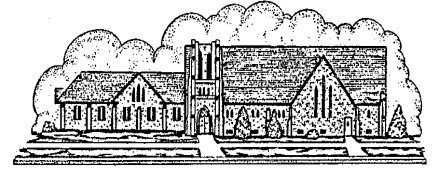


May you enjoy Peace, Love, and Happiness this Christmas!

TRINITY NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2018
No. 309

Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA—Bev McNeill, Associate in Ministry
225 Cty Hwy 6—PO Box 374—Clinton, MN 56225

Dear Members of Holden and Trinity,

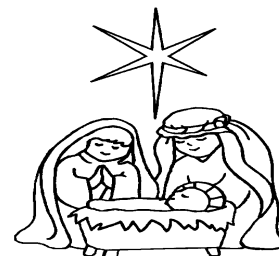
Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight" Matthew 3:3

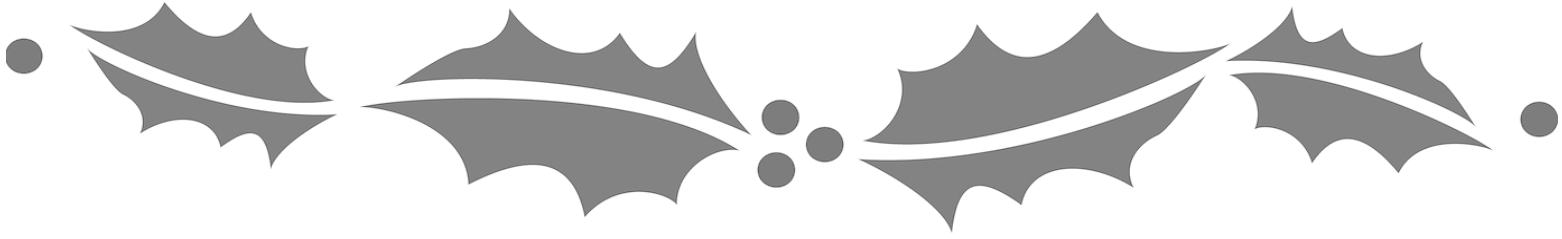
As enter the month of December the season of Advent begins with the four weeks before Christmas. The word Advent is from the Latin word for "coming" or "arrival." As we enter this season of Advent we are preparing to celebrate the arrival of God himself. We are reminded that he took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.

Advent is a busy time. We fill these four weeks with church services, concerts, and parties, cleaning, buying gifts and decorating. It is a busy time, and sometimes tiring and frustrating. But we find it to be exciting, also. During the Advent season we are reminded that our crucified and risen Lord will come again on the Last Day. We celebrate his birth at Christmas and remember the events of his life, especially his death and resurrection. We remember these events during our worship and devotion times. We need to remember daily to welcome him into our hearts with praise, repentance and prayer. On that great yet to come, Jesus will return in glory as our King, raise us up and welcome us into his eternal home.

GET READY - OUR KING IS COMING!

Your Friend in Christ,
Minister Bev





Christmas at Holden & Trinity

Holden Sunday School Christmas Program ~ Sunday, Dec. 16th
During Worship Service
Serving Christmas Goodies after the Service

Trinity Sunday School Christmas Program ~ Sunday, Dec. 9th
at 4:00 followed by a Free Will Offering Supper hosted
by the Youth Group

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th

Holden ~ Communion Worship at 3:00

Trinity ~ Communion Worship at 5:00



Trinity Women of the ELCA Christmas Pot Luck/Remembrance Service
Wednesday, December 5th at 5:30 p.m.

Youth Christmas - Wednesday, December 19th
during the Confirmation class time - Games, Christmas caroling, etc.



The Joint Meeting of the Holden & Trinity Church Councils will be held on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:00 at Trinity. The Holden Council members will be hosting this year. The regular December Trinity Council meeting will be held that evening at 6:00.



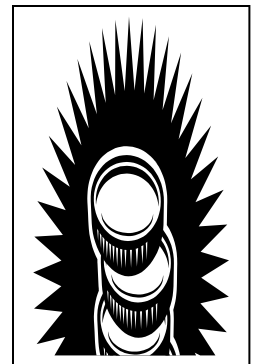
December

- 2 Greg Ward
- 4 Bette Weinman
- 5 Chris Hauschild, Nathan Moberg
- 6 Shirl Botker
- 7 Jodi Morrill
- 8 Lucas VanHoorn
- 11 Riley Nelson, Charles Stattelma
- 12 Jay Thorson
- 14 Keith Anderson, Chalmer Combellick
- 15 Ben Athey, Ashley McLain
- 16 Shawn Arndt
- 17 Renee Schwagerl
- 18 Jackie Hauschild, Kelsey Nelson
Ernie Tharaldson
- 19 Lori Hynnek, Xavier Popplar
- 20 Candy Arndt
- 22 Diana Basta
- 23 Sara Fuhrman
- 24 Meri Custard
- 25 Greg Basta
- 27 Kerri Herberg
- 30 Marissa Dahl
- 31 Jim Haukos, Kayla Moberg

These birthdates come from the computer membership program, *Revelations*. Please give your information to the office if your name has been missed.



Remember to bring your hats/gloves/mittens/scarves for the Christmas tree. All donations remain in Big Stone County.



Noisy Offering

On Sundays through Christmas a Noisy Offering will be taken to benefit the Heifer Project. A special tine will be passed for you to place your coins in.

The Farmer and the Minister

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of Winter after a heavy fall of snow and only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service. "Well", said the clergyman "I guess there's no point in having a service today." "Well that's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it.'

~~~REMINDER~~~

The Holden Cemetery Board met recently and have increased the price of a grave lot to \$250, effective January 1, 2019. This is the first increase in many years, and is needed for maintaining the cemetery. If you have been thinking of purchasing a lot, now would be a good time to do so before the price increase. Also, beginning January 1, 2019 there will be a \$100 charge for interring remains. Donations for the maintaining the cemetery are always welcome.

From the SW MN Women of the ELCA... Prayers for Tuesdays @ Two



Keep praying always, whenever;
morning, noon, and night,
and especially on Tuesday at 2:00!

December 5 ~ Pray for JOY
December 12 ~ Pray for GENEROSITY
December 19 ~ Pray for PATIENCE & CALMNESS
December 26 ~ Give thanks for your
SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST

Trinity Women...our annual appeal letter will be coming soon to seek donations so we can continue our tradition of giving to many organizations and missions: locally, statewide, nationwide, and internationally. A Christmas stocking will be hung in the narthex for your envelope. It can also be mailed to Trinity.

Collections will continue through
December with distribution in early 2019.

**Last year your women's organization
donated \$1,990.00**

God bless your giving!



*The Christmas Cross located at the
south door of Trinity is given
in memory of
Matthew & Steven Brandt
by their parents,
Rodger & Linda Brandt.*

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

To everyone who donated to Operation Shoebox.
Minister Bev's was loaded to the max with **95**
shoeboxes!! Holden donated 17 boxes and Trinity
collected 78.

Christmas Angel

Goose bumps rise on my arms when I remember the holiday that made an impact on my entire life. I was about seven and the memory of that night when an angel visited is still vivid. This was a holiday when no [gifts](#) rested under the tree. But in fact, I received one of the best gifts of them all.

I don't remember if we needed an angel because of a bad economy—my parents sheltered us from hearing those things. I know that my dad worked that year as he did all the years I was growing up. My mom worked periodically and only part-time when she could do so and still be home for us.

I wonder if the reason we needed an angel was because we had large bills to pay that year? Our house was pretty big by some standards—although we were only middle-class ;and it must have taken an arm and a leg every month to heat it. We gathered wood for the winters and burned in a woodstove. As a child, I thought it was for extra warmth, a cozy home and a back up for making popcorn and hot cocoa when the electricity went out. I know better, now.

I don't know if the reason we needed a miracle that holiday was because we had over-spent or under-budgeted. Or because dad hadn't worked enough overtime or holidays, as he normally did, for extra money. Or maybe we were just not making it with three kids and related expenses.

I do know that I cried when I heard the news and I'm ashamed of that now. I remember both my brothers and I being upset. Why? Because Dad informed us that there would be no gifts for us that holiday. There was just no money.

I thought, "How can there be no money for presents? There's always money for that." And then I thought, "No fair. Why me?"

My brothers and I lapsed into silence for the rest of the drive home and my parents thought we took it rather well. Of course, they reminded us that the holiday was truly about celebrating the birth of our Savior, not stacking gifts next to the couch as they were opened. But it was a letdown, just the same. We talked about making each other presents, as we couldn't buy anything. I still cried big alligator, little-girl tears that night and prayed that somehow we would have a few gifts.

The next evening, it snowed. I looked longingly out the window at the beautiful drifts and wished that the season were over. The tree was bright and pretty but depressing with no presents underneath. It looked very incomplete.

When the phone rang, I wandered over to tuck myself under Dad's arm as he talked. He sounded surprised. He said, "You're kidding?" and "from who?" The call was very short and as he hung up, he told me, "Someone left a card for us at the gas station up the street."

When we stopped to pick it up the envelope, I remember feeling cozy in the car with the coldness outside. Dad walked out of the station with an envelope that I strained to see as he neared the car. Why would someone drop a card off instead of mailing it? And why not just drop it off at our house, only a mile away? Dad stomped snow off his shoes as he opened the door and the windows fogged up inside when the cold air hit.

Inside the envelope was a holiday card with no signature. Included was two hundred dollars.

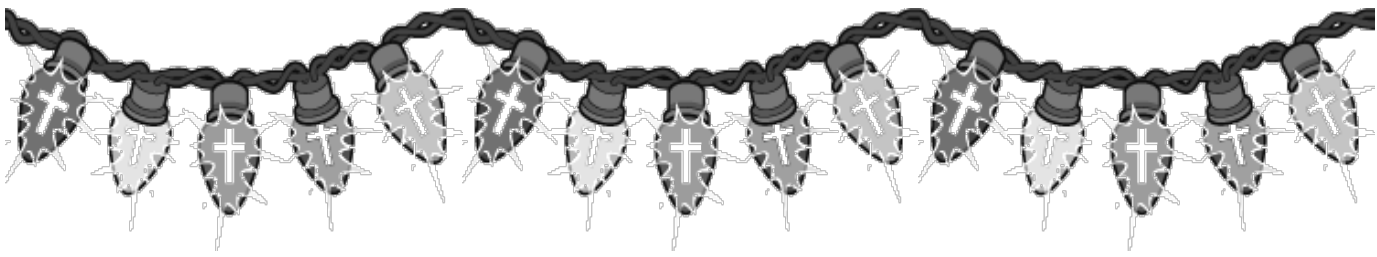
"Guess we'll have presents after all." Dad said.

"But who is it from?" I asked, my eyes wide.

"I have no idea."

To this day, our giver's identity is unknown. I'm sure there were probably better things that my parents could have spent that money on. I bet there were unpaid bills and groceries to buy. But they didn't spend it on bills. They gave us gifts. The kinds of gifts, although they seemed so important at the time, are lost in my memory. I have no clue what we received.

We were privileged to be recipients of an incredibly unselfish act—a miraculous gift that I will never forget. The important part of the holiday implanted itself in my heart: no matter how little we may have by our standards, it is much compared to many others. Giving each Christmas is a joyous act that my children and I practice to this day.



Trinity & Holden Confirmation Students & Mentors

Meeting on Sunday, December 16th
at 9:30 in the dining room

7th Graders

Jonathan Bissell

Grace Cardwell

Kathyn deNeui

Summer Ebnet

Birkley Herberg

Amara McLain

Hannah Thorson

8th Grader

Isabell Davis

Carter Gibson

Hunter Gibson

Jessica Moberg

Daisy Norlund

Jayln Patterson

Kassy Strand

Keera Van Hoorn

Hayley Ward

Tyler Wills

Mentor

Jane Stotesbery

Maria Botker

Sandy Gillespie

Janine Teske

Melisa Benson

Christi Stotesbery

Cheri Kaye

Kathy Draeger

Chuck Folkens

Jim Teske

Kiara Nordly

Beth Bohlen

Pam Chase

Ashley Smith

Amanda Stattelmann

Patti Pullis

Josh Bohlen

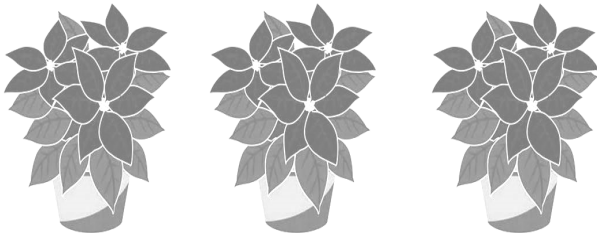
If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call the Church office. Thank you~~~

THANK YOU...

TO Jim Weinman and Chuck Folkens who kept Trinity's east flower garden beautiful all spring, summer, and fall! We hear so many wonderful compliments from travelers going through Clinton.

TO all those who mowed at Trinity this past summer. The lawn and grounds were always in great shape. We thank you for your unselfish volunteering.

TO the youth group and all the volunteers who helped make the Fall Youth Supper a big success!



Trinity members are wishing to donate a **poinsettia** to share for the holiday season. Please leave it in the Altar Guild Room with your name and the name who you are giving it in memory of or in honor of. Names will be put in the Christmas bulletin. You may take it home after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS WORDS

joy
grace
hope - love
faith - peace
honor - purity
justice - charity
courage - loyalty
goodness - prudence
sympathy - humility
fortitude - temperance
brotherhood - cooperation
and
God
is
love

Southwestern Minnesota Synod

Workshop on February 23rd

Please see bulletin board for more info



Thank You to the November deliverers of Meals on Wheels at Trinity: Donna Moberg, Joette Strobel, Sharol Severson, Chuck Folkens, and Dave & Bonnie Stotesbery.



Morgan Benson, student at MN State University Moorhead has the opportunity to participate in a Mission Trip to Denver, CO. March 3-9, 2019. She is looking for financial support for the trip. Please see her letter on the bulletin board for more info.



Trinity Lutheran Church Council

October 10, 2018

Present: K. Stattelman, C. Folkens, G. Moberg, D. Maher, J. Bohlen, K. Moberg, Minister Bev

Opening Devotions by Minister Bev

Call to order by Josh

Secretary's report approved as submitted.

Motion Gene, second Kelly

Treasurer's report approved as submitted.

Motion Jody, second Tyler

Mileage and Pastor's report approved as submitted.

Motion Deb, second Chuck

Committee Reports:

Education: Fall supper is November 7, 2018 put on by the youth group. November 16-17 will be the Jr High trip to Willmar. Christmas program is December 9th at 4:00 pm. Youth group will serve super afterwards.

Wreath sales will begin soon.

Evangelism & Worship: none

Property & Management: Trimming of trees and shrubs around the property has been finished.

Stewardship: Time and Talent sheets will be distributed. There will be stewardship talks during services.

Outreach: none

Other Reports:

Parish Board: none

St. Pauli: none

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Retakes for Lifetouch pictures will be November 19, 2018.

2. A new doorknob will be purchased for the balcony door.

3. The Nelson house has been deeded to the Church.

The options will be presented to the congregation.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Jody has called CenturyLink and can get a reduction in charges, along with a better internet speed. Motion by Deb second by Kristi to have Jodi call and make the changes.

2. It was brought to the attention of the Council that bank statements have not all been going to the Church. Jodi will get a list from the bank of all Church accounts and the Council will decide at a later date.

Communion assistants for Confirmation Sunday will be Kristi Moberg, Deb Maher and Josh Bohlen.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn Chuck, second Gene Respectfully submitted by Deb Maher, secretary

Trinity Activity of Funds – October 2018

General	Bal. 10/1	53,495.56	
	Income	10,092.58	
	Expenses	- 10,794.72	
	Trans. to Special Funds	-1,293.39	
	Bal. 10/31	51,499.53	
Chaperone	Bal. 10/31	10,904.18	
Discipleship	Bal. 10/1	13.14	
	Income	100.00	
	Expenses	-52.86	
	Bal. 10/31	60.28	
Long Range Repairs			
	Bal. 10/1	1,768.85	
	Income	950.00	
	Bal. 10/31	2,718.85	
Olai Steen Scholarship			
	Bal. 10/1	5,165.96	
	Income	36.75	
	Bal. 10/31	5,202.71	
TLC Scholarship			
	Bal. 10/31	1,584.66	
Memorials			
	Bal. 10/31	2,961.00	
Bible Camp	Bal. 10/31	-1,003.00	
Thrivent	Bal. 10/1	7,921.33	
	Income	13.00	
	Bal. 10/31	8,051.33	
Improvement Fund			
	Bal. 10/1	- 4,854.31	
	Income	130.00	
	Bal. 10/31	-4,724.31	
Total balance of all special funds:		\$25,755.70	
Combined General & Special Funds:		\$77,255.23	
St. Pauli Maintenance Fund:			
	Bal: 10/1	\$ 9,889.29	
	Donations	.00	
	Interest	.45	
	Bal. 10/31	9,889.74	
Memorial Money Market			
	Bal. 10/1	\$100,015.07	
	Interest	13.56	
	Bal. 10/31	\$100,028.63	

Trinity members...don't forget the online giving program, **Simply Giving. For information and/or enrolling go to the church website:**
[**trinitylutheranclinton.net**](http://trinitylutheranclinton.net)

