

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2018



## 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.*



## We Bow in Humble Awe Before Our Lord's Great Power

They both were surprised. They both seemed to wonder about what they were told. Yet one received a rebuke and a chastisement from God's angel; the other received words of explanation and reassurance. Why the difference?

You remember how the angel Gabriel appeared first to Zechariah. He told the aged man that he and his wife would be having a child. Zechariah's response? "How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years" (Luke 1:18 NIV 11). Humanly speaking it was impossible for Zechariah and his wife to have a child. Evidently, Zechariah was judging this news according to his human reason and did not believe this would happen.

Note how Gabriel responds to him, "And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time" (Luke 1:20 NIV 11).

Mary also received startling news. Gabriel announced that this maiden would give birth to a very special child. Mary also wondered how this would be possible. She asks, "How will this be, since I am a virgin" (Luke 1:34 EHV)?

Note how Gabriel responds. "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.....For nothing will be impossible for God" (Luke 1:35, 37 EHV). Gabriel does not rebuke Mary for her questions. Instead, the angel points Mary to God's almighty power.

Why the difference in the response given to Zechariah and to Mary? The difference was found in the heart. Zechariah's question came from unbelief. Mary's came from a heart filled with humble awe and wonder.

In Isaiah, the Lord says, "These are the ones I look on with favor: those who are humble and contrite in spirit, and who tremble at my word" (Isaiah 66:2 NIV 11). The Lord wants us to be humble before him and to tremble at his Word.

The Apostle Paul says, "...we make every thought captive so that it is obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5 EHV). The Lord wants us to take him at his Word and to shape our thoughts and beliefs around what he says.

In various parts of the Bible, Lord tells us things that go beyond our understanding. He gives us promises that may seem to be too good to be true. At Christmas time we once again hear about the virgin birth. We are told that the fullness of God was in that tiny baby in the manger. "How can this be?" we might wonder.

On certain Sundays we hear words telling us that Jesus' body and blood are in, with and under simple bread and wine. We are also privileged to see water poured on the head of a baby and we are told that now this baby has saving faith and forgiveness for all sins. "How can these things be?" we might be tempted to ask.

We see an impossible situation and we might be ready to despair. Then we are assured, "God will take care of things. Everything will work out." A part of us might wonder, "How can something as terrible as this ever lead to something good?"

Then we pray, "Lord, help me to bow in humble awe before your Word and your power. Mary was given startling news. She wondered how these things could be. But her humble response was, "I am the Lord's servant. May it happen to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38 EHV).

At times we may wonder about God's power and promises, but we pray the Spirit will work in our hearts so that even if we are taken aback by what God says,

we will still bow before his power, tremble at his Word and accept without question whatever he says.

*Pastor Rawerts*

### **CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**

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.

### **TRINITY WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m., we will be having our Trinity Women's Christmas party. On that night we will have a potluck meal followed by an evening of games. Both women and men are invited to join us.

### **NEW CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE**

The new Christmas cards have arrived and are available for purchase. The cards are located at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

### **NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE**

Northwestern Publishing House (NPH) is our official Wisconsin Synod book store. It offers a vast array of products including Bibles, hymnals, Bible stories, CD's, DVD's, jewelry, clothing, and; of course, doctrinally sound books that will instruct and encourage you in your Christian faith. If you are looking for a gift for someone, NPH offers you many possibilities. Check out their website at [www.nph.net](http://www.nph.net). Their phone number is 800-662-6022.

## **TRINITY CHRISTIAN COMPANIONS**

We have formed a new group called "Trinity Christian Companions." This group has been formed to offer people the opportunity to visit members in our congregation, especially our shut-ins. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you would be interested in making visits. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Rawerts.

## **SERVICES ON THE INTERNET**

People are now able to watch our worship services on the internet. Simply go to our website, [trinityaberdeen.org](http://trinityaberdeen.org) and click on 'Church Service Videos'.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL REHERSALS**

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

December 15	9:00 AM
December 22	9:00 AM
December 23	10:15 AM
December 24	9:00 AM (if necessary)



## **CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS**

Christmas for Kids will be held Saturday, December 8, from 9 AM until 11:30 AM. We need volunteers to help with serving the children that morning. There are volunteer sign-up sheets on the bulletin table. If you have questions about "Christmas for Kids", please speak to Pastor Rawerts. If you would like to register your child for "Christmas for Kids", there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table or call the church office at 225-6081.

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

## **GPLHS CONCERT**



Great Plains Lutheran High School will present its annual Christmas concert on December 9 at 3:30 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.

## **E-GIVING INFORMATION**

We trust that members who have enrolled in e-giving enjoy the convenience and ease of the process. As a reminder if you would still like to participate in the offering during the service – either write "I give electronically" on the outside of your offering envelope or contact Al or Penny and request an "I give electronically" card to drop in the offering plate. This is by no means required but gives an option to folks who would still like to participate in the physical offering process. It is personal preference.

## **Help Needed**

Offerings to our Local Account are down. Our regular expenses are paid from the local account. We could use some help

to build this account back up. Please keep this in mind as you prayerfully consider offerings.

**YOU CAN NOW MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO OUR CHURCH THROUGH A MOBILE APP!**

To get started, download GivePlus Church for free from the App Store or Google Play. Simply search for "GivePlus Church" to quickly find and download the app today. Then, you can easily make donations directly from your smartphone using your debit/credit card or checking/savings account. You can also choose to donate as a guest or set up an account that allows you to securely and conveniently schedule recurring donations and manage and review your giving history. We hope you enjoy this new way to contribute to our ministry at Trinity. Questions? Please visit with Al Kjenstad or see the Q&A print-out on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary.

**EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION**

The Evangelical Heritage Version translation of the Bible is nearing completion. Northwestern Publishing House is allowing people to pre-order copies of this new translation at a discount. If you would like to pre-order copies of the EHV, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin table.

**AMAZONSMILE**

If you shop at Amazon.com, there is a way you can support Trinity Lutheran School at the same time! Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices,

same service. Support Trinity Lutheran School by shopping AmazonSmile! You must START your shopping at this website: <https://smile.amazon.com> and follow the directions to get started. Our organization is listed as "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church." Make sure to select the Aberdeen address, as there are many "Trinity" listings. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask Kathy Cooper.

**TRINITY  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL  
NEWSBYTES**

*God continues to richly bless Trinity Lutheran School! Here are some recent notes and news related to our school.*

**FRIDAY CHAPEL SERVICES**

Each Friday, at 8:10 a.m., we begin our day with chapel. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. An offering is collected each Friday to teach our students the importance of mission work.

**BOX TOPS**



Please continue to save "Box Tops For Education". These labels are turned in at the end of the school year and the money goes for Trinity Lutheran School, preschool, and/or aftercare. A box for the labels is on the bulletin table.

**GROCERY RECEIPTS**

With Christmas, New Year's and all the upcoming holidays and festivities, please remember to turn in your grocery

receipts from Ken's and Kessler's. The proceeds from the receipts are used to purchase special items for our school. There is a box for the receipts on the bulletin table.

### **ONLINE GRADEBOOK**



Parents are able to login to check grades on a daily basis. Please talk to your teacher to obtain an ID and a Password. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions.

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We have plenty of opportunities to help out our PTO and TLS school. The PTO will be running a concession stand for the Girls' YMCA Tournament on November 30 – December 1. If you are able to help out in the concession stand, please speak with Amy Rawerts or Mr. Aaron Kjenstad. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin table.

### **BARS FOR TOURNAMENT CONCESSIONS**



We are looking for donations of bars to sell at the YMCA Tournament. Please do not cut the bars, and please label anything that may have peanut butter or nuts of any kind.

The bars may be dropped off at the church kitchen on Friday, December 1. Thank you.

### **PRESCHOOL AFTERCARE NEED**

Our preschool aftercare group is looking for several people who would be interested in helping out with preschool aftercare on an "on-call" basis. The

hours would be from noon until 3 p.m. The individual(s) would be on an "on-call" list and would be called only as needed. If you are interested, please talk with Ms. Leinen.



### **HOLIDAY SERVICES**

#### **Advent Eve Song Service**

December 16 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

