

Dear friends,

Whether you realize it or not, every one of us works in management. Sometimes we manage things well. Sometimes not so much. My personal core value that *good organization matters* changed one frigid, snowy, windy January day on a porch with a telephone book in my hand. (Ask your parents if you don't know what a telephone book is.)

Back in the day, youth groups could get paid by the phone company to deliver heavy phone books to people's homes. The catch was that every single home in the town needed to be visited and the entire project needed to be complete by a given date or else the group forfeited all pay. I was a young pastor at the time, and the youth leader who had organized the project procrastinated a bit too long. So five of us delivered several thousand three-pound paper weights in the middle of a blizzard ... in January ... in central South Dakota. Seared in my memory is the moment that the snow went down my boot stepping onto the unshoveled porch of a person who didn't want my delivery anyway. My life changing thought? This could've been planned out a little bit better.

For many churches the traditional annual meeting feels a little like having snow fall inside your boot. Not this year. God has given us the gift of a highly engaged, talented congregation filled with good managers, and I need your help. Each January we gather as a congregation to plan out the coming year. We report on what went well in the congregation in the previous year and more importantly what we learned.

If you have never attended an annual meeting before, this is the year that we are getting rid of the old phonebooks and trying something new. Instead of meeting on a Sunday morning, we are going to have a Wednesday evening celebration. On Wednesday, January 30, 2019, we are going to celebrate what God did through us and with us last year and bravely plan for 2019. Here is the schedule:

Annual Meeting Wednesday, January 30, 2019

5:30- 6:15 Meal in the fellowship hall

6:30 – 7:30ish Annual meeting and confirmation in the sanctuary

7:30 – worship

You will notice that the annual meeting is going to be a required part of the confirmation curriculum as a class and a parent night. We are unique as a Lutheran congregation in that many of our members are young people. As a faith community, we all get to learn how to organize, support, and sustain our vibrant community. To be honest, it takes some work. Organizing a congregation isn't always flashy, but the rewards are tremendous. Mark your calendars. We need your presence on January 30.

On a related topic, thank you for all the people who gave so generously in response to the \$25,000 matching grant in December. For some of you, this may have been the first time you made a large financial gift to the congregation. I pray that it brought you great joy to support the work that your congregation does in this community and throughout the world. Your generosity is a very important part of the work of this congregation.

Peace and best wishes, Pastor Tom Opoien

Milestone Minute

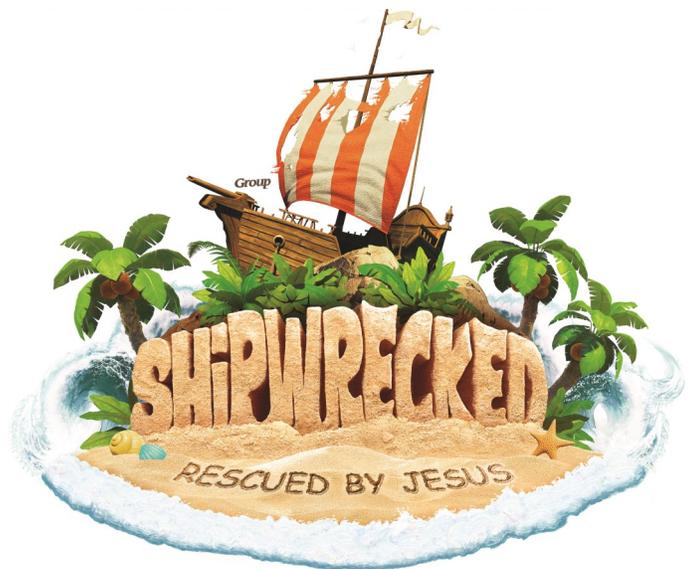
In January, our Kindergartners will learn how to pray. It will be a time to learn about various ways to pray and why we pray. We will meet on Jan 6 and 13 for our lessons and then on 20th for our celebration during worship.

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

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

Winter Weekend Vacation Bible School

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! - The Board of Education is excited to host its first ever **WINTER WEEKEND VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** on Saturday, January 26th from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm, and Sunday, January 27th during the Sunday School hour. On-line registration and volunteer sign-up lists will be opening soon! A link to the registration and volunteer sign-ups will be sent out to all Sunday School parents via email in early January, and additional details will be announced via email, Facebook, and the church bulletin. This is a free event. We look forward to exploring how we are **RESCUED BY JESUS!**



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.

Sunday, Jan 6, and Wednesday, Jan 9, we will have a representative with us in worship to tell us about the summer theme and answer any questions you may have. Also, on Wednesday, Jan 9, confirmation students will receive registration forms and information about camp. Our students have been fundraising for months now, preparing for their summer experience.

Please support our youth going to camp.

We Did It! The \$25,000 match was completed in full!

In mid-December a family in the congregation noticed that our general fund giving was significantly behind. In response, the donor family offered to match gifts from individuals up to \$25,000 to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

The response of the congregation was swift and generous. \$25,000 in individual gifts were received in about two weeks' time in gifts. Many of these gifts were above the individual giver's normal gifts to the church.

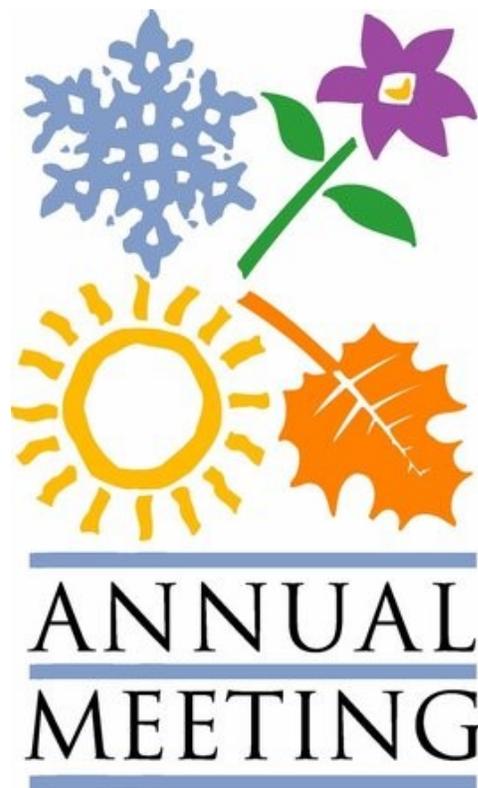
Thank you for your generosity and for paying attention to the financial needs of the congregation. Your generosity has placed us on a much healthier financial footing as we begin 2019.

Annual Meeting Will Be Held Wednesday, Jan. 30th

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Wednesday evening, January 30 at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

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

This is a change from the traditional meeting time of Sunday morning, but to broaden the number of people who attend the annual meeting, the church council has chosen this day and time. The meeting day and time are within the direction of the congregation's bylaws. Please come and celebrate the ministry of the congregation and help plan for the coming year.



January Circle Bible Study

Bible Study will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 1:30pm. Meeting with Jesus, John 1:39—Come and See: seeking and finding faith.

Worship Serving Teams

Have you ever wondered how to get on a Sunday worship serving team? And what exactly do they do? Do I have those gifts for ministry?

Worship teams are the hub of ministry on a Sunday morning. They put the flags out, greet, hand out bulletins, read scripture, usher, assist with communion, prepare and serve coffee, count attendance. Besides serving, they foster relationships, connect with people they might not otherwise connect with and genuinely care for each team member. If you think you would like to try it out – no commitments the first time – please let a Worship Team member or Christie Meier know and we will make that happen.

God gives us all gifts and wants us to use them for His glory.

Trinity Lutheran Church
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Return Service Requested



