

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2013 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.



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.

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.



SERVING WITHOUT FEAR

Fear is sometimes a great motivator, isn't it?

"I better get my room cleaned or I'll be grounded for a month," the teen says. "I better get this assignment in on time or the teacher will dock my grade," a student nervously states. "I better do what Mom and Dad say or I won't get any presents for Christmas," the little child moans. "I better do my job well or I'll get fired," the employee says.

Fear is sometimes a great motivator. For some, fear is what motivates them to try to serve the Lord. "I better be good or God won't love me." "I need to try harder to do what God says or he will turn everything against me." "I better keep those commandments or God will never allow me into heaven." Because these people are afraid of what God might do, they figure they better do what he wants. They serve because they are afraid of God.

None of us can serve God perfectly as he commands. I might try to serve God but I fail. I give in to temptation. Even the works I might be proud of are stained with sin. Think again of the child who is afraid

of Mom or Dad because they have not done what they are supposed to do. I should be afraid of God because I haven't done what I am supposed to do.

But I am not afraid. Why? Because Jesus has taken care of my sins. I am forgiven. God doesn't hold my failures against me. God is not going to punish me because I haven't served God the way I am supposed to. Even though I am not perfect, God still loves me and will still help me and bless me in all things.

Remember Zechariah's song of praise when his son was born. He said, "*Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people*" (Luke 1:68 NIV 84). Zechariah knew that God was fulfilling his promises and was accomplishing our salvation. The Savior was coming soon and would rescue us from God's anger and give us eternal life.

That means I don't serve him out of fear. Zechariah said that the Savior would "*enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days*" (Luke 1:74-75 NIV 84). I am righteous and holy in God's sight because of what Jesus has

done. My sins are gone and God is not going to punish me when I fail.

I don't have to serve God because I am afraid of him. I don't have to pressure myself to be good so that somehow God might love me. I know for sure that God loves me even though because of what Jesus. I don't have to try to obey God to keep myself out of hell. Jesus keeps me out of hell. Because of Jesus it is certain I will be in heaven in spite of my failings.

So I don't feel pressured to serve God because I am afraid of him. I want to serve God because of all he has done for me. *"We love because he first loved us"* (John 4:19 NIV 84). Because God loves me so much and has given me these wonderful blessings of salvation, I want to love him. Because I love him I want to serve him. I want to do my best for him in order to honor him and thank him for all he has done for me. I serve him with joy not in fear. Even though I fail to serve perfectly, I know God still sees me as righteous because of Jesus. I know God always loves me, imperfect though I am. I know he accepts my humble service because of Jesus. Because of Jesus we can serve the Lord without fear.

Pastor Rawerts

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

On Tuesday, December 3, at 6 PM, we plan to decorate the church and the Christmas tree. Everyone is invited to join us.

SCHOOL

To see what's happening at Trinity Lutheran School, visit our website at www.trinityaberdeen.org. Or "like" us on Facebook!

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

On Saturday, December 7, our congregation will be hosting a special one-day Vacation Bible School program called *"Christmas For Kids."*

TRINITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m., we will be having our Trinity Christmas party for the whole 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 BY CANDLE LIGHT

On December 15 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 Charlene Stewart.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REHERSALS

The Sunday School students will be practicing for the Christmas Eve program on the following dates and times:

December 14	9:00 AM
December 21	9:00 AM
December 22	10:15 AM
December 24	9:00 AM (if needed)

POSTITION AVAILABLE

Last week the voters decided to hire a teachers' aide for our school. This person will work primarily with the lower grades classroom, and will be asked to work 10-12 hours per week. If you are interested, please speak to Mr. Zimmerman, Miss Sell, or Robert Russell.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ON SALE

The Christmas cards have arrived and are available for purchase. There is also a large variety of cards for special occasions available. The cards are located at the back of the Fellowship Hall. Please speak with Ardys Gosch if you have any questions.

GPLHS CONCERT

Great Plains Lutheran High School will present its annual Christmas concert on December 8 at 4:00 PM. The choirs and the band will share the message of Christmas in honor of the Christ-child. There will be a free-will offering received. Refreshments will be served following the concert. You are invited to come and bring a friend.

AFTER-SCHOOL CARE UPDATE

If you have happened to walk into the Fellowship Hall during the week lately, you have probably noticed that it is not quite as neat or nearly as quiet as it used to be.

That is because it is now home of the aftercare program! The program started back in August with the beginning of school.

Our hope is that the program will make it easier for parents to send their children to school at Trinity. It can be hard to find transportation for children in the middle of the day, so this way the children have a place to be until their parents are able to pick them up after work. As of now, the program is available only when school is in session. We go from 11:30-5:30 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and from 3:15-5:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The year started with about seven children attending regularly, and now we have anywhere from ten to fifteen on a regular basis. We try to spend as much time outside as possible, but with the cooler

(ice-cold, frigid) weather coming, we will be inside more and more. We have been blessed with numerous donations of games, craft supplies, puzzles, and toys to keep us occupied indoors.

The Fellowship Hall is our temporary home. We are looking forward to being able to move into the loft when it is ready and are very excited about being able to use the new gym!

I have enjoyed working with the children so far this year and look forward to what the New Year will bring. Thank you for all of the donations and support! We could not have gotten started without them.

Please keep us in your prayers. Pray that as a congregation we can use this great blessing of a new gym for the glory of God.

May it be an opportunity for us to reach out to our community and share the good news of salvation!

Sarah Zimmerman

BOOKFAIR

Trinity Lutheran School will again be hosting a book fair from December 7 through December 15, 2013. The book levels are preschool through eighth grade. The books will be available from 8:30 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m. each day (unless you make other arrangements).

On Wednesday, December 11, books will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 8 p.m.

These books make great Christmas gifts for all ages. All proceeds from the books will be for the Trinity Lutheran School Library.

**JESUS IS THE REASON FOR
THE SEASON**

SCRIP PROGRAM

Scrip is now available from Beginning Ken's and Kessler's. Ken's and Kessler's will give us 5% of the scrip, and they will continue to give the 1% on the grocery receipts. If you have any questions, please let Ardys know.

GROCERY RECEIPTS

With all the upcoming holidays, please remember to save all receipts from Kessler's and Ken's and put them in the box on the table near the entrance to the church.



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 10 and give \$10.00 to Marilyn Kjenstad, Bev Gosch, or Gary Bretsch by this date.

CHRISTMAS FLYERS

December 15 at 2:00 p.m., we will be passing out flyers in several neighborhoods in Aberdeen. We will go out for about an hour. Afterwards, refreshments will be served at the church.

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY!

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER/GYMNASIUM UPDATE

I have been asked to put together a wish list for the project. Here is what I have so far.

1. 15 ball cart, \$97.58 plus shipping.
2. Volley ball standards, net and accessories, \$2894 plus shipping and handling
3. Atomic clocks for the gym
4. Scoreboard \$?
5. Scorer's table \$?
6. Bleachers, \$30,000 estimate
7. Wall padding, \$135 per section

If any of you have additional suggestions please send them to Ken Gosch.

If you are able to help in any way, please join us.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Advent Eve Song Service

December 22 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 6:00 PM

(Our Sunday School children 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