

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 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.



WE CELEBRATE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Are you thankful for December 21? We call it the Winter Solstice. We know how the days get shorter and shorter as we proceed through fall and enter into winter. On December 21, the pattern changes. On that day, the Northern hemisphere is farthest away from the sun. From that day on, the Northern hemisphere starts coming closer and closer to the sun and the days start getting longer.

In ancient times, some cultures, for instance in Scandinavia and Rome, celebrated the fact that the sun was returning and that the days were getting longer. In fact, some today celebrate it as a special holiday.

As Christians we recognize the fact that the Lord is keeping the promise he made after the Great Flood. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease" (Genesis 8:22 NIV 84). Every year the Lord keeps our world revolving around the sun as he always has. We can be thankful for that.

However, is that the highlight of our December? Of course not. By the grace of God, we have the privilege of celebrating one of the most significant events in the history of our world.

Every year the world exists, the Lord brings our Northern hemisphere close again to the sun. Only once in history did the Lord send his Son to our world to win eternal life for us.

There will come a time when the world no longer revolves around the sun. The world and the sun and the present universe will be destroyed. Though the universe will pass away, we will live forever.

This world is only our temporary home. We live here until the Lord takes us to heaven where we will live in perfect pleasure and happiness for all eternity. I have those blessings of eternal life because of the baby born in Bethlehem on that first Christmas. That is the premier event that we celebrate when we get to December.

Sad to say, it's not that way with many people in our world. Years ago an elementary school in Canada chose not to have a Christmas pageant with music and songs. Instead they

had a Winter Festival and in particular they highlighted the Winter Solstice. Some who were there wanted to focus only on the light of the sun coming closer again to this earth.

The most joyful news, however, is that the true Light came to our world. As the gospel of John says, "The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world" (John 1:9 NIV 84). Jesus is the light who shines in our hearts through his gospel giving us the greatest blessings of all—a right relationship with God, assurance of his love, and life that one day will be perfect and will last forever.

Our work as Christians is not getting any easier. So many people would rather celebrate sunlight instead of the Son who is the Divine Light and gives us eternal life. Some are insistent that they want Christmas without Christ.

By God's grace, we thank the Lord for giving us Christ for Christmas and allowing us to celebrate Christmas with Christ as our focus and our true joy. We pray our Christmas celebrations will always focus most of all on Jesus, our Savior. We pray the Lord will lead others to do the same.

Yes, we are thankful the days will be getting longer. Most of all, we are thankful that our life is eternal.

D. T. Rawerts

CHRISTMAS BY CANDLE LIGHT

On December 13, our Trinity Women will be hosting a Christmas Festival program called "*Christmas by Candlelight*". The program begins at 4:00 p.m. All ladies are invited. If you have any questions, please speak with Ardys Gosch.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women of Trinity: You are invited to join us for a weekly Bible Study to look more closely at God's Word and how it can be applied to our lives as women in today's world. We will meet Wednesday mornings at 8 AM in the Fireside Room (when school is in session). We hope to create a time of sharing and fellowship for women in the congregation, as well as other ladies you may know who are not members of our church. If you have any questions, please contact Trista Dunsmoor.

TRINITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Thursday, December 10, at 6:00 p.m., we will be having our Trinity Christmas party for the congregation. On that night we will have a potluck meal followed by an evening of games. Both women and men are invited to join us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REHERSALS

The Sunday School students will be practicing for the Christmas Eve program on the following dates and times:

December 13	10:45 AM
December 19	9:00 AM
December 20	10:15 AM
December 24	9:00 AM (if needed)

NEW CHRISTMAS CARDS AVAILABLE

The new Christmas cards have arrived and are available for purchase. Check out the new selection. The cards are located at the back of the Fellowship Hall.



CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS

Christmas for Kids will be held Saturday, December 12, 2015, from 9 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. We need volunteers to help with serving the children that morning. There are volunteer sign-up sheets on the bulletin table. If you have questions about "Christmas for Kids", please speak to Kelly Van Veen or Pastor Rawerts. If you would like to register your child for "Christmas for Kids", there are a sign-up sheets on the bulletin table or call the church office at 225-6081.

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'.

CARDS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

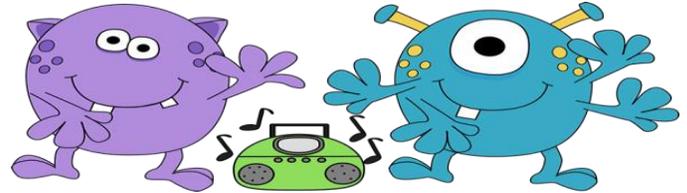
Do you ever find yourself looking for "just the right card" for a birthday, anniversary, get well or other special occasion? Our Trinity Women have a large variety of boxed cards (10-15 cards per box) for almost any occasion. The selection changes regularly and by seasons. (The new Christmas cards are here.) So, if you are looking for just the right card....come see what is available. The cards are located in the back of the Fellowship Hall—directly across from the church library.

POINSETTIAS:

Christmas will soon be here. Once again we would like to beautify our church and Fellowship Hall with poinsettias, wreaths and candles in celebration of Jesus' birth. If you

would like to help decorate our church in this way, please put your name on the name sheet on the guest registration stand by December 10 and give \$10.00 to Marilyn Kjenstad, Bev Gosch, or Gary Bretsch by this date.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL BOOKFAIR DECEMBER 5 – 13, 2015



The Monster Book Fair: Reading is so much fun, you'll get goosebumps! begins with a special preview debut on December 5.

On **Wednesday, December 9**, the books will be available from 8:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.

Book levels range from preschool through eighth grade, and will be available from 8:30 a.m. until about 3:30 p.m. each day (unless you make other arrangements).

These books make great *Christmas gifts* for all ages. All proceeds from the books will go toward new books, library furniture and library/school needs.

GPLHS CONCERT

Great Plains Lutheran High School will present its annual Christmas concert on December 6 at 4:00 PM. The choirs and the band will share the message of Christmas in honor of the Christ-child. There will be a free-will offering received. Refreshments will be served following the concert. You are invited to come and bring a friend.

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NEWSBYTES

God continues to richly bless Trinity Lutheran School! Here are some recent notes and news related to our school.

CHEERLEADING UNIFORMS

Cheerleaders will need the following for their first game (Dec. 1):

- Long sleeve plain white t-shirt or turtle neck
- Black shorts
- White socks
- Clean, non-marking sneakers
- Ponytail elastic

All these items will be worn with their school-issued uniform. Questions, please see Marianne Klipfel (290-1625).

FRIDAY CHAPEL SERVICES



Each Friday, at 8:05 a.m., we begin our day with chapel. All parents, relatives and friends are invited to join us. An offering is collected each Friday to teach our students the importance of mission work. This year the chapel offerings will help support Jesus Cares, a ministry that brings the love of Jesus to adults with special needs.

GROCERY RECEIPTS

With Thanksgiving, Christmas, and all the upcoming holidays and festivities, please remember to turn in your grocery receipts from Ken's and Kessler's dated *after* September 1, 2015. The proceeds from the receipts are used to purchase special items for our school. There is a box for the receipts on the bulletin table.

ONLINE GRADEBOOK



Parents are able to login to check grades on a daily basis. Please talk to your teacher to obtain an ID and a Password. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any questions.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We have plenty of opportunities to help out our PTO group and school. PTO will be running a concession stand for several basketball events coming up. If you are able to help out in the concession stand, please speak with Jarrod Kannas or Mr. Kjenstad. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin table.

- *Tuesday, December 1 Boys 'A' basketball game 5:30*
- *Fri-Sat, December 1, 2 Girls YMCA Tournament (times TBA)*
- *Thursday, December 10 Boys 'A' basketball game 5:30*
- *Thursday, December 17 Boys 'A' basketball game 5:30*

HERE'S HOW TO BECOME INVOLVED

Parents, grandparents, and other family members: Your involvement in our school provides a great connection to the school as well as opportunities to make new friends.

There are many volunteer opportunities available. Give us a call at (605) 229-4697 to let us know how you would like to volunteer.

We will also post regular pictures and volunteer opportunities in the bulletin and in the school hallway.

To see what's happening at Trinity Lutheran School, visit our website at

www.trinityaberdeen.org. Or "like" us on Facebook!



STUDENT AID FUND

Here at Trinity, we have a huge selection of ways to reach out to people. We have our internet website, sermons on the internet and CDs; we have visitations to our shut-ins, the Fellowship Hall, our new gymnasium. But most of all we have Trinity Lutheran School—a very instrumental way of providing God’s word every day to our Trinity youth and the youth in our community.

Through our Student Aid Fund, we at Trinity try to assist families who want to send their children to Trinity Lutheran School and are unable to afford the tuition. Without our Student Aid Fund, these families would not be able to bring their children to our school and learn about God. Perhaps we have another Peter or John in our midst, but we may never know because our Student Aid Fund is depleted. Please help us build it up again. *"Let the little children to come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* (Matthew 19:14)

Looking ahead.....

- December 4-5 Girls YMCA Basketball Tournament (we host)
- December 5 (Saturday) Koine Concert 7pm at Great Plains, Watertown
- December 6 (Sunday) Great Plains Christmas Concert 4pm
- December 7 (Monday) Christmas for Kids planning meeting 6:30pm
- December 12 (Saturday) Christmas for Kids 9am-11:30



HOLIDAY SERVICES

Advent Eve Song Service

December 20 6:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 6:00 PM
(Our Sunday School children will lead us as we worship our newborn Savior.)

Christmas Day Service

December 25 9:00 AM
(We will have a special Christmas service.)

New Year’s Eve Worship with Communion

December 31 6:00 PM

