

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017



## 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.*



## THANK GOD FOR A YEAR'S WORTH OF BLESSINGS

How many prayers have you said for 2017? How many times have you prayed, "Please, Lord, bless 2017."? Or how many times have you prayed, "Please, Lord, bless me in 2017."? Or have you prayed, "Please, Lord, bless my loved ones in 2017. Please, Lord, keep us safe. Please, help us to have a good year filled with many blessings."? It may be that you are looking ahead to some special events in 2017. Is someone close to you expecting a child? Will someone close to you be married this year? Is a special vacation in the works? Are you anticipating changes at your job? You may already be praying about these things.

We remember always that without the Lord, there will be no blessings in the year ahead. So, we regularly ask the Lord for his blessing on the year ahead and all the plans we have.

Let's ask this. How many prayers are you saying for 2016? Your first thought might be, "Why should I pray for 2016? That year is over with. Why should I say more prayers for that year?" True, the year is over. Yet, when

we look back, how many blessings did I receive during the last year?

Last January, were you offering prayers similar to the ones you are offering now? A year ago, were you asking the Lord to bless 2016? Now here we are 12 months later. As you look back at 2016 what do you see? How did the Lord take care of you during this last year? What special blessings did he allow you to enjoy? Perhaps there were some very precious memories made in 2016 that you will cherish for years to come.

Perhaps during the past twelve months you had to endure some times of severe testing. Yet, who saw you through them? Who brought you blessings even through those painful times? Who caused everything you experienced in 2016 to be a blessing for you?

And who granted all the blessings we enjoyed during the past 12 months? Who has allowed us to enter into a new year? Who kept us safe from dangers? Who kept us in the one true faith for another year? Who granted special blessings to my loved ones during 2016?

We know. It was the Lord. Once again our gracious God was good to us. He was so good to us. He was there guiding my every step, and showering his love on me no matter where I was, no matter what I faced. As I reflect on 2016, I realize I can pray for the year that is now over. I can say "Thank you, Lord, for all you did for me and for others during 2016. Thank you, Lord, for being so good to me."

And God's goodness in the past, gives us confidence as we enter into the future. The same Lord who blessed us in the past, will be with us in the future. Remember what King David said? *"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever"* (Psalm 23:6 NIV). No matter how many years we finish, no matter how many new years we enter, the Lord's goodness and love will be with us. We can see it in the past. We can be certain about it in the future.

*Pastor Rawerts*

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

We will take the Christmas decorations down on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at 6 PM. Please feel free to join us.

### **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2017 offering envelopes from your mailbox. If there is an error or you cannot find your envelopes, please let Penny know.

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

On Sunday, January 29, we will have 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 shortly after Sunday School and Bible classes end at

11:15 AM. 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.

### **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held January 29, 2017, beginning at 10:15 AM.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Please start compiling your annual report for the Year 2016 so that Pastor can have the report by January 15.

### **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.*

### **PTO WINTER FUN NIGHT**



Sunday, January 29, the PTO will have their winter get-together. Please meet at the Odde Ice Center from 6:15 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. Students, families and friends can enjoy supper, fellowship and ice skating.

## **BOYS' BASKET BALL WINTER CLASSIC**

Trinity's "Winter Classic" basketball tournament will be Friday and Saturday, January 13 and 14, in the Trinity gym. The tournament is made up of mainly 6th grade teams. Games will start at 5:00 PM on Friday and 9:00AM on Saturday - with a total of 12 games being played. If you would like to help out with our tournament, please speak with Mr. Kjenstad. Help in the concession stand is needed. Look for a signup sheet on the table outside of church.

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

Thank you for the successful Book Fair. We earned \$480 for library and TLS resources.

## **CHRISTMAS LINGERS ON**

What's more enjoyable? Putting up the Christmas tree or taking it down? For many, putting it up is fun, taking it down is work. In the same way, putting all the holiday decorations away seems to be a lot more work than setting them up. And once they are all gone, the house seems pretty bare. Sometimes, January brings a little bit of a letdown. Decorations are put away. Friends and relatives are gone. We go back to work or to school. The fun and excitement of the holiday season is over. We're back to the regular hum-drum of everyday life.

And yet, as Christians we can take that holiday spirit with us. Even though the holiday season might be done, Christmas lingers on. By the grace of God, we know the true reason for celebrating Christmas. We have been rejoicing because God sent his Son to save the whole world. He lived and died for you and me. He took all my sins away. He loves and watches over me. He helps me in all things. He allows me to serve him in this world. He gives me life that will last forever, and the assurance that one day I will be perfect.

We enjoy those blessings every day, not just on December 25. Regardless of what day is on the calendar, Jesus is my Savior and my Lord. He loves me always. His forgiveness is mine every day. Throughout the year, he provides for me and watches over me. The holiday celebration might be over, but the blessings of Christmas continue on. David says, "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6 NIV 84). The blessings of Christmas follow me every day of my life.

That means the joy of Christmas can continue even after the holiday season is over. Even in doldrums of January, I'm still rejoicing because God loves me and sent his Son for me. In the warm, spring sunshine, I'm glad that I have a Savior. In the dogdays of August, I'm happy that Jesus brought me salvation. As I go through my daily routines, I have a reason for joy because Jesus lived and died and rose again. When I struggle through tough times, I'm glad I have a Savior to cling to, a Savior who will help me through all things.

The holiday season might be over, but Christmas still lingers on. The love the Lord shows me, and the joy I find in him, move me to respond with thanks and praise every day, not just on December 25. Every day provides me another opportunity to live for my God in joyful response to blessings he gives me through that baby born in Bethlehem.

The holiday season might be over, but Christmas lingers on. Every day I am blessed because of Christmas. Every day I can be filled with the joy I had on Christmas. Every day I have a reason to praise the Lord just as I did at Christmas.

*Pastor Rawerts*