B = 4	2

PRAYERS

1 - Ryder Darkow 17 - Chuck Ede 2 - Taevvn Darkow

4 - Sandi David 5 - Dean Kallenbach

3 - Karl David

6 - Barb Deutsch

7 - Bryan Deutsch

8 - Harry Deutsch

9 - Dave Dhein 10 - Sharon Dhein

11 - Leo Diehl

12 - Don Subrt

13 - Mary Subrt

14 - Lyn Dunham

15 – Foster Dunwiddie

16 – Shirley Dunwiddie

18 – Judy Ede

19 - June Ehrich 20 - Katherine Eisele

21 – Ellen Elliott

22 - Roger Elliott

23 - Eric Flora

24 - Stephanie Forward

25 - Don Fuller

26 - Joan Fuller

27 - Ashley Gargulak

28 - Chad Gargulak

29 – Wyatt Gargulak

30 - Sharon Gary

31 – Gayle Gilbertson

DEGEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Altar Guild Jeanne Dahlby				NO Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p - Walk by Faith	3 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
9:30a — COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion	5 10a - Worship & Music Mtg 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open 4:15p - Walk by Faith 6:30p - Women's Bible Study 6:30p - Story of Christmas 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	·	7 9a - Video Series 4:15p - Walk by Faith 5p - L.I.G.H.T Keepers 5:30p - Confirmation 5:45p - Mid-week Advent Meal 6:30p - Mid-week Advent Service 7:15p - Cantata Reh	8 9:30a - Women's Bible Study	9 OFFICE CLOSED	1-3p - Cantata Rehearsal
	Study		9a - Video Series 4:15p - Walk by Faith 5p - L.I.G.H.T Keepers 5:30p - Confirmation 5:45p - Mid-week Advent Meal 6:30p - Mid-week Advent Service NO CHOIR REH	9:30a - Women's Bible Study 11a - TLCW Mtg	OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p - Walk by Faith	17 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open
9a - Choir Warm-up 9:30a — COFFEE TIME 10a - Worship w/Communion Children's Christmas Pgm Love Fund & Food Pantry	19 Journey Deadline 10:30a-1:30p - Food Pantry Open 4:15p - Walk by Faith 6:30p - Women's Bible Study 6:30p - Story of Christmas 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall	9a - Prayer Session 6:30p - Ecumenical Thanksgiving Svc 7:15p - Cantata Reh	21	NO Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED 4:15p - Walk by Faith	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:30p - Candle- light Worship w/Communion 8p - Candlelight Worship w/ Communion
10a - Worship w/Communion	26 NO Women's Bible Study NO Walk by Faith NO Story of Christmas 7p - AA, Fellowship Hall		28	29 NO Women's Bible Study	OFFICE CLOSED NO Walk by Faith	New Year's Eve

Non-profit Org

Birchwood, WI U.S. Postage Permit No. PAID 54817

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

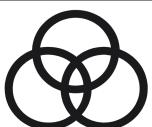
Trinity Lutheran Church

Chetac Ave

MI

Birchwood, Box

Christmas Musi Festival



The *JOURNEY* **DECEMBER 2016**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Joan Scheffler. Interim Pastor Cindy Westphal, Parish Administrator Melinda Pedersen, Youth & Family Joanne Schilling, Choir Director

Betty Blanch, Custodian
501 E. Chetac Ave ♦ PO Box 8 ♦ Birchwood, WI 54817 (715) 354-3790 **→** (715) 354-3224 (parsonage)

♦ trinitybirchwood@centurytel.net ♦ trinitylutheranbirchwood.com ♦ JOURNEY Editor ♦ Joanne Schilling ♦ jlschilling@hotmail.com ♦

Sunday Worship 8:30 am outdoor (Memorial - Labor Day)

10 am indoor (Year-round)

Sunday School 10 am (Sept - May 21)

8 - 11:30 am, 12:30 - 3:00pm (M-Th) Office Hours

Pastor's Hours 8a - noon, M-Th Bulletin info deadline 9 am Wednesdays

JOURNEY deadline Monday of 3rd week of the month

WORSHIP THIS MONTH

12/4 10 am Worship w/Communion 12/7-12/14-12/21 6:30p - Mid-Week Advent Service 10 am Worship w/Communion — Christmas Cantata

10 am Worship w/Communion — Children's Christmas Program 12/24 4:30 and 8 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship w/Communion

12/25 10 am Worship w/Communion — Christmas Day

KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

Amelia Art Johnson Leonard Nysted Dave Beaver Eileen Koeferl Fred Peck Michelle Bender Dean Kruegel **Dorothy Perpick** Alice Bhend Jody Kruegel Gordy Peterson Hazel Bonkrud Bill & Eunice Kuntz Jim Pravda Vicki Busick Dick Kuula Merle Ries George Crust Roy Kuula Buddy Robotka Bill Lambrecht Annette Gentile Sue Sachs Laine Guttenberg Bob Langham Carter Sackman Ron Hartzell Ron Larson Shalom Ministry Team Gorman Hayes Ed Leader Jeremy Spahn Deb Healy Lora Ashley Spiller Harry Heath Susan Molin Denise Spiller McKel Heebink Sue Miles David Yndestad Lee Namtvedt Elaine Yndestad Becky Hunt

In the military: Rigil, & Randy Christensen, Rochelle & Alex Fabrizio, Kelsey Will, Eric Bebee, Tim Groth, John Hughes, Brian LaGrange and all those serving in the military.

NEXT MEETING OF					
Birchwood Food Pantry	30 am, Dec 3, 5, 17, 19				
Worship & Music Team	Dec 5				
Outreach Committee					
Congregational Council	6:30 pm, Dec 13				
Trinity Lutheran Church Women	Dec 15				