

TRINITY CONNECTIONS

We are on the threshold of a new year and I share these words from a devotional written by Ralph Marston as a guide for our lives and for Trinity Church.

FOCUS ON THE GOODNESS

Choose words today that encourage. Choose actions today that assist, empower and unify.

Live today with generosity, gratitude, wonder and enthusiasm. Be slow to anger, quick to forgive, understanding and patient with yourself and others.

Offer your smile, offer your kindness. Give your respect and your positive presence.

This is the world you live. The day you have to work with. Make your intention to make it a good, supportive time and place.

Many good people are going to do many good things today. Take the opportunity to add your own beneficial actions to the mix. What you focus on gains power and influence in our life and world.

SO, FOCUS ON THE GOODNESS AND WATCH AS THAT GOODNESS SPREADS!

Happy New Year! I look forward to seeing you and your guest in worship!



President's Corner - Marti Peterson

God's Work, Our Hands.

How many times over the past few years have we said this at the end of our Sunday service?

2018 begins a new year of hope and faith as we reach out to our community. In January, we will be holding our annual meeting. We have a number of leadership positions available on the council. If a member of the nominating committee approaches you, please prayerfully consider saying yes or better yet contact the church office or myself and say you would like to join the council. We really do want to do God's Work in our community:

We have reached out to SCC with fund raisers to help prevent suicides in our schools during the season of Lent. We have invited others in the community to join us in the wonderful stories of both Jesus's birth (Christmas story) and death/resurrection (Easter) with The Silent Messengers. We have our own Little Food Pantry and Little Free Library as well as support the SCC Backpack program, Grace Place and the area Food Shelves.

We have 24 youth joining with two other churches on a Mission Trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering where they will join other youth from other churches across the country worshiping and experiencing the wonder that is God in Houston. Our youth and leaders represent Trinity well on the Synod Youth Board.

Our WELCA ladies support the communities with their quilts, layettes, mid-wife kits, and funds. At Thanksgiving, we provided Thanksgiving meals to five area families and at Christmas we provided gifts to four area families.

We recognized our veterans and our emergency workers with meals. We worked with the Red Cross to hold blood drives. We distributed May Day baskets throughout the community to brighten someone's day and provided a free fair during Hammond Heartland Days. Look around and you will see our youth serving breakfast during Hammond Heartland Days, Advent Services, Lenten Services, etc. and our ladies also serve their Fall Bazaar (All with free will offering which allows those participating to pay what they are able.) The youth make Scandinavian cookies so those of us who don't have the time or talent can have cookies over the holidays.

Our BOLT program has reached over 35 children who also had a wonderful Christmas program. BOLT Students put together boxes for Operation Christmas Child and we have had members go over two times to help get the Operation Christmas Child boxes ready for shipment. We put Bibles in the hands of our 3rd graders as well as confirm our youth. We work on making our church a welcoming home to our members with weekly coffee fellowship and by giving every new family a key to the church so they can come in, if they need to reach out and pray to Our Father.

A glance at our calendar shows the Boy & Girl Scout troops that use our facility for their meetings and have had a couple of these Scouts earn their Eagle Scout and Gold Award for their projects of our beautiful gardens, a place to recycle our cans, a playground for our children, and a media center along with the newest contribution, the Little Free Pantry. Our basement houses SCC's 4-K program.

It truly is God's Work through us. Help us continue to grow in our missions here in the community of Hammond. ~Marti



Coffee Chat with the Treasurer – Rachel McHenry

Dear Trinity Gift Givers,

What a great year 2017 has been! Your generous gifts of prayer, monetary donations, time and talents, have made all things possible at Trinity! In November, all bills were paid in full and our offering produced a Net Income of \$3,236.

General Fund Ending Balance: \$21,914

> Offering: 15,785 Expenses: (12,549) Income: 3,236

Year-end Holiday Season

Giving Statements will go out to all contributors by January 31, 2018!

Fellowship-Deb Henry, Chair

Save the Dates for upcoming events:

January 14: Card Making after church

SAVE THE DATE: January 28th Chili-Cook-off

Evangelism-Betty Johnson, Chair

The Evangelism team wants to THANK everyone for ALL the help over the past year with our events we have had. We are working on ideas for next year so keep watching the Newsletter and Bulletin for events that will be coming up.

We also want to wish our church family a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

God's Blessings for 2018.

Betty and the crew



Education-Kelly Browning, Chair

Greetings BOLT families-

We are continuing to have a great time in BOLT! We have 37 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. Here are pictures from **Bring a Friend** night!



On Sunday, December 17, the BOLT kids shared the story of the birth of Jesus through song and a skit. They had a great time learning the story and telling it for all to hear. We hope everyone who attended worship enjoyed the BOLT Christmas program.



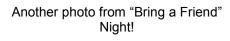
The BOLT guides are enjoying our new education program and hopefully the kids are too. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please let me know. We love sharing God's love with your children. We are doing great things and we all look forward to Wednesday nights.

Friendly reminder that we have a Closed Facebook group where I post what is happening with BOLT on a regular basis. You can request to join here; <u>Trinity Lutheran BOLT</u>.

Your Co-Worker in Christ, Kelly, BOLT Team Leader



Another photo from the BOLT Christmas Program!





Want to join the Trinity Family? We are having a new member class on Saturday, January 13th at 10:00 am. Come find out about Trinity and meet some of our members. We will end our time with a potluck at 12:00pm. Contact the office if you are interested! New members will be formally welcomed on Sunday, January 21st at the 9:30am service.

QUILTER'S CORNER

Thank you for all the donations of fabrics and sheets.

Are you interested in helping quilt?

We will be tying quilts for Lutheran World relief on January 10th and 24th at 9 am in the Quilting room.

Join us tying knots and sharing fellowship on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday's of every month!

If Wednesday doesn't work for you? Let Kathy Jensen know!

IMPORTANT BOLT DATES

* May Day Baskets—April 25

* End of Year Celebration-May 23

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

December:

Food Shelf: 51 pounds Backpack: 41 pounds

Thank you for helping others in need!

Blessing of the Households with Christmas Carols & Holy Communion

Sunday, January 7

9:30am

All are invited to this special service on the first Sunday of the New Year. Each household will come forward for a blessing while the congregation sings their favorite Christmas hymns one more time. This is a wonderful way to start the new year and a great opportunity to invite a guest, friend, neighbor or coworker.

Worship & Music-Sue Frank, Chair

Jesus is the Reason for the Season!!

Happy NEW YEAR 2018!! As we clean-up, unwind, and begin to relax, from a busy Christmas season, take time to reflect on the reason this season is so important to us as Christians. A New Year brings with it hope and a time for renewal! We hope that your resolutions this year include a renewed passion and commitment to our work here at Trinity. Looking forward to a GREAT year together!

January at a Glance:

SPECIAL MUSIC EVENT!! The Famous Norvold Sisters from right here in our area will be performing for us during Worship on January 14. Mark your calendars you won't want to miss these Sisters! Thank you to members of our family here at Trinity and Thrivent for making this event possible.

Special thanks also to the following people for their contributions of time and talent to ensure that our Christmas Season was filled with beauty!

All members who donated money for the beautiful poinsettias, see listing in newsletter.

Mark and Gretchen Iverson family for once again donating the tree in our sanctuary and an extra thank you to Mark for delivering and setting up the tree so that it was ready to be decorated.

The elves who helped decorate the tree and the church for this Blessed Christmas Season: Kathy Jensen, Deb Henry, Jim and Karen Riley. It is always a fun and memorable time working together for the good of all!

ALL ARE MUCH APPRECIATED!! Thank you, THANK YOU!!

A final IMPORTANT message, most all of you know that there has been a request to change Worship time. The people have spoken and the majority of respondents have voted to change Worship time back to 9:00 a.m. THIS WILL HAPPEN AND BE OFFICIAL ON FEBRUARY 4, 2018. The reason for the time frame is the need to put all things in motion smoothly, including accompanist's schedules. Thank you for your patience in resolving this issue!!

As always if you have a question, concern, comment, or have a talent you would like to share regarding Worship and Music, please contact me. We can't make things happen unless we know!!

That is the Worship and Music News for this month!! Thank you for all you do! ~Sue and the Crew

Mission & Human Needs -Marti Peterson

In the month of December, we gathered food items for the Food Shelf, hats, mittens, and caps for both WestConsin Credit Union's mitten drive and Grace Place, food items for the SCC backpack program, and our own Little Food Shelf. We also collected Secret Santa gifts for four area families provided by the Holiday Angels program. Thank you to Dar Sittlow and Nancy Newman for doing this again this year and to all Trinity members who contributed to making someone's Christmas a little brighter.

When coming to church on Sunday, please remember those less fortunate by bringing an item for the hampers. Thank you for all you do.

God's work, Gods hands, Marti

Secret Santa Update

Thank you so much to all those that participated in the Secret Santa Program this year at Trinity. We were amazed at how quickly the tags came off of each tree this year.

The returned gifts were wrapped so beautifully too. In addition to your generosity of buying and wrapping the gifts; we also had the following given to our Secret Santa program this year:

- A huge thank you to Harold and Lenore Moll for allowing our Secret Santa Program to use one of their Thrivent Contract Numbers to secure \$250 of Seed Money.
- 2. Trinity quilters gave four quilts.
- 3. Someone donated four large laundry detergents.
- 4. The Trinity Ladies donated \$200 to buy miscellaneous household items.

Trinity certainly blessed four families this past Christmas Season. All four families were a part of the Holiday Angels Program at St. Croix Central Elementary. We are blessed to be a blessing!!

Thank you again!!

Dar Sittlow, Nancy Newman & Marti Peterson

January 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.

| | JANUARY 7 | JANUARY 14 | JANUARY 21 | JANUARY 28 |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| GREETERS | Kathy Gustafson | Marti & Kerry Peterson | Bev Medes | Kathy Gustafson |
| Adult Ushers (2) | Alan Owens Kathy Jensen | | | Marti & Kerry Peterson |
| Youth Ushers | ++ | | | ++ |
| Reader | | Marti Peterson | | Marti Peterson |
| Acolyte | | Zach Wittmer | | Zach Wittmer |
| Power Point | | | | |
| Sound Tech | | | | |
| Communion Helpers | Deb Henry, Marti Peterson, Sue Frank, Betty Johnson | ++ | | ++ |
| Communion Set Up | Worship Team | ++ | Worship Team | ++ |
| Bread Baker | Claire & Livvie Moll | + + | Claire & Livvie Moll | + + |
| Offering Counter1 | Marti Peterson | Deb Henry | Marti Peterson | |
| Offering Counter2 | | | | |
| Bulletin Sponsors BOLT Sponsors | 80 To Sponsor a Bulletin, please see Betty Johnson R | | | |
| Fellowship Servers | Team L-Ron & Glenda Pratt | Team A-Jill Foster | Team B-Todd & Deb Henry | Team C-Lance & Cindy Olson |
| Exterior Property Team | Team #9-Daryl & Sue Frank | Team #9-Daryl & Sue Frank | Team #10-Drew Johnson & Boy Scout Troop | Team #10-Drew Johnson & Boy Scout Troop |
| ************** | | | | |
| January Bulletin Sponsors | | See Betty Johnson to sponsor a bulletin! Just \$8.00! | | |
| January 7th BULLETIN: WELCA January 14th BULLETIN: No Sponsor yet January 21st BULLETIN: No Sponsor yet January 28th BULLETIN: Kathy Gustafson in memory of Husband Gary's Birthday. | | | | |

Do you have a special day, memory or event coming up? Sign up to be a bulletin sponsor in 2018! *Call* (715-688-6444), *email* (alsgal63@baldwin-telecom.net) or *talk* to Betty Johnson at church! Only \$8.00!!



"You crown the year with bountiful harvest, even the hard pathways overflow with abundance." ~ Psalm 65:11

10am

Newsletter

Folding & Treats

9:30am Worship

10:30am Annual

Meeting

Cook-off

11:30am Chili

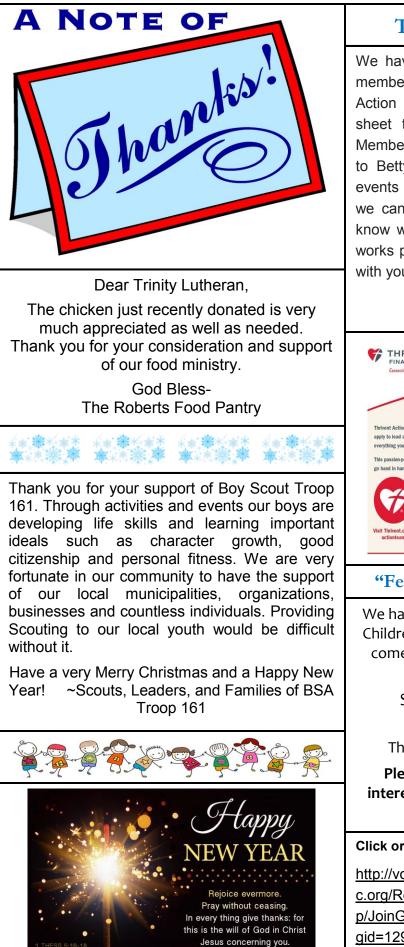
9:00am Jumpstart! 12:00pm Yadda, Yadda Prayer

Group @ American Heritage,

Apt. 111

6:30-7:15pm BOLT

6:30-7:30pm IGNITE



Thrivent Action Team Updates

We have started working on the events that Thrivent members or associate members can apply for Thrivent Action Dollars. Keep on the lookout for the sign-up sheet to be up in January. If you are a Thrivent Member OR wish to become an associate, PLEASE talk to Betty Johnson. Any ideas that you may have for events are also welcome. Let's see how many events we can do with this FREE money. If you still do not know what the action dollars are all about and how it works please see Betty. Will be happy to share the info with you. GODS WORK OUR HANDS.

> Thank you, Betty Johnson



"Feed My Starving Children" opportunity

We have reserved 34 spots at the "Feed My Starving Children" Eagan location. We would **LOVE** for you to come and join us pack food for people all over the world, in hopes to end hunger.

Saturday, January 6 from 11:30-1:30pm 27 spots are available

This is a great family opportunity for all ages!

Please contact Sarah Pommerening if you are interested or click or copy the link to register with the group!!!

Click or Copy Link:

http://volunteer.fms c.org/Register/Grou p/JoinGroup.aspx? gid=1298490



Christmas Flowers



upon throughout your life. Living out your faith on a daily basis is the best way to cement those teachings and lessons into who you are. In conclusion, faith is not something tangible, but it is something that shapes you into you, and me into

it is something that shapes you into you, and me into me. Faith changes your opinions on things and makes you look at the world through a different light. It allows you to reflect on yourself and think, "Is this who I want to be?" Faith, in short, is the will to go and change yourself, even if you don't see it yourself, others do.

Prayer. Our Next Meeting is Monday, January 8, 2018 at 7:00 pm at Trinity

9:40pm Motion to adjourn by Deb Henry, Sue Frank

Second. Motion Carried. Closed with the Lord's

2018 Budget - The Annual Meeting will be Jan. 28.

Committee reports are due to Sarah by January 5th.

our year master calendar

Annual Meeting Agenda Items

January 2018 **TRINITY CONNECTIONS** NEWSLETTER Trinity Lutheran Church



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

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