

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016



## 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.*



## HIS NAME AND HIS WILL

A young girl was staring out her window, waiting for the first evening star to appear. Eventually, she caught sight of it, and immediately said, "Star light, start bright, I wish I may, I wish I might, to have the wish, I wish tonight. I wish I had a million dollars." She waited for what seemed like a long time and nothing happened.

Just then, her eyes got big, as an idea popped into her head. Quickly, she folded her hands, and said, "Dear God, please give me a million dollars.....and I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen." For some time she patiently waited, and then dejectedly muttered, "I guess that doesn't work either."

The Lord Jesus says plainly, "*I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name*" (John 16:23 NIV 84). Looking at these words by themselves, one might think that the Savior is offering us a blank check, assuring us we will get whatever we want as long as we say those 'magic'

words, "I pray in Jesus' name." Some, in fact, are disappointed and maybe even a bit miffed because they don't get everything they want when they ask in Jesus' name.

Is God lying to us with these words? Obviously, not. Then how come I don't get everything I ask for in Jesus' name? To answer that question, we need to understand what it means to pray in Jesus' name.

When you hear someone's name, you think of what you know about that person. When we hear Jesus' name, we think of what we know about him. We know the truth about Jesus from the Bible. To pray in Jesus' name, then, means to pray according to what we know about Jesus from the Bible.

From the Bible we know that Jesus is the Son of God who has taken our sins away. God has said that our sins would cause him to hide his face from us so that he will not listen to our prayers. (Isaiah 59:2 NIV). The Bible also says that the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective (James 5:16). That means we've got a problem, because we are anything but righteous. We have more sins

than we can count, and we give God every reason to close his ears to our requests.

But from the Bible, we know also that Jesus has removed our sins. We know that we are righteous through faith in him. (Romans 3:21ff). That means our prayers are powerful and effective. To pray in Jesus' name, means that we will trust that God the Father will hear and answer our prayers because of Jesus who has justified us.

But the Scriptures also tell us something else about our prayers. St. John says, "*This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us*" (1 John 5:14 NIV 84). Jesus himself taught us to pray, "*Thy will be done*" (Matthew 6:10). Praying in Jesus' name means that we accept God's right to give whatever answer he wants to our prayers. And we know that the Lord wants to give the answers that are best for us.

Knowing this gives us added confidence when we pray. There are times when God appears to be saying "no", when he is actually saying, "Tell you what. I'll give you something even better than what you asked for." Praying in Jesus' name also means trusting that the Lord will answer our prayers in the way that is truly best for us.

Praying in Jesus' name is not some magic formula to get what we want. It is rather the assurance that the true God will hear us because of what Jesus has done for us and will answer us in the way that is best for us.

*Pastor Rawerts*



## **MEMBERSHIP LIST**

The updated membership list will be available with the Annual Report. As soon as the updated membership list is available, copies will be on the bulletin table.

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

Our Ash Wednesday services begin February 10, at 6 PM. We will be conducting mid-week Lenten services starting at 6:00 p.m. Our sermon series this year is based on the Lord's Prayer, entitled "*This, then, is how you should pray.*" A fellowship meal will follow each service. Please bring sandwiches or a dish and/or a dessert to pass. Please join us as we worship our suffering Savior.

## **LENTEN KITCHEN SUPPLIES**

As we prepare for our Lenten suppers after our Wednesday Lenten services, we will be in need of the following supplies:

Styrofoam cups—8 oz.	Napkins
Styrofoam plates	Regular Coffee (No decaf, please)

## **UPCOMING: EASTER FOR KIDS**

On *March 19*, we will be hosting a special one-day Vacation Bible School called *Easter for Kids*. On that day we tell the children the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. There will be singing, special crafts, and snacks for the children. *Easter for Kids* is for children ages 4 – 9 and will run from 9 – 11:30 AM.

## **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.*

## **ANNUAL SPELLING BEE and GEOGRAPHY BOWL**

Our students will have the opportunity to showcase their knowledge in spelling and Bible trivia. Our big day is Friday, February 5. All parents and family are invited to watch and support our students. The Spelling Bee (10:30 AM) will be for grades 1-8, and the Bible trivia (1:30 PM) will be for grades K-8. Both events will last about an hour.

## **PTO MOVIE NIGHT**



On February 19, the PTO will sponsor a family movie night. Movies start at 7 PM. Parents are encouraged to bring the kids and stay for the movies. Students may bring pillows and blankets if they would like. Friends and family are invited. Snacks will be served.

## **BOX TOPS**

We are *almost* at our goal of 6,500 "Box Tops for Education". Please turn in all the "Box Tops for Education" labels you may have at home. At the end of this month the box tops will be sent in. Trinity Lutheran School gets "free" money for the redemption of the labels, and this money is used for various items for the school. A box for the labels is on the bulletin table. Let's fill our ***Box to the Top!*** for Trinity.

## **CHEERLEADERS**

Below is a list of the upcoming basketball games that we will be cheering for in the 2nd half of the season. All games are at Trinity, and the cheerleaders should be in the middle grades room 15 minutes prior to the listed time.

Tuesday	February 9 <sup>th</sup>	5:30 PM
Saturday	February 20	1:00 PM
Tuesday	February 23	5:30 PM
Thursday	March 31	5:30 PM
Friday	April 8 (TBA)	



## **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.***

## **BASKETBALL GAMES AND PRACTICES**

February 9:	5:30 PM	"A" Boys' game
	6:45 PM	Jr. Tornado Scrimmage
February 11	5:15 PM	Boys' 3-4 grade vs. Northwestern
February 20	1:00 PM	BB vs. Frederick/Leola at Trinity
February 23	5:30 PM	BB vs. Aberdeen Eagles
February 25	5:15 PM	BB grades 3-4 boys vs. Northwestern at Northwestern
February 27	TBA	BB in Mobridge vs. St. Martins and Rapid City

## **"ONE IN CHRIST" WELS DEBT OFFERING**

On Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup> we will have a special service that emphasizes stewardship and our synod's "One In Christ" debt offering. The synod launched "One in Christ" at the 2015 synod convention in response to a 2013 convention resolution to conduct a special offering to eliminate the remainder of the synod's debt. WELS debt reached \$22.4 million in the early 2000's as a result of capital projects and amalgamations at our ministerial education schools as well as internal borrowing. It now stands at \$4.7 million thanks to the generous response of God's people to a previous debt elimination effort in 2008 and to the annual payment of \$1.6 million. The goal of the "One in Christ" offering is to eliminate the debt by June 30, 2016, two years ahead of schedule. Doing so will put our synod in a better financial position to continue our Christ-given mission of training and sending gospel proclaimers.

The Scripture focus for "One in Christ" is Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:15-16. The verses remind us that we were once strangers to God – until God sent his gospel messengers to us or to our ancestors and made us members of his household through faith in Christ. There are so many in our world who are still strangers; they need to hear the good news of salvation from sin through Jesus. As Christians we seek to grow in our faith and discipleship to lovingly use the blessings God has given us to build up Christ's church. WELS congregations support this training and sending of gospel proclaimers to the U.S. and 23 other countries.

Special offering brochures will be placed in church mailboxes on Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>. Please use these envelopes for any special offerings designated for the "One In Christ" project. If you use a regular offering envelope to include a special offering towards this effort please be sure and write "One In Christ" on the "Other" line. After the worship service on

February 28<sup>th</sup> a special WELS Connection video will be shown that emphasizes the "One In Christ" project.

Please visit with Al Kjenstad or Pastor Rawerts with any questions you may have. May God bless the synod's efforts to eliminate debt!



## **HOLY WEEK SERVICES**

**March 20**

**PALM SUNDAY  
9:00 AM**

**March 24**

**MAUNDY  
THURSDAY 6:00 PM**  
Communion Service

**March 25**

**GOOD FRIDAY  
6:00 PM**  
Tenebrae Service

**March 27 EASTER**

**SONG SERVICE  
7:00 AM**

**BRUNCH 8:00 AM**

**FESTIVAL SERVICE  
9:00 AM**

