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TRINITY LUTHERAN C H U R C H A N D S C H O O L

Reverend John Hopkins – Senior Pastor
Jennifer Forte – Acting Principal | Carolyn Gallegos – ECC Director



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The Good News

January 2019
Volume 3 No. 1
Page 1



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year we have a head of us. A time in which many people make New Year's resolutions. Personally, I never make them. Why? They are like laws. You end up breaking them. Kind of like the folks in the Old Testament days couldn't keep the Ten Commandments (we can't either by the way). Consequently, you give up on them and never revisit them.

Instead, I prefer to set goals. Goals are a process. With goals, the first time that you may fail doesn't mean that you've blown your resolution and therefore feel obligated to quit. With goals, you look at why it didn't work and start again. No big deal. It is not a failed resolution. It just means you are not there yet. Since it is a process, when you accomplish the goal, that satisfaction is so much sweeter. That is what I challenge you to do this year. Let's set goals for you as a member. Let's set goals for the congregation. Let's set goals from Trinity Lutheran Church.

Now that being said, who makes up the church? You do. Trinity is made up of individuals and families. I think there is too much of a mindset that people say, "This is what Trinity does." Or "That is what they do at church." All along forgetting that you constitute the church.

Goal One: Start thinking that I am "Trinity." Again, Trinity is made up of the individual members of which YOU are one!

Now, why are we here... ?

You are here at Trinity to worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You are here to grow in your faith. Two ways of doing this: Being in regular worship and in regular Bible study. What happens when you are not involved in either of those? Your faith is affected... it gets weaker. When you are not in church, you do not hear the Word. Paul says in Romans 10:17 "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ."

Goal Two: Make it your personal goal to attend weekly worship and make time to be in personal Bible study. Note: This can be in Bible study at church. It can be at home through personal Bible study or a home Bible study with friends. (Remember you can watch my Bible study via Facebook LIVE on Wednesdays if you can't make to church to attend.) If you have a family, make sure your children are in Sunday school, confirmation or even Youth activities... they start off with devotions.

Why else are we called to faith?

God established a personal relationship with each of us. It is God's plan to work through each of us to spread His Good News to all the people. God choose to use each of us (this is called the church...Trinity) to do that very thing. The best way to share that Good News is individually. Don't be afraid to witness. A witness tells what they know. That is all. As a Christian, you tell others what you know about Jesus. It is not your responsibility to convert anyone to faith. That is God's job.

Continued...

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Just tell what you know about Jesus to that other person, and leave the rest to God. Then with the pressure off, witnessing is so much easier.

Goal Three: Pray for who needs to hear the Good News about Jesus. Don't know who specifically? Ask God to make it clear who that person might be. Pray for God to send them your way. 75% of those who visit a church come as a direct result of a friend who invited them. Trouble is when folks think that this is a job for the church, the job for Trinity, nobody does it. They feel it is not their job, but the church's. Remember, though, you are the church. Take it personally, invite someone.

Invite them to what? Consider all the events we have had this past year and continue to have. Bible study, Trunk or Treat, Breakfast with Santa. When we get our Comfort Dog, that is another. Start with one of those. Invite your friends and their families too. Start with the Facebook LIVE. You get the idea.

If you keep these three goals in front of you and work on accomplishing them, guess what? It will happen. Guess what else will happen? More and more people will be filling the pews. More and more will be hearing the Good News. The kingdom of God will be growing... starting right here at Trinity... starting right here with you.

It is my prayer for each and every one of you that your faith will grow and that more will come to faith this year. Watch what the Lord will do through you and in turn through Trinity!

Have a blessed New Year in the Lord.

Serving the Lord with you,

Pastor Hopkins



WE ARE HIS HOUSE.
HEBREWS 3:6

Thank you!

This past Advent and Christmas season was fantastic. So many people make that happen. With Henry DeVries leading our choirs... all of them. Altar Guild preparing for us to receive the Lord's Supper. The Kenney's with the wreaths and those who helped put them up. Dave Specht over in the Christmas tree lot. Board of Properties helping out in so many ways! Staff making sure the bulletins get out. Jennifer Forte and school staff having Christmas programs with the children. (By the way, you can come watch those too. It is your school.) Church Council who supports it all. So many others who provided help along the way.

Thank you all for making it happen and be so special.

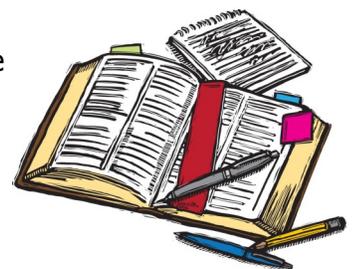
We give thanks especially to our God who loves us so that gives us a reason to celebrate in the first place, Jesus!

Thank you for your service to the Lord.

Pastor Hopkins

The Gospel of Mark Bible Study begins again on Wednesday, January 2 at 7pm. Be in attendance in the Youth Senior room or in attendance on Facebook LIVE!

Do take note of all of our other opportunities to study as well throughout the week!



Standing at the threshold of a brand new year, we have only a glimpse of what lies ahead of us and we wonder what will be. Good health or sickness? Gladness or heartache? Financial security or financial setbacks? That uncertainty can be frightening and unsettling, but knowing that our Heavenly Father is standing always beside us can give us courage to face the future with peace and hope.

In moments of despair, confusion, fear or doubt, take His hand. Remember the promise of His abiding presence. Relax in His power over all the obstacles. Rejoice in His provision for your every need. And never forget how much He loves you!

Dear Lord, as we step into this new year, help us to remember always that You are by our side and that your presence will go with us every step of the way. Give us strength to persevere when trials come our way. Give us grace to forgive when we are hurt and offended. Give us joy to share with others who need someone to walk beside them. In Jesus' most precious Name we pray, Amen!

Wishing you all a blessed New Year with love from your Deacons!

Your Deacons: Doug Brosky Betsy Lazarek Debbie Vergara
 Anthony Cavaliere Peg Ruhs Lynn Waldeck



The Good News
The Art at Trinity



The Karlson Memorial Pulpit was designed by Frank Cleveland of the architecture firm of Cram & Ferguson and executed by Irving & Casson of Boston, MA. The pulpit was given to Trinity in 1947 as a memorial for Carl Karlson by his wife and children. This exquisitely carved piece of oak furniture contains five hand-carved figures: Moses, Isaiah, St. Paul, St. James--the first bishop of Jerusalem and St. John the Beloved.



Ruth and Naomi (located in Stammel Foyer, on side wall of elevator, going up the steps towards the Chapel) is a diptych wood-carving crafted by the artist Ruth Levine, given to the glory of God by the Gabrielsen family.

Ruth Levine, born in Queens, NY, painted since childhood but did not become a full time artist until relatively late in her career. When Ruth and her husband moved to Washington, D.C. she graduated from American University and then furthered her education to complete a Masters degree in Fine Arts. Ruth flourished as an educator and arts administrator, she lectured at American University, held several positions with the National Endowment for the Arts and managed traveling exhibits for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

When Ruth and her husband moved to Pittsburgh she joined the boards of the Andy Warhol Museum.

Ruth Levine's earlier works were more representational but the bulk of her work was abstract art. Visually stunning, many of her drawings and paintings summon African textile patterns, diagrams, horizon lines, biological or architectural cross sections, tracks or even sheet music. Levine also crafted book sculptures, such as "Invisible Cities," an accordion-folded book sculpture she created based on a work by Italo Calvino, an Italian journalist and writer of short stories and novels.

by Ellen Kerwin

When the Jews went into exile in Babylon, among first group of exiles were young men of prominent Jewish families: Daniel, Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego. Life was difficult for them for the Babylonian culture was polytheistic. Babylonians were eclectic in their worship. They worshipped a host of other gods but did not tolerate the Jews who served only one.

Like the Jewish exiles in Babylon modern Christians dwell amidst a host of alternative religions which all claim to explain the hidden mysteries of the universe as well as foretell the future, all co-existing in a bizarre harmony. Daniel and his companions stood firm in their faith in Yahweh and suffered for it. Yet they preserved and were blessed.

We modern believers should stand fast in our faith in Jesus because He is God. Our God is God Almighty, the one Who created and controls all things. In spite of the grand and impressive works and claims made by those in the world who do not know Jesus, He is the only God. All the so-called gods of the world are false and demonic in origin yet the culture in which we live proclaims their doctrines daily through the media as well as through academia. The message is proclaims tolerance and acceptance of all religions as equal, a message so that appears do loving and kind, that it could fool even the one who has faith in Jesus.

Therefore, we Christians must be grounded daily in the Word of God. In this way we will be steeped in God's wisdom and truth, so we will be able to discern the lies of the devil from the truth of God. Then we will be equipped to counteract the claims of the devotees of those Satanic phony gods. Armed with the truth, we then can spread the gospel to free those in bondage to Satan.

Deacon Anthony Cavaliere

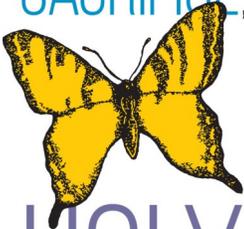
The Good News
From the Minister of Music

On Friday night, January 18 at 7:00pm, Trinity will be hosting the Concordia University, Wisconsin Symphonic Wind Ensemble. The modern era of the musical group began on the Mequon, WI campus in 1992 under its current music director, Dr. Louis Menchaca. As the cornerstone of the wind, brass, and percussion division, the ensemble has performed in churches, schools, universities, and concert halls in 38 states, including Hawaii. The group has also taken 5 European tours. Most recently, SWE received a semi-finalist nomination for the 2014 "American Prize" college division for outstanding musical performance. Annual tours are a focus of both team ministry and artistry, as the group receives invitations from around the continental US to perform at LCMS Lutheran congregations, assisting with wor-

Henry DeVries,
Minister of Music



PRESENT YOUR
BODIES AS A
LIVING
SACRIFICE.



HOLY
—AND—
ACCEPTABLE
TO GOD.

ROMANS 12:1, ESV

Want to implement a great idea for the New Year to walk closer to the Lord? Consider your calling as a living sacrifice.

"I appeal to you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2)

John Chrysostom, one of the great fathers of the Church had an interesting take on this passage. John was quite an articulate speaker who earned the title "Chrysostom" or "golden-mouthed" for his eloquence. He was born in 347 in Antioch in Syria. He initially pursued a career in law, but after he had been baptized at the age of 23, he entered the ministry. He was ordained in 386 AD and quickly gained a reputation as a preacher throughout the Christian world, a recognition that found favor with everyone except Eudoxia, empress of the Roman Empire.

When John was 49 he was elected Patriarch of Constantinople, the capital of the eastern Roman Empire. As one of the highest-ranking ministers in the whole church, he launched a crusade against overindulgence, extreme wealth, and neglect of the poor which the Empress considered a personal attack on her and her royal court. She had him indicted on false charges and exiled. When the corrupt actions of the court were brought to light, there arose such a great public protest that the court was forced to restore John to his post.

John continued to speak out against the Empress and the excesses of the rich. After a few years, he was again exiled, this time permanently. Despite what it cost him, John defied state authority, bowing only to God and never yielding the high principles of Christianity to convenience or personal welfare.

John knew what it meant to be a living sacrifice:

And how is the body to become a sacrifice? Let the eye look upon no evil thing, and it has already become a sacrifice; let the tongue say nothing filthy, and it has become an offering; let your hand do nothing evil, and it has become a whole burnt offering. But even this is not enough, for we must also have good works. The hand must do charitable deeds and alms, the mouth must bless those who curse it, and the ears must find time to listen to the reading of Scripture. For sacrifice allows of no unclean thing: sacrifice is the first-fruit of all other actions. Let us then with our hands, and feet, and mouth, and our entire body, yield a first-fruit unto God. St. (John Chrysostom, Homilies on Romans)

A living sacrifice involves our attitudes, actions, and words. And it involves them all the time, every place that we go, no matter what type of career or job we have. We must surrender our pride, our will, our way of doing things, as well as our personal desires and biases for the good of God's Kingdom. We must love those who do not love us, those who persecute and abuse us. We must be patient and compassionate with everyone. And this is not something we do only in church or at home. It encompasses our whole life. It is our first fruits.

Sound impossible? It is. . . for us, but not for God. We must trust in Him for the help we need to surrender ourselves to His will for it is only by faith in Him can we be humble enough to ask for His help and receive it. Only by His help can we become a living sacrifice.

2019
Offering
Envelopes



Please pick up your 2019 offering envelopes outside the Multipurpose Room. If yours are missing or you would like a set of envelopes, please call Lynn in the church office at extension 230. Thank You!

The Good News

Honor, Serve, Provide Capital Campaign

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Happy New Year from the *Honor, Serve, Provide* Capital Campaign. We are thrilled with the response you have given Trinity through your pledges and gifts. As the first year of our three year campaign comes to a close, we are so thankful for those first 119 individuals and families who made pledges and the many others who made memorial gifts. Our \$210,000 goal has almost been met (displaying our congregation's love for Trinity and demonstrating the potential for extending the original limited list of projects we can hope to complete), with nearly \$140,000 in house for use. And use it we have!

Our planned projects have almost all been completed:

- new carpeting in the church,
- additional counseling services from Lutheran Counseling Center for school and church families,
- renovated science room for use by teachers and students from Kindergarten through 8th grade,
- window repairs for both church and school windows,
- heating and plumbing repairs,
- improved and more energy efficient lighting within the church and school and outside in the church parking lot, which also improved our safety and security.

We have been able to assist with installation of the new organ as well.

With the aging of our church and school, like any building or home, there are needs to be addressed. Your generosity makes meeting those needs possible.

The Good News

Trinity Lutheran School 65th Anniversary News



1954-2018

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Santa Breakfast on December 8. We had over 200 people from the church, school, and community attend. We were able to raise over \$1600! Additionally, we still have church and school ornaments available for purchase. Currently, we have sold almost 100 ornaments. We are in the process of planning our 65th Anniversary celebration dinner which is scheduled for May 10, 2019. Be on the lookout for the save the dates, which will be going out in January.



SAVE STAMPS! The Atlantic District Lutheran Women's Missionary League is collecting cancelled stamps that will be sold to a dealer. The money received from the sale of the stamps will go to the Interpreter's Fund for the Deaf of the AD LWML. Please help us by collecting stamps for this cause and sharing this notice with friends, family or business associates. Help us make this effort a success! Here are the requirements for collecting cancelled stamps:

Commemorative Stamps—those honoring a person, place or thing, **foreign stamps, holiday stamps, and love stamps**. We are concentrating on these types of stamps. We aren't saving bell and flag stamps any longer as they are not earning much money for all the work involved. Stamps cannot be **damaged or torn**. The stamps should be cut from the envelope and have 1/8 inch of the envelope left around the entire stamp. These are the requirements from the dealer. This is an ongoing project and we are excited about it! Remember to save all the stamps from your Christmas or other holiday mail. We do get more money for commemorative stamps so please purchase them whenever you can. The dealer will also take any pages or books from a collection or first day covers. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Peter.



Happy New Year from Trinity Lutheran School! We have a number of exciting events occurring this month. On January 12, we have another Open House scheduled from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon to welcome prospective students. Please spread the word. On January 18, the Symphonic Wind Ensemble from Concordia, WI will be joining us for a concert. We look forward to welcoming them! Our Middle School students are also diligently preparing for their midterm exams which will be held from January 22 to 25. We are also in the process of planning for Lutherans Schools Week.

The Good News
Daycare News

Our daycare continues to grow. We currently have 13 students and three more part time workers. Students at the daycare continue to participate in activities that will help to develop gross and fine motor skills. Additionally, students work on social and emotional development with their peers. They are also introduced to basic letter recognition and counting skills.

Jennifer Forte, *Acting Principal*

The Good News
Early Childhood Center News

As Christmas draws closer and the we come to the end of a busy time in our Early Childhood Center it is hard not to smile as you peek in a classroom or see the artwork in the halls. The excitement that the children have for Christmas and Jesus' birth is contagious. The entire ECC staff has worked hard to teach the children about the birth of Jesus. We also hope we have shared the joy of giving with the children. Each class celebrated with a birthday party for Jesus. At these parties we asked the families to bring in baby items to be donated to the New Life Center -New Mother Program (Division of Lutheran Social Services). The children were able to place these baby items under the Christmas tree and know that they were helping others.

All of our Early Childhood children participated in Christmas programs and sang for their families and friends! Hearing the children sing about the birth of Jesus helped to remind all who attended the true reason for the season.



We are looking forward to a wonderful 2019 in our Early Childhood Center!

Carolyn Gallegos, *ECC Director*



Our Comfort Dog ministry is still in need of a back up caretaker or two. This individual/family will support the ministry's primary caretaker with occasional overnight care for our dog. This would happen if the primary caretaker goes away on vacation or is called out of town for work or could just maybe use a break. The ideal caretakers have a love for dogs and the ministry. (Unfortunately a caretaker cannot have other dogs in the home. Cats are okay!) They must be willing to train with the team to keep up on the commands and the training of the dog must remain consistent. Walks and belly rubs are a must. Travel to Chicago for a three day training event will be required.

Please reach out to Donna Haines if you have any questions or are interested at 516-509-8816. This is the perfect opportunity if you want to be involved with the dog but do not have the time to devote to going out in the community. Please pray on it and contact Donna with your questions. We need you to make this happen!



**NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSIONS**

... for the February 2019 issue are due no later than noon on Friday, January 25!

The Good News
Lutheran Women's Missionary League News

On behalf of LWML, I would like to wish all of you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

We look forward to beginning the new year with our first fundraiser! On January 25, we will have a teacher from the Hicksville Library, Cathy Politis, to instruct us on Country Line Dancing. Many of you have attended her class at the library and we now invite you and your friends to join in the fun! This event will be a community outreach and registration should be sent to Helen Peter at 33 Winding Road, Hicksville, 11801. Our limit is 100 people in attendance and the cost for tickets is \$10.00 per person. Start time is 7:00pm sharp! Please be sure to wear comfortable, closed toe, non-slip shoes. No sneakers please!

Our next meeting date is January 15 at Trinity in the CMR. All women are welcome! We will be collecting layette items for the New Life Center in Uniondale. Watch the bulletin for items needed and further updates.

I would be remiss if I didn't inform you of the successful Advent breakfast LWML held on December 1. Fifty-one people attended! Handmade items were sold along with stuffed, plush Comfort Dogs. This event was also an in-gathering to collect funds for items needed for our soon to arrive Comfort Dog. A cash donation was presented to the Comfort Dog Ministry Top Dog, Donna Haines and Ministry Team Member, Donna Hopkins. \$452.00 was raised for the support of this ministry.

A special "thank you" to Henry DeVries for providing the music and to all our members for putting this day together. Thank you also to Pastor Hopkins for his presentation about the Comfort Dog Ministry.

Helen Peter

HOW SMART ARE YOU?

COME FIND OUT AT

TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, January 11th 2019

Doors open at 6:00 pm

Questions begin at 6:30 pm

Team Tables (8 People Max) - \$100

Individual Tickets - \$15

**Chips and Drinks will be provided.
Feel free to bring dinner for your table.**

Trinity Lutheran Church's
Lutheran Women's Missionary League



presents

Country Line Dancing

with Cathy Politis

Friday, January, 25, 2019

at 6:00 PM in the MPR

Please wear closed-toe, non-slip comfortable shoes!

Sorry, NO sneakers!

\$10.00 per person

All proceeds will go to support LWML Missions



Registration begins January 2, 2019

Please call Helen Peter at 516-938-6914 to register

**Checks made payable to Trinity Lutheran LWML
can be mailed to: 33 Winding Road
Hicksville, NY 11801**