



Trinity Tidings

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

TRINITY NEEDS YOU!

We need your time, your talents and your continued faith in our church and the community we serve. We have openings in the following areas of service to our church: **SECRETARY, EVANGELISM, CONGREGATIONAL LIFE, YOUTH** and **PARISH EDUCATION**. These are 3 year terms of service to Trinity and helping us grow as well as helping us discover the things the Lord has in mind for Trinity. We need you to be a part of this! Please consider helping with one of these positions. For more information on the openings please call Sue Weidemann, Council President, [608-790-1862](tel:608-790-1862) or Chuck Thoftne, Council Personnel Chair, [608-792-4861](tel:608-792-4861). Thank you and may God steer you towards getting involved in your church!

The Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Congregation-

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1 John 4: 19-21 “¹⁹ We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The Christian life is messy. It calls us to live differently and love differently. Our life of love is a reflection and response to the love of God already given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord. God loves us and because of that, we love our brothers and sisters. That’s the life of faith for Jesus followers.

How appropriate during the month of February, when we are inundated with the idea of love. Valentine’s Day has us focus on love and respond to those we love with cards, flowers and big boxes of chocolates. Yet the kind of love that this cultural event projects is something quite different than what the author of 1 John is talking about. For Valentines, love is that strong emotion we have for someone else – for 1 John, love is an action. It’s something you do, even if you don’t have strong, wonderful, positive feelings toward another person.

Imagine a world in which love was a verb. Where would that take you? What would that look like? Who would you love? That’s the outlook we’re called to have as Christians. Because Christ has loved us, and gave his life for us, showing us what God’s love truly looks like, we in turn love one another and our neighbors as Christ has loved us. We don’t talk about each other behind our backs. We talk to each other. We don’t simply take care of our own needs, but empty ourselves in care for others. We look outside ourselves and into the lives of our community around us, stepping in to love our neighbor whether we know them well or not. Love is an action and a lifestyle, reflecting God’s love for us in Christ.

So don’t be confused. Celebrate Valentine’s Day with gusto. Send a card, buy some flowers, and give a box of chocolates to the ones you love as the holiday professes. But don’t get that confused with true, Christian love. Love in action, love one another. Love God, Love our Neighbor...Serve the World. Simple.

*In Christ,
Pastor Erik*

vided at each weekend worship service, with money gathered going to different ministries outside of the church each month!

From the Heart Food Pantry—featured item for February: Cereal
Love Thy Neighbor jar for February –From the Heart Food Pantry

As always, anything given to the food pantry is much appreciated!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity celebrated the dedication and open house of the 42nd Habitat home in the LaCrosse area in partnership with the Thao-Moua family on Saturday, January 21st. Kathi Volden attended this celebration along with many other community members and volunteers.



The keys for the new home were turned over to the family at this reception. Thank you again to those volunteers who helped make this a reality.

MONDAY'S MEALS

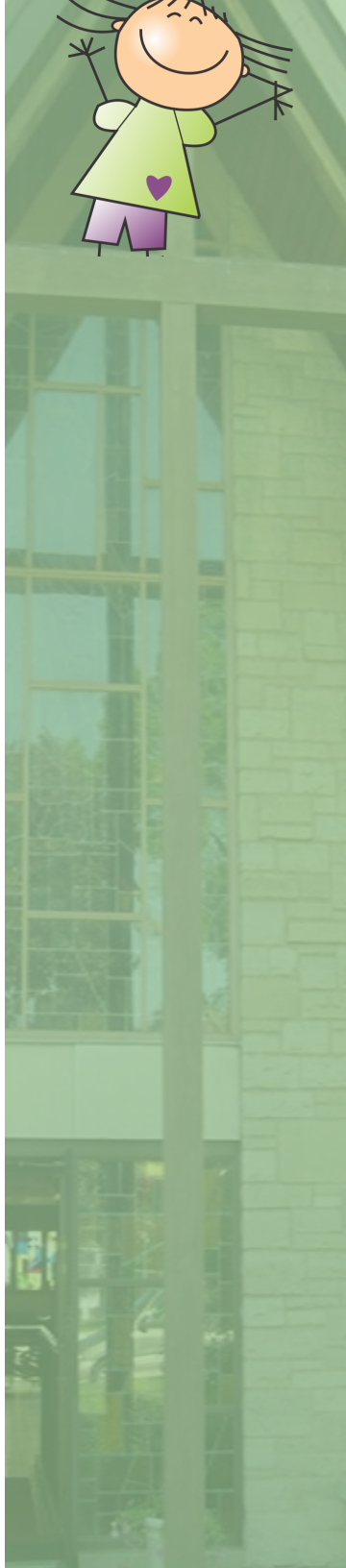
Social Ministry will host the Monday's Meals on May 15th and October 16th. If there are any other groups or committees who would like to host a Monday's Meals in 2017, please contact Kathi Volden at 783-1184, Julie Thoftne 783-0443 or Pastor Erik.

Social Ministry Committee meeting is February 21st at 5:30pm in the Library

Worship & Music

SPECIAL SERVICE-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

The Worship and Music committee has decided to have the service on February 5th be an "Old and Favorite" hymn sing service. We will still follow the regular service format, but will join in singing some of those hymns that many of us grew up on and still cherish the message they bring. The **ANNUAL MEETING** will follow this service, and will include a fellowship brunch.



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

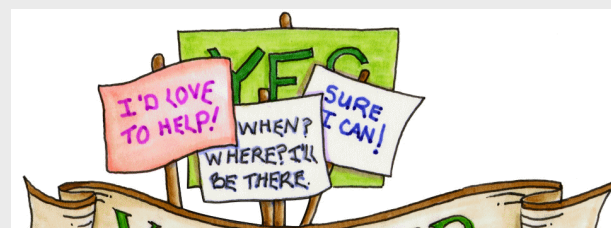
We are looking for regular and reliable volunteers to assist our guests during the hours the pantry is open. Every Monday night from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and the last Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 1 PM we are open to serve the needs of our guests. This is a fun and rewarding opportunity to give to those in our community who are in need. We are hoping to get enough new folks signed up so that as a volunteer you would probably only work every other Monday night, and perhaps only 3 or 4 Saturdays in the year, based on your availability. Please call Sandy Thompson at 608-792-9339 for more information and to let us know that you are interested. Thank you.

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. 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 6TH, MARCH 27TH, MAY 15TH, JULY 10TH, AUGUST 28TH, OCTOBER 16TH AND DECEMBER 4TH**. 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 for an appointment.





Bonnie Jeranek
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SUNDAY BRUNCH and ANNUAL MEETING

February 5, FOLLOWING 8:30 SERVICE

The Annual Meeting will be held in the fellowship hall. We are asking that you please bring a dish to pass and join in the Sunday Brunch. If you are unsure what to bring, below we have provided some suggestions. Just check out the items next to the first letter of your last name:

A-H Fruit or fruit salad

I-N Milk, chocolate milk, juice (quart size will do)

O-S Egg bake, breakfast casseroles, breakfast meat etc

T-Z Muffins, rolls, coffee cake, bagels, etc

Remember these are just suggestions to try to give us a nice variety but if you prefer to bring something else, feel free to do so.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE, MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRY meets the 4th Monday of the month at 6:00pm
-next meeting is February 27th.

Finances and Stewardship

Finances, finances, finances!

Well this month I'd like to highlight some of the good things that we are able to do with generous donations from the congregation, the Endowment Committee, and past members' estates.

We have scholarships available for a variety of different education situations. We have money available to offer to seminary students, any student attending a Lutheran University, and also tuition help for children attending Sugar Creek Bible Camp. For the Seminary and University students we have up to \$1000 to offer, and for the campers we are able to offer up to \$100. If you or your children are interested in taking advantage of these funds, Please contact Trinity's office to find out how to apply.

Just this year we have been happy to award funds for both Amy Heinz and Zach Mayer.

Thank you for helping us fund these students' ongoing studies and



A Message From Your Council President...

The Trinity Family

God's blessing to us all!

The winter chill is still here and I hope you are all finding a way to stay warm and find the sunshine in your life! As I mentioned last month we want this to be a year of renewed life in Trinity and it will take all of us. The best news is...we can do this! We have so many positives going for Trinity that I think we forget them. We are a congregation of love and giving in our hearts and you have all made this happen so let's keep it going!!

Are we going to have changes this year? Yes, and all the more reason for you to step in and help. We can impact so many people by sharing our Lord and our faith with others that now is the time for action. I challenge all of you to sign up to volunteer for one thing at Trinity. Readings, choir, teaching, Monday meals, clothes closet, youth...pick one, pick two and sign up. Maybe you have a talent for cleaning, reorganizing, painting, writing, cooking, talking or something I can't think of. Let us know, let us know how your talents can help Trinity grow.

Help your church, help your friends, help your neighbors. If I sound like a broken record, I am. I believe in all of you and in Trinity. Do you? Then let me know how your hands and mind can work for Trinity, our Lord and our neighbors, friends and family.

I am once again and always going to go back to asking you to give to Trinity. I sure hope a few of you took a look at using the easy resource of electronic giving and added Trinity in your financial plans! Remember, it's easy to sign up. Go to our website at www.trinitylutheranlax.org and on most pages there is a link to sign up. It's easy, convenient and we thank you!

Thank you for being a member of the Trinity Family!

Sue Weidemann



February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 6:00p Worship & Music	3	4 5:30p Worship
5 8:30a Worship Fellowship Brunch ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 6:30p Boy Scouts	6 4-6:30p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	7 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching at TLC	8	9	10	11 5:30p Worship
12 8:30a Worship 6:30p Boy Scouts	13 4-6:30p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	14 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching at TLC 	15	16	17	18 5:30p Worship
19 8:30a Worship 6:30p Boy Scouts	20 4-6:30p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	21 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching at TLC 5:30 Social Ministry Meeting-Library	22	23	24	25 10a-1p From the Heart Food Pantry 5:30p Worship
26 8:30a Worship 6:30p Boy Scouts	27 4-6:30p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the	28 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching at TLC				

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

Church Office: office@trinitylutheranlax.org; 608-782-6200