

Dear Friends in Christ,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Everywhere we look, we see Christmas lights, decorated trees, hear Christmas carols, hear the bell ringers outside grocery stores, garland and wreaths adorn places of business, smell cinnamon scented items, see ornaments and all is well with the world. But for some, Christmas is a time of painful reminders that a loved one is missing in their life. We see things through a different lens. Elvis got it right when he sang about "I'll have a Blue Christmas without you. I'll be so blue thinking about you."

If you are feeling blue this Christmas, your Trinity family stands with you and prays you feel God's presence when you are overwhelmed. Pray this prayer with me..

God of love and understanding, we come together to confront our pain in the midst of the world's celebration. Help us to know that you are present with us in all of our emotions, feelings and seasons of life. Grant us a taste of the hope, peace, joy and love that you promise to all of your people through the gift of your son Jesus. AMEN.

Advent begins December 2.

Advent means "coming". Historically, Advent was viewed as a time of preparation through repentance (turning away from sin). It has also become a season to look forward with hope as we prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming at Christmas and as we get ready for that future day when He will come back again as judge and ruler of all.

The color of Advent is blue, a color symbolizing hope in Christ.

For many of us, we may not know Advent is upon us. Instead, it becomes a season of stress; a season of hectic schedules of programs, concerts, shopping, baking, and decorating. The world tells us these things are important, even more important than preparing for the Christ child. But we as Christians, know better.

At Trinity, we want you to come experience peace, the peace only the Christ child brings. Come prepare your hearts for His coming each Sunday in worship, especially if you are feeling a little blue this season. We prepare for Christ's coming by listening to the Word, sharing in the sacraments, worshipping together and living as a disciple. O come, O Come Emmanuel.

Peace,
Deacon Christie



Milestone Minute

Thank you to the parents and grandparents who brought their children to 4th grade Milestone where we learned about God and Money. We learned that Stewardship is the good management of all God has given us - our time, money and possessions.

There is no Milestone for December. In January, our Kindergartners will be learning about prayer.

Keep all our youth at Trinity in prayer as we come to the end of our calendar year. We pray the new year will bring more joy and more love to their lives.

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

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



THE "MANGER-ON-THE-GO" WAS BY FAR THE TOP SELLING STROLLER IN BETHLEHEM THAT YEAR.

December Music

We are blessed at Trinity with many musicians and singers. Come enjoy beautiful music throughout December.

December 2 - Men Sing, Bell Ring 6:30 pm

December 8 - Cantata "And On Earth, Peace" 7:00 pm

December 9 - Cantata "And On Earth, Peace" 10:30 worship service

December 16 - Sunday School program 10:30 worship service



Trinity's Financial Update

Anticipated General Fund Offering through Nov. 2018:	\$373,175
Actual Offering General Fund Offering received through Nov. 2018:	<u>\$310,038</u>
	- \$52,137
Anticipated Building Fund Offering through Nov. 2018:	\$84,247
Actual Offering Building Fund Offering received through Nov. 2018:	<u>\$77,453</u>
	-\$6,794

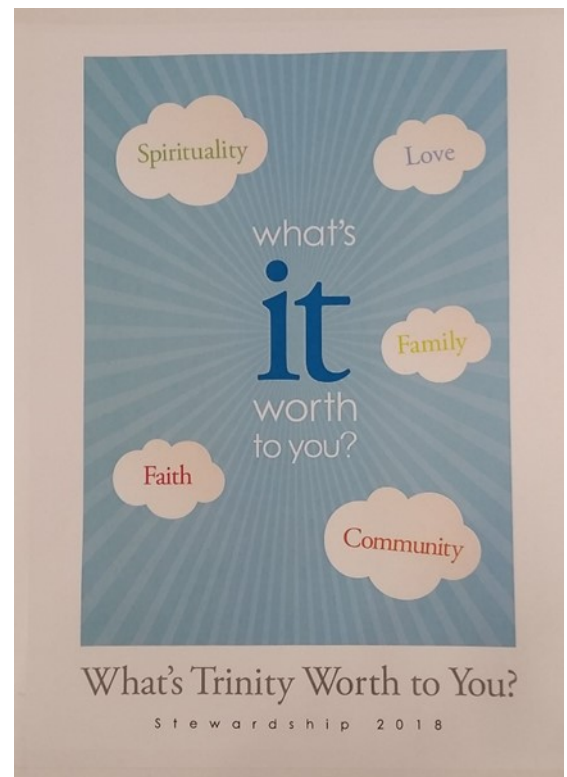
From the Board of Stewardship

Thank you to everyone who took part in our "What's it worth to you? What's Trinity worth to you?" fall stewardship emphasis in November. During worship each week a member of the Board of Stewardship invited us to consider four questions.

1. What do you love about our church
2. Who you love from our church that has made a difference in your life?
3. What is your greatest dream for our church?

What do questions 1-3 equal?

The temple talks helped the congregation consider how important Trinity Lutheran Church is in the lives of individuals and families, and they reminded the listeners of the deep impact that Trinity makes in the surrounding community. Your financial gifts are deeply appreciated and sustain the ministry of the congregation. Please fill out an estimate of giving card for 2019 to help the leaders of the congregation to plan for the coming year.



Estimate of Giving Card 2019

Name(s): _____

To support the mission and ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church, I/we plan to give:

GENERAL FUND \$ _____ per **week** or \$ _____ per **month** in 2019

(To maintain our current ministries in 2019 will cost about \$430,000, funded by the financial gifts of the 430 families of the congregation. However, it would be helpful to expand our ministries as Tea continues to grow.)

MORTGAGE FUND \$ _____ per **week** or \$ _____ per **month** in 2019

Christmas Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 23	Regular worship at 8:00am, 10:30am
Monday, December 24	4:00pm 6:00pm, 11:00pm
Sunday, December 30	Regular worship at 8:00am, 10:30am

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



