

**December  
2016**

# Trinity Tidings

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



## **ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE**

**Wednesday Advent services -  
6:30pm  
November 30<sup>th</sup>  
December 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 14<sup>th</sup>**

### **Cantata services**

**December 17<sup>th</sup> - 5:30pm  
December 18<sup>th</sup> - 8:30am**

**Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>  
3:30pm, 5:30pm and 11:00pm**

**Christmas Day - Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>  
8:30am**

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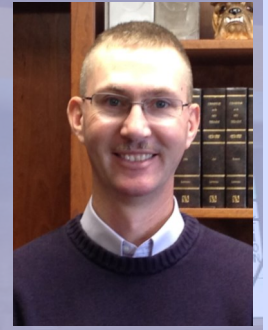
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# Pastors Erik's *Update*

Erik Feig  
Lead Pastor



**Luke 2:10** *But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.*

What a beautiful announcement of God's activity in the world today! God has done it – entered our world as one of us, in the babe born in a manger in Bethlehem. The gift of God's love is what we celebrate this time of year, and the season of Advent helps us prepare and ready ourselves to receive this amazing gift. It's time to prepare for the giving of the gift, not simply our giving gifts to others, but preparing to receive God's gift to us – Jesus.

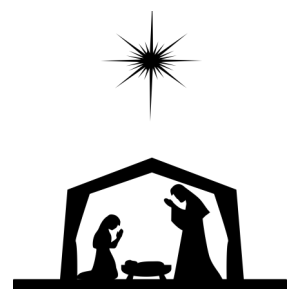
So let's make preparations! Time to decorate our homes and our church, do some holiday baking, and find time in our busy schedules to gather with friends and family. As a part of this year's celebration at Trinity, we'll gather on the Wednesdays of Advent, November 30 and December 7 and 14th at 6:30pm for Midweek Advent worship and fellowship, come for the Choir Cantata at 5:30 pm on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and 8:30 am on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. The season of celebration culminates with Christmas eve worship services at 3:30pm, 5:30 pm, and 11pm, and Christmas Day worship at 8:30 am. Come, bring your friends and family, and share in the celebration of the giving of the gift of God – for you!

In this season of preparation for the giving of the gift, we're also continuing our tradition of giving to our community. In the season of Advent, we'll be responding to God's amazing gift to us by giving our gifts back to God – every weekend worship service during Advent you'll see a 'giving tree' at the front of the sanctuary. This tree is adorned with ornaments that look like gift tags, and each gift tag represents a child or a family in our community who need Jesus to reach out to them this year by getting a gift from Trinity Lutheran Church, supplied by people like you and me. As you prepare for Christmas, pray about what God would have you give to the work of His Kingdom through Trinity Lutheran Church, then bring your gifts and place them under the tree as you come to worship during Advent – It's our giving of the gift in the season of God giving us the gift of Jesus – what a great way to worship our God!

As we bring 2016 to a close, may we be a church that is gripped by God's grace and love, gathered around a manger with Mary and Joseph and all the animals to receive God's love born as a baby. Welcome to our world, Jesus!

Wow, what a gift. I can hardly wait! Joy to the World, the Lord is Come! Merry Christmas!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Erik*



# Social Ministry

Love Thy Neighbor Jar? What's that? It's a unique giving basket provided at each weekend worship service with money gathered going to different ministries outside of the church each month!

**Love Thy Neighbor jar for December –Disaster Relief: Flooding From the Heart Food Pantry—featured item for December: shampoo and conditioner.**

Also, the appeal for clean, empty egg cartons continues. As always, anything given to the food pantry is much appreciated!

## WITH THANKS...

The year 2016 is coming to an end, and I would like to say "Thank You" the volunteers who said "yes" when asked to deliver Mobile Meals and help with Bingo at Bethany Riverside. Trinity delivers meals one week in the months of January, March, April, June, July, August and November. At Bethany Riverside, we volunteer each Tuesday in the month of September and provide a birthday party the last Thursday of the month. We donate Coke, music, party favors and gifts for those with September birthdays.

Thanking everyone again from the bottom of my heart. Looking forward to 2017!

God Bless,  
*Joanne Thoftne*

**MOBILE MEALS** - KURT & CATHI BERGER, BILL & JEAN BEELER, MARY BRIGGS, NANCY CASPER, VERN DAHL, KAREN DIERINGER, KAY HALL, JOAN & CAL HENDRICK, DOUG & KATHY JOHNSON, EMMA KNORR, SUSAN KNORR, BONNIE & PAT KORISH, MARY LATHROP, KAREN MARSON, DOROTHY & DICK POELLINGER, KIM SLOAN.

**BETHANY RIVERSIDE** - GERI HEFTI, PEG NELSON, PAT RANK, SUE SWIM, KATHI VOLDEN, NEIL MARTELL (OUR PIANIST).

## GIVING TREE

As the Holiday season approaches, be watching for the "Giving Tree." You will recognize it by decorated envelopes hanging from the branches. This year each envelope will represent a child from our neighborhood school. Inside the envelope will be a wish list answering the following: I need..., I wear..., I read..., I like.....

There will also be two sticker name tags inside the envelope. We are asking for each envelope selected from the tree, that you please purchase two gifts for that child, one practical and one fun, using their wish list as your guide. Wrap the gifts and place one of the sticker name tags on each gift. Return the wrapped gifts with name tags on them to the tree no later than Wednesday December 14th. Our helper elves will gather the gifts and organize them by families so they're ready for distribution on December 20, 21 and 22. We are one of three churches and a local high school group who are supporting this Holiday Giving Tree project for our neighborhood children. We pray all families will have a blessed Holiday Season and we thank you in advance for your gracious and giving hearts!

Any questions regarding the Giving Tree, please contact Julie Thoftne 783-0443 or Pam Ball 769-7789. Thank You!

*Social Ministry Committee meeting is December 13th at 5:30pm in the Library*



# Community Service

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

The Little Free Library that is near the southwest entrance to the church building is being well utilized, and so much so that we are in need of more books! If you have books that you are willing to share, please stop by and place them in the Little Free Library, and maybe find one or two from someone else to enjoy!

## FROM THE HEART FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry hours have been changed to Mondays from 5:30-7:00pm. However, we will continue to operate from 10-1 on the last Saturday of the month. As always, all donations are welcome!

## MONDAY MEALS

In the regular rotation of congregations who serve at a Monday Meals, Trinity serves 7 times per year. Among those who are a part of that ministry are Social Ministry, Congregational Life, and Pastor Erik. If this is something you are interested in please call the church office or send an email to [pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org](mailto:pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org). It's a great way to love our neighbors as Christ has loved us. The 2017 schedule for Trinity is all set, mark your calendars: **FEBRUARY 6<sup>TH</sup>, MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup>, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>, JULY 10<sup>TH</sup>, AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup>, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AND DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**. If you can volunteer on any of these dates please let us know!

## FREE FINANCIAL COACHING

La Crosse County UW-Extension is sponsoring free financial coaching sessions at Trinity every Tuesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm. Please contact Susan Taylor, AFC at 608.785.6417 or email:[smtaylor@afsc.com](mailto:smtaylor@afsc.com) for an appointment.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The La Crosse Area Family Collaborative Community-Based Social Worker, who has an office at Trinity Lutheran Church and Northside Elementary, could use our help. As Isaac Hoffman works with our neighbors on the North Side, there are many opportunities for us to enter in with the love of Christ. Please consider being on his occasional volunteer list. If a need arises, he will call those people who have said yes to see if they are available. The more folks on the list, the better we share the love of Christ and make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. Please contact the church office at 608-782-6200.





# Worship & Music

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

The worship and music committee has the advent and Christmas seasons planned out. We will be having advent services at 6:30pm on 11/30, 12/7, and 12/14. These will be quiet and contemplative services. The choir will be doing the cantata at 5:30pm and 8:30am on 12/17 and 12/18. We will have 3 services on Christmas Eve: 3:30pm, 5:30pm, and 11pm. We will have a service on Christmas Day at 8:30am.



**Joy to the World!**

*Next meeting is December 8th at 6:30pm.*

# Finances and Stewardship

## IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

That's right...Budget Season!

I'll bet you thought I was going to say Christmas or Advent at least. Well it's sort of like that. We spend the last month of the year preparing for 2017, just like Advent is spent preparing for Christmas. We will be wrapping up our year end finances. They aren't record setting, but we are on track to finish where we need them to be. Please remember Trinity in your year end giving. The office will be open regular office hours if you would like to make a special memorial or gift. Please help Trinity continue it's strong record of serving it's flock and it's surrounding community. With your continued support and generosity, Trinity will be key in bringing God's Kingdom to the people of the Northside.

Thank You.

May God bless you and your family this Christmas Season.

*~Pari and Kathy Sexauer*





# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5:30 Worship
<b>4</b> 8:30 Worship 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>5</b> 4-6:30p Kid's Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7:00p From the Heart Food Pantry	<b>6</b> 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417	<b>7</b> 6:30 Mid-week Advent Service 6:45-7:30p Confirmation/Adult classes  7pm Choir practice	<b>8</b> 6:30p Worship & Music meeting	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30p Worship
<b>11</b> 8:30 Worship 3:30-6p Holiday Recital 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>12</b> 4-6:30p Kid's Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7:00p From the Heart Food Pantry	<b>13</b> 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417  5:30p Social Ministry Meeting-Library	<b>14</b> 6:30 Mid-week Advent Service 6:45-7:30p Confirmation/Adult classes 7pm Choir practice  <b>Giving Tree Gifts Due</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 Worship-Cantata Service
<b>18</b> 8:30 Worship-Cantata Service 6:30p Boy Scouts	<b>19</b> 4-6:30p Kid's Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7:00p From the Heart Food Pantry	<b>20</b> 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417	<b>21</b> 6:45-7:30p Confirmation/Adult classes  7pm Choir practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Christmas Eve Services</b> 3:30p 5:30p 11:00p 
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">  <b>Giving Tree Gift Distribution</b>  </div>						
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b> 8:30 Worship 	<b>26</b> 4-6:30p Kid's Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7:00p From the Heart Food Pantry 6:00 Congregational Life Ministry meeting	<b>27</b> 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417	<b>28</b> 6:45-7:30p Confirmation/Adult classes  7pm Choir practice	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	



## ***A Message From Your Council President...***

The Trinity Family,

It's here! The month we get to CELEBRATE!! We could celebrate all year but most people seem to leave it to the end of the year. 'Tis the season they say. So with that I want to wish you all a very Merry CHRISTmas! He is the reason for the season and I wish you all the joy that comes with his blessing. He is the reason we all come each Sunday to be inspired or why we find our own personal time praying to him. But wait...there is more! We can do it all year! FREE! Yes, it doesn't cost anything to pray. It doesn't cost anything to help others, be kind to one another or love. The best things in life are free...yes, a saying we have heard many times, but as most of you know it's also the truest saying. So enjoy the free blessings that come to you because of our Lord. He paid the price for all of us. Celebrate him all year long!

We continue to work on moving Trinity into the future. We want a future! What that future is or will hold for us is still a work in progress. We know many of you have been members for years and some are new members but what you all have in common is the love for Trinity. I am asking you all to hang in there with us as we continue to find a growing path for Trinity. BUT we can't do it alone. We need help in many areas. We all too often drop into the mode of "someone else can do it" or "is doing it", but that doesn't help the whole of Trinity. We need the young, the old and the older to help. We need the young, the busy, the happy, the "I thought about it" people. We need the writers, the singers, the speakers, the teachers...WE NEED ALL OF YOU! We want all of you to volunteer your time, your talents and share your love for the Lord. Please consider serving on council, serving at the services, serving our future...our children. Please help us!

You are our most important asset at Trinity! It's not the building, it's not the pastor, it's not the staff, it's you! Come join the celebration this month and every month! See you at church!

Thank you for being a member of the Trinity Family!

*Sue Weidemann*

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 evening at 5:30pm and Sunday morning at 8:30am. Communion is celebrated at every service, with Pastor Erik Feig leading. The church office telephone number is (608) 782-6200.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1010 Sill Street**  
**La Crosse, Wisconsin 54603**

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## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Saturday 5:30pm

Sunday 8:30am

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

Website: [www.trinitylutheranlax.org](http://www.trinitylutheranlax.org)

Church Office: [office@trinitylutheranlax.org](mailto:office@trinitylutheranlax.org); 608-782-6200

Pastor Erik: [pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org](mailto:pastorerik@trinitylutheranlax.org)

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA