

Dear beloved of Trinity,

With its cold weather, snow, and winds, January seems to be on everyone's minds.



We check the weather forecast before travelling; the weather is a familiar topic of conversation; we watch the news to see what tomorrow will bring.

For some January is a tough month to get through. When you awake, it is dark and when you return home from work, it is dark. Seasonal Affective Disorder causes temporary depression throughout the winter months.

But January is also a month of new

beginnings, named after the Roman goddess Janus, that literally two-faced (or two-headed) deity who faced both backwards and forwards, recalling the past even while she looked ahead to the future.

Reviewing the past year and looking forward can be a healthy way to begin your new year. Recognizing gratefulness, celebrating small joys and looking ahead to warmer, sunnier days. Like the Victor Hugo quote, "but eternal spring is in my heart."

In these winter months, we welcome the light of the Christ child. Isaiah declares that the light of the long-promised king will illumine the world and bring endless peace and justice. The angels declare that Jesus' birth is good and joyful news for everyone. Filled with the light that shines in our lives, even in the bleak winter months, we look to the future, to go forth to share the light of Christ with those around us and to the whole world.

This is the hope of the Christ child, Jesus. A light shining in the darkness, bringing spring in our hearts.

Peace be with you,

Deacon Christie

Milestone Minute

In January, our Kindergartners will learn how to pray. It will be a time to learn about various ways to pray and why we pray. We will meet on Jan 5 and 12 for our lessons and then on the 19th for our celebration during worship.

WE ARE.....GOD'S KIDS!

Thank you to Kristi McKinney and the Youth and Family Board for overseeing Milestone Ministry.

Giving Tree

You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" Acts 20:35b

Thank you for your support of the Giving Tree this year. We tried something new this year and asked out Tea Area Food Pantry clients about needs they might have. I created a form for them to fill out with needs and wants for their children and for themselves. We created tags and hung them on the Giving Tree. I was overwhelmed with the response by our congregation. What a generous group you are! We were able to help 20 families with toys, clothes and cleaning products. I wish you could have seen the looks on their faces when they came to pick up their gifts. They were grateful and pleased. Thank you for living your faith and serving your neighbor.

Deacon Christie

It's not too early to think about Summer Bible Camp

January is the month that we are focusing on summer Bible Camp. Believe it or not, registration is right around the corner. We are excited about our youth experiencing God through his creation.

In early January, confirmation students will receive registration forms and information about camp. Our students have been fundraising for months now, preparing for their summer experience. The first early bird registration deadline is February 15th. Sign up now! Apply for a Trinity Campership!

Please support our youth going to camp.

Boiler Replacement/Parking Lot Repair

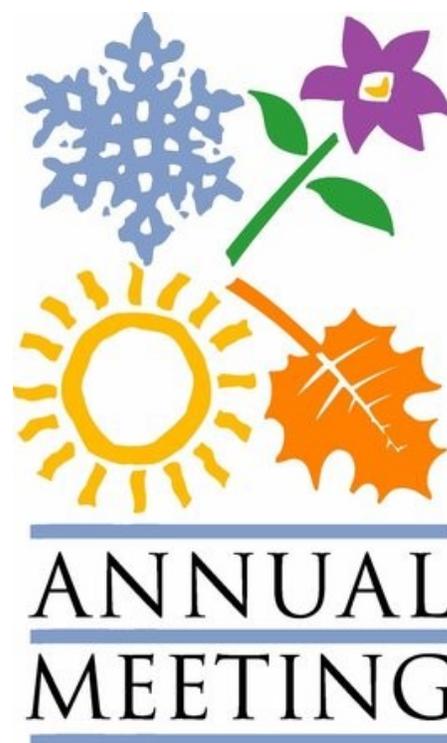
Thank you for your generosity and for your quick response to the \$5,000 matching grant to the “Boiler Replacement/Parking Lot Repair” Fund. As of December 23, \$10,830 has been received toward this project. The anticipated cost to complete these two projects is \$50,000. The congregation will be updated as we continue to raise money. If you would like to make a gift to this fund, simply indicate with your gift that you would like it directed toward this project. Thank you.

Annual Meeting Will Be Held Wednesday, Jan. 29th

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Wednesday evening, January 29th at 6:30 in the sanctuary. Please come and celebrate the ministry of the congregation and help plan for the coming year.

Meal 5:30-6:30
Annual Meeting and Confirmation 6:30-7:30ish
Worship following annual meeting.

There will also be two budget forums you can attend to ask questions about the upcoming 2020 church budget. These will be held on Sunday January 19th at 9:10am and January 22nd at 7:15pm.



St Dysmas Worship on January 30th

We will worship with the St. Dysmas Congregation on January 30th. If you would like to join us, please fill out the paperwork posted on the clipboard in the Gathering Space. Paperwork needs to be returned to the church office by January 12th . Thank you.

Financial Update

Financial Giving Update as of December 23, 2019

	Actual	Budget	Difference
General Fund	\$352,380	\$352,700	-\$ 320
Building Fund	<u>\$ 82,272</u>	<u>\$ 86,172</u>	<u>-\$3900</u>
Total	\$434,652	\$438,872	-\$4220



Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 37
Tea, SD 57064
Return Service Requested

(Unapproved) Church Council Minutes – December 10, 2019



Core Values

Community, Faith, Family, Spirituality, Love

Vision

Trinity Lutheran Church is
a welcoming community
a faith-filled community
a community that values spirituality
a community of love and hospitality A FAMILY

Mission

Encourage. Inspire. Serve.

Members Present: Melissa Jelen, Dave Poppens, Derek Gors, Al Graue, Nikki Wilken, Clarissa Roemen, Don Lemley, Steve Oberle

Visitors: Maggie Saugstad, Carter McGregor, Tommy Pollema

Members Absent: Jenny Miller, Kristi McKinney, Grace McLeer

Staff Present: Pastor Tom Opoien, Deacon Christie Meier

Staff Absent:

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by council President, Melissa Jelen

Secretary's Report

Secretary, Derek Gors, presented the Secretary's report for the November meeting. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave. The second was made by Clarissa. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Dave presented the financial report. Sitting well. Al made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Steve made the second. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- Budget- Start putting together
- Yearend reports-have to Melody by 1st of year
- How to show budget number/staff addition
- Sabbatical/Fill in help

New Business:

- Mins in newsletter- send out for review beforehand/Wed deadline (3rd of month) to allow Melody to publish
- Staff reviews- email to Melissa
- Set Annual meeting- Forum times-19th at 9:10am & 22nd at 7:15pm, Annual Meeting Jan 29th 5:30 Supper, 6:30 Meeting with church to follow