

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2014



**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.*



## ***Always the Same***

*“But you remain the same, and your years will never end” (Psalm 102:27 NIV 84).*

How do you feel when a year comes to an end? Perhaps you are excited to move forward to something new. The future often promises new adventures and exciting possibilities. For some the coming year is when they will finally graduate, or when they will finally get married. For those who are younger, beginning another year means they are getting closer to being adults when they can be on their own and pursue their dreams.

Moving ahead means leaving the past behind. Some are glad to do this because the past year may have been a difficult year. They want to get as far away as possible from the things that happened in 2013.

Some are sad to see the past year end because they know the past joys are over and they don't want to leave these happy times behind. Some are apprehensive about

a new year because they are not sure what they will be facing. Life's uncertainties can leave them more than a little worried. What will my health be like in 2014? Will I still have my job? Is this the year my parents will die? Is this the year I will die?

The answer to those questions is, of course, known only to the Lord. He holds the future in his hands and assures us that he will guide us through all things and make sure everything goes according to his plan. He promises that his plans always bring us the blessings that he knows are best for us.

The new year brings many unknowns. But the Lord tells me what I need to know. He is the Lord who controls all things. He will always be there and he will always help me and care for me. The psalmist writes, *“But you remain the same, and your years will never end” (Psalm 102:27 NIV 84).* The Lord will always be there. The Lord will always be faithful. So we can sure 2014 will be a year where his help and blessings will always be there.

*Pastor Rawerts*

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

We will take the Christmas decorations down on Tuesday, January 7, at 6 PM. Please feel free to join us.

### **2014 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2014 offering envelopes from the table located near the church mailboxes. If there is an error or you cannot find your envelopes, please let Penny know.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

If you are responsible for an annual report, please start compiling your report for the Year 2013. Please have your report to Pastor Rawerts by January 15.

### **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held January 19, 2014, beginning at 10:15 AM.

### **SCHOOL**

To see what's happening at Trinity Lutheran School, visit our website at [www.trinityaberdeen.org](http://www.trinityaberdeen.org). Or "like" us on Facebook!

### **SCRIP PROGRAM**

Thank you to those of you who have been purchasing Scrip for the holiday season. Don't forget that Scrip is available all year long—it's a gift that keeps on giving as Trinity Lutheran School and Great Plains High School benefit from the refunds.

### **RECEIPTS**

A special "thank you" to those of you who turned in their receipts for Ken's and Kessler's. Please keep saving them through the end of May.

### **CHURCH LEAGUE BASKETBALL**

Church league basketball will be starting again soon. If you are interested in playing this year, please sign up on the registration sheet on the information table.

### **CALLED WORKER APPRECIATION AND NEW MEMBER DINNER**

On Sunday, January 26, we will be having a special fellowship meal for our called workers and new members. Please bring a dish and a salad or dessert to pass. Coffee and juice will be provided. We will begin our meal at 11:45 a.m. At this time we will consider the blessings the Lord gives us through those who serve in the public ministry. We will also give a special welcome to all who have joined our congregation during the previous year. Please join us.

### **BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE**

The gym was open to use beginning on December 23, 2013, and a number of families were able to play basketball in the gym over the holidays. We are currently waiting for carpet to be delivered for the second pastor's office, the day care room on the west end of the gym and the entry between the fellowship hall and gym. The loft is being painted. An anonymous donor has agreed to pay for bleachers (\$41,000) and the bleachers have been ordered. Locking glass windows have been ordered for the windows between the gym and the upstairs daycare area. The missing parts for the partitions in the men's bathroom have arrived and will be installed in the near future. Our chairman is

posting a wish list of items that would make the gym even more enjoyable. If you would like to donate to any of these items please contact Ken Gosch. In short we have met our goal of having the gym ready for the after school care program by the first of January 2014.

We need volunteers to do a thorough cleaning of the building once construction is complete. Please watch for announcements on when cleaning will be done and come and help. We could use between 20 and 50 workers in order to do a one-day thorough cleaning.

Please fill free to use the gym for basketball and volley ball. Keep in mind that the church has extra utility and maintenance costs when you use it, so add to your normal offerings to cover these costs after you use the gym.

God be praised for this wonderful gift.

### **PTO OVERVIEW**

Trinity Lutheran School teachers and interested parents meet once a month, generally on the fourth Thursday of the month during the school year. The Parent Teacher Organization exists to assist in the various school events throughout the year, to organize new outreach/social activities and fundraising, and to provide a forum for new ideas to benefit the school.

Over the past year, the PTO has sponsored a variety of events intended to get TLS faculty and families together outside the school walls. In July, we held an offsite garage sale which raised approximately \$1000 for TLS. Part of our earnings were allocated for new phy ed equipment for the school, and the rest will be utilized for PTO-sponsored activities. This fall, we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual picnic at Wyly Park where TLS families and teachers gathered for food and fellowship. In October, a float was assembled for the Gypsy Day Parade. High winds and cold weather conditions on parade day,

however, led to a small, brave group of marchers carrying the Trinity banner instead. The TLS Fall Festival is an annual event, held the Friday before Halloween, where children are able to dress in costume and play various games here at TLC. We are eager to have the new gymnasium space for this event next year! Last February, a night of bowling was planned, with a PTO-sponsored walking taco buffet. We had great attendance for this event and a good time was had by all.

On January 19<sup>th</sup> 2014, we are planning to have a PTO sponsored event at Skate Away. More info to come. Join us if you can!

During our October meeting, Ardys Gosch gave a presentation on the Scrip Program that TLS and GPLHS are utilizing. SCRIP is a great way for TLS to earn funds for use at our school. There is great potential for raising funds for TLS and GPLHS with this program. Gift cards are available for purchase from several local businesses and national chains (for use in store or online). The stores then donate a portion of the sale, up to 15%. GPLHS receives 75% of this donation, while TLS receives 25%. Use the gift cards like cash where you would normally shop, buy groceries, gas, or at your favorite restaurant. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to support TLS. To purchase SCRIP cards, or for more info, please contact Ardys Gosch on Sunday mornings at church or by phone at 380-6209.

Other ways you can support Trinity Lutheran School:

- Pray for the staff, employees, and students of TLS
- Volunteer: If you have a special interest, hobby, education, or experience that you would like to share with the students, ask if you can come to be a guest speaker. The kids love having a new face in the classroom! In addition, something as simple as coming in to listen to kids read, helping to monitor recess, or help getting lunch prepared can be much appreciated

and rewarding to you as well. Please consider volunteering your time in a TLS classroom.

- Save your grocery receipts: Save all receipts from Kessler's and Ken's, dated after September 1<sup>st</sup>. Place them in the box labeled "Grocery Receipts", located to the north side of the fellowship hall. A portion of each receipt is donated back to our school.
- Direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars towards TLS or TLC: Go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or Call 800-THRIVENT and say "Thrivent Choice".
- Designate TLS as your school of choice if you use a Target Credit or Debit Card: Target will donate 1% of your purchases at Target to the school of your choice (TLS). Purchases made elsewhere with your Target VISA Credit Card will still give one-half % of the total to TLS! Learn more at [Target.com/redcard](http://Target.com/redcard).
- Box Tops for Education: Box Tops are found on many products, from cereal boxes to office supplies and Kleenex boxes. A school-wide competition is held in February. Box tops make a big impact on our school budget. . The past two years' earnings were designated toward the purchase of new desks for the lower grades' classroom! Our goal for this year is \$752. Sign in to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for more info, coupons and special online sweepstakes to win up to 100,000 points!
- Campbell's Labels for Education: Keep an eye out for these items on any Campbell's, Prego, V8, Swanson, or Pepperidge Farms products. When cutting off the label, be sure to include the portion that has the barcode on it. There is a large bin for these product labels in the fellowship hall.

- Country Hearth Loaves 4 Learning: Clip the UPC label from any Country Hearth and Village Hearth product and submit to the school secretary. Each label is worth 5 cents.

For more information, feel free or call me, Kimberly Russell at 225-3414, Jessica Kjenstad at 225-3878, or the school secretary at 229-4697.

### **LOCAL OFFERINGS**

We thank the Lord for the wonderful blessings he has showered on our congregation this year. We have received numerous special offerings for the gymnasium and for the Trinity Tuition Assistance Fund. We ask the Lord to bless each of you for the special offerings you have made.

Once again we pray the Lord will open your hearts to respond to a need in our congregation. This past June we passed a budget that calls for an increase of approximately 8 ½ % in our offerings. For the first 4 months of the budget year offerings to our Local Account have declined by approximately 9%. At this point our offerings to the Local Account are behind last year by about \$10,000. If this trend continues our congregation will face some severe financial hardships. We respectfully ask our members to consider our congregation's needs as you prayerfully consider your offerings.

*"Start the year with joy and laughter,  
With gratitude for God's blessings,  
and with courage for the journey."  
DaySpring Calendar, January 1.*

**TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY!**