

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2015



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.



NO DOUBT ABOUT HIM

“ ‘Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?’ Nathanael asked” (John 1:46 NIV 84). Nathanael was pretty skeptical about the news he had just been told. His friend Philip told him they had found the Messiah promised in the Old Testament (John 1:45). But when Nathanael heard the name Jesus of Nazareth, he had his doubts.

Philip didn’t argue with Nathanael. Philip didn’t launch into a long lecture about this Jesus he had discovered. He simply said, “Come and see” (John 1:46b NIV 84). Philip didn’t try to convince Nathanael. He would leave that to Jesus.

And convince him, Jesus did. “When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, ‘Here is a true Israelite, in whom there is nothing false.’ ‘How do you know me?’ Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, ‘I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you’ ” (John 1:47-48 NIV 84).

While Nathanael wasn’t sure about Jesus, at least at first, Jesus was certain about Nathanael. He knew what was in Nathanael’s

heart and proclaimed him to be a ‘true Israelite,’ that is a genuine believer in God’s Old Testament promise of a Savior.

A puzzled Nathanael wonders how Jesus even knows him. Jesus then said he saw Nathanael under the fig tree. We are not told what Nathanael was doing or perhaps thinking under the fig tree. But the fact that Jesus knew about this clearly caught Nathanael’s attention. Note how he responds.

“Then Nathanael declared, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the King of Israel’ ” (John 1:49 NIV 84). This amazing knowledge that Jesus had about him convinced Nathanael that Philip’s words were true. Jesus really is the Son of God, the promised Messiah.

Note how Jesus responds. “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You shall see greater things than that” (John 1:50 NIV 84). Nathanael did indeed see greater things done by this man he had just met and confessed to be the Son of God. During the next several years, he saw Jesus heal the sick, raise the dead, and fulfill every prophecy made in the Old Testament. On that first Easter he saw Jesus with nail marks in his hands and feet showing beyond a shadow of doubt that he had risen from the dead. Jesus’

words and actions left no doubt. He is indeed the Son of God.

This certainty and confidence is one of the blessings we celebrate during the season of Epiphany. The word 'epiphany' means to make known. During this season of the church year, we focus on the words and works of Jesus, especially the miracles he performed, all of which reveal him as the Son of God and the promised Messiah. These blessed events, recorded by inspiration in the Holy Scriptures, let us know there is no doubt about him. He is the promised one who came to give us eternal life.

Pastor Rawerts

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We will take the Christmas decorations down on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 6 PM. Please feel free to join us.

2015 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Please pick up your 2015 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

Please start compiling your annual report for the Year 2014 so that Pastor can have the report by January 15.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



Thank you for the successful Book Fair. We earned \$382.91 for library and TLS resources.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held January 11, 2015, beginning at 10:15 AM.

CALLED WORKER APPRECIATION AND NEW MEMBER DINNER

On Sunday, January 25, 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 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.

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.

THRIVENT MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial – an organization of Christians – You can be part of an exciting benefit of membership that can help you take action and live generously. It is a way of helping you support the causes you care about and strengthen your community.

Getting started is fun and easy:

*Identify an unmet need in your community (Trinity) that you are passionate about. Your project should bring people together for a one-time project that can be completed within 90 days – a fundraiser, service activity or educational event.

*Apply online at Thrivent.com/actionteam (you will need your member ID).

*As a team leader, invite your friends, family and even community members to help.

*Watch your mail for the Thrivent Action Kit to arrive. It comes complete with promotional signage, T-shirts and other resources and \$250 in seed money.

For more information go online to Thrivent.Com or speak to Jan Mohr.

STUDENT AID FUND

The Student Aid Fund exists to provide financial assistance for those who wish to send their children to Trinity Lutheran School. Without the aid that this fund provides, certain families may not be able to send their children to our school. The Student Aid Fund provides these families with much-needed assistance. We could use some help to replenish the Student Aid Fund. Please keep this in mind as you consider your offerings.

SERVICES ON THE INTERNET

People are now able to watch our worship services on the internet. Simply go to our website, 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.

TRINITY T-SHIRT ORDERS

If you ordered Trinity T-shirt and clothing earlier this fall, the order is here.

Please see Mrs. Brick or Mrs. Stewart to pick up your order.

MILK CHANGE

Beginning January 5th, a few changes have been made to our Milk/Chocolate Milk/Orange Juice selections. After analyzing the cost of milk/juice and looking at the nutritional value of chocolate milk, the following changes will be made:

- White milk or orange juice will be offered at lunch time. (No chocolate milk at any time.)
- Milk card (30 drinks) can be purchased for \$10.
- Drinks will not be offered during snack time.

REPORT CARDS

Quarter 2 has officially ended. Report cards will be placed in your church mail box (if you have one) or mailed to your home address. Please look for your child's report cards by the end of the week. Any questions, please speak with your child's teachers.

JANUARY 6 BASKETBALL AT CIVIC ARENA

Our next basketball game will be Tuesday, January 6th, at 4:00. Cheerleaders will also be cheering at this game. We will leave from school together at about 3:15. We will need help with drivers. If you are able to help drive either the basketball players or cheerleaders, please speak with Mr. Kjenstad, Mrs. Klipfel or Ms. Behan. **GO TORNADOES!**

PTO WINTER FUN NIGHT

Sunday, January 11 at 4:30 pm at the Village Bowl PTO will be having their winter get-together. Students, families and friends can enjoy supper and bowling. Bowling costs \$3 per game and shoe rental is \$2.

BASKETBALL GAME JANUARY 15

The Trinity Lutheran School basketball team will be hosting a game against the Aberdeen Eagles on January 15, 5:15 PM, here at Trinity.

GYM SHOES

All students must have non-marking tennis shoes to participate in any activity on the gym floor. Thank you for your cooperation.

CHEERLEADERS

Our new uniforms have arrived. Mrs. Klipfel and Ms. Behan sent out a detailed note outlining how to take care of our new purchase. Please follow the instructions given.

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CHRISTMAS LINGERS ON

What's more enjoyable? Putting up the Christmas tree or taking it down? For most, 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 putting them up. And once they are all gone, the house seems pretty bare. Sometimes, January brings a little bit of a let-down. The anticipation is over. Presents are opened. Decorations are put away. Friends and relatives are gone. 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 the 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 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 have a perfect life that will last forever.

We enjoy those blessings every day, not just on December 25. Jesus is my Savior and my Lord every day. He is always loving me. 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 linger on. David says, *"Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life"* (Psalm 23:6 NIV).

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 sent his Son for me. In the warm, spring sunshine, I'm glad that my Savior came for me. Even in the dog days 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 still Christmas lingers on. The love the Lord shows me, and the joy I find in him, moves me to respond with love and thanks 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 respond with the joy I had on Christmas.

Pastor Rawerts