

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER JANUARY 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.*

## **We Trust God for Future Blessings We Thank God for Past Blessings**



*Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:17-18 NIV 84).*

Not surprisingly, the Post Office deals with a huge volume of mail during the month of December. Among the letters, bills, cards, and packages the postal workers have to process are millions of letters to the man in the red suit. Millions of children send letters to this man asking for the desires of their hearts. The list of wishes, wants, and desires from some children gets pretty long.

Not surprisingly, the volume of mail decreases in January. In fact, one postal worker commented that the post office gets millions and millions of letters for the man in the red suit during December. Rarely if ever do they get 'Thank You' letters for him in January.

Sad to say, the same thing is often true when it comes to the Lord. We know, of course, that all blessings really come from him. The Lord

invites us to ask him for the desires of our hearts. The Apostle Paul tells us, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18 NIV 84). James says, "You do not have because you do not ask God" (James 4:2 NIV 84). The Lord is ready to do so many things for us. He wants us to show our faith by asking him for the things we want.

While the Lord invites us to ask for the things we desire, he also looks for thanksgiving from us when he blesses us. Of the ten lepers Jesus healed, only one came back to thank him. The Lord asked, "Where are the other nine" (Luke 17:17 NIV 84)?

When January 1 arrives, we will have finished another Christmas season, a time where once again we have been richly blessed. But we will have also finished another year. As we look back over the year that has ended, we can ponder the many, many blessings the Lord has granted to us.

How many times at the beginning of the year and throughout the year have we asked for God's help and God's blessing? Now that we are beginning another year, we will once again be asking for God's help and his blessing. This is fitting and proper.

But as we leave the past year, hopefully we can recognize the many blessings the Lord gave us and then give thanks for all he has done for us. This also is fitting and proper.

As we begin a new year, we go forward asking for his blessings in the future and thankful for his blessings in the past.

"Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever" (Psalm 118:1 NIV 84).

### **CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS**

We will take the Christmas decorations down on Tuesday, January 6, 2016, at 6 PM. Please feel free to join us.

### **2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2016 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 31, 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.

### **ANNUAL REPORT**

Please start compiling your annual report for the Year 2015 so that Pastor can have the report by January 15.

### **QUARTERLY VOTERS' MEETING**

The Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be held January 31, 2016, beginning at 10:15 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.*

### **PTO WINTER FUN NIGHT**



Sunday, January 24, 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.

### **GYM SHOES**

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

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

Trinity's "Winter Classic" basketball tournament will be Friday and Saturday, January 15 and 16, in the Trinity gym. The tournament is made up of mainly 6th grade teams. We have 8 teams registered. Teams are Ipswich, Groton, Frederick-Leola, Northwestern, Aberdeen Eagles, Warner 6,

Warner 5 and our Trinity boys' team. 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 \$430 for library and TLS resources.

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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*