

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2012

NEWSLETTER

## Trinity Lutheran Church

*We exist to share the good news of life through Jesus with the world and to nurture believers in their faith, all to the glory of God.*



## Trinity Lutheran School

*We exist to help families in Aberdeen and the surrounding communities by providing children with quality academic and Christ-centered education, in a loving and caring environment.*



## **Jesus Makes Every Christmas a Merry Christmas**

The holiday season is upon us again. For many it is a time of joy and happiness. But why?

Some are happy because they enjoy the hustle and bustle of the season and the parties and presents it brings. Others are happy because of family traditions that they enjoy each year. Some are happy at the thought of spending time with loved ones. Others are looking forward to time off of work. Some find joy in hearing the familiar songs that are played each year. Some revel in the delicious delights their taste buds feast on. Others are happy simply because it is Christmas and they are told they should be happy.

Certainly those are all enjoyable blessings. We thank the Lord for allowing us and enabling us to participate in these holiday festivities. Indeed, they bring us a certain amount of earthly joy. But at the same time we realize that there are better and more important blessings that have been given to us.

Over two thousand years ago, a baby was born in Bethlehem. Though he came into the world like any other child, he was infinitely greater than any other child. This child was and is God's one and only Son. This child came to win for us blessings greater by far than food and presents and parties. He gave his life so that we can live forever. Because of what this baby accomplished, we know that the one true God will always love us and will guide us throughout our lives. When my conscience bothers me, I can remember what this baby grew up to do and rejoice that my sins are forgiven. I know that God is not angry at me. I know he will continue to bless me

throughout my life and one day give me that perfect life that will never end.

The Bible says, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice*" (Philippians 4:4 NIV 84)! It is the Lord who gives us true reasons, our best reasons for rejoicing in this life. It is the Lord who loves me perfectly. It is the Lord who gives me all that I have. It is the Lord who helps me and guides me through life. It is the Lord who gives me meaning in life. It is the Lord who gives me eternal life. When I think of the baby in the manger, I can think of all he did for me and what I have because of all he did. That gives me a reason for joy in my life.

There are times when it isn't easy to rejoice. There are some Christmas seasons when I am hurting and struggling because of what has happened in my life. The loss of a loved one, life plans that did not work out, friends who let us down can make it tough sometimes to find joy even during what is supposed to be a joyful time of the year.

Life's disappointments may weigh heavy on my heart. But at those times especially, I can look at the baby in the manger and ponder on all he did for me and what he has given to me. Then I can smile and say, "Thank you, Lord, for sending your Son. Thank you for giving me the blessings of salvation." Because of Jesus, every Christmas can be a merry Christmas. *Pastor Rawerts*

**CHRISTMAS DECORATING:** On November 28 at 5:00 p.m., we will be putting up our Christmas Tree and our other Christmas decorations for the church and the fellowship hall. If you are able to help, please join us that day.

**CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS:** On Saturday, December 1, our congregation will be hosting a special one-day Vacation Bible School program called “*Christmas For Kids*.” It will last from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. On that day, we will tell the children the story of Jesus’ birth. We will also have singing, special crafts, and Christmas goodies for them to eat. All children ages 4-10 are invited. Parents are also invited to stay and join us for the fun. You are certainly welcome to bring friends. We could use volunteers to help with serving the children that morning. If you have questions about “*Christmas For Kids*”, please call Pastor Rawerts. If you would like to register your child to attend “*Christmas For Kids*”, please call either the school or the church.

**CHRISTMAS BY CANDLE LIGHT:** On December 2, our Trinity Women will be hosting a Christmas Festival program called *Christmas by Candlelight*. The program begins at 4:00 p.m. All ladies are invited. If you have any questions, please speak with Ardys Gosch.

**BUILDING PROJECT:** In our Quarterly Voters’ Meeting held November 11, a motion was passed to proceed with the building proposal for the gymnasium/Christian Life Center at a cost of \$999,966 as bid by JDH Construction.

This motion also directed that efforts to raise the additional money needed to complete the building project be continued.

The Church Council is still considering ways to reduce the cost of the project. Landscaping and masonry could be scaled back. Combined with volunteer labor, this could reduce the cost of the project by \$60,000 to \$74,000.

**SPECIAL NEEDS BIBLE CLASS:** Our special needs Bible Class has started again. The class meets on the third Monday of each month at 6:45 p.m. in the Fireside Room. If you have questions or would like to help with the class, please speak to Glendora Dick or Aaron Kjenstad.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** The new Christmas cards have arrived and are available for purchase. The cards are located at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Ardys Gosch if you have any questions.

**BOOK FAIR:** Trinity Lutheran School will be hosting a book fair from December 8 - December 16. The books range from preschool - 8<sup>th</sup> grade and make

great Christmas gifts. All proceeds from the books will be for the TLS library.

**TRINITY CHRISTMAS PARTY:** On Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m., the Trinity Women will be hosting a Christmas party for the congregation. On that night we will have a potluck meal followed by an evening of games. All, both women and men, are invited to join us.

**CHRISTMAS FLYERS:** On December 9, we will be passing out flyers inviting people to our Christmas services. We will meet at Church at 2:00 p.m. that day and go out for about an hour. Afterwards, refreshments will be served. Please join us.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL REHEARSALS:** The Sunday School students will be practicing for their Christmas Eve program at the following times:

December 8	9:00 AM
December 15	9:00 AM
December 22	9:00 AM
December 23	10:15 AM

**POINSETTIAS:** Christmas will soon be here. Once again we would like to beautify our church and fellowship hall with poinsettias, wreaths and candles in celebration of Jesus’ birth. If you would like to help decorate our church in this way, please put your name on the name sheet on the guest registration stand by December 9 and give \$10.00 to Marilyn Kjenstad or Gary Bretsch by this date.

**HOLIDAY SERVICES:**

**Advent Eve Service**

December 23 7:00 PM

**Christmas Eve Service**

December 24 6:00 PM

(Our Sunday school classes will lead us as we worship our newborn Savior.)

**Christmas Day Service**

December 25 9:00 AM

(We will have a special Christmas service.)

**New Year’s Eve Worship with Communion**

December 31 6:00 PM.

**COMPUTER NEEDED:** In order to fully implement our new camera system, we need a new computer to use with it. The cost for the computer will be between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offerings.