

Trinity Tidings

January
2015

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill St, La Crosse, Wisconsin



Erik Feig
Lead Pastor

Matthew 2: 13-15 Now after (The Three Wise Men) had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."¹⁴ Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt,¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod.

Happy New Year! Christmas has come and gone, packages and presents unwrapped and played with, friends and family back to their day to day routines, and our attention now focuses on the year 2015. Many of us will take some time to reminisce, looking back over the past year, remembering the good and bad times and making resolutions for the year to come. Some of us will look even further back, taking a deep look at our lives and do a little soul searching in preparation for the upcoming year. But no matter what you do with your past, the future now once again calls our name, and it's off we go – 2015 here we come!

What will the New Year bring? Wouldn't it be great if we could guarantee that 2015 would be a year free from all the awful things that happen to us and this world? Imagine just one year without war, poverty, fear, hurt, hunger, homelessness, etc. Wouldn't that be great? Although we pray for that reality every year, even Jesus had to deal with the reality of this crazy, sinful world. In the days after his birth his life was threatened and he had to flee to safety. The Son of God, God in the flesh has to manage what the world throws at him – he doesn't get to go around it or erase it from happening. And through it all, God is with Him, working to make God's plans for the future come true. What a great story of God's faithfulness!

So it is for us too! As a church, God is with us as we venture into this New Year, calling us to go to places we could never have imagined, but sending us there in order to save our life. God's vision for this congregation is bright and glorious, but will require us to go to places we never thought we'd have to go. And like Mary and Joseph, we are being called to step out in faith and follow God's call. The angel of the Lord has called this congregation to be the place that cares for the community – feeding the hungry, clothing those who are in need, sharing our resources with the Northside, loving God and loving our neighbor in ways that will challenge us, frighten us, and call out faith from us.

Imagine if Joseph disregarded the angel's call – what would have happened then? Staying in Bethlehem is what everyone expected, and for most it might have seemed safer, but it would have been tragic – praise God Joseph got up and went! That's faith in action, and that's what God is calling us to in 2015. It's going to be quite a journey, but we go assured of God's call and presence with us. Let's all make a resolution to work together, step out in faith, and be the church God needs on the Northside. Happy New Year!

Pastor Erik

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Pam Ball
Worship & Music
Committee Chair
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Worship

New Worship Series for the New Year!

With the winter months upon us, and what seems like forever until spring gets here, many of us are getting 'Cabin Fever'. You know, that dreamy desire to be somewhere other than here, somewhere warmer perhaps, or somewhere just plain different from here. It's a phenomenon that afflicts the upper mid-west year after year – ever find yourself someplace and wish you were someplace else? That's 'Cabin Fever', and you're not alone. There's a long list of people in the Bible who found themselves someplace wishing they were someplace else too – Daniel, Jonah, Moses, Mary, Jesus, Mary Magdalene, just to name a few. We'll take a look at their God stories, and enter into their lives with our own, seeing how God is active in all of life's adventure. The series is called 'Cabin Fever' and it begins Sunday, January 4th 2014 and carries us through to February 8th and the beginning of the season of Lent. Contemporary music, prayer, active worship events, dialogue and Christian community – it's the Sunday 10:30 am worship experience – see you there!

We have three opportunities to worship our Loving God. Saturday evenings at 5:30 and on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 10:30.

Please let Laurie Hamilton know if you or a family member has a musical gift that can be shared in our worship services. 608-518-0911

Service Groups

Monday Meals December

Monday Meals at Trinity is growing. On Monday, Dec 1st our Social Ministry group served 71 people. We even had new volunteers from our church help in preparing and serving the meal. Our volunteers also share in the meal, have conversations, occupy children, and hold babies. Everybody has a good time sharing a couple hours together.

Would you like to spend a Monday evening with us? Each week a different congregation prepares the meal at our church. As the host church, we would like to provide a friendly face to welcome our guests at the door. If you would like to help out with this task talk to Kathi Volden. (783-1184)

Come share the meal. Doors open at 4:00. Serving 5:00-6:00.

THANK YOU to the other churches that will serve meals throughout the year at Trinity: Olivet Lutheran, First Congregational, First Baptist, Wesley United Methodist, Faith United Methodist, & North Presbyterian. That's community coming together!

Lisa Caya, Social Ministry Committee

From the Heart Food Shelf update

Good news! The New Year brings a new schedule for our food shelf. Starting January and continuing throughout the year, From the Heart Food Shelf will be open every Monday evening from 6-8:30 p.m., and the last Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Northside has a great need to care for our neighbors, and because of that need, we're responding with additional hours. If you'd like to help, simply stop in during operating hours. If you'd like to donate, simply mark on your giving 'From the Heart Food Shelf'. Food donations can be placed in the box in the narthex at church as well. What a great way to Love God and care for our community! Praise God!

Service Groups cont.

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way! December is the season of giving, so on December 10th and 12th, the Social Ministry group, along with members of church and some confirmation students rang bells for the Salvation Army. It was a fun and fulfilling time. We thank everyone who participated.

Once again we sponsored a giving tree for New Horizons and for children of our Northside Elementary School. The number of items collected for these causes is absolutely overwhelming. The generosity of our church people is just amazing. God's hand is truly at work in all of you and we heartily thank all of you!

Thank you to all who contributed to Social Ministry's peanut butter & jelly campaign for From the Heart food pantry.

This year, we again are going to send Valentines to our troops who are bravely protecting our freedoms. There will be Valentines in the narthex. Please take a moment to write a note to a soldier and let them know how much you appreciate them!

We are looking forward to 2015 – to seeing and working with all of you in the New Year!

Your Social Ministry Committee
Kathi Volden, 608-783-1184



Northside Kids' Clothes Closet

The Northside Kids' Clothes closet raised \$1050 at the care and Share Expo help recently in the La Crosse Library. The Franke Foundation will match \$500 of that, giving even more money to help the people of the Northside! Thank you to all who make this possible.



Congregational Life



Bonnie Jeranek
Congregational Life
Committee Chair
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Sunday Fellowship Brunch

The holidays will soon be over so just a reminder that on **Sunday, January 18** we will resume our monthly Sunday brunch between services. We ask you to bring something to share. To help you decide we offer these suggestions:

A-H Milk, chocolate milk, or juice, etc.

I-N Egg bake, breakfast casserole or breakfast meat, etc.

O-S Muffins, rolls, bread, coffee cake, etc.

T-Z Fruit, or breakfast fruit salad, etc.

If the suggestion is difficult for you to bring, bring what you wish, but please do bring something so we have enough food for all. If however you get here and have forgotten, please join us anyway. Visitors and guests are very welcome. If you meet someone new in church, make them feel welcome and invite them to join you!

We can always use a helping hand with set-up or clean-up so if you can spare a few extra minutes before or after it will make light work for all.

Trinity Service Fair, Sunday, February 15

The new year gives us all a chance to pause and reflect on how we plan to grow in our faith. The Bible tells us to change the ways we think and act accordingly to bring glory to God. Taking the focus off ourselves and focusing on others comes with maturing in our faith journey according to Rick Warren in the Purpose Driven Life. There are a variety of groups to become involved with at Trinity as your journey moves you to care not only for our faith family at Trinity but our community and world as well. And there is probably some group where your talents would fit and you would be welcomed with open arms. Not sure where you fit? Check out the [Service Fair, Sunday, February 15](#) in the fellowship hall between services.

ATTENTION CHAIRPERSONS: If your group provides a service of any kind for Trinity members or the community we really want you to take part in the **Service Fair** to help members become aware of your activities and how they can help. A table will be provided where we request that you plan to have some kind of hand-out describing your group, what it does, frequency of meetings, a contact name and phone number. We would encourage you to have one or two members of your group at the table on February 15 following the 8:30 service. Please contact Bonnie Jeranek to reserve a table.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ACTIVITIES: If you are not currently on the committee but find one of the meetings of special interest, please join us!

Tuesday, January 13, 5:00 "New Member Welcome" sub-group
Tuesday, January 13, 6:30 "Service Fair Booth" sub-group
Tuesday, January 27, 6:30 Full group meeting

Council President



David Saiz
Council President
608-317-9013



Dear friends in Christ. It is with a serious heart I am writing to you about our beloved Trinity Lutheran Church. Over the years God has been very good to us and we've been able to do interesting and challenging things for our church. We have had our ups and downs and you as a congregation have supported Trinity and the needs of our congregation and obligations. But as we head to the New Year we will be faced with some tough budget reductions based on the commitment cards we have received. We hope not to have to make these. We feel the small staff we have is doing a great job with what they have and we hope to build on that. We hope you will help us grow.

On the 19th of November we invited you to join us as faithful servants of Trinity to try to come up with solutions to our financial issues. At that meeting we discussed the hard realities of what we are facing and changes we are looking to make. The finance committee has been putting together a budget to propose to the congregation at our annual meeting. In the meantime, we still need to your help to meet the future needs of Trinity.

With our current giving, we were looking at ending the year shortage about \$25,000 to \$30,000. Good news abounds – through your generous and faithful giving, and an anonymous matching gift, we ended the year 2014 without an operating deficit, meeting our operational budget! We saw God work in amazing and mighty ways in this process, moving us from fear and concern in November to praise and thankfulness in December. Thank you to all who responded to God's call, your faithfulness is a testimony to the great work God is doing in and through Trinity Lutheran. May we continue to live and give faithfully in this New Year, anticipating continued blessings from God!

You are our history, our present and our future. We need to continue to encourage giving and attending Trinity. You are also our ambassadors. When you speak positively about Trinity, you share a long history of community, family and faith. We hope that you will consider filling out a giving form for you and ask that you pray with us that we all come together and keep our church going for the many generations and families that count on us.

Thank you for your time, your talent and your support of Trinity Lutheran Church. We are blessed to have you as a member. Happy New Year!
David Saiz, Council President

Seeking nominations for Church Council

If you'd like to be considered for a committee chairperson position and serve on Church council, or nominate someone, please fill out the following form and return it to the church office or offering plate no later than Sunday, January 18th 2015.

Council positions open for nominations in 2015 are as follows:

- Evangelism
- Finance
- Personnel
- Properties
- Social Ministry
- Youth

I believe that God is leading me to nominate the following person as a spiritual leader to serve on the Trinity Lutheran Church Council beginning in 2015.

Name of nominee and position they are recommended for:

I promise to pray for this person, and all those nominated, during this time of discernment.

Any questions contact Council President, David Saiz at 608-317-9013.

Children, Student & Family Ministries



Laura Cunliffe

Youth Committee Chair

laura-cunliffe@lacrosseinsurance.net



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30-4:30

Friday closed

Office Phone: 608-782-6200

Website:

www.trinitylutheranlax.org

Email Addresses:

Church Office:

office@trinitylutheranlax.org

Facebook:

Trinity Lutheran ELCA

Pastor Erik:

Pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org

(In case of emergency during non-office hours call Pastor Erik Feig at 651-274-6160)

JOLT Youth Group

All youth grades 6-12 are welcome to join us Sunday nights from 6-8pm (unless otherwise indicated below). SCHEDULE CHANGE – For the first quarter of 2015, we will be meeting twice a month. Please note the dates below.

1/4 – No JOLT

1/11 – Movie Night

1/18 – No JOLT

1/25 – Afternoon Sledding (time to be determined)

High School Summer Service Trip

We are planning a service trip for this summer. Watch for updates in the bulletin and in the February newsletter.

Council Members not shown elsewhere in the Newsletter



Sue Weidemann
Vice President



Vicky Helfrich
Treasurer



Kim Mitchell
Secretary



Mark Heinz
Bookkeeper



Dale Eppler
Finance



Laurie Noelke
Parish Ed Director



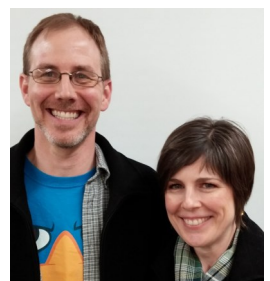
Karla Korish
Parish Education



Meme Mihalovic
Personnel



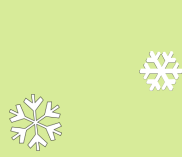
Doug Johnson
Properties



Pari & Kathy Sexauer
Stewardship

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

The Annual Meeting for our congregation will be held Sunday, January 25, 2015, immediately following the 8:30 am worship service. All voting members are invited to attend.



January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
C: Communion				1 	2 6:30 Men's Bible Study Office Closed	3 5:30 Worship (C)
4 8:30 Worship (C) 10:30 Worship (C)	5 9:00 TOPS 4-7 Kids Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday's Meal	6 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts	7 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	8 5:30 Worship & music meeting	9 Office Closed	10 5:30 Worship
11 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	12 9:00 TOPS 4-7 Kids Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday's Meal	13 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts	14 6:00 Properties 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	15 1:30 Prayer Shawl 5:15 Finance 6:00 Council	16 6:30 Men's Bible Study Office Closed	17 5:30 Worship (C)
18 8:30 Worship (C) 10:30 Worship (C)	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day 9:00 TOPS 4-7 Kids Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday's Meal	20 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	22	23 Office Closed	24 5:30 Worship
25 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	26 9:00 TOPS 4-7 Kids Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday's Meal	27 1:30 Staff Mtg 7:00 Boy Scouts	28 6:45 Confirmation 7:00 Choir	29	30 Office Closed	31 5:30 Worship

Trinity Tidings is a monthly newsletter of Trinity Lutheran Church, 1010 Sill Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday morning at 8:30 & 10:30. Communion is on the first & third weekend of the month at each worship service. Erik Feig, Lead Pastor. The church office telephone number is (608) 782-6200.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1010 Sill Street
La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Saturday: 5:30pm
Sunday: 8:30 & 10:30

Radio Service Broadcast
at 8:30am
on WKTY AM 580