

JANUARY 2018



TRINITY TIDINGS

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2018

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Pastor's

Rev. Melinda Pupillo,
Interim Pastor

Update

This is a version of the sermon Pastor Pupillo preached in worship on Sunday, December 24, 2017, at the 8:30am service.

The Fourth Sunday in Advent this year also happened to be Christmas Eve. So for Sunday morning worship, it was not quite Christmas, which felt strange. Sort of a moment in-between. Life is made up of these in-between moments. We are not really comfortable being in the “not yet.” We get off-kilter and decide to rush forward, making things happen “now.” But, that’s when it gets really strange. Even dangerous.

For instance, two parents certainly can’t rush the birth of their child, just because they don’t like the in-between time. Think of children who have been born early. We want kids to stay tucked in the womb until they were good and ready, right!? It is a healthy and necessary time, those moments in-between.

I think of 12yr old Mary, maybe she was 13. Already a young woman, and engaged to be married. She was not fully a wife yet, but becoming less of daughter to parents. She was transitioning from birth family to Joseph’s and her family. It was a time of preparation, for learning ways to manage her home and family. I imagine she must have had questions as she got ready. She probably took some time for talking to friends and family about being a wife and a mother. A healthy and necessary time, those moments in-between.

And then the big announcement! When visited by the great angel, Gabriel, he said to Mary, “You have found favor with God! You will bear a son, he will be holy and called Son of God!” What was her first reaction to this news? Initially, upon Gabriel’s arrival, she was perplexed. Then she pondered. Mary liked to ponder. (Maybe that’s why she was chosen by God.) Then she questioned, “How can this be?” She was a virgin, after all. But, Gabriel assures her that God can do anything. Even her old cousin Elizabeth, who couldn’t have children, *is now 6mo pregnant!* “For nothing is impossible with God,” Gabe says. Mary finally comes forth with this response: “Let it be with me according to your word.” The angel departed from her. And then she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. In-between time, indeed!



Pastor's *Update* cont'd...

Mary needed time for the baby to grow inside of her, yes. But she also needed time to wrap her heart and mind around all of this. She would be a wife, a mother, God's chosen, and she would be giving birth to the savior. To take all this in...to *act* in faith, and not *react* in fear...she needed time. A healthy and necessary time, her moments in-between. You and I need these moments, too. In anger we've learned to breathe and count to ten. In grief we've learned to remember, giving space for tears. Even in times of great joy, we learn to pause and count our blessings.

I mentioned that I think Mary pondered a lot. I think that has something to do with why God chose her. I think that's how God was able to work through her.

Gabriel came for a visit, and Scripture says, "Mary pondered what sort of greeting this might be." The shepherds came after Jesus was born, telling of their angelic encounter, and "Mary treasured these things, and pondered them in her heart."

Time in-between is healthy and necessary time. It's time to ponder.

We all need this time. We need time to think on a change or transition before it's fully formed. We need time to pray and ask for God's guidance. We need time to talk with family and close friends, so that we might deepen our understanding about things. This is what I believe this time of interim can be for all of us. I will be your interim pastor for 9 months. That's a pregnancy. Imagine what could be born among us in that time. So we take this healthy and necessary time, to honor the moments in-between. Trying not to rush, but to take our time. Do not rush the birth! Take time to think and pray and talk with loved ones.

Take time to imagine, hope and dream.

You are the body of Christ in this little corner of the world. May you experience new birth...but not quite yet. It's not time for the birth yet.

That's later. Welcome to the holiness of the in-between. May you be richly blessed. Amen.



Sue Weidemann
Council President
608-790-1862

A Message From Your Council President...

Greetings Trinity Family ~
Welcome to 2018!!

It's a new year, and with a new year we renew our beliefs in our family and our friends...and we hope you are renewing your faith in Trinity and all our historic church has to offer. We hope you are seeing a new future for Trinity and looking forward to the things to come –the programs, the joy, the renewed spirit within and a refreshing new leadership at Trinity. We welcome you to be part of your Trinity family as we invite you to love your neighbor, share a prayer, join the Trinity family of volunteers, send a note of happiness to someone and of course I am going to ask you to be active! Be active in life, in love and in Trinity.

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 are already seeing a change because we are Trinity Lutheran Church, we are Monday Meals, we are the Children's Clothes Closet, we are an emergency shelter, we are the Northside Community Block Party, we are the church that houses social workers, we are the From The Heart Food Pantry, we are a community of giving and you have made this happen. So let's keep it going!!

As your council 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. With that said we need help in many areas. One very important area is our leadership—our Church Council—the committee that tries to have the vision to keep Trinity moving forward and growing. Currently we have the majority of our council phasing through their commitment and that means we have several openings to fill. We are asking you to volunteer with your time and voice for Trinity. We work as a group, not as individuals, and we are currently working on revamping council to become a vision committee that works to the betterment of Trinity. We need the young, the old, 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 the vision/council, at the services, serving our future...our children. Please help us!

You are our most important asset at Trinity! So please contact the office, me or one of our current council members to get involved and be a part of the growth and healing of Trinity. We need a minimum of 6 people and would like to see you voted in at our annual meeting which will be Sunday, February 4th, just after the 8:30 service. Please plan to be there!! PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

I do want to thank the people who have stuck with Trinity as your council and worked tirelessly to keep our programs working, our church running, our service on the air, our repairs taken care of, our events growing and so much more. This amazing group of volunteers deserves your thank you so if you see them, thank them. Todd Olson, Jonathan Heinz, Deb Keller, Chuck Thoftne, Julie Thoftne, Erick Korish, Jerry Ball, Pari Sexhauer, Kathy Sexhauer and special thanks to Kathy Volden and Bonnie Jeranek. Thank you for your service!

There are many other people who have made a significant difference in our church by the time and efforts they have had to our programs. We would not be Trinity without you, so thank you as well. You have the heart of a lion!

I am once again 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

Community Service

Love God,
Love our
neighbors,
Serve the
World...

FREE FINANCIAL COACHING

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

FROM THE HEART FOOD PANTRY

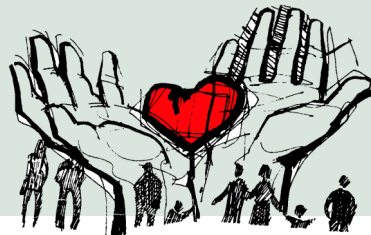
We are looking for regular and reliable volunteers to assist our guests during the hours the pantry is open. Every Monday night from 5:30 to 7:00 PM and the last Saturday of the month from 10 AM to 1 PM , we are open to serve the needs of our guests. This is a fun and rewarding opportunity to give to 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 the church office for more information and to let us know that you are interested!

NORTHSIDE KIDS' CLOTHES CLOSET

The Northside Kid's Clothes Closet is open and ready to service our neighborhood children as of January 8th. We have been busy restocking, reorganizing and expanding our inventory as we continue to be a successful resource for families in need. If you know a family who could use some help, spread the word! We're open on Mondays from 4:00-6:00 pm.

MONDAY MEALS

We are pleased to report that in 2017 the Monday Meals church collaborative has served over 5500 guests! That's a lotta cookin'!! Trinity is scheduled to prepare the meal four times this year—January 29th, April 23rd, July 23rd and October 22nd. If you have a group of friends who would like to volunteer for one of these dates, or simply want to lend a hand, contact the church office and get on the schedule...608.782.6200 or office@trinitylutheranlax.org. Love God, love our neighbors, serve the world...starting in our little corner of it!



January 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4-6:00p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	2	3	4	5	6 5:30p Worship
7 8:30a Worship	8 4-6:00p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	9 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417	10 5:30p Social Ministry Meeting-Library	11	12	13 5:30p Worship
14 8:30a Worship	15 4-6:00p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	16	17	18	19	20 5:30p Worship
	-----MOBILE MEALS DELIVERIES-----					
21 8:30a Worship	22 4-6:30p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	23 9:30a-12:30p Financial Coaching-Susan Taylor 608.785.6417 6:00p Logan N.S. Neighborhood Group meeting	24	25 6p Church Council meeting	26	27 10a-1p From the Heart Food Pantry 5:30p Worship
28 8:30a Worship	29 4-6:00p Kids' Clothes Closet 5-6p Monday Meals 5:30-7p From the Heart Food Pantry	30	31			

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. 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

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

Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church—ELCA