



April 2018

Trinity Lutheran Church
Wee Disciples Preschool & Daycare
1226 First Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401-3201
(406) 452-2121



But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. (1 Corinthians. 15:20-23)

Our Father in heaven sent His Son, Jesus, to be our savior. His atoning sacrifice is the firstfruits of all the dead, a pleasing aroma to His Father – and ours – so that His perfect life and death count for all who believe in Him.

He claimed us as His own children in Holy Baptism. He sustains and strengthens our faith with His Holy Word and His Body and Blood. As new creatures, who have put on Christ, we bear good fruit. We do the good works prepared for us, which He makes known to us in His Word.

By faith then, trusting in the Word of God, we do what he says because He does not lie and always keeps His promises. For *“without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him”* (Hebrews 11:6).

And so the Lord promises: *“Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the firstfruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine”* (Proverbs 3:9-10).

How do we honor the Lord with the wealth that God has given us in His generosity? By giving it generously to those whom the Lord has called us to love and support: your family, your society, and your church. And His promise is that in so doing, you will never lack.

I can almost hear it now: *“But that’s from the Old Testament!”* But our Lord Jesus Himself gives us similar promises in the New Testament. He says, at the conclusion of the parable of the talents, *“For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance”* (Matthew 25:29).

And then at the end of the parable of the dishonest manager, he says: *“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in that which is another’s, who will give you that which is your own? No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money”* (Luke 16:10-13).

And in His sermon on the mount, he says: *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”* (Matthew 6:19-21).

We have become conditioned against these promises because of their misuse by the peddlers of the prosperity gospel – the guys on TV who say you get rich by putting God in your debt. And thus, we miss out on the fact that God does reward temporal faithfulness in temporal matters with temporal blessings.

It’s no quid pro quo. It’s all from God’s grace, His fatherly divine goodness and mercy. But those Bible passages just quoted do in fact say what they say! It’s not the Old Testament’s problem. It’s ours. It is almost as if we have become so jaded against this that we think it a virtue to be stingy with our offerings.

But our Father in heaven still loves to bless those who bless others. He loves to give to those who give freely and generously. In fact, he challenges us to challenge Him: *“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need”* (Malachi 3:10).

And so, while we don't give so that we would get, we do receive from the Lord in order to give, and He will bless your giving with more receiving. For *“He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things”* (Romans 8:32)? (LCMS Stewardship)

A blessed celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord!

Pastor Gerald Paul

MAY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE Monday, APRIL 23RD!!
THE LAMPLIGHTER WILL GO OUT ON THURSDAY, APRIL 26TH

A Letter from the Seminary Student We Support

Members of Trinity Lutheran,

Greetings once again from CTS in Fort Wayne, IN. I pray that all is well for you and that God's peace would be with you.

A couple of weeks ago I began the final quarter of my seminary career. This is an exciting and nerve-racking event. On the one hand I will finally be done with my formal education, yet on the hand I will soon be called to a congregation and assume all the responsibilities which that entails. There is only about a month left before that day when I find out where I will be called. It is already a bit of a challenge to continue focusing on school work with that thought lingering in the back of my mind. But, I must find a way to get it done all the same.

I continue to pray that all would go well for you. I am also continually grateful for your generosity and kindness in helping to support me as I finish my seminary career. Again, thank you for all that you have done, and may God bless you as you head toward the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

In Christ,

Gideon Pullmann

Wee Disciples Lutheran School and Child Care Center



Chapel each Wednesday allows us a time to hear this from Pastor Paul. We recently enrolled a three year old student. Each Wednesday she tells her Mom that they went to chapel. What a blessing to remember the most important part of your morning as you share your day with your parent at age three! Judy and Ruby have an amazing impact, as well, as they sing and pray with the children.

We are planning a field trip to Bundi Garden in April. We would love to have you join us – it is a place that is better enjoyed with many adults!!

Registration is now open for the summer and 2018-19 school year – including:

Preschool for ages 3 and 4

Summer childcare for ages 2-12

K-1 and school age care for after school

*God's blessings,
Debbie Lee ~ Director
and the Wee Disciples Staff*



May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength, faith, patience and peace to each of His own:

Alice Irion at a nursing home in Chinook; **Rachel Keely** at Park Place; **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow Retirement; **Richard Mauseth** at home; **Evelyn McNaight** at Missouri River; **Emma Millet** at Golden Eagles; **Alene Morrell** at Rainbow Retirement; **Gladine Nehus** in Helena; **Emil Neumann** at home: **Alvina Presler** (Millie Birkholz's mother) at Park Place; **Bud Quickenden** at Bee Hive Homes, Linden Home; **Dorothy Rosenberg** at Rivers Edge Assisted Living; **Ruth Schwartzenger** at home; **Gordan Stach** at home; **Myrtle Storhaug** at Golden Eagles; **Ted Young** at Missouri River Manor

We pray for those serving in the military:



Jaymes Crumley USAF; **Tech Sgt Jared Dudden USAF**; **Joshua Graham USA** (Sherrie Blomstrom's grandson-in-law); **Clifton Grilley USN** (Gary & Janet Headington's son); **Jared Grina USN** (Janet & Gary Headington's son-in-law); **Chaplain Scott Kerns, USAF LCMS** Chaplain at Malstrom; **Steffen Meeks USA** (Sherrie Blomstrom's grandson); **Brendan Murphy, USMC** (Gary & Sylvia Adams grandson); **Michael Somerfeld USN** (Gary & Mary Somerfeld's son); **Tech Sgt Tanner Tilton USAF** (Millie Birkholz's grandson); **Senior Airman Brady Toole USAF**



Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible study group will be starting a new Bible study on April 4th titled *Couples of the Old Testament*. Join us as we learn more about these couples—some more familiar to us than others. Couples we will be studying about include: Adam and Eve; Abraham and Sarah; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob and Rachel; Boaz and Ruth; Elkanah and Hannah; David and Abigail; Hosea and Gomer; King Xerxes and Esther. Each lesson is independent of the others. We meet every Wednesday morning from

9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Stahlecker Room. Join us for a morning of fellowship as we study God's Word together.

Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study



Men's Bible Study continue meeting on **Thursday mornings at 6:30 am** for an hour of study and fellowship. All the men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

April! Our Easter celebration of our Lord's resurrection is a new joy each year. The Easter message is our never ending spring song! Alleluias resound! May Christ's promise of our own resurrection inspire us to continue to worship, study His Word, and be His witnesses!



The **Friday Ladies Bible study** continues their study of the Psalms, the song and prayer book of the Bible. Join them on a Friday in April for an afternoon of fellowship and study of one of the Psalms. They will meet from 1:00-3:00 pm on Friday, April 6th, 13th, and 20th at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave S. Always know you are welcome!

Assisted Living Ministry with a devotion and hymn singing will meet at the following locations this month. On Tuesday, April 10th at 11:00 am ladies and gentlemen will meet at Bee Hive Home #2 (Clover), 2816 15th Ave S. The group will have a no host lunch on Friday, April 27th at 11:45 am at Wheat Montana, 1116 9th St S. After lunch many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave S. Come and share the Easter joy with these residents, as the Easter hymns bring God's message of Christ's resurrection!



Need a Ride to Church? Weather and roads keeping you from getting to Sunday worship? Just don't drive? Need a ride to church? Call the church office (406-452-2121) Thursdays before 3:00 pm and we have a group of people in the congregation who will be more than happy to give you a ride.

Drivers Needed! We are looking for individuals who would be willing to occasionally give a ride to church to some of our members who do not drive. If you would be willing to be on the “on-call” list, please contact the church office.

Comparison of Giving Report - 2018

**For the Period February 25th
through March 18th
Comparison of Income to our
Monthly budget needs**



Our **minimum monthly budget need** is: \$16,450
Actual giving for report period ~ \$16,477

a surplus of \$27

February 25 th	\$2,946
March 4 th	\$4,668
March 11 th	\$4,461
March 18 th	\$4,402

If you have any questions, please call me at 868-2260. *James Lautenschlager, Assistant Treasurer*

Many asked for the recipe for Irish Soda Bread from our St. Patrick’s Day dinner. So here it is:

IRISH SODA BREAD

- 2 cup flour
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup raisins
- 2 eggs - beaten
- 1 ½ cups buttermilk
- 1 tablespoon canola oil

In large bowl, combine the first five ingredients. Stir in raisins. Set aside 1 tablespoon beaten egg.

In a bowl, combine the buttermilk, oil, and remaining eggs; stir into flour mixture just until moistened (dough will be sticky).

Transfer to a greased 9” round baking pan; brush top with reserved egg.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted near center comes out clean.

Cool 10 minutes before removing from pan to wire rack to cool. Cut into wedges.



Please update your directories with the following changes. If you are missing any information, please call the church office and we will get the update to you.

LEISHMAN, Ilene

*address change
1919 Hillcrest Drive
Polson, MT 59860-7232*

Endowment Committee ~ The



Endowment Committee met in March to review the submissions for the distribution for 2018. Members present were Jenny Shaw, James Lautenschlager, James Neumann, Kathie Sybrant and Keener Boyce. The distributions were made to the following:

Pastor Andrew Schlund – Mexico	\$ 3,000
Pastor Douglas Thompson – Sierra Leone	\$ 3,000
Pastor David Warner – Spain	\$ 3,000
Pastor David Preus – Dominican Republic	\$ 3,000
Pastor Eric Stinnett – Ethiopia	\$ 3,000
John & Jen Wolf – Kenya	\$ 3,000
Great Falls Rescue Mission	\$ 2,000
Issues Etc. radio broadcast	\$ 1,000
Wee Disciples (computers)	\$ 2,000
South African Seminary	\$ 8,000
Trinity Lutheran Camp	\$ 3,000
Lame Deer Project	\$ 9,000
Total distribution	\$43,000.00



A warm thank you to Tanya Berry for the presentation she gave about ECHOZ Pregnancy Care Center. ECHOZ just recently passed an accreditation and is amongst the top 10 percent of clinics in the nation.

A warm thank you to the women who brought cookies for the shut ins. Also, a warm thank you to the women who delivered them to our shut ins.

PLEASE NOTE: April’s Group Gathering has been changed from April 14th to April 7th at 9:30.

The April Group Gathering will be a business meeting followed by filling the 50 backpacks for Pastor Dan Jacobs. At May’s Group Gathering, there will be an election of officers. The ballot will be the offices of **President** and **Vice President of Christian Growth**. Please prayerfully consider serving in one

of these. Also at the May meeting Bill Salonen from the Cameron Family Center at the Great Falls Rescue Mission will be giving a presentation. Watch for more details in the May Lamplighter.

Early bird registration for the Montana District Convention is open until March 31st. Trinity LWML has two delegates for the Convention in Missoula, April 20th - 22nd. If you would like to be delegate, please let one of the board members know. You will also need Pastor Paul's signature.

Upcoming events:

April 7th ~ Trinity LWML Group Gathering

April 20-22, 2018 - Montana District Convention, First Lutheran, Missoula, "Every Tongue Confess"

April 25th – LWML Board meeting

May 12th ~ Trinity LWML Group gathering

May 12th - LWR Pickup

May 30th – LWML Board meeting

September 21-23, 2018 - Fall Retreats, "As Far as the East is from the West"

The Lutheran Witness and Portals of Prayer ~ It

is time again to renew our subscriptions to *The Lutheran Witness* and *Portals of Prayer*.

The Lutheran Witness subscription is \$15.96 for a year and the *Portals of Prayer* subscription is \$8.60 for regular size; \$16.00 for digest size; and \$17.00 for large print.

If you are currently receiving these items and wish to continue those subscriptions, please place your renewal check in the offering plate, mail it or bring it to the church office. **Be sure to indicate what you are subscribing to with specifics so that we get the products you want. Deadline is Monday, April 2, 2018!**



Looking for an alternative web-based LCMS supported radio station? KFUAO is the Lutheran Radio Broadcast Church-Missouri Synod answer. On the web at www.kfuoam.org they broadcast seven days a week from 6:00 am to 8:00 pm Mountain Time (times vary by month). Check them out on the web at www.kfuoam.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.



Once again with the coming of spring we look to celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates of our congregation. If you or a family member are graduating this spring please let the church office know so that we can include you (them) in our May addition of the Lamplighter. You can write up a short article about the person or just give the office the information (name, birth date, parents, siblings, school graduating from, special awards, future plans, etc.) and we will write the piece for you. Don't forget to include a picture of your graduate. You can bring this into the office or email it to trinity@trinity-mt.org. The deadline for the May Lamplighter is Monday, April 23, 2018.

Amazing Grace!

This June, at the end of the confirmation retreat, Trinity will be hosting its first ever Amazing Grace - a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family, old and young. Teams race from one clue to the next and do a variety of activities to fulfill the criteria outlined in the clues. They find answers to their clues in the bible and the catechism. Marshals man every clue-station to make sure everything is done correctly and to provide racers with the next clue.

To find out more information on how this action-packed race works, and how you can participate as a racer or as a marshal, or as an onlooker, please come to the luncheon provided for you on **Sunday, April 8th**, after the service.



Marty ♥ Jenny Eberly (13)

April 2nd



April 1 st	Anita Pecukonis
April 2 nd	Louise Keith
April 3 rd	Alec Jones
April 4 th	Jenny Eberly
April 6 th	Nathan Green, Teddy Young
April 7 th	Emma Millett (80+)
April 8 th	Emil Neumann (80+) , Myrna Philipp
April 9 th	Ryan Copp, Emma Paul
April 10 th	Trey Man, Nevaeh McCurdy
	Bill Wegner (80+)
April 11 th	Molly Jones
April 13 th	Jeannine Eastley, Amayah Hill
	Colleen Mans
April 14 th	Cindy Stene
April 16 th	Lidia Neumann (80+) , Gary Vik
April 17 th	David Sand
April 18 th	Amanda Mansch
April 19 th	Monique McCurdy, Michelle Neumann
	Rev Gerald Paul
April 21 st	Garrett Nelson
April 24 th	Carl Andersen, Haley Hansen
	Rick Hutchinson, Diane Thompson
April 26 th	Wes Bauer, Hannah Houle
April 27 th	Treve Mans
April 28 th	Sandra Heinert,, Brent Stanger
	Arleen Nelson (80+)
April 29 th	Len Christianson



April 1 st	Austin Johnson
	Lauretta Stanfield
April 2 nd	Terry Pearsall
April 3 rd	Louise Kuki
	Nathan Redenbaugh, Zechary Redenbaugh
April 5 th	Roy Arves, Bill Sybrant
April 6 th	Sandy Baranko, Bob Blomstrom
	Marjory Fischer
April 8 th	Chad Mans
April 9 th	Olivia Martello, Jay Schlecht
April 10 th	Jarrid Clausen, Kynslie Dear
	Brielyn Ginnaty, Janelle Houle
	Nevaeh McCurdy, Ruth Schwartenberger (80+)
April 11 th	Jordan Larsen, Jill O'Moore
April 12 th	Kay Kessel
April 13 th	Jan Bicsak, Rick Hutchinson
	Kayla Kelly
April 14 th	Jenny Eberly, Dylan Grilley
April 16 th	Cheri Hansen, Haley Hansen
	Niklas Hansen
April 19 th	Derek Jones
April 21 st	Bob Magis
April 22 nd	Chris Magis
April 23 rd	Millie Birkholz, Matthias Paul
April 24 th	Sylvia Adams, Shelly Vernon
	Linda Wade
April 27 th	Tracy Miesmer, Bonnie Nommensen
April 29 th	Emma Paul