



Trinity Lutheran Church

DECEMBER  
2017

## TRINITY CONNECTIONS

### “JESUS WISH LIST”

Do you struggle to come up with the perfect gifts each Christmas for the special people in your life? It can be stressful and tough but here's an even more important question: What do you give Jesus on his birthday? How can we change the traditional focus of Christmas from materialistic self-indulgence to giving Jesus what he desires on his birthday? What can we possibly give the Lord of the universe? Fortunately, Jesus made his wish list unquestionably clear in his last teaching as recorded in the book of Matthew 25:31-36. I encourage each of us to read and reflect on this scripture as we prepare for Christmas.

We serve God when we serve others. We give to Jesus when we sacrifice our time, talents and resources to meet other's needs in his name. The church is the body of Christ and we are the only hands, feet and wallets that Jesus has.

Many people ask the question “If God is all-loving and all-powerful then why doesn't God do something about evil?” The answer to the question is simple: we are the something that God is sending to combat evil in this world.

We are the evidence that God's kingdom is among us when everything that is broken around us is being restored, when the oppressed and captive are being set free, and when Good news is being preached to the poor. If we who profess Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior are servants of His mission then we need to be committed to live

more simply so that others may live, because that is what Jesus desires from his followers.

**I call your attention to our Midweek Advent services listed in this newsletter under the theme, “Christmas Is Not Your Birthday.”**

Can you imagine the birthday celebration if every member and friend of Trinity practiced the commitment of giving an equal amount of what they spend on themselves to the “Christmas Eve Miracle Offering?” We can change the world one place at a time, one person at a time, if we are willing to celebrate Jesus' birthday in a way that honors him. For when we acknowledge Jesus as Lord we give him the rights to define our lifestyles, our values and yes, in the way we celebrate his birth!

**See YOU and your guest in worship, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm and Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m.**

*Pastor Ralph*



Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus

## President's Corner - Marti Peterson

The Stewardship Committee has sent out this year's commitment letters. Please prayerfully consider pledging generously of your time and talents as this will allow us to outreach to the community of Hammond in which we live.

At next month's Congregational meeting, we will be voting in new leaders of our congregation. A committee will soon be contacting individuals about their interest in serving on our Council. Please say "YES" to helping guide Trinity forward into the future.

## Mission & Human Needs -Marti Peterson

Three Kings brought gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh to the Baby Jesus. The first Christmas presents. At Christmas, we share with those less fortunate.

Thank you to Jerry and Sharon Afdahl for using their Thrivent dollars to purchase and Jump Start for putting together five Thanksgiving meals to share with families in our community.

Thank you to Trinity members for donating items for our local food pantry, the little free food pantry, Grace Place and the SCC backpack program. Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, will be the next Food Shelf Sunday. Remember those in need with an offering of food this winter.

This year we are collecting gifts for four community families in our Secret Santa program. Please take a gift ticket from our trees.

Gods work, Gods hands.  
Marti

## Fellowship-Deb Henry, Chair

*Save the Dates for upcoming events:*

**December 13:** Red Cross Blood Drive  
12:00-6:00p.m. at Trinity.

We will be looking for people to help make and serve the food and be greeters. Anyone interested, please contact Deb Henry-715-781-1934.

**January 14:** Card Making after church

**SAVE THE DATE:** January 28<sup>th</sup> Chili-Cook-off



## Coffee Chat with the Treasurer - Rachel McHenry

Dear Trinity Gift Givers,

We thank you for all of your generosity at Trinity! Your gifts of prayer, time, talents and money help make all things at Trinity, possible. In October, all bills were paid in full and our offering gifts produced a Net Income of \$2,200.

**General Fund Ending Balance:** \$18,678

**Offering:** 14,377

**Expenses:** (12,177)

**Income:** 2,200

## YEAR END HOLIDAY SEASON

As a friendly financial reminder: Offerings given until December 31, 2017 will show on your 2017 giving statements.

## Evangelism-Betty Johnson, Chair

On Sunday Nov. 12, we were happy to have 20 Veterans in church to have the chance to recognize them and **THANK** them for their service to our country. We are still working on updating ALL of our Veterans from Trinity. So, if you did not receive a letter we apologize. We would appreciate it, if you could let Betty Johnson know and we will get you on our list. We also ask that you let us know what branch of the service you were in and what years you served.

Call me at [715-688-6444](tel:715-688-6444) OR email me at [alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net).

We have families that are interested in becoming new members at Trinity so we will be setting up a time for orientation and set a date for new member Sunday.

Also, the evangelism team is working on ideas and things that will be happening for the new year. We are always open for suggestions and your willingness to help us.

GODS WORK, OUR HANDS. Evangelism Team



## Education-Kelly Browning, Chair

Greetings BOLT families-

We are continuing to have a great time in BOLT! We have 35 kids registered for BOLT and attendance has been great since we started in September. Thanks to the families for bringing their children to BOLT and share in God's love. The kids have been learning about "Who is Jesus".

On Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup> we had our Operation Christmas Child packing party where we packed 66 boxes. We have increased the number of boxes packed each year, so two years ago, we packed 21 boxes and last year we packed 51 boxes, so thanks to all who donated items for the boxes so we could pack as many as we did. Maybe next year we can pack 100! The BOLT kids will be using their offering to ship boxes and have raised enough to ship 24 boxes. If anyone would like to contribute to the shipping of boxes, please let me know. The boxes are \$9 each for shipping. We will be awaiting to see where our boxes go and we will share where once we know, we are praying for their journey and for children who will receive them.



## Youth- Darla Feyereisen, Chair

10<sup>th</sup> Annual Scandinavian cookie orders are being taken now! Trinity's youth will be making Rosettes, Krumkake, Pizzelles, Sandbakkels and Spritz cookies

Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, Cookie orders will be available for pick-up and we will have some extras available for purchase!

\$5.00 a dozen, order forms will be available at church or from a Houston Mission youth member!

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

**November:**

**Food Shelf: 45 pounds**  
**Backpack: 28 pounds**

*Thank you for helping others in need!*

## Tuesday Mom's Bible Study

14 baskets were assembled for the Dunn County foster care program using Thrivent dollars!!



## QUILTER'S CORNER

**Next quilting date is December 19<sup>th</sup> @ 9 am.**

Everyone is welcome to join us in the quilting room as we start the quilts for next year.

In 2017, we made 69 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Three of those quilts were sent to Chetek after the tornado. We made and presented eight graduating seniors with quilts. Bev Jacobson made & hand quilted a quilt for the auction at Luther Point, which sold for 100.00 dollars. We will be giving a quilt to each of the four families that we sponsor for Christmas.

The quilters decided to sell ten quilts that we made to members of the congregation that wanted a quilt.

**Thank you.**

We sold ten, with money going into the general fund minus the tithing amount that will go to the Roberts food pantry.

The number of quilters is few but the joy, fellowship, and blessings of those who support the ministry of quilting at Trinity is unmeasurable. Thank you

The quilters of Trinity~  
June, Bev, Sharon, Lillian, Kathy & Kathy

## IMPORTANT BOLT DATES

- \* Christmas Program—Dec. 17
- \* Movie Night—Dec. 20
- \* May Day Baskets—April 25
- \* End of Year Celebration-May 23

## Worship & Music-Sue Frank, Chair

We are approaching the seasons of Advent and Christmas. It is a busy time of year, a schedule of activities for the seasons are included in this article and reminders will be given as needed.

Advent-the time of preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ. Advent is four weeks in length beginning Sunday, December 3. We will have Advent services every Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, December 6. There will be a meal served before each service prepared and served by the Youth. Look for specifics on serving time and menu for each meal from the Youth.

Time to consider making donations for Christmas flowers to decorate the sanctuary for these very special seasons of the church year. Order forms will be available for ordering flowers in the Communication Corner on the table. The orders are due by December 3 to Sue Frank. Christmas flower order forms will be available for ordering, on the table in the Communication Corner. The orders are due by December 3 to Sue Frank.

**LET'S GET TOGETHER TO DECORATE OUR CHURCH HOME FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. DECORATORS ARE NEEDED AND WELCOME! ALL ARE CONSIDERED DECORATORS, ANY AGE, ANY ABILITY, NO EXCLUSIONS!!**

Decorating is scheduled to start on Saturday, December 9 at 9:00 a.m. until done!! You may come and go as needed! Volunteers will work together to decorate the tree, the sanctuary, and fellowship hall, if time we will do some décor outside as well. All decorations will be provided, just come and enjoy the fellowship with other decorators during work time and treat time at the end of the morning.

**Calendar of Events:** Wednesday Advent Services, 7:00 p.m.

December 6, December 13, December 20

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent – December 3; Christmas Flower Orders Due

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent-December 10; Saint Nick Sunday-a favorite of all ages

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent-December 17; BOLT Christmas Program-another favorite

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent, CHRISTMAS EVE DAY-December 24; Christmas Eve Service, 9:30 a.m.

**PLEASE NOTE!!** There will NOT be an evening Christmas Eve Service this year as we will have that service in the morning, Christmas Eve Day as noted. The service will be as if it were the evening, including the traditional candle lighting part of the service and Favorite Christmas Hymns.

**MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS and a BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL—Sue and Crew**

## WELCA-Lois Worbes, Chair

It has been a pleasure to be President of this wonderful group of ladies. The opportunity has been an awakening of what can and is being done through love and teamwork. Keep up the great work in so many areas. I feel a calling in another area at this time but will continue to be active as a member of WELCA. I am very grateful for the opportunity to grow and blessed to be a part of this group. Please, if you are thinking of helping in this area DO IT. Getting together and growing together is great fun.

Joy in serving, Lois

### ADVENT MIDWEEK WORSHIP "CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY"

A Service of Holden Evening Prayer with guest accompanist, Layton "Skip" James

Wed. Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
"EXPECT A MIRACLE"  
Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7

CHALLENGE - Pray about and then write down 1-3 ideas or thoughts that you feel might be God-initiated dreams for you to pursue in helping change this world for God's Kingdom

Wed. Dec 13, 7:30 p.m.  
"GIVING UP ON PERFECT"  
Luke 1:28-31, 34

CHALLENGE - Help someone you know who is struggling in life and/or faith and commit to praying for them, asking them how you can help, and follow through with help and encouragement

Wed. Dec 20, 7:30 p.m.  
"BY A DIFFERENT ROAD"  
Matthew 2:11-12

CHALLENGE - Write down what you will do differently this Christmas to honor Jesus' birthday and God's desire to bring God news to all people. Can your gift on Christmas Eve for Grace Place and the Naomi Family Residence at Union Gospel Mission match the amount you spend on your family or can your gift be 10% of the amount you spend. Are you ready for God to birth a Christmas Miracle through you?

## December Ministry Calendar

*Please consider how you might do God's work with your hands. Sign up at the Communication Corner or call the church office. Instruction available for every role & a reminder call or email a few days before your commitment.*

	DEC. 3	DEC. 6 <i>Wednesday</i>	DEC. 10	DEC. 13 <i>Wednesday</i>	DEC. 17	DEC. 20 <i>Wednesday</i>	DEC. 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	DEC. 31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>
<b>GREETERS</b>	Ramberg		Haugen Family	M. Larson Family	Nusbaum Family	M. Larson Family	Browning Family	K. Gustafson
<b>Adult Ushers (2)</b>		Christine Pommerening	D & S Frank		McCulloch's & Fowler's		McCulloch's & Fowler's	M & K Peterson
<b>Youth Ushers</b>		Brett Iverson		Mitchell & Max Larson		Mitchell & Max Larson		
<b>Reader</b>	Marti Peterson		Scott Post		Jamie McCulloch		Jamie McCulloch	Kathy Jensen
<b>Acolyte</b>		Teague Holzer		Teague Holzer	Noah Nusbaum			
<b>Power Point</b>				Brett Iverson	++	Brett Iverson	Brett Iverson	
<b>Sound Tech</b>								
<b>Communion Helpers</b>	Stewardship	++	++	++		++		++
<b>Communion Set Up</b>	Worship Team	++	++	++	Worship Team	++	Worship Team	++
<b>Bread Baker</b>	Rose Kuebker	++	++	++	Glenda Pratt	++	Rose Kuebker	++
<b>Offering Counter 1</b>	Deb Henry		Jen Haugen					
<b>Offering Counter 2</b>			Marti Peterson					
<b>Bulletin Sponsors</b>	<i>☞ To Sponsor a Bulletin, please see Betty Johnson ☜</i>							
<b>BOLT Sponsors</b>								
<b>Fellowship Servers</b>	Team H	Houston Youth	Team I	Houston Youth	Team K	Houston Youth		
<b>Exterior Property Team</b>	Team #7	Team #7	Team #7	Team #7	Team #8	Team #8	Team #8	Team #8

**December Bulletin Sponsors**

***See Betty Johnson to sponsor a bulletin! Just \$8.00!***

**December 3rd BULLETIN:** Julie Boumeester in celebration of children and grandchildren.

**December 10th BULLETIN:** WELCA

**December 17th BULLETIN:** Happy Birthday Lenore from Bruce, Jo, Carl, Lauren, Livvie and Claire

**December 24th BULLETIN:** Vera and Charlie Grant wishing our church family a Blessed Christmas.

**December 31st BULLETIN:** Betty Johnson wishing everyone a Happy New Year!



## December Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 <b>9:30am Worship</b> <b>10:45am Coffee Fellowship</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>					1	2
3 <b>9:30am Worship w/Communion</b> † <i>Commitment Sunday</i> <b>10:45am Coffee Fellowship</b> 4-5:30pm Girl Scout Troop 6pm Girl Scout Leaders	4	5 <b>9am SCV Pastors</b> @ 6:30pm Cub Scouts	6 12:00pm Yadda, Yadda Prayer Group @ American Heritage, Apt. 111 6:00pm Dinner <b>6:30-7:15pm BOLT</b> <b>6:30-7:30pm IGNITE (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b> <b>7:30pm Advent Worship</b>	7 <b>12(noon) Brown Bag Lunch &amp; Cribbage</b>  <b>5-8pm Youth Cookie Baking</b>	8 <b>8am-8pm Youth Cookie Baking</b>	9 <b>8am-8pm Youth Cookie Baking</b>  <b>9am-? Decorating the Church</b>
10 <b>9:30am Worship</b> † <i>Food Shelf Sunday</i> <b>10:45am Coffee Fellowship</b> <b>11:00am Cookie Fair</b> <b>5:00pm Taco Bar Dinner</b> <b>6:30pm Silent Messengers</b>	11 6:30-8pm Cub Scouts  <b>7:00pm Church Council</b>	12	13 <b>9:00am Jumpstart!</b> 12:00pm Yadda, Yadda Prayer Group @ American Heritage, Apt. 111 <b>12-6pm Blood Drive</b> 6:00pm Dinner <b>6:30-7:15pm BOLT</b> <b>6:30-7:30pm IGNITE (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b> <b>7:30pm Advent Worship</b>	14 <b>9:30am Hope Bible Study</b>	15	16  <b>2-6pm Operation Christmas Child Warehouse Volunteer</b>
17 <b>9:30am Worship w/communion</b> † <i>BOLT Christmas Program</i> <b>10:45am Coffee Fellowship</b> 4:00pm Hammond Royalty	18 <b>Newsletter Items Due</b>	19 9am Quilting 10am Heritage	20 12:00pm Yadda, Yadda Prayer Group @ American Heritage, Apt. 111 <b>6:30pm BOLT</b> <i>Movie Night</i> <b>6:30pm IGNITE (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b> <b>7:30pm Advent Worship</b>	21	22	23
24 <b>9:30am Worship</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i> <b>10:45am Coffee Fellowship</b>	25  <b>Christmas Day</b>	26 <b>10am Newsletter Folding &amp; Treats</b>	27 <b>9:00am Jumpstart!</b> 12:00pm Yadda, Yadda Prayer Group @ American Heritage, Apt. 111 <b>NO BOLT</b> <b>6:30-7:30pm IGNITE (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)</b>	28	29	30

**“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” ~ Isaiah 7:14**

## A NOTE OF



Thank you for hosting the appreciation dinner. The food was delicious and the fellowship was heartwarming. We really enjoyed sharing the evening with other emergency personnel and with your congregation. We sure appreciated our support and look forward to serving this community together in the future!

Thanks!

Rick Coltrain, Hammond Police Department



Dear Friends in Christ,

Your Pastor, Ralph Olsen, very kindly delivered the lovely blue shawl that you made for my husband, Ron, who was a patient at American Heritage. Thank you so very much! Ron passed away last week, but I wanted you to know that he appreciated your kindness so very much! The shawl was so comforting and "cozy" and he loved it.

Most Sincerely,  
Betty Phillippo  
November 12, 2017



Dear "Ignite" students,

We're so thankful for your generosity of \$123.00! Because of you, men and women are finding relief from the pain of hunger, the despair of homelessness, and the death grip of addiction. Thank you for all you do!

God bless you,  
Dr. Charles P. Morgan  
Chief Executive Officer

## Thrivent Action Team Updates

I am trying to update ALL Thrivent members so we can get more action dollars for things that we do around Trinity. I have some of your names but know I do not have all of them. With the names that I have if we all used all the action dollars that we are allowed for each year we would have \$8500.00, that could be used at Trinity and around the community and not come out of anyone's pocket. So, if you are a member or wish to become an associate please talk with me or Becky Fowler. Feel free to call or email me if that works for you. [715-688-6444](tel:715-688-6444) OR [alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net](mailto:alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net)

Thank you,

Betty Johnson

### Let's Talk Thrivent Action Teams

Thrivent Action Teams make it easy for you to bring people together to make a positive change in your community! When you see a need, apply to lead a volunteer team—and bam! Once your idea is approved, a Thrivent Action Kit is delivered to your door. It's packed with everything you need to help make your project a success. It even includes \$250 in seed money to help get your project started.

This passion-powered program is brought to you by Thrivent Financial because we believe that being wise with money and living generously go hand in hand.

- Visit [Thrivent.com/actionteam](http://Thrivent.com/actionteam)
- Click "Apply now" and have your User ID and password handy.
- Watch your doorstep for your Thrivent Action Kit.
- Lead your project.
- Come back and share your story of success with us!

## OCC Packing opportunities

We have 3 opportunities for you to see what happens to the shoeboxes once they are packed and left your hands! **Must be 13 to volunteer at the warehouse!**

Saturday, December 16 from 2-6pm

8 spots are available

See Sarah Pommerening for if you are interested!!



7:07pm Meeting Called to Order by Marti Peterson. We did not have a quorum so all items needing motions will have to be to the next council meeting.

**Present are:** Deb Henry, Betty Johnson, Pastor Ralph Olsen, Sue Frank, Office Secretary Sarah Pommerening, Treasurer Rachel McHenry, Interim President Marti Peterson, Mark Iverson and Kathy Jensen.

**Absent were:** Darla Feyereisen, Kelly Browning and Lois Worbes.

**Welcome Guest/Open Forum-Public Comment:** Claire and Audrey Severson from Our Savior's in Beldenville came to talk about Luther Point Bible Camp and thank us for supporting the camp and asked us to continue to support Luther Point. Audrey explained that Luther Point is welcome to all people. They left a brochure and some pricing sheet.

**Approve Minutes from October 9, 2017:** no quorum to approve.

**Treasurer Report:** Rachel reported she is working on condensing accounts one account at a time. She is also working on the budget for 2018. She passed out a Treasurer's report by Account and asked each ministry team to look over and let Rachel know what changes might be needed for accounting purposes. *Thank you, Rachel, for your hard work with condensing and budget work!*

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ralph reported there will be a new member class before the end of the year. We have a possible 10 families interested in joining Trinity! The Constitution team finished going through the bylaws and Constitution. Small changes needed. The recommend going forward with 2 Annual meetings a year. That way the snowbirds are able to vote and when they are home. Pastor Ralph also reported he would like the Council to be restructured so that more than one team is working together and give more support to each other.

Pastor Ralph was approached by the Presbyterian Church in town about help with Pastor support. He is awaiting to see what the need is.

## 7:30PM MINISTRY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. WELCA-Fall Bazaar:** No report.
- 2. Mission & Human Needs:** Marti Peterson reported the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Food Shelf offering is doing well. She reported that we will be giving 5 families turkey dinners for Thanksgiving. Betty reported the meals will be ready Monday after noon. Secret Santa trees will be going up soon. We are going to have 4 families. The mitten tree is up for the month of November. Feel free to drop off mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. They will be donated at the end of the month. Little free Pantry-Marti reported there was one isolated incident of someone wandering around the church. That is why doors are closed, but the pantry is being used and is going well.
- 3. Youth:** Sarah Pommerening reported that 8 High School youth went to Godstock at the Metropolis Resort in Eau Claire this past weekend. The youth had fun and are looking forward to returning next year. Christine and Kenzie finished their terms on the Synod Youth Board. Mandi Wilberg was elected to the youth board as a Saint Croix Valley Conference Rep-2-year position. Sarah Pommerening was elected to a 1-year adult rep position. Meat Raffle is Saturday, November 18th at 6:00 pm. There are 23 going to Houston this next June. Gethsemane is going to be joining us and sharing the cost of the bus to travel there.
- 4. Evangelism:** Betty Johnson reported on God's Work, our Hands Day her team served 80 people. Veteran's Day was a success! Thank you to Vera for starting this tradition! Also, there was a Thrivent action team for purchasing fleece to make blankets for Grace Place and TurningPoint. As well as Thrivent seed money to help purchase 5 thanksgiving dinners for families in need this year.
- 5. Music & Worship:** Sue Frank reported (Root) Beer & Brats night went well. The movie "Luther" had a couple hiccups, buy will try again. There is choir interest and Advent services will be Wednesday's at 7:30pm starting December 6<sup>th</sup>. Judy Larson is interested in putting together Puppets for one of the Sunday's and discussion about St. Nick Sunday.
- 6. Property & Grounds:** Mark Iverson reported that Roger Lindquist purchased some lighting that will be going in the sanctuary. Bruce Moll will be looking at the outside post light by the garbage cans.
- 7. Education:** Kelly Browning sent her report via email. BOLT had packed 66 boxes for Operation Christmas Child. One new child registered last week. We have 35 kids registered in BOLT. Starting the Christmas program this week, it will be on December 17th. Bring a friend night is coming up on the 29th.
- 8. Fellowship:** Deb Henry reported Trunk or Treat was successful! It ended up being inside instead of outside. Thank you, Darla and Sarah, for helping out. The EMS, Firefighter, Police Officer "Thank You" Dinner went well. Lots of help and people really enjoyed. Blood Drive on Wednesday, December 13th.



## Kolby Hodnefield's Faith Statement

Good Morning,

I have been invited up here before you to share my statement of faith. Here is the thing, faith is tricky, and for most it's something we grow up with. It's a seed planted in our lives. Our parents and family, the ones who develop the field, the ones who plant the seed. Now that the seed is planted it doesn't necessarily mean it will grow and quite possibly might end up dying. However, this field is watered every Sunday. Sure, there were weeks when it didn't get watered or it didn't want to grow, but slowly over time it has and it's grown in to a field. A field that is full and growing. At any given time, disease can sweep through the field damaging the crop, but with the right nutrients it can come back. No matter how far it is damaged it can always be repaired. This field strived through the doubts and has accepted the rays of sunshine to nature it into a plant. These rays of sunshine: Our Parents, our Pastor's, our family, and those who help grow our faith. Now today one more field is full and healthy. Ready to share its seeds with other fields.

This is the story of my faith: my seed had been planted by my parents and they have successfully done their job of getting me here. However, there was still lots of work to be done, after all my seed had only been planted. My parents understanding my faith wasn't just going to be giving me rides to church. If that meant having talks about faith or even saying prayers with me before I would go to bed they would be there to do it. Now that I was slowly growing, I had the roots to know who to talk to. Last year, the time in the story where the field doesn't yet know if it is going to blossom into its amazing potential or dwindle back. However, no matter how damaged I became God would always be right behind me. Now my roots were lurching for fertilizer they had plenty of water and believe they might have been drowning a couple times. With the right fertilizer, I quickly learned that one will never have too much water. My fertilizer: Pastor Ralph and my Grandma.

Pastor Ralph, a man who has had a huge impact in my life and his enthusiasm, something I will never forget. My grandma has always been there for me. Whenever I have struggled she is there to bring me new ideas and other solutions for an already complicated puzzle. When my field was starting to wither she helped me see around the clouds and further than I ever had. The sun was always behind the clouds I was just preventing myself from seeing it.

In conclusion, faith will never be easy. It will have its setbacks that make you ponder God's existence and you will have those days you cannot see the light. But God is always there; just like how the sun is always there. In this journey, I have constantly been reminded that we don't have all the answers. Nor are we suppose to after all, isn't that what God is for?

## Trinity Council Minutes Continued

**9. Stewardship:** Commitment Sunday will be Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Thrivent Action Team, John Levi, November 5<sup>th</sup>:** John Levi came and talked to people after church about Thrivent Action Teams. It was very well received.

**Commitment Sunday:** Now moved to December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Custodian & Secretary Job-Update:** No Update

**Update on Bylaws and Constitution committee:**

- **Status?** They have finished going through the Constitution and Bylaws. Small changes needed. Recommendation from this team is to hold 2 Annual meetings a year. Also, discussion of restructuring the Council.

### COMMUNION HELPERS

November 19: (kneeling) WELCA

December 3: (Intinction) Stewardship

### TELLER VOLUNTEERS

November 19:

November 26: Marti Peterson

December 3: Deb Henry

December 6 (Wed): vault until Sunday

December 10: Marti Peterson & Jen Haugen

8:58pm Motion to adjourn by Deb Henry, Sue Frank Second. **Motion Carried.** Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

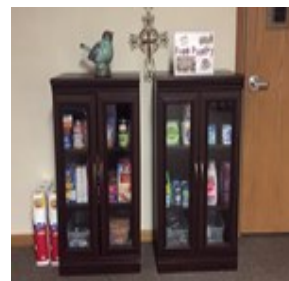
***Our Next Meeting is Monday, December 11, 2017  
at 7:00 pm at Trinity***

### LITTLE FREE PANTRY

The Free Little Pantry is open to all! The posted hours are Monday through Friday, 9-11am and 2:30-5pm. Wednesday nights from 5-8pm and Sunday mornings 8:30-12(noon). The pantry is located inside Trinity by the Fireside

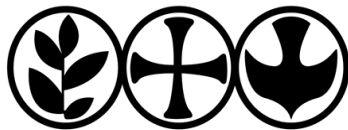
room. Please share with others and let them know it is available!

***"Take what you need,  
give what you can."***



December 2017

TRINITY CONNECTIONS  
NEWSLETTER



*Trinity Lutheran Church*



[www.facebook.com/trinityhammondWI](http://www.facebook.com/trinityhammondWI)

JOIN US SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR WORSHIP AT 9:30 AM  
BOLT & CONFIRMATION ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6:30PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1250 BROADWAY STREET  
PO BOX 68  
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**Join us December 24<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Eve Service at 9:30am!**

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