



# TLC Grapevine

January 2020

www.trinitybemidji.com

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji, Minnesota (218) 444-4441

### Worship Services

9:00 am, Sunday

6:30 pm, Wednesday

### Bible Study

10:30 am, Sunday

7:00 pm, Wednesday

(June-August)

### Sunday School (Sept - May)

10:30 am - 11:30 am



trinity3@paulbunyan.net

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### **Epiphany**

**By Greg Alms- Lutheran Witness - January 4, 2016**

Don't miss the season of Epiphany! Epiphany is season of light but is squeezed between Christmas and Lent. The message of this season ought to shine brightly for it teaches an important topic: the mission of the church. It progresses from bright star guiding the Magi to the shining dove at the Baptism of Jesus to the glory of the Transfiguration. The structure of the season proclaims the mission of God's people.

The story of the Magi is that of distant people coming to Christ. The light draws the wise men from far off to worship Him. The Church calls people who are isolated from God to come. But the invitation is not to some idea or theory but to "God in man made manifest" (LSB 394). The Church's mission is to call sinners to communion with the life-giving flesh of Christ.

The first Sunday after the Epiphany takes us to the waters of the Jordan. There John baptized Jesus, who numbers Himself among sinners. The bright dove, the Holy Spirit, points out Christ in the water. Outreach to the world and into the Church points to the same water. Those whom the mission calls to join Christ and His Church are called to the light of Christ in Baptism.

The remaining Sundays of Epiphany focus on the ministry of Jesus. He is the light of the world. He preaches. He prays. He heals those afflicted by Satan. In other words, He does mission work. The Church does also. Jesus also calls us the light of the world. The mission of the Church is like Jesus' ministry: long and patient. The Church's mission is not to simply bring in as many as we can through the front door. It is to keep shining the light of Christ through His word, season after season, so that those living in darkness may continue to see the great light.

The finale of the Epiphany season is the Transfiguration. God in flesh is at the center but now not Magi but the glorified saints of old and the trembling disciples surround Christ. The light that pointed to Jesus at His Baptism now shines through Him. This is the goal of the Church's work: to bring people into God's presence for eternity. The light of Transfiguration shows us how important the Church's work really is. The mission of the Church is aimed at that divine joy.

*The Rev. Paul Gregory Alms is pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Catawba, N.C.*

*Reporter Online is the Web version of Reporter, the official newspaper of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Content is prepared by LCMS Communications.*

## **SERVANT INFO**

### **Altar Flowers**

Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall

### **Communion Set Up**

Jan 5 - Carole Holmes

Jan 12 - Jackie Robertson

Jan 19 - Karen Hanson

Jan 26 - Heather Ellis

### **Candles, Banners, Paraments**

Karen Hanson & Kathy Kippley

### **Elders**

Jan 5 - Ron Oelrich; Ben Lang

Jan 12 - Matt Puro; Lee Potratz

Jan 19 - Rod Wentzel; Ben Lang

Jan 26 - Ron Oelrich; Lee Potratz

### **Ushers**

*Volunteers Needed*

Jan 12 - Youth

### **Greeters**

Jan 5 - *Volunteers Needed*

Jan 12 - Youth

Jan 19 - *Volunteers Needed*

Jan 26 - *Volunteers Needed*

### **Acolytes**

Jan 5 - Ethan Larson; Jocelyn Kurtzweg

Jan 12 - Della Branham; Will Lohse

Jan 19 - Shelby Kubitz; Nathan Krueger

Jan 26 - Anabelle Haas; Kaylan Ellis

### **Soundboard**

Jan 5 - Paul Parobek

Jan 12 - Paul Parobek

Jan 19 - Paul Parobek

Jan 26 - Paul Parobek

## **MONTHLY GROUP MEETINGS**

### **Active Christian Fellowship**

Meets on January 13th at 7:00 pm at the Church.

### **Altar Circle**

Does not meet in January, February, or March.

### **Christian Singles Group**

Meets on January 12th at 11:30 am to go out for lunch. Meet at the church after Bible study to carpool. All singles welcome!

### **Eunice Circle**

Meets on Tuesday, January 21st at the home of Dottie Liapis, 720 23rd St. NW at 9:30 am. All ladies of Trinity are invited to attend.

### **Lois Circle**

Meets on Thursday, January 9th at 1:00 pm.

### **Lydia Circle**

Meets on Tuesday, January 28th at 1:30 pm.

### **Naomi Circle**

Meets on Tuesday, January 21st at 1:30 pm.



### **LADIES AID**

**Meets on** Thu, Jan. 2nd at 1:30 pm at the church.

**Program:** Installation of Officers & Bible Study by Pastor Wentzel.

**Hostesses:** Carol Sorenson & Doris Tibbetts

**Devotions:** Pastor Wentzel

**Quilting:** January 16th, 9:00 am - Noon

### **EVENING GUILD**

**Meets on** Thu, Jan. 2nd at 6:00 pm at the church.

**Program:** Topic from the Quarterly

**Hostesses:** Darlene Lind & June Roxstrom

**Devotions:** Jolene Lundin

**All Ladies of the congregation  
are INVITED  
to attend our meetings  
and to join us on a regular basis!  
Ladies Aid and Evening Guild.**



**10:00 AM ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20TH**

Please submit all items to the church office in writing, by email, or on a computer CD, with your name in case of questions! There is a folder in the pocket on the office door for your submissions. *Thank you.*

## In Praise of Patriarchs and Matriarchs



FROM THE PASTOR

We often hear in God's Word about our ancestors in the Faith—the men and women who have gone before us and show us what a life lived in faith before our Triune God looks like. They are sometimes called “patriarchs” and “matriarchs,” literally, the founding fathers and mothers. We look all the way back to Adam and Eve, the father and mother of the human race. We look to Noah, to Abraham, and their physical descendants—Isaac, Jacob, and the Twelve Tribes of Israel. We look to the men called to be prophets, apostles, and the martyrs throughout the ages. We also look to faithful women, like Sarah, Rebecca, Deborah, Naomi, and Ruth in the Old Testament; in the New Testament, we look to Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, Salome, Mary Magdalene, the sisters Mary and Martha, and others who followed Jesus all the way to the cross; we look to Eunice, Lois, Priscilla, and Phoebe, women who served the people of God in the first generations of the New Testament Church.

We also remember with thanksgiving the patriarchs and matriarchs of recent generations—those who established and served in this congregation at its beginning and through the decades since. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for their faithfulness in preserving the preaching of God's Word and the administration of God's Sacraments through difficult times—financial hardships, the enmity of the world, and the attempts of the devil to sow confusion and discord. Ultimately, our thanksgiving is always to our Triune God, the God of the patriarchs and matriarchs, and our God today. By His grace, the preaching of Christ—crucified for our sins and raised for our salvation—continues in the Church of all times and all places until He comes again in glory to consummate all things.

The question that needs be asked in every generation is this: Who are the patriarchs and matriarchs today? The answer is quite simple: they are all around us; in fact, they are us! Each one of us who is instrumental in passing on the Christian Faith plays an essential part in the grand plan of our Lord to build and preserve His extended family, that is, all we who are children of God through faith in Christ. The part may be played in our own families—mothers and fathers and grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins who do the basic Christian tasks of tending to the very real spiritual needs of infants and children. We take for granted that our children are to be fed and clothed and sheltered and educated. We can never take for granted the blessed task of raising them in the fear and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whom alone is eternal life and eternal blessedness. It's not an easy task (remember the trials and afflictions of our patriarchs and matriarchs!), but it has our Lord's fullest blessing and command, and our Lord's fullest promises: “Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.” (Luke 18: 16) “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.” (Acts 2: 38-39)

If you're reading this, it's likely that you are certainly one of those the Lord has called to Himself. The fact that you were brought to the cleansing waters of Baptism is proof that the Lord desires you to be saved. He has provided the means of keeping you in the faith—the very things that are provided every week in the Divine Service and the other services, in the opportunities for growing in the Word, and in the services of the pastor who is willing to minister to you in every situation of your life. You are part of the family of God—and it is to your very great peril if you decline to live as part of the family. It is to the detriment of all—especially the children—if you decline to play the roles of patriarch and matriarch to which you are called.

For it's not only blood parents and grand-parents who have the responsibility to raise the children of the congregation. We're all part of the household of faith, and all those older have responsibility for those younger than themselves; all those who are strong have responsibility for the weak; all those who are rich in faith are privileged to share their riches with those who are struggling. Family sticks together. Family bears each other's burdens. Family mourns together, and rejoices together.

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Patriarchs and matriarchs, whatever their age, whatever their station, pass on to others the traditions of God Himself—the doctrine, the teaching, the worship, the salutary habits of piety. Patriarchs and matriarchs bless others with the things with which they themselves have been blessed.

It sounds like a lot work. It is. But it's work done at the Lord's bidding and with the Lord's blessing. It's done with the Lord's promise that He will prosper our work—for it's really His own work, as the Holy Spirit works through simple Christians to teach and nurture other Christians. We know that our own reason and strength; our own notions of how things should be done; our own flawed plans and strategies are never able to avail against the forces arraigned against us—the perversity of worldly thinking; the deceptions of our weak human flesh; the deceit and trickery of the devil. We commit our very great needs to the Lord, and follow His providential guidance, and rely on His Word alone to form our thinking and our practice. Just as patriarchs and matriarchs of the Lord have always done.

Still reluctant to be patriarchs and matriarchs? Allow me to offer you some pastoral advice that can help you be the teachers and examples you are called to be. First, “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12: 2). You live in a world that deceives you and your children with many a fine-sounding lie. The world and its prince, the devil, assault you incessantly through much of what you are taught in schools and universities; through the news media (no matter what the political orientation); through the entertainment industry; through advertising; and simply through your interaction with those who are not Christians. The Gospel of Christ is folly to the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 1: 18), and they will be zealous to lead you away from the truth to their own darkened and futile beliefs. For the sake of yourselves and those entrusted to your care, you must resist these satanic deceptions, standing firm in the Faith (1 Peter 5: 9). You discern the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect—only by hearing His Holy Word. He has established His Church for this very purpose, so that His Word can have free course among you, and that you and your children be made wise unto salvation (1 Timothy 3: 15).

Second (and building upon the preceding point), know that the Word that renews your mind is a gift given to you in great abundance and through a variety of means. Jesus constantly admonishes us, “He who has ears, let him hear.” It's a childish, foolish, and ultimately destructive attitude to refuse to listen to the Word of our Lord. These words come through the preaching and teaching of pastors, those who are entrusted with proclaiming the Gospel of Christ. These words come in Jesus' own words of forgiveness and promise attached to Baptism and the Lord's Supper and Holy Absolution. These words come through the liturgy of the Church—the prayers and chants and canticles of the Divine Service and the prayer services, all rich with the words of Holy Scripture itself. These words come through the psalms and hymns and songs of the Church, both ancient and new, through which we sing the Faith into each other's ears. The words come through the actual text of Holy Scripture, which we are privileged to be able to read and learn and inwardly digest.

The primary task of patriarchs and matriarchs has always been to attend to the Word of God faithfully, and then to pass that Word along to those entrusted to their care. You are the patriarchs and matriarchs of Christ's Church today. Attend to the Word, and you will be blessed, you and the entire household of faith. “Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.” (Luke 11: 28)

In Christ,

*Robert Wentzel*  
Pastor Wentzel





## Crocuses

The common crocus, familiar to most in the American middle-west is a close cousin of the buttercup, is most known for being the first flower to bloom in the spring, or even late winter.

FROM PASTOR VOIGT

Growing up in the western prairie of North Dakota, these little flowers were the first sign of spring in the vast expanses of the snow-covered fields and plains. You had to look several times, at the blooming crocus. It was always a surprise to find these flowers, and you could never be sure you were actually seeing the purple blooms in the endless white.

As familiar as crocuses seem, they have a storied history. Certain varieties produce the spice *saffron* from their stamen. It remains among the most valuable spices to this day. Other varieties produced the purple and scarlet dyes, prized by the royalty of antiquity. It may have been the dye that produces the purple robe that was placed to mock Christ before the crucifixion. Other varieties were so closely guarded, that entire empires were involved in their development and transplantation, like the silkworm and the Great Silk Road.

The crocus in one of the flowers mentioned in the Holy Scriptures, with the *Rose of Sharon* in Song of Solomon 2:1 and the *lily of the field* in Luke 12:27. But perhaps the crocus is greater than these, because the crocus can teach us something about Christ.

To be clear, the teaching that creation gives us is not the same as the teaching of Scripture. Technically, Scripture gives us an *explicit*, an obvious and plain, teaching. Whereas creation's teaching is *implicit*, non-obvious. You have to know what Scripture teaches to understand what creation teaches. But creation does teach. Job writes "Ask the animals, and they will teach you...what the hand of the Lord has done" (12:7-9). And the 19th Psalm: "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge" (1-2).

The crocus' bloom is an analogy to Christ's "bloom," his resurrection. And so, they teaches us something about Christ. About the world at His appearance and coming:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
Like the crocus, it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing...  
And a highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way...  
The redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;  
Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.     *Isaiah 35, RSV, selected.*



In Christ,

Pastor Voigt



Pastor Voigt will be at Trinity on  
Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am - 3pm.  
He can be reached at (260) 804-3084 or at [eli.voigt1@gmail.com](mailto:eli.voigt1@gmail.com).

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1 Dennis Frederikson  
Rick Schulz

2 Arlene Kinn  
Isabella Reiersen

3 Theodore Lang

4 Adam Maatz

6 Nicholas Olson, Owen Potratz,  
Barbara Wolbeck  
*Ryan & Danielle Reiersen (13)*

8 Tania Kuhrke

9 Hayden Schuette

10 Alyssa Koebke

11 Rayce Eggebraaten, Barbara Super

12 William Lohse

14 Amy Koebke,  
Jessica Otting

16 Kathy Fulk  
Ryan Reiersen

17 James Branham, Elaine Schaumburg  
*Rev. Daniel & Linda Domke (47)*

18 Kristine Krueger, Lillian McNamara

19 Sandy Thorson

20 Doug Pauna

21 Beverly Parobek  
*David & Carole Holmes (53)*

22 Krisa Fairbanks  
Jordan Mills

23 Randy & Darla Yarbrough (36)

25 Alec Schulz

26 Steve & Mary Krueger (16)

28 Ben Lang

29 Matt Haas

30 Judy Anderson

31 Amaya Cowan

~~oops!~~

From a worship bulletin:

~~He can move the mountains.~~

My God is mighty to shave.

Forever author of salvation

Many people do picture God, who saves, with a beard!

## ALTAR FLOWER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!



Please sign up to tend the Altar Flowers.  
We still need volunteers for 2020!



## ADDRESS/PHONE

If your address and/or phone number changes, please let the church office know, so your information will be correct in the church database. Thank you!

## **JANUARY STEWARDSHIP**

Our God is a God who works through means. He can and has worked immediately without agency, as the Bible testifies, but primarily, on the whole and for the most part, our God works through means. He does this not only for all of our earthly needs but also for all of our spiritual needs. And He does this for our benefit.

He provides for all our needs of this body and life through means. He gives us fathers and mothers to care for us when we are young. Through them, God provides house and home, food and clothing, education and training in the arts and work of this world.

He gives us good government to protect us from harm and danger; He gives us faithful neighbors and good friends to help in times of need and lack. He gives us employers who trade our work for income so that we may acquire the needs of the body. He gives us brains and brawn so that we will have something to trade with those employers for that needed income. This work, which we are able to do only because of what God has provided to us, redounds to the benefit of others. And so, the cycle of God giving through means continues.

He provides for all our needs of our souls. He sent His Son into the flesh to be our Savior. In that body, our Lord Jesus Christ lived the life that God demands of us all – a life we have failed to live because of our sins – and, in that body, He made payment for those sins on the cross, once and for all.

God delivers this forgiveness through the means of His Word and Sacraments. He calls pastors to proclaim, in His stead and by His command, that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Through these same pastors, God Himself claims us as His own in Holy Baptism, placing His own name on us in water and Word, igniting faith by the gift of the Holy Spirit. And He gives us His life-giving body and blood to nourish us in this same faith until the end. Our God is a God who works through means.

This is true also of stewardship. This is what St. Paul wrote in Philippians:

“I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 4:18–19).

The gift St. Paul received from the Philippian church is a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. They gave to God. God provided for St. Paul through the Philippians. And the God who loves both Paul and the Philippians will supply their every need according to the riches in Christ Jesus. Our God is a God who works through means.

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus Christ],” St. Paul tells us in 2 Cor. 1:20. This is true also of you. Trust in the God who provides for all that we need in body and soul through means. And not only will you find His “yes” to you, but others will find it, too, through you. “But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also” (2 Cor. 8:7).

*StewardCAST is a monthly stewardship resource provided by Stewardship Ministry of District and Congregational Services of the LCMS. Used by permission.*



# “STEP” INTO THE NEW YEAR

Make this craft to remember God’s many blessings.



### What you need:

- Small stones
- Permanent markers
- Foil pan and cooking spray
- Drop cloth
- Gloves
- Quick-set concrete (and adult help)
- Bucket and paint stirrer

### What you do:

1. After reflecting on the past year, use markers to decorate stones with memorable words, dates and drawings.
2. Spray pan with cooking spray. Set pan outside on a drop cloth.
3. Wearing gloves, mix concrete in a bucket, according to instructions.
4. Pour concrete into pan. Smooth top with paint stirrer.
5. Press in stones, handprints and other decorations.
6. Let dry completely. Remove from pan.
7. Place the stepping-stone outside as a reminder of God’s continued goodness.

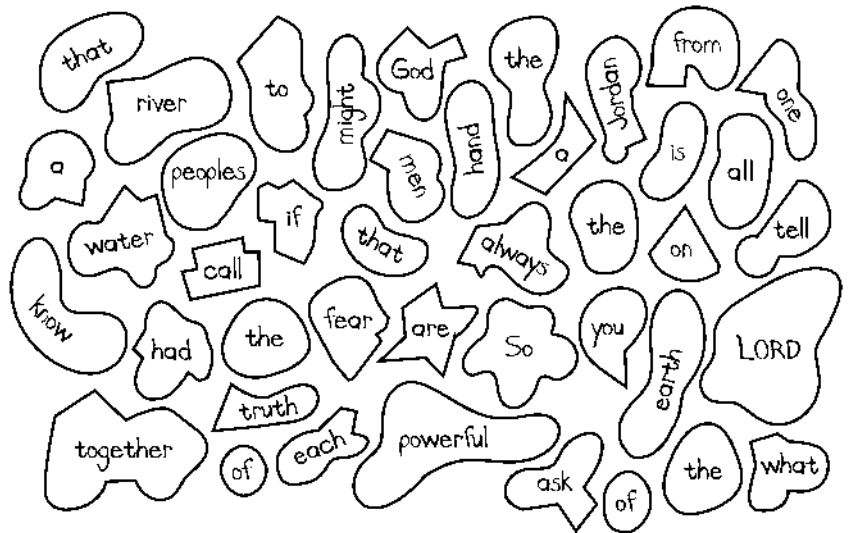
# Activity Page



## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV





The Men of Trinity  
Meet the last Tuesday each  
Month at 7:00 PM  
At the church

Please join us for an Evening with  
your church brothers!



Please check the covered bulletin boards in the Church Entrance Hall for posted Letters, Community Events, Concerts, Meals, Fundraisers, local activities and news.

### MEMBERS OF TRINITY,

Last Month we collected 14 Boxes of Cereal. Thanks for the Donations!



This Month, We will collect bags and/ or boxes of rice. You can put your items in the shopping cart in the Social Hall. Thanks so much for your continued support the Bemidji Food Shelf. ~ June Roxstrom

### GREETING CARDS FOR SALE!



There is a selection of Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well and All Occasion cards with scripture verses on sale. You will find these cards & napkins on display in the church entrance. Checks are preferred. Please make your check payable to: Trinity's Ladies Aid and put your payment in the container provided.

~ Thank you.



### ALTAR CIRCLE

The first Sunday of Epiphany commemorates the visit of the Wise Men to the infant Jesus and the second Sunday observes the Baptism of our Lord. Therefore, the paraments are white, the color of purity and eternity.

The remaining Sundays after the Epiphany have green paraments. The last Sunday after the Epiphany is again white for the Transfiguration of our Lord. The emphasis for the whole season of Epiphany is on the self-revelation of God to the world.

**WHEN YOU LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE**, please turn out ALL the lights (except in the office hallway) and please check that ALL the entrance doors are LOCKED, even if you didn't unlock them.

### BEMIDJI AREA FOOD SHELF



Trinity helps at the Food Shelf on the first Friday of every month for 4 hours in the morning and 4 hours in the afternoon. We need at least 6 volunteers for each shift so we always need people to help out. If you are interested or have questions, please call June Roxstrom at 333-1495.

Items that are always needed are pancake mix, syrup, baby food, and laundry soap. We appreciate any items of your choice! We also accept good used towels and washcloths. Thank you for all your support to help feed the hungry in Beltrami County!

## READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR – JANUARY

- |                |             |               |                 |
|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1 Luke 1:68-79 | 9 Psalm 37  | 17 Psalm 45   | 25 Psalm 53     |
| Mark 2         | Mark 10     | Genesis 7-9   | Genesis 31-33   |
| 2 Psalm 30     | 10 Psalm 38 | 18 Psalm 46   | 26 Psalm 54     |
| Mark 3         | Mark 11     | Genesis 10-12 | Genesis 34-36   |
| 3 Psalm 31     | 11 Psalm 39 | 19 Psalm 47   | 27 Psalm 55     |
| Mark 4         | Mark 12     | Genesis 13-15 | Genesis 37-39   |
| 4 Psalm 32     | 12 Psalm 40 | 20 Psalm 48   | 28 Psalm 56     |
| Mark 5         | Mark 13     | Genesis 16-18 | Genesis 40-42   |
| 5 Psalm 33     | 13 Psalm 41 | 21 Psalm 49   | 29 Psalm 57     |
| Mark 6         | Mark 14     | Genesis 19-21 | Genesis 43-45   |
| 6 Psalm 34     | 14 Psalm 42 | 22 Psalm 50   | 30 Psalm 58     |
| Mark 7         | Mark 15-16  | Genesis 22-24 | Genesis 46-48   |
| 7 Psalm 35     | 15 Psalm 43 | 23 Psalm 51   | 31 Luke 1:68-79 |
| Mark 8         | Genesis 1-3 | Genesis 25-27 | Genesis 49-50   |
| 8 Psalm 36     | 16 Psalm 44 | 24 Psalm 52   |                 |
| Mark 9         | Genesis 4-6 | Genesis 28-30 |                 |

# News & Announcements



For many people, breathing in fragrances like perfumes, colognes, fragranced personal care items, candles, air fresheners and/or cleaning supplies can be a cause of concern. These scents can cause an asthma attack, headache or other allergic reactions. Because of this, we ask that you please be aware of how you use these items in and around the church and how they may affect others. *Thank you.*

**The Church Office will be closed Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 for the New Year Holiday**



## ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, January 19th, 2019  
10:30 am.**

**The Annual Reports will be available for review by Sunday, January 12th.**

### Offering Envelopes



**2020 General Fund Offering Envelope Sets will be in the mailboxes shortly.**

**DO NOT USE YOUR 2019 ENVELOPES IN JANUARY AS SOME NUMBERS ARE DIFFERENT IN 2020**

(You can discard any left over 2019 envelopes). Special Offering envelopes as well as envelopes for donations to our Preschool are available in the wall racks in the church entry and in the Fellowship Hall. If you have questions, please contact a member of the Stewardship Board. (Margaret Richer, Jolene Lundin or Lynette Perrault) *Thank You.*

Thrivent Financial® Choice Dollars must be directed every year. Trinity has 2 areas that Choice Dollars can be directed:

- 1. Trinity Lutheran Church**
- 2. TLC Preschool/Growing Tree Childcare**

All Choice Dollars directed to Trinity Lutheran Church go into the General Fund. *Please contact Financial Secretary if you have questions.*

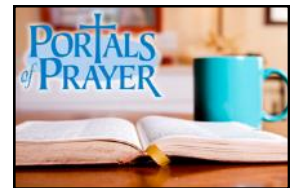


All Choice Dollars directed to TLC Preschool and/or to Growing Tree Childcare go into their Scholarship Fund. *Please contact a member of the School Board if you have questions.*

*School Board if you have questions.*

To direct your Choice Dollars, go online to Thrivent.com and log in (you'll need your Member ID to register), or call 1-800-847-4836 and state "Thrivent Choice" (you'll need your Member ID). *Please contact your Thrivent representative with*

**Portals of Prayer for January - March 2020 are in the basket at the back of the church. Please Help Yourself!**



**Quilting:** The Ladies Aid quilting day is **Thursday, January 16th.** We meet from 9:00 am to noon and we invite all ladies from the congregation to join us. Come for the whole time or part of the time, but do join us!



**PLEASE CHECK** both the large and small calendars in the office hallway and with the church office before scheduling an event/activity at Trinity. This will help eliminate any conflicts!

Also, when scheduling weddings or non-church related events/activities, please pick up a form in the church office, complete it and return it.

All weddings and non-church related events/activities must be approved in advance and any applicable fees paid before the date of the event/activity. Please talk to the church office if you have questions.



Growing Tree

JANUARY 2020

Learning Center & TLC

Preschool Newsletter

SCHOOL CLOSINGS:

Childcare:

Jan 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Preschool:

Jan 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 20th



Bible verse of the Month:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; The old has gone and the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

## Learning Center and Preschool News

### “TUBS OF CHRISTMAS LOVE”

Thank you to all who donated to the tubs this year!! You all were a part of making a wonderful Christmas for 4 deserving families.

What a blessing to show Christian Love!

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Christmas Program was a great success! The children had a great time and did a wonderful job!!! Thank you to all the families for participating during the busy holiday season.

### COLD WEATHER REMINDER

Parents please remember to send winter clothes daily. We go outside everyday the temperature/wind-chill is above zero. Please label **ALL** of your child’s winter apparel. If you are missing something please check our lost and found area.

**Please make sure your child is fever/diarrhea free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to the center**

# KIDS IN THE DIVINE SERVICE



## What is “The Epiphany of Our Lord”?

The word “epiphany” (pronounced ee-PIF-uh-nee) comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” Jesus was made known to all people simply by being born. If we had been alive back then, we could have actually reached out and touched Jesus! He was real, and the evidence was in His birth!

## Why do we celebrate Epiphany?

Epiphany is the third part of the Christmas season. During this special season in the Church Year, we remember the visit of the Wise Men. Traditionally, this visit is celebrated on Jan. 6.



Epiphany also brings to mind many other important events in Jesus’ life. For example, we remember Jesus’ Baptism, the star that guided the Wise Men, and most importantly, His birth! Wow! There sure is a lot happening after Christmas!



**Parents:** “God in flesh made manifest” is a hard statement for children to understand. Be sure to remind them that Jesus is real, alive and once walked on the earth for all to see. When Holy Communion is offered, be sure to let your children attend with you. Instruct them that this is where Christ manifests and gives His true body and blood for us.



# I . C . Y . M . I .

( IN . CASE . YOU . MISSED . IT . )



Trinity's Men's group made a new Nativity for the church lawn.

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Putting up the Tree



Practice for the Sunday School Christmas Program.



TLC Preschool Christmas Concert



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# DOLLAR\$&CENTS Fundraisers

Trinity collects Campbell's Labels for Lutheran Island Camp to help purchase camp equipment. The list of eligible labels is on the hallway bulletin board. Bring your labels and put them in the basket marked "Campbell's Soup Labels" on the table in the Fellowship Hall!



Darlene Peterson will take care of the rest! ~ Thanks! ~

**\*\*\*Please include the "Campbell's Kid" with the UPC code when you clip!\*\*\***



The youth group is still collecting aluminum beverage cans. Put them by the can near the kitchen door. The money earned will be used toward youth group activities. **PLEASE: aluminum cans ONLY!**

The recycler won't accept other materials and I have to sort out unacceptable materials by hand! Yuck!

Any questions? Call Tom Smith at 444-3818

Trinity collects ink cartridges cellphones, smart phones, and iPads for recycling to raise funds for the TLC Preschool and The Growing Tree Childcare! **We can no longer accept other small electronics like:** old laptops, MP3 players, digital cameras, handheld game systems, GPS devices, radar detectors, or electronic book readers. Sorry for the inconvenience. There is a collection tub in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your continued support of the TLC Preschool and The Growing Tree Childcare!



## Box Tops



The youth group is collecting proof of purchase (bar codes) for the Our Family brand at Lukens Village Foods. The youth group will receive \$25 for every 500 box tops that we turn in. You can put your box tops in the labeled collection box in the Fellowship Hall.

The Evening Guild is participating in the Pop Tab Collection Program. Little things can make a big difference. You can help support the Ronald McDonald House by collecting the little tabs you pull to open soda and other aluminum cans. The funds generated from recycling these aluminum gems help offset the House's expenses.



The continuing story of *Luke and Estelle and the Serpents Shield*, used by permission.

## Chapter 9 Names, Names, Names

Luke slammed his hand on the alarm clock. “The first day of classes!” he announced to his roommates. Quickly he put on his clothes. Luke didn’t want to be late or unprepared for the first day.

Tony rolled over and yawned. “First day of classes?”

“Yes, it is! And you’re going to be late,” teased Luke as he threw a pillow at Tony. That was all it took for Benjamin to join in. Ken sat on his bed watching, hesitant to participate. The good fun ended when they heard first chimes for breakfast.

Now it was Tony’s turn to shout. “We’re going to be late.” They quickly finished dressing. The boys were slipping into their robes as they ran down the hall.

The four boys just made it to their table as the song of gratitude began.

“You’re cutting it close,” clipped Barbara.

“What were you doing? No, don’t say,” hissed Estelle.

“Won’t do it again,” said Luke as he tried to look as though he were participating in the song.

Jamal had not missed the near breach of being late. He gave the four boys a serious look. As breakfast ended, Jamal walked by the Jonason table. He spoke to some students flashing his great smile. He continued to walk down the aisle.

“Forgot the time, gentlemen?” Jamal’s hands went simultaneously on Luke’s and Tony’s shoulders. He looked at Ken, Ben, Luke and Tony in turn.

“Yes, sir,” came four timid replies. “Uh, forgot the time.”

“Do better next time,” Jamal said sternly.

“Yes, sir,” the four boys whispered a little louder. Jamal turned to go and gave one of his big smiles. They all sat looking at each other until Jamal had left.

“Whew,” breathed Tony. “Thought we were goners.”

“Not yet,” said Benjamin. He didn’t appear disturbed by the warning.

“What were you guys thinking?” said Barbara. “It’s one of the rules – be on time!”

“We weren’t late,” protested Luke. “Just not early enough.” They all laughed. First class of the day started shortly after breakfast, so they went for their notebooks.

Math/computer class was the first class of the day. Professor Wan greeted the young students with a bow. The Jonason Ents sat near each other with note books ready. Luke couldn’t help but notice Todd, Chad, and Orval sitting on the other side of the room after their encounter at the Library Posting. Only Todd and Chad gave their attention to Professor Wan. Orval rubbed his nose often and slouched in his seat.

Without much in the way of introductions and no seat assignments Professor Wan began his lecture and did example problems. Luke was surprised that Professor Wan started by teaching how to use the abacus. He wondered how this would help with math and computers. Mostly what Luke remembered from this first day was the abacus, also called a counting frame, is a calculating tool that was in use by the fifth century BC. The Chinese probably had the most useable abacus by the second century BC. The written modern numeral system did not become well known until AD 500, although other systems were used.

“All this trivia for what?” mumbled Luke to himself. His friends didn’t seem too excited either.

Professor Tweedle’s class in communications followed math class. With short dark curls bobbing as she entered, Professor Tweedle walked between the rows of students until she had passed by each. Estelle noticed as Professor Tweedle passed her desk how tall she was and her large hands. Curious and puzzled the students watched without talking.

“Now what do you think I communicated by my actions.”

Barbara’s hand flew up, and a few more slowly followed. Professor Tweedle considered the number of hands up and the faces of those who did not raise hands.

Continued on Next Page ➡

“Thank you,” she said. “You may put your hands down.” Barbara put her hand down last. “Communications involves more than the words,” she continued. “I would like for you to tell me what words you find in the word *communication*.” She wrote on the board as she said the word.

Estelle liked puzzles and following clues, and this seemed to be such a game. Thinking she would like this, Estelle sat straighter in her desk and couldn’t help smiling.

Tony looked at Luke, his face blank. “I like straight facts,” he whispered. “Never could figure out puzzles.” Luke about to answer caught Professor Tweedle looking at Tony and him.

But she simply said, “Miss Estelle.”

“There is the part ‘unification.’ But I think we say *unification*.”

“Very good,” commented Professor Tweedle. “Any other word finds?”

“Looks like *common*,” continued Estelle.

“Good! Anyone else?” asked Professor Tweedle. “Yes, Mr. Vincent,” as she pointed to Todd.

“*T-i-o-n* means action, so from Miss Estelle’s word of common, I’d say action in common.” He looked like he had caught the prize for the day.

“Most interesting, Mr. Vincent. Are you saying for communication to take place the action needs to be common between the parties?”

“Uh, yes. Yes, ma’am!” Todd beamed, pleased with himself.

“Now, can anyone say what I communicated as I walked by each person?” continued Professor Tweedle. Again Barbara’s hand shot up. “Yes, Miss Barbara.”

“You could be doing or saying a number of things,” began Barbara slowly. “Like interest in each one of us, or examining us to see how we re-act. But we don’t know for sure.”

“You are right. Communication is done between people with the same meaning to actions, words, and signs.” Professor Tweedle continued her lecture and near the end of class gave the homework assignment.

“Please write one word for each letter of the alphabet that means communication. Since the first one has already been given I’ll repeat it for you. A-c-t-i-o-n.” Her curls bounced as she sat down.

“I’m not sure I like this,” commented Tony as they left the room. “It sounds so ...so silly.”

“I think she’s trying to help us see more than just writing, talking, and telecommunications,” said Estelle defensively.

“Let’s compare later,” suggested Barbara. “It might be interesting.”

“Ok, sure,” were the replies. Luke wondered if he was the only one who had not had friends wanting to compare and share their work. No professor had said they couldn’t, so Luke thought he would compare with Ken and Ben too.

It wasn’t long before a few weeks had past. Professor Rast proved to be funny as well as very knowledgeable. This Wednesday he came rushing into the classroom in such haste that his unhooked robe flew behind him.

“Good morning, or is it afternoon? Class,” he said.

“Good *afternoon*,” said the student’s respectfully with some muffled laughter.

“We’ve covered the basic introduction. Now I would like to see what kind of *detectives* you can be. This is only a paper search to start with. I’ll give you names of some ancient places. You find their modern locations and the proof that supports your find,” said Professor Rast as he searched his desk and podium for the assignment list. Not finding it in his seemingly unrelated stacks and plies, he talked to himself. “The Patriarch’s list ... yeah, this was good too...”

Tony nudged Luke. “Are you any good at being a detective?”

Luke whispered, “I can’t say – never tried.”

Some students snickered at the other side of the room. The Marksens didn’t sit with the Jonasons. Already the rivalry between the dorms was forming.

“Could this be your paper, Professor Rast,” said a very sugar sweet voice. “It flew this way when your robe brushed the podium.” Lena Johnson, one of the girls from Marksens who hung around Todd, stood and moved toward Professor Rast with the paper. Lena’s long black-brown hair floated through the air as she flipped it from her face. She tried to look demurer, but herself absorbed manner and cattish smile at Todd didn’t fool any of the girls. The hair floating this way and then that way distracted the guys in the room.



"I bet she picked it up from the floor," whispered Barbara disbelieving every word Lena said.

"They were here before us. They probably took it from the podium," whispered Estelle between her teeth.

"Thank you, Miss Lena," said Professor Rast. He looked from her to the paper and back at the students. "Well maybe I should slow down next time." With his back to the class he wrote five ancient places on the board. Professor Rast continued to mumble as he wrote. "Maybe I should use the power point...find my laptop..."

The four friends exchanged looks as they wrote down Babylon, Nahor, Ur, Nineveh, and Eden.

"They don't exist," whispered Tony who had taken in the teachings of his public school. "Modern scholars say these are made up stories from the Hebrew peoples. We had this in history class at my old school."

"Really?" whispered Luke. He didn't remember any of those cities coming up in any history class at his old school. But then again, he hadn't found history all that interesting.

"Now off to do your research," said Professor Rast. "And don't forget to state your proof or reasons for their location." The students got up from their desks and headed for the door.

Luke couldn't believe Tony. "Make-believe towns? You think these are make-believe towns?"

"I don't think so," interjected Estelle when she overheard the guys. "There aren't any mistakes in that Book. My dad and mum said so."

"So did mine," added Barbara as she walked along side Estelle.

"Then why?" started Tony.

"To be detectives," interjected Barbara and Estelle together. They smiled and went for lunch. The girls were happy to see the Twins at lunch.

That afternoon Professor Tweedle had the class look at ancient pieces of literature. Tony leaned over to Luke and whispered, "All we seem to get these days is ancient stuff, Greek is ancient, old math, early science of biology, and now this!"

Luke nodded, but did not reply. The first selection was considered the oldest story available from an area of the Middle East, *The Story of Job*. The second a few hundred years younger contained poetry and short stories, *Hebrew Poetry* and *Chinese Literature*. And finally, although a bit more familiar, was from Greek literature, *Homer's Iliad*.

"Yup all ancient stuff," mumbled Luke to himself. But he had to pay close attention as Professor Tweedle gave instruction about analyzing these examples.

"What was the main point that each selection makes? It may not always be obvious. You have been studying about ancient cultures; tie that information with these writings. And likewise why might these be important; maybe not to you personally, but to whom? Why do we still have these pieces of literature today? Please don't answer some foolish thing as archeologist found them and they fit with our studies on ancient cultures. We will also be working on these in class for the remainder of the year. I am looking for substantial thinking and analytical writing."

The chimes sounded the end of class much to the joy of Tony's noisy stomach. "Let's get some snack food!" is all Tony could say as he hurried out of the room and down the hall. Barbara, Estelle, and Luke followed but arrived at the dining room only to see Tony already eating.

Greek didn't go very well later in the afternoon. Professor Kantact strayed from the lesson to talk more with the students. Estelle unpredictably had wanted to translate the story of a young man named Timothy. She thought his mother Eunice had a unique name and found the name of the grandmother, Lois, to be very old indeed. "Oh well, another time", she sighed.

Estelle focused on the Professor Kantact and couldn't help thinking that he always seemed, well, wrinkled; like he had slept in his robe. She checked out his attire, found his tie askew, and his robe seemed to hang lopsidedly. During her examination of his untidy looks, she heard Professor Kantact say rather warmly, "Mr. Vincent, your family has a reputation for donating large sums of money to needy organizations."

Todd glowed proudly. "That's right. I hope to follow in my father's footsteps of generosity."

"Eeyu," escaped between Estelle's teeth.

"That..." Barbara never finished for Professor Kantact turned in her direction. As usual the Marksens and Jonasons were on opposite sides of the room.

“Now, Mr. Hudson,” said Professor Kantact. Luke felt sure the Professor’s voice had changed – to ice. “What can you say about your parentage?” Professor Kantact stood in front of Luke. In a softer tone he continued, “It’s not your fault that your parents died leaving you an orphan. In Greek society it was very important to have a good family reputation. As we have seen in our study of Greek society, there can be differences based on parentage.”

Luke felt small and hoped that no one could see him. What was Kantact up to? Certainly he wasn’t using Luke to illustrate a lesson? Or could he be singling Luke out for other reasons?

Estelle, to the defense of her friend, raised her hand. Professor Kantact nodded approval. “Adoption was common, I understand,” she said. “Important people did adopt.”

“Very true, Miss Estelle,” said Professor Kantact.

Estelle and Barbara were so glad when class ended. They did not realize that their troubles were just beginning. As they walked down the stairs, Todd called out from above them, “Miss Barbara, did you find the meaning of your name for Professor Tweedle’s class?”

“Well, I have,” said Barbara slowly.

“Then you know, your name means barbarian.” Lena giggled while Orval nearly doubled over with snickers.

Lena quipped, “Not a very pretty name for a Kirkpatrick student.”

Barbara turned a few shades of rosy red. “It doesn’t mean...” But she could not say more as Todd and his group passed by sing-songing, “Bar-ba-ra the bar-bar-ee-an, a wannabe Chris-tee-an, Barbara the barbarian.”

Barbara’s eyes watered. Estelle put her arm around Barbara as they hurried to their dorm. The Twins went ahead to make a path. “That was mean. What does he know? That word is a putdown. Oh, Barb, don’t cry,” consoled Estelle. By the time they reached their room Barbara heaved heavy sobs.

“Don’t pay attention to him,” offered Jane.

“We all know what he is.” Rebecca and Jane tried to say consoling words, but finding few they took up their notebooks. “We’ll be in the library. Okay?”

“See you at supper,” Estelle said as the Twins opened the door. “Thanks.”

Barbara dropped on her bed and covered her head with a pillow. A muffled sob bubbled out from pillow. Since it would soon be suppertime, Estelle sat there wondering what to do. Barbara had made herself sick from crying before when deeply upset and had been absent from school during those episodes.

The chimes rang for supper. Estelle softly touched Barbara’s side. “Are you coming?” There was no answer from Barbara. “Can I bring you something?” Only a few muffled sobs answered.

Estelle joined Luke, Tony, and the Twins in the dining room. “Where’s Barb?” asked Tony. He and Luke looked very concerned.

“She’s, she’s not coming,” said Estelle without her usual cheerful smile when greeting her friends. “She’s really hurt.”

“Todd wasn’t nice at all,” said Luke. “What a bully! Reminds me of my Uncle. He says what he thinks, and everyone has to take it.” Luke noticed that he had made a fist in his robe pocket.

“And I don’t think Professor Kantact was nice today either,” added Estelle as she looked at Luke.

“What was he getting at? Didn’t make much sense,” joined in Tony.

Before more could be said they sang the song of gratitude. Estelle didn’t say much at supper while her friends chatted around her. She busied herself by pushing her food around the plate and refused desert.

“Wish there was some way to get back at Todd,” said Luke as he picked up his spoon to eat his chocolate pudding.

Tony with a mouthful of pudding agreed. “Yeah, we need a tasty morsel of something rotten,”

Estelle took a long drink of water. “I don’t know what that would be, Tony. Getting even really isn’t fun; it usually back fires. I got to go to Barb.” She left the dining room early. Maybe I should talk with Professor Dorothea, thought Estelle, as she walked along. Calling someone a *barbarian Christian* was cruel. Whatever made him do that?

# JANUARY 2020

444-4441

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Trinity Weekly Deadline 1:30 PM Ladies Aid 5:30 PM Board of Elders 6:00 PM Evening Guild 6:30 PM Campus Ministry Bible Study @ Cantabria	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			TLC Preschool & Growing Tree Closed <b>OFFICES CLOSED</b>			
<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School <b>Deadline for items to be included in the Annual Report</b> <i>Ladies Aid Serves</i>	<b>6</b> 5:30 PM TLC Preschool Staff Training: "The Growing Brain"	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Bells	<b>8</b> 12:00 PM Women's Af-Anon 5:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Midweek Worship Choir Practice after Worship	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Trinity Weekly Deadline 1:00 PM Lois Circle 6:30 PM Campus Ministry Bible Study @ Cantabria	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School 11:30 AM Christian Singles <i>Youth Groups Serve</i>	<b>13</b> 7:00 PM Active Christian Fellowship	<b>14</b> 6:00 PM Bells	<b>15</b> 12:00 PM Women's Af-Anon 5:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Midweek Worship Choir Practice after Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM Ladies Aid Quilting 10:00 AM Trinity Weekly Deadline 6:30 PM Campus Ministry Bible Study @ Cantabria	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School  CONGREGATIONAL MEETING <i>Men Serve</i>	<b>20</b>  Martin Luther King Jr. Day  NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Eunice Circle 1:30 PM Naomi Circle 6:00 PM Bells	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM Women's Af-Anon 5:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Midweek Worship Choir Practice after Worship	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Trinity Weekly Deadline 6:30 PM Campus Ministry Bible Study @ Cantabria	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Worship w/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 10:30 AM Sunday School <i>Evening Guild Serves</i>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 1:30 PM Lydia Circle 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM Men's Group	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM Women's Af-Anon 5:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM Midweek Worship Choir Practice after Worship	<b>30</b> 10:00 AM Trinity Weekly Deadline 6:30 PM Campus Ministry Bible Study @ Cantabria	<b>31</b>	