

# Trinity Tidings

January  
2016

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



**Erik Feig**  
**Lead Pastor**

Ephesians 4:20-24

<sup>20</sup> But you did not learn about Christ in this manner, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: <sup>22</sup> that you put off the former way of life in the old nature, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, <sup>23</sup> and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; <sup>24</sup> and that you put on the new nature, which was created according to God in righteousness and true holiness.

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that another year has passed and a new year lies before us, filled with all the hope and promise that a new year brings. There's something about newness that contains the promise of hope, isn't there? Something new allows the old and many times less than desirable to be wiped away. New makes room for something different, setting aside those things that we don't like for those things we do. New opens the door to possibilities and closes the door to disappointments. New is filled with hope and promise. Maybe that's why we celebrate this time of year with shouts of joy to each other – Happy New Year!

It's that way for Christians too. Christians celebrate newness each and every day, having been made new by the love and grace of God in Christ Jesus. At Christmas we celebrated the birth of the one who is God with us, the Messiah, the one who will save us from our sins, Jesus the Christ. Receiving Jesus by faith makes us a new creation. The old has passed away, and we are made new! Instead of saying Happy New Year we say, by God's grace, Happy New You! God has done it, you are moved from death to life, and you are made a Child of God through the action of God towards you in Jesus. Happy New You!

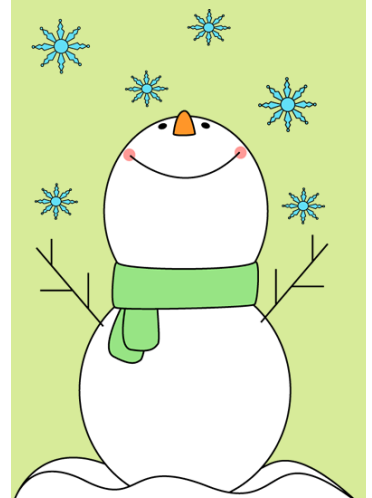
So what do we do with that? The Apostle Paul gives great counsel on how to live in this New You. We put away the old and put on the new. We renew the spirit of our minds (which means to think differently) and put on the new nature that God has given us. We act differently than before because we see things through the eyes of Jesus now. We used to think of ourselves first, and now we think of others before ourselves. We used to think in terms of what we can get out of life, and now we think in terms of what we can give to bless our neighbors. We used to think in terms of us (me) at the center, and now we think in terms of Jesus at the center. This New You turns everything upside down, inside out. We live a new and different life, a life that reflects the love of God in Christ Jesus for us and for the world. That's faith in action. That's the New You!

How are you doing with that? How are you living your life to reflect the Jesus you say you believe in? May this New Year bring you the hope and promise that newness affords. My prayer is that in this New Year the New You is unleashed to do the things God is calling us to do. Let's put aside the old and embrace the new. Love God, Love our neighbors, and Serve the world. Happy New Year! Happy New You!

In Christ,  
Pastor Erik

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# Service Groups



## Northside Kids' Clothes Closet

Have you ever had a time in your life things were really stressful? Money is tight, lost a job, relationships aren't good, the kids are in trouble, a significant illness in the family, having a family member/members with special needs, couldn't afford the house/apartment or had to move for another reason, significant other left – these are many of the circumstances of the families that visit the Clothes Closet. It is a wonderful opportunity that the Clothes Closet volunteers have each week to let families know that there are people who care and are there for them. This is demonstrated not only by providing warm coats and boots, by being able to make sure the kids have a few pairs of pants and couple of shirts and new socks and underwear to wear, but also by treating them with love and empathy.



If you have access to a computer, take the time to watch a short YouTube video called Empathy vs. Sympathy by Dr. Brene Brown (it is a cartoon and definitely worth watching). This video shows how treating someone with empathy is different than sympathy – empathy is about making a connection with someone, without judgment. What if we all treated each other this way every day – instead of standing in line at the store with our face in our phone or eyes on the floor, we looked the person standing in line behind us and smiled? What if instead of getting upset when someone is short with us, we took a step back and thought maybe they have more on their mind than what is going on in the moment? What if instead of assuming negative things about someone based on the way they dress, talk, or how they look, we look for the positive things in each other?

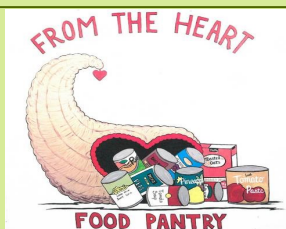


The people of Trinity Church have definitely shown the love and caring that they have for their neighbors by the generous donations that were made to help the Clothes Closet get the Franke Foundation match – thank you all so very, very much! Because of your financial support the Clothes Closet will have over \$1000 to use to purchase socks, underwear, shoes etc. to be able to share with families in need. I want to thank Bev and Bill Schilla, who manage the Clothes Closet, as well as all of the other volunteers who work so hard to keep the shelves stocked and the families cared for. We ask you to continue to support this mission with your prayers and hope that you all have a blessed, healthy and happy New Year.

Karen Dieringer

## Service Groups, cont.

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



Sandy Thompson, Director  
608-792-9339

### Social Ministry

Donations collected in the Love Thy Neighbor Jar in January will be given to YNNC – **Your Northside Neighborhood Clinic**. This is a clinic housed at the Northside Elementary School that offers free basic medical care Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 3:30-5:30. Not only does this project need monetary support, it depends on volunteers for its operation. So if you have a couple of hours free on any of these days, please give Kelly Mayer a call at 769-0493 or email her at [yournnc@gmail.com](mailto:yournnc@gmail.com).

The item featured for **From the Heart Food Pantry** for January is paper products such as paper towels and toilet tissue. Although this is the featured item for the month, all donations are greatly appreciated. You can drop them off at the church most anytime.

What an honor it is to be a part of the Trinity Family! Your generosity to the families of Northside Elementary through the Giving Tree was truly amazing. Seventy-five families in our neighborhood had a happy, blessed Christmas because of your goodwill and loving, caring hearts! Thank you all!

Social Ministry is hoping to expand the services we offer. There are great opportunities for volunteers who would like to be a part of helping others. Please talk to Julie Thoftne ([jthoftne@charter.net](mailto:jthoftne@charter.net) or 608-783-0443) if there is anything you would like to be involved with. We welcome you!

## Finance

### Giving Envelopes

General Giving Envelopes will continue to be available every week in the pews. For those who require their own numbered envelopes, there will be a limited number of sets available for pick up by the end of the year. Last year we handed out approximately 75 sets of the 150 that we had ordered at a cost of \$370. We will have the same number of sets available this year, however your Giving number will not be the same as last year. Please consider whether you really need to have a numbered envelope. If you do need envelopes, they will be available in the narthex, along with a sign-out sheet.



Pari Sexauer  
Finance  
662-650-0037



# Small Groups

Women's Bible study has just begun. We are reading Making Sense of the Scriptures by David Lose. Listed are chapters in the book we are studying and dates that accompany them. There are still a few books available and we can always order more! This is quite an informal setting where we share in discussion about what we have read and discuss questions we continue to have.

Jan.4 - How Is the Bible the Word of God?

Jan.18 - Where Did the Bible Come From?

Feb. 1 - How Can I read the Bible with Greater Understanding?

Feb.15 - Is there a "Center" to Scripture?

Mar. 7 - What Kind of Authority does the Bible Hold?

Meetings are the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month at 6:30 in the Library. contact Pam Ball if you are interested in joining us, [pkayball@aol.com](mailto:pkayball@aol.com)



## Etc.

### Annual Meeting

Trinity's annual congregational meeting will be January 31 at 9:30 in the sanctuary. All voting members are invited to attend.

### Staff and Office Hours Change for 2016

The year 2016 will bring some adjustments to staff and office hours at Trinity beginning January 1. The Church Council has adjusted current staff to align with current giving levels, which means both the secretary and custodial positions will shift from full time to part time. These adjustments also necessitate a change in office hours, from the former Monday thru Thursday 8:30am to 4:30 pm. Now we will have flexing hours with primary days of Monday and Thursday and half day on Wednesday. Moving forward, and as volunteers can be arranged, the office may be open on its full M-TH schedule. Notifications for that will be made in the bulletin and on the website. Please be sure to call the church office in advance if you plan to stop by to ensure the building and office is open. Thank you for your patience and understanding. The office phone number is 782-6200.

### Community Conversation about Youth Employment

There will be a community conversation about how our La Crosse area can increase employment for youth who face barriers because of disability, lack of job experience, and other challenges. It will be held on January 12, 2016 from 5:30-7:30pm at La Crosse Area Chamber of Commerce, 601 7th St N, La Crosse. See the flier on the bulletin board in the narthex for more information.



# January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  5:30 Worship (C)
<b>3</b> 8:30 Worship (C) 10:30 Worship (C)	<b>4</b> 9 TOPS 4 Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart 6:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Women's Study	<b>5</b>  6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>6</b>  6:00 C.I.A. 6:45 Confirmation	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  5:30 Worship
<b>10</b> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 9:00 TOPS 4 Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart 6:30 Bell Choir	<b>12</b>  6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>13</b>  6:00 C.I.A. 6:45 Confirmation	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  5:30 Worship (C)
<b>17</b> 8:30 Worship (C) 10:30 Worship (C)	<b>18</b> 9:00 TOPS 4 Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart 6:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Women's Study	<b>19</b>  6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>20</b>  6:00 C.I.A. 6:45 Confirmation	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  5:30 Worship
<b>24</b> 8:30 Worship 10:30 Worship <b>31</b> 8:30 Worship 9:30 Annual Meeting 10:30 Worship	<b>25</b> 9:00 TOPS 4 Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6 Monday Meals 5:30 From the Heart 6:30 Bell Choir	<b>26</b>  6:30 Boy Scouts	<b>27</b>  6:00 C.I.A. 6:45 Confirmation	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  10-2 From the Heart  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 mornings at 8:30 & 10:30. Communion is on the first and third Sundays of the month and the associated Saturday. Lead Pastor is Erik Feig. 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 & 10:30am

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)