

TRINITY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020
No. 321



Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA—Jim Rach, Lay Minister
225 Cty Hwy 6—PO Box 374—Clinton, MN 56225
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A Happy February to you all,

Happiness. In the church and in Christian life, we can be very confused about happiness. Will going to church make me happy? Will following Jesus make me happy? What if I go to church and follow Jesus but I'm still not happy?

In the opening verses of Matthew 5, Jesus teaches about "blessedness." The "blessed" are not "happy" in the sense our consumer culture describes pleasure. Happiness and blessedness may overlap but they are not identical. Indeed, as Jesus describes those who are "blessed," it's hard to see "happiness" written in any of those lives.

Jesus begins his teaching, not with promises of happiness, but with promises of blessedness even in the human experiences of mourning, persecution, and poverty of spirit. Jesus' form of "blessedness" only makes sense in the light of the kingdom of God. Within God's kingdom "blessedness" does not depend on wealth or health or status. It is not a reward for righteousness. Rather, blessedness is God's sheer gift. In God, life is not governed by honor or shame, but by the promise of abundant life. Mourning, poverty of spirit, and meekness reveal this inbreaking of God's abundant life.

Lastly, a word about Epiphany. As we move from Jesus birth to his baptism to the Sermon on the Mount, the picture of Jesus starts to take shape. Not only in the manger, but also in his teaching, God is revealed. We are born and reborn into new relationship with God, each other, and creation. Jesus invites us: Repent and follow. Repent and follow. Repeat. Kingdom life is a responsive life, always seeking, always moving.

God's peace,

Jim

LENT - 2020

Ash Wednesday - February 26th

Maundy Thursday - April 9th

Good Friday - April 10th

Easter Sunday - April 12th

Wednesday Worship Schedule:

Trinity Worship at 5:30 followed by Youth Supper at 6:15

Holden Worship at 7:00 preceded by Supper at 6:00

BINGO

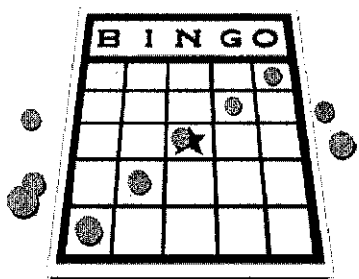
Trinity Members,
Family, Friends, and
Neighbors
and ALL ages !

Trinity is sponsoring a
fun afternoon of BINGO.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9th
1:00
in the Trinity Fellowship Hall

Prizes & Lunch!

**Invite your friends, family,
and neighbors!**



Happy Birthday

February

- 1 Alyssa Herberg, David Torgerson
- 2 Brian Athey, Cody Folk
Nick Wiegman, Katie Wiegman
- 4 Mason Morrisette
- 5 Dalton Jipson, Cody Paulsen
- 7 Chloe Cardwell
- 9 Chandler Van Hoorn
- 11 Jane Anderson, Blake Bohlen
Mackenzie Smith
- 12 Patty Athey, Shirley Finberg
Ashlin Gibson
- 14 Tonia Leuthardt, Marcus Morrisette
- 16 Derek Blankenhagen, Sandy Casper
Dana Maher, Owen McLain
- 17 Gene Moberg
- 20 Carly Benson
- 22 Ally Lindahl, Randy deNeui
Greg Vangsness
- 24 Andrew Athey
- 27 Michael Fuhrman
- 28 Tony Ebnet

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



LEAP Participation

Leap into participation this leap year

Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, February 29, 2020 8:30-3:30
Vinge Lutheran & Bethel Lutheran
Willmar, MN

(Both churches will be used to accommodate up to the 1000 registrants.)

- ◇ 24 workshops (listed on the SWMN website)
- ◇ Keynote Speaker: Pastor David Lose, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Minneapolis
- ◇ For Everyone! – members, councils, educators, worship & youth leaders, pastors
- ◇ Childcare available.
- ◇ To register & info: swmnelca.org/event/2020-ecd



Children's Definitions of LOVE.



When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You know your name is safe in their mouth.

Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French Fries without making them give you any of theirs.

When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather did it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love.

Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy, and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.

If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate.

There are two kinds of love. Our love. God's love. But God makes both kinds of them.

Love is like a little old woman and a little old man who are still friends even after they know each other so well.



Love is when you tell a guy you like his shirt, then he wears it every day.

When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.



Making the Grade



"My high-school English teacher was well known for being a fair, but hard, grader. One day I received a B minus on a theme paper. In hopes of bettering my grade and in the spirit of the Valentine season, I sent her an extravagant heart-shaped box of chocolates with the pre-printed inscription: "BE MINE." The following day, I received in return a Valentine from the teacher. It read: Thank you, but it's still BE MINE-US."



Senior High Youth Gathering

March 27-March 28

Courtyard by Marriott - Mankato, MN

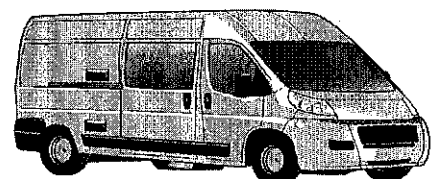
Based on Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, "Move from here to there', and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Follow on Social Media: FACEBOOK at SWMN Youth, ELCA
INSTAGRAM/SNAPCHAT/TWITTER at @swmnyouth
hashtag: #swmnyouth

TRINITY
Friendship Sunday
Sunday, February 9th
10:30 worship



Prairie Five is planning to loan a van to the CGB communities for local use. We are in need of volunteers to drive this van. Please contact Sherry Jipson if interested: 320-748-8232.

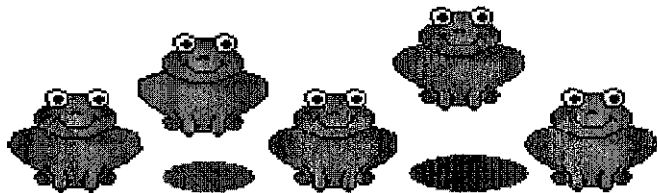
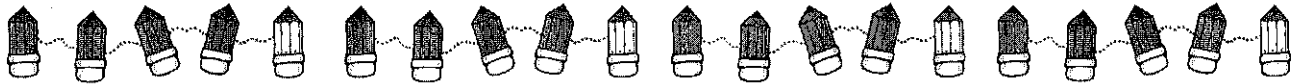
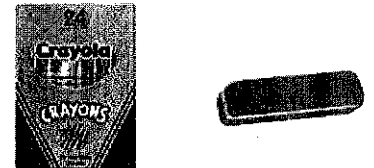
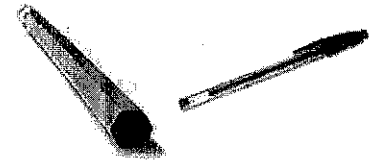
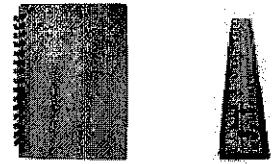


SCHOOL KITS

Trinity Women are collecting items for School Kits to be distributed around the world by Lutheran World Relief. Any of the following items can be left in the container in the narthex. The Trinity women provide a backpack for each kit.

Deadline is early April.

- FOUR** 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- ONE** 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE** pencil sharpener
- ONE** pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE** unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE** black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE** 2½" eraser



Happy Leap Year!

A leap year poem to remember it by...

Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one
Save February, she alone
Hath eight days and a score
Til leap year gives her one day more.

Thank you to **Eddie Anderson** who for 74 years has been in charge of Trinity's manger scene at Christmas. A record which may never be broken! He has passed the job to others after so many years. **THANK YOU!**



Trinity Women....

will be helping with Bingo and serving lunch at Grace Home in Graceville on Monday, February 17th at 2:00. If you would like to volunteer to help please call Donna Lindholm (325-5584).

Friendly Reminders...

- ☺ Please notify the church office (325-5178 or trinity008@centurytel.net) with updates and changes to addresses, phone numbers, and/or memberships.
- ☺ If you haven't already done so, please let the office know how you would like to receive this Newsletter: at Holden by email or through regular mail, at Trinity by email, regular mail, or pick up at the church.
- ☺ Trinity member...please check the kitchen there are many dishes/bowls/etc. that have been left there. One of them might be yours??

A Lesson on GREED

A young, very successful, career oriented man was driving his prized possession, (his \$100,000 Porsche automobile). One night when he had a terrible accident. He flipped the car several times. When the police arrived, he was walking around in a daze saying: "Oh no, not my Porsche, not my Porsche".

The Police officer took one look at him and said: "Sir, we've got to get you to the hospital, you're bleeding terribly". It was as if the young man didn't hear him, he just kept repeating: "Oh no, not my Porsche".

Finally, the Police officer walked around him to check out all of his injuries. He frantically cried out to the young man: "We've got to get you to a hospital. Your left arm has been cut-off in the accident", to which the young man replied: "Oh no, not my Rolex too!"

THE SENILITY PRAYER

God, grant me the Senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

An Inspiring Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry, and spend a few precious moments with her children.

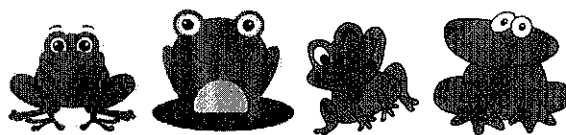
Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is **love**. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy, and love.

Amen



A leap year poem to remember it by...

Thirty days hath September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one
Save February, she alone
Hath eight days and a score
Til leap year gives her one day more.

Trinity Lutheran Church Council
December 11, 2019 – 6:00 pm

Present: J Morrill, H Zimmel, K Moberg, J Bohlen, R Stotesbery, K Stattelmann, C Folkens, D Maher, J Rach

Also present Bonnie Stotesbery

Call to order by Josh

Opening devotions: Jim

Secretary's report approved with the correction of congregational vote 11/24 not 11/2. Motion Kelly, second Chuck

Treasurer's report approved as submitted
 Motion Randy, second Kristi

Mileage and Minister's report: Jim gave an update of his pastoral works. Bible study information will Emailed out on Wednesdays prior to the Sunday sermon.

Motion to accept Chuck, second Haley

Committee Reports

1. Education: Christmas program will be held Sun. Dec. 14 at 4pm

2. Evangelism & Worship: The committee met to discuss changing the settings.

3. Outreach: We will try to have a Bingo afternoon in Jan. or Feb.

Old Business

1. Pastor Tonn will be reimbursed for the Dahl wedding using the synod suggestion for services provided. Jodi made a motion to reimburse \$300.00, second by Kristi

2. We hope to have the Nelson property done by the end of the year.

New Business

1. Annual meeting date will be January 19, 2020 with the backup date February 2, 2020. The meeting will start as soon as all are served.

2. Council: The nomination committee is working on getting volunteers to fill opening positions

3. St Pauli: Joanne Vangness has agreed to stay on for another term

4. Jodi will organize a group to work on the budget after the first of the year.

5. In the event of Church cancellation because of weather it was noted that we will try to decide by 8am. It will be announced over KDIO and posted on the Church Facebook page. Members may call Jim also to see if services are on.

Close with the Lord's prayer

Motion to adjourn Chuck, second Kelly

Respectfully submitted by Debra Maher, secretary

Joint Meeting Holden & Trinity
December 11, 2019 - 7:00 pm

Present: R Erickson, M Trulson, K Moberg, H Zimmel, J Morrill, D Maher, J Bohlen, R Stotesbery,

K Stattelmann, C Folkens, J Rach

Also Present Bonnie Stotesbery

Josh called the meeting to order

Jim led us in devotions.

Old Business

1. Discuss the process of calling off Church. If cancelled, we could possibly make it up on Wednesday nights.

New Business

1. It was asked if Jim could bless the children who accompany their parents to the communion rail.

2. Bonnie had indicated she is content with the salary she is now receiving. She puts in roughly 20 hours per week. She is encouraged to try to maintain structured hours, as we have had positive feedback on congregation members knowing when the office is staffed. Jodi made a motion to purchase gift cards for Bonnie to show our appreciation of her service. Second Haley

3. Jim's salary will remain the same for now, with a review again in the future. Motion by Haley, second Chuck to purchase a gift card for Jim for Christmas to show our appreciation.

4. The Holden council member will provide us with their email contact so we can keep communications current.

Motion to adjourn Mike, second Randy.

Respectfully submitted by Debra Maher, Sec.

Trinity Activity of Funds
December 2019

General	Bal. 12/1	61,356.86
	Income	11,304.65
	Expenses	- 8,902.23
	Trans. to Special Funds	- 105.00
	Bal. 12/31	63,654.28

Chaperone	Bal. 12/31	3,652.95
Discipleship	Bal. 12/31	10.28
Long Range Repairs	Bal. 12/1	1,024.54
	Income	80.00
	Bal. 12/31	1,104.54

Olai Steen Scholarship	Bal. 12/31	5,348.18
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TLC Scholarship	Bal. 12/31	1,484.66
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Memorials	Bal. 12/31	4,251.05
Thrivent	Bal. 12/1	8,815.21
	Income	25.00
	Bal. 12/31	8,840.21

Total balance of all special funds: \$24,691.87

Combined General & Special Funds: \$88,346.15

St. Pauli Maintenance Fund:		
	Bal: 12/1	\$11,114.17
	Income	0.00
	Interest	.49
	Bal. 12/31	11,114.66

Memorial Money Market	Bal. 12/1	\$ 105,235.12
	Income	.00
	Interest	18.45
	Bal. 12/31	105,253.57

2020

February



HOLDEN

Altar: Tammy Stallman
Janitor & Usher: Stallman

www.holdenlutheran.wordpress.com
E-mail: trinity008@centurytel.net

TRINITY

Altar Guild: Luann Kleindl & Patti Pullis
Communion Assistant: Deb Maher
Acolytes: Brianna deNeui & Katlyn deNeui
www.trinitylutheranclinton.net
Office: 320.325.5178

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Confirmation Schedule: February 5, 12, 19 4:00 7 th Grade 4:45 8 th Grade			<i>Laughter is a tranquilizer with no side effects.</i>			1
2 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany 8:45 Holden Communion Worship 9:30 Trinity SS and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Communion Worship, Potluck Dinner & Annual Meeting	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> ← ← ← SUBS </div>	4	5 9:00 Trinity Quilting 1:00-5:00 Holden Quilting at Schoons	6	7	8
9 Fifth Sunday of Epiphany 8:45 Holden Comm. Worship 9:30 Trinity Sunday School and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Communion Worship 1:00 BINGO at Trinity—prizes & lunch Members, neighbors, & friends! Friendship Sunday at Trinity	10		12 9:00 Trinity Quilting 6:00 Trinity Council	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany 8:45 Holden Worship 9:30 Trinity Sunday School and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Worship	17 2:00 Trinity Women help with Bingo at Grace Home President's Day	18	19 9:00 Trinity Quilting 1:00-5:00 Holden Quilting at Schoon + + +	20	21	22
23 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:45 Holden Worship 9:30 Trinity SS and Coffee Hour 10:30 Trinity Worship 	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday 9:00 Trinity Quilting After school - 5:30 at T Kid's Ash Wed. Event 4:00 7 th & 8 th Conf. 5:30 Trinity Worship 6:15 Trinity Supper 7:00 Holden Worship	27	28	29 10:00 Baby Shower at T for Marcus & Rachel Moberg Leap Year!