

December 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church
Wee Disciples Preschool & Daycare
1226 1st Ave N
Great Falls, MT 59401-3201
(406) 452-2121



Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the man with dropsy by His Word on the Sabbath (Luke 14:1–6). He is the great physician of both body and soul. The paradoxical symptom of dropsy was an unquenchable craving for drink even though the body was over inflated with fluid, a craving that when indulged served not to ease but to feed the disease. And so if a man drinks a great deal, but is never filled, he sees a doctor to inquire about what ails him, what is wrong with his body and how to remedy it. For that is not thirst but a disease (Seneca, *Consolation to His Mother Helvia*, 11.3).

But if the owner of five couches goes looking for ten, or the owner of ten tables buys up as many again, and even though he has plenty of land and money, he remains unsatisfied and desires yet more, losing sleep and always in discontent, does he not also require a physician to diagnose the cause of this distress? For this is not want or lack, but a disease (Aristippus, quoted in Plutarch, *Love of Wealth*, 524b). As St. Augustine of Hippo wrote, “we may rightly compare the dropsical man to a covetous rich man: For the more the one is swollen with excess of water, the more he thirsts; so also the other: The more he abounds in riches . . . the more eagerly he desires them” (*The Sunday Sermons of the Great Fathers*, Vol. 4, 135). Both require physicians. Both require diagnosis and medicine applied from the outside to the inward being. For these are not desires to be fulfilled but diseases to be cured.

This is why our Lord instructs us on taking care not to be overmuch consumed by money. “No one can serve two masters . . . You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13). The point is that our desire for money, like the disease dropsy, is never satisfied. We always desire more. We always think, if I just had this much then I would be happy. But even when that much comes, which God gladly gives, that happiness evades us. For the desire for more of these things is never satisfied. It demands our constant energy—either in procuring more or protecting what we already have. When this happens, God, in His mercy, shows us that the money that He has given is no longer serving us, but we it. We have another master.

To overcome this, we need a physician’s diagnosis and a physician’s remedy. And our Lord, Jesus Christ, our great physician of both body and soul, like the man healed

of dropsy, applies His Word to us. He shows us how we have put our fear, our love, and our trust in our money and not feared, loved, and trusted in Him above all things. In essence, He says, “Stop it! Stop chasing after these fleeting things. They are vanity. They are the things that moth and rust destroy. For you cannot have two masters. Repent!” And in seeing our great error, we are sorry that we have not fully feared, loved, and trusted in God above all things. And, in the mercy and grace that He earned for us on the cross, He takes away this sin, restores us to health, and bids us live.

But then what? What do we do with this healing balm and care that our great physician has done? Do we simply go back to our old ways? “By no means!” St. Paul says (Romans 3:31; 6:2). We do not just go back to the old ways. That way is dead to us and leads us to death. No, we live a new life, a life filled with the grace, mercy, and love of God toward us. And God’s great mercy, grace, and love toward is so abundant that it overflows and pours out onto those around us. So we no longer hoard money and possessions. We no longer scrape and crawl our way to amass more. We give to those around us, as God in Christ has given to us. We press our money and possessions into service for those who need it: our family, our society, and our church. For money is God’s gift to us to serve us and others. Not the other way round. It serves us because it is a gift from our Father in heaven. (*From LCMS Stewardship Resources*)

Remember your gift from our Heavenly Father as you give this Christmas season.

Your shepherd in Christ
Pastor Gerald Paul



2015 Christmas Worship Schedule

December 2 ~ 1st Mid-Week Advent 7:30 pm
December 6 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am
December 9 ~ 2nd Mid-Week Advent 7:30 pm
December 13 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:00 am
December 16 ~ 3rd Mid-Week Advent 7:30 pm
December 20 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent 10:00 am
December 24 ~ **Christmas Eve Service** 7:00 pm
December 25 ~ **Christmas Day Service** 10:00 am
December 27 ~ 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 am
December 31 ~ **New Year’s Eve Service** 7:30 pm

2015 Holiday Schedule



- December 2 ~ Soup Supper – Elders** 6:00 pm
December 6 ~ Spuds & Splits Kitchen Fundraiser 5:00 pm
Choir Concert @ TLC ~ 7:00 pm
December 9 ~ Soup Supper – LWML 6:00 pm
December 12 ~ LWML Advent Brunch 10:00 am
December 16 ~ Soup Supper – Youth 6:00 pm
December 17 ~ Wee Disciple's Christmas Program 6:30 pm
December 18 ~ Congregational Christmas Caroling Party 6:30 pm

Spuds and Splits

Our next kitchen fundraiser is called *Spuds and Splits*. It will be held on **Sunday, December 6th at 5:00 pm**. The main course is a baked potato, with various toppings to choose from. Dessert will be ice cream, again with delicious options for on top. *Yum!* All served from our beautiful, new kitchen. Let's enjoy getting together for fellowship, food and fun.



Following the Spuds and Splits fun, join us in the Sanctuary for the 2nd Annual Peace and Trinity Choir Concert starting at 7:00 pm. The evening will feature both Peace and Trinity's vocal choirs and Trinity's handbell choir.

We will be adorning the altar and sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas. If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more poinsettias, please call the church office at 452-2121. You may designate your donation in honor or memory of loved ones.



The Altar Committee would like to thank the Erikson, Schuman, Shelden, Stene and Sommerfeld households for flowers that have beautified our altar throughout this church year, as well as a thank you to those who brought flowers anonymously. They have been very much appreciated.

When I say ... 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean up my mess.



"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"

Warm up your vocal chords and tune up you smile for the **First Annual Trinity Christmas Caroling Party!** Friday, December 18th the congregation is invite to gather at church at 6:30 pm. We will caravan to one or two of the local retirement homes and a few of our shut-in's homes and share the joy of the season with those who are not able to get out. We will end the evening back at church for hot cocoa and goodies. Plan to be a part of bringing the joy of the season to others and share in the fellowship.

Trinity LWML is sponsoring a Christmas bake sale in the Stahlecker Room on **Sunday, December 13**, immediately following the morning worship services. Proceeds from the sale will go to the kitchen remodeling fund.



For all of the bakers in the congregation--we are asking for donations of homemade cookies, bars and candies. We would like to have all of the baked goods brought to the church by noon on Saturday, December 12, so we can get everything arranged and ready for the sale. (If you can not bring them on Saturday, please bring them before services on Sunday morning.)

Baked items will sell for 50 cents apiece or \$4.00 a dozen. Buyers will be able to choose whatever variety of baked items they want and LWML volunteers will package and wrap the baked goods on plates or platters. (These trays of cookies will make great gifts!)

Also, this year instead of breads, we will be making up a plate of cookies as a Christmas gift for each of the shut-ins from our congregation. Donations of baked goods for this project would also be greatly appreciated.



DIRECTORY UPDATE
Fischer, Marge & Arnold
 3015 18th Ave S Apt 211

Please make note in your personal directories or keep this page for reference. If you missed a directory change, please feel free to contact the church office and we will get you the correct information.

- Cheryl Bauer, Church Secretary

The Wednesday morning Bible class continues their 12 lesson study on *Old Testament Characters*. They meet every Wednesday morning from 9:30am to 11:00am. Please join us for a morning of Bible study and fellowship time.



Friday Ladies Bible Class

Friday ladies bible class will continue their study of I Corinthians on December 4th and 18th from 1:00-3:00 pm at the home of Ann Nimmick, 2327 15th Ave S. There is an extra chair, a study booklet, and a cup of tea or coffee waiting for you! Always feel welcome!

Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and a devotion will meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 11:00 am at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave S. On Friday, December 11th at 11:45 am the group will gather for a *no host lunch* at The Prime Cut Restaurant, 3219 10th Ave S. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave S. How these residents love to sing Christmas carols! Come and join in the true meaning of Christmas!

Trinity Lutheran Church

Endowment Committee is now accepting requests for fund disbursement. The TLC Endowment Fund is a separate fund endowed by people whose goal was to further Christian education and mission work outside of the regular budget of Trinity Lutheran Church. The fund can only be used for Christian education and mission work in our community, state, country and around the world.



Please pick up an application, fill it out and return it to the church office before the December 13th deadline. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made a decision whether or not your request has been accepted or denied.

The following letter is from the seminary student that we adopted.



To all the saints at Trinity:
Grace and Peace be unto you in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

A western boy like myself is always delighted when he receives a letter from west of the Mississippi. I don't recall if I've ever spent any time in Great Falls, but I know I've at least passed through it after a road trip across western Canada with my father some years ago. A simple Google search tells me it's about six hours from my hometown of Worland, WY. A little about myself: My parents still live in Worland in the house they completed building in 1980. I have two older sisters. Julie lives in Montana with her husband, Matthew, and their daughter Anuhea. My oldest sister,

Karen, lives in Cockatoo, Victoria, just outside of Melbourne, Australia with her husband; they are expecting a child in November and I look forward to being able to spend the New Year with my family and my new nephew. The hot summer weather will provide a nice break from the Midwestern winter here in Fort Wayne. My home congregation (St. Luke's, Worland) is a smaller church; the only LCMS parish for 30 miles in any direction, they see about 50 on a Sunday for worship. They have a young pastor from the Fort Wayne Seminary who has settled in well to small town life. I spent last summer in Baltimore, MD serving as summer vicar at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer under Reverend Roy Axel Coats. It proved to be an excellent experience and revealed to me my passion for inner city mission work. In many ways, the ghetto is not that different than Worland, WY: everyone know each other, everyone respects each other, and despite problems with drugs and violence, the community rallies around each other in times of need. As I prepare to be sent on vicarage in April, I take great comfort in the fact that through His Church, God will send me exactly where I need to be.

As the Lutheran world tends to be a small one, I send greetings to Pastor Paul from Andreas Albers, who lives across the hall from me in Calov dormitory. He is a seminarian in Oberursel, Germany and is on exchange for this year.

I thank you for your financial support, and I ask that you keep me and all seminarians in your prayers. The financial burden of seminary is eased by loving Christians like yourselves.

In Christ, Jacob H. Benson



Wee Disciples

Lutheran School & Child Care Center

Advent is such a special time to share with children. It is such a privilege to focus on Jesus' birth and share this special time with so many children. If you have a special way to share the Christmas message with children, please let us know if you would like to come spend a bit of time with a group of children (teachers will be there of course) or share your idea or materials with us.

Wee Disciples is going to have the Christmas Chapel on Dec. 17th at 6:30 p.m. We will have treats downstairs after the children share the message of Jesus birth. Everyone is invited to attend!

Wee Disciples will be closed on Dec. 24th and 25th for Christmas so staff can enjoy Christmas with their families. School aged children are invited to join us over break

between Dec. 21st and Jan. 4th. We are closed for New Year's Day but open the rest of the week.

We pray God's blessings as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

Debbie Lee, Director
 Telephone: 406-771-7882
 Email: childcare@trinity-mt.org



If you are interested in sharing your talents by serving on the Altar Guild we would greatly appreciate your help. There are no formal meetings and duties are a month at a time to fit your schedule, with duties shared

during Holy Week and Christmas. If you would be interested in just taking on one part of the altar duties such as filling the candles or washing the linens that would be appreciated as well. For more information please contact Denise Wegner at 452-2241 or 791-7275.



**JANUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE
 DECEMBER 21ST**

WORK DAY DECEMBER 24th @ 10:00 am

Comparison of Giving Report

For the Period January 1 through November 22, 2015

\$5000.00 was transferred to checking from Wilkins Foundation Distribution to help cover the bills paid. The offering for 11-22-15 was \$2,350.

After paying bills (11-24-15), TLC has about **\$1,770**. The next payroll (\$4,300) is scheduled for Monday, 11-30-2015. If the offering for 11-29-15 is not greater than \$2,530, TLC will not have enough cash to meet the payroll 11-30-15 and to pay bills at the beginning of December.

**To obtain this number, the projected income for 2015 (envelope \$171,366 + plate \$7,000) is divided by 52 or $\$178,366/52 = \$3,430$.

Remember that this number (\$178,366) is below our total budget needs. **If you have any questions, please call me at 761-7073.**

Gary Shelden, Treasurer

NEEDED	DATE	RECEIVED
** \$147,490	January-October	\$137,652
\$3,430	November 1	\$4,562
\$3,430	November 8	\$2,361
\$3,430	November 15	\$3,683
\$3,430	November 22	\$2,350
\$161,210	TOTAL	\$150,608

THANK YOU!!! THANK YOU!!!

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for their service as money counters in 2015: **Shawn & Jenny Shaw, Vi Biberdorf, Jim & Barb Going, Gary & Dayna Vik, Alan & Denise Wegner, James & Sarah Lautenschlager, and Marty & Cheryl Bauer.**

This valuable service is very much appreciated.

Also, a **SPECIAL THANK YOU** to:

- **Myrna Philipp** for tracking the individual contributions ☺☺
- **Vi Biberdorf and Barb Going** for tracking church attendance ☺☺
- **James Lautenschlager** for his assistance with payroll ☺☺
- **Chris Fleming** for keeping the computer system up and running ☺☺

Gary Shelden – Asst. Treasurer



May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength, faith, patience and peace to each of His own: **Gary Adams** at home; **Alice Irion** at daughter's home in Havre; **Wes Johnson** in Conrad; **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow; **Evelyn McNaight** at home; **Emma Millet** at Golden Eagles; **Gladine Nehus** in Helena; **Alvina Presler** at Cambridge Court; **Betty Quickenden** at home; **Char Reehl** at home; **Ruth Schwartzenberger** at home; **Myrtle Storhaug** at The Lodge; and **Ted Young** at Missouri River Manor.

Be sure to check out our website at www.trinity-mt.org. If you happen to have any ideas for content, wish to contribute to the website or notice any typographical errors, our Webmaster can be reached at support@trinity-mt.org.



We also have a Facebook page!

Be sure to 'Like'  us on Facebook!

Counters Needed

Offering Counters are needed to assist the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer count and record the offerings following each Sunday service. No experience is needed. Please see James Lautenschlager or call the church office (452-2121) if you are willing to assist.



WORD SEARCH GAME

Find 16 Books of the Bible

As promised here is the answer to last month's puzzle. How many did you find?

I once made a re**MARK** about the hidden books of the Bible (merely by a **FLUKE**). It kept people **LOOKING** So hard for the **fACTS** and for others it was a **REVELATION**. Some were in a **JAM**, **ESpecially** since the name of the books were not capitalized, but the **tRUTH** finally struck home to **NUMBERS** of readers. To others it was a real **JOB**. We want it to be **A MOST** fascinating few moments for you. **YES, THERE** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **JUDGES** to help them. I will quickly **admiT IT USually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **LAMENTATIONS** when it is found. A little lady says **sHE BREWS** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can **comPETE**. Relax now. There really are sixteen names of books in this story.



Trinity LWML is joining in a recycling project with other LWML groups in the Rocky Mountain District. Funds raised through this recycling project will be used to help with the Host Committee expenses for the 2017 LWML National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. A recycling box has been placed in the narthex for collection of these items.

Recycle Items Needed: Empty ink jet and laser jet cartridges

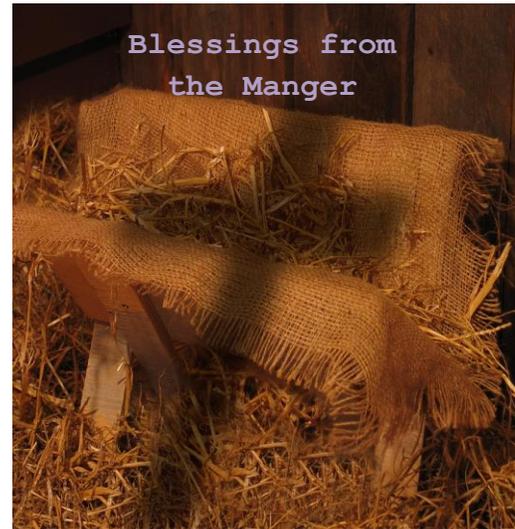
Also Accepting the Following Items with Their Cords and Accessories: Used cell phones, PDAs, MP3 Players/iPods, Digital cameras, DVD video games/players, GPS systems, Laptops, Scientific/Graphing calculators, Tablets, eReaders and iPads

ITEMS NOT NEEDED:

- **Epson Cartridges or Toner Tubes,**
- **Remanufactured Cartridges,**
- **Printing Film for Fax Machines,**
- **Ink Ribbons for Printers**

You're invited to Trinity LWML's annual

Advent Potluck Brunch



December 12 @ 10:00 a.m.
Trinity's Fellowship Hall

Breakfast casseroles will be provided.
Bring friends.

The more the merrier!

A freewill offering will be taken for a Montana missionary.

See you there!





<i>Ronald & Yvonne Lee</i>	<i>12/9/1983</i>	<i>Alvin & Kathleen Redenbaugh</i>	<i>12/27/1968</i>
<i>Jerry & Pam Grosenick</i>	<i>12/19/1970</i>	<i>Robert & Norma Nommensen</i>	<i>12/30/1954</i>
<i>Robert & Shelly Vernon</i>	<i>12/19/1981</i>		



12/3	Brielyn Ginnaty Nickolas Kessel		12/19 12/20	Evelyn Pearsall Matthew Maddox James Schuman Jr
12/4	Sarah Chapman Shantelle Hutchinson Aaron Neumann		12/22 12/23 12/24	Austin Johnson Michell Dalke Christopher Magis Cheyenne Sharrah
12/5	Donna Hayes Kelly Norris Courtney Walker		12/25 12/26	Kyle Huestis Lynette Copp Justin Lee Edgar Van Vleet
12/6	Kali Holmberg		12/27	Janelle Clausen Jarrid Clausen Jordan Larsen
12/13	Deryk Pearsall		12/28	Edward Hickel
12/14	Zeke Morrison John Shaw		12/30	Kenzie Legg Kaden Hill
12/16	Hui-Min Meehan Jessi Webb			
12/17	Hayden Olson			
12/19	Keith Dalke Sean Ginnaty			



...and Look Who's Celebrating 80+



12/2	<i>Jean Craven</i>
12/15	<i>Lydia Laubach</i>
12/23	<i>Eleanor Boumans</i>



December Baptismal Birthdays

12/1	<i>Ashlee Doll</i>	12/18	<i>Wesley Johnson</i>
	<i>Channing Hartelius</i>	12/19	<i>Kathie Sybrant</i>
12/3	<i>Heidi Paul</i>	12/21	<i>Ronald Lee</i>
12/4	<i>Evelyn McNaught</i>		<i>Cody Western</i>
12/5	<i>Nickolas Kessel</i>	12/22	<i>Dustin Dalla Mura</i>
	<i>Colton Martello</i>	12/23	<i>Rochelle Kimmerle</i>
	<i>Logan Stene</i>		<i>Yvonne Lee</i>
12/6	<i>Shelley McClellan</i>	12/26	<i>Hunter Hestekin</i>
12/12	<i>Donna Hayes</i>		<i>Betty Wandke</i>
12/13	<i>Cheryl Bauer</i>	12/29	<i>Sarah Chapman</i>
12/16	<i>Jacob Lietz</i>		<i>Johnathan Larsen</i>
	<i>Scott Mansch</i>		<i>Caitee Miesmer</i>
	<i>Patrick Norris</i>	12/30	<i>Rachel Hill</i>
12/17	<i>Kali Holmberg</i>	12/31	<i>John Shaw</i>



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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