

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



## 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.*

*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.*



## YOU CAN ALWAYS FIND JOY IN THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS

The little boy had a sad look on his face. "I guess it's not going to be a very good Christmas this year." He had his heart set on his grandparents coming to visit. A blizzard kept them from coming.

The teenage girl was down in the dumps. "I am going to have a hard time being happy this Christmas." Her family had planned for a trip to Disneyworld, but her father lost his job and they had to cancel the trip.

Mom had tears in her eyes. "It's not going to seem like Christmas this year." Her mother had passed away a few weeks before Christmas.

The little girl felt sad. "We're not going to have a very good Christmas this year." Her mother had been sick and there were lots of medical bills. Because her mother had not been working, the family didn't have money to get a tree or to give presents.

Christmas is a special time for people. Each year we count on enjoying blessings during the holiday season. Being with loved ones, decorating our homes, enjoying delicious foods, hearing familiar songs, giving and receiving gifts—all these things help to make Christmas a wonderful time of the year.

Certain Christmas traditions and rituals become so important to us, that we can't imagine celebrating Christmas without them. In fact, some even think that they can't be happy at Christmas without them.

If I ever struggle to be happy at Christmas because I can't celebrate it the way I want to, Then it is good to pause for a second and remember what the angel said on that first Christmas.

*"Today in the town of David,  
a Savior was born for you.  
He is Christ the Lord"  
(Luke 2:11 EHV).*

Why am I sometimes disappointed at Christmas and at other times? Why is it a struggle at various times to be happy?

Why do we lose loved ones? Why is life not always easy or enjoyable? It is all because of sin.

Because of sin Christmas isn't always the way we want it to be. It is because of sin that I struggle sometimes with fears and worries and shame and guilt. It is because of sin that loved ones die. It is because of sin that I will die.

But God loved me so much that he sent us a Savior. That Savior has made things right between me and my God. I can be sure that God always loves me and will always help me through the most difficult times in my life. I can be sure that my Lord will even work through my worst disappointments to bring me blessings. I can be sure that those who believe in Jesus live forever.

My heart might be breaking because loved ones will not be here this Christmas. But I grateful for the gift of a Savior and the assurance that believers in heaven are enjoying the greatest blessings of all. I know that one day I will be with them again.

There might be times when my earthly celebration of Christmas is not what I want it to be. I might be sad and disappointed. But then I can ponder the angel's announcement that "Christ the Savior is born." I know what that Savior has done and what he gives us. That good news always gives me a reason to celebrate at Christmas.

*Pastor Rawerts*

## **CHRISTMAS BY CANDLELIGHT**

On December 1, 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.

## **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, gift cards, 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 WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On Thursday, December 12, at 6:00 p.m., we will be having our Trinity Women's Christmas party. There will be a potluck meal followed by an evening of games. Both women and men are invited to join us.



## **CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS**

Christmas for Kids will be held Saturday, December 7, 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 or Ben Dunsmoor. If you would like to register your child for "Christmas for Kids", there are registration forms on the bulletin table or call the church office at 225-6081.

## **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 15	10:45 AM
December 21	9:00 AM
December 22	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 16 and give \$10.00 to Marilyn Kjenstad or Gary Bretsch by this date.

## **GPLHS CONCERT**



Great Plains Lutheran High School will present its annual Christmas concert on December 8 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.

## **SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICE**

On December 14-15, we will be having a Advent and Christmas service here at Trinity Lutheran. Pastor Robert Koester will lead our worship that day using Scripture, prayers, responsive readings, hymns, and other special music combined with beautiful pictures of stained glass windows. We will have these special services at our normal times on Saturday and Sunday. Please join us and invite your friends.

## **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 websiste: <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.

### **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'.

## 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 8:05 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 help 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.



### **SO THEY ARE GLAD TO BE HERE, SO THEY WANT TO COME BACK**

When do we have the highest attendance at our worship services? When do the most visitors attend our church? Not surprisingly it is at Christmas, although weddings and funerals also bring many visitors to us. What impression do we give these visitors?

We want to present our church and ourselves to visitors in the best way so that they are glad to be here and so that they want to come back.

Why do we want people to be here? Why do we want them to come back? We want to share with them the greatest message in the world. We want them to know that the one true God loves them unselfishly and unconditionally. We want visitors to know what the one true God did so that they can be in a right relationship with him and enjoy his greatest blessings now and forever in heaven.

On the internet, there is an article entitled, "8 Tips for This Christmas Season at Your Church." The article gives church members advice on how to make their churches as welcoming as possible. Since the Christmas season is when we often have the most visitors, it is especially important to make our church as 'visitor friendly' as possible. But in truth, the advice the article gives is helpful at all times of the year.

Many visitors will check out a church's website before attending a worship

service. The article encourages churches to make their website as user friendly as possible and as practical as possible.

The article also points out how powerful the sense of smell is. The sense of smell is the strongest and most vivid for long-term memories. Musty smells or bad odors from trash that has not been taken out can be an immediate turn off. Restrooms not only need to look clean, they need to smell clean.

Also important is making sure parents know where they can take their children during the service if necessary. Parents also want to know how, when, and where to bring their children to Sunday School. All these things help us to present ourselves to visitors in the best way so

that they are glad to be here and so that they want to come back.

In addition, and perhaps most importantly, visitors need personal contact with people. Personal contact that is friendly and sincere helps people to feel welcomed, wanted, and valued. Showing the love of Christ is always important. It is what we do as Christians. We want visitors to see that in us immediately.

We only get one chance to make a first impression on a visitor. We want that impression to be a positive one, because we want the opportunity to keep on serving people. We want to share with people the greatest news of all so that they can possess and enjoy the greatest blessings of all. That's why we want to present ourselves and our church to visitors in the best way, so that they are glad to be here, and they want to come back.

## **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

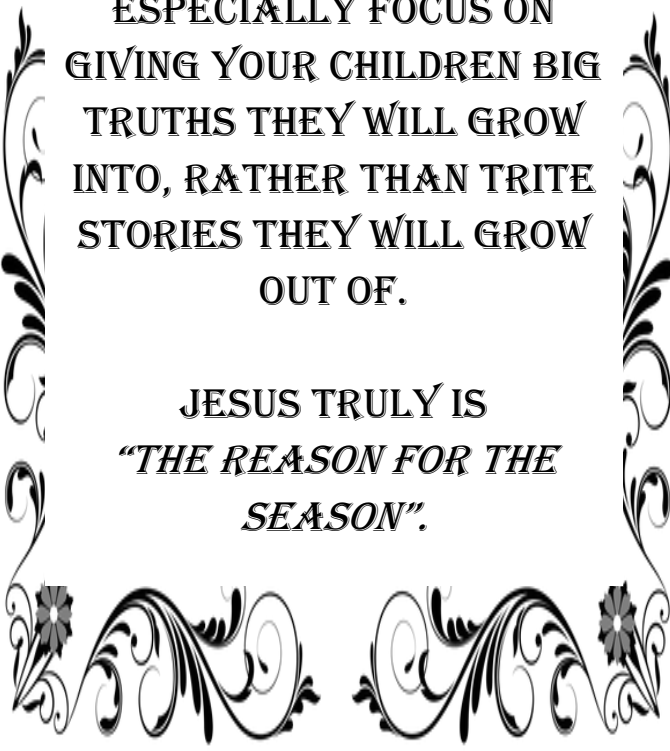




DEAR PARENTS,

AS WE APPROACH THE  
CHRISTMAS SEASON, MAY  
WE OFFER THIS  
ENCOURAGEMENT?

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND  
WHAT CHRISTMAS IS  
REALLY ALL ABOUT,  
ESPECIALLY AS YOU  
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY  
WITH YOUR CHILDREN.



ESPECIALLY FOCUS ON  
GIVING YOUR CHILDREN BIG  
TRUTHS THEY WILL GROW  
INTO, RATHER THAN TRITE  
STORIES THEY WILL GROW  
OUT OF.

JESUS TRULY IS  
*"THE REASON FOR THE  
SEASON".*