

DECEMBER 2014

The Light of the World

John 1:6-8 "There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light."

Every Christmas tree is a family's John the Baptist: it's not the light, but it sure bears witness to the light (John 1:8). The tree isn't what Christmas is all about, but each evening as the family relaxes in that special room, all those tiny lights remind us of the one who came to be the light of the world.

You know how it is when you decorate your Christmas tree. You wind those strings of lights around and around the tree, spacing them as carefully as you can, trying to spread a web of lights uniformly over the whole tree to avoid any bare spots. But you know there's only one way to judge whether you've succeeded. You plug in the strings, step away from the tree, and squint. Shut your eyes down to a narrow slit until you can see nothing but the glows themselves. The wires and the individual branches disappear. The nonessentials, even the tree itself, are blocked out. Now you can see just what you need to see, just the lights. John had a way of enabling people to see just the light: "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord' " (John 1:23). Everything else, out of the way! No detours, no curving off course! No sins, no other gods, no distractions.

Advent is the time to get those nonessentials out of the way! The light of the world is coming, and he's the only thing you want to see! John even made sure that he, the tree, faded out of sight. All so we could see the light. Since we have been brought to the light through the Gospel, let us use this time during Advent to de-clutter our lives from all the stuff we have filled our lives with during the year. Let the light, Jesus Christ himself, be the center of all we think, say, and do. "Prepare the way for the Lord!" We remember his coming as a babe in Bethlehem, so that he could go to the cross and die for all our sins and win for us the victory over sin, death, and hell. He rose again to give us everlasting life. Now we expectantly wait for his glorious return, where he will take us to himself.

Advent gives us ample opportunity to receive Christ as he comes to us in his Word and the Sacraments. Through these means he keeps us ready for his second coming. These means keep us focused on him; the light of the world.

Enjoy the time with family and friends around the Advent wreath and the Christmas tree and let these lights again point you to the light of the world himself!

Wishing you a blessed Advent and a joyous Christmas tide!

Pastor Gerald Paul

You're invited to Trinity LWML's annual

Advent Potluck Brunch



**December 13
9:30 a.m.**

**Trinity's
Fellowship Hall**

Please bring a
brunch item to
share

Brings friends.
The more the
merrier!

If you wish, you may also bring small loaves of bread for shut-ins

A freewill offering will be taken for Seminarian Marcus Williams
who is supported by Trinity.

See you there!

Wee Disciples Lutheran School & Child Care Center



We are very thankful for our new part of the Trinity Web Site! It is amazing and we would like to thank Heidi and everyone who made the web site possible. It is such a great resource!!

Thank you to everyone who supported our Art Auction – the first attempt at this event. We enjoyed the art prepared by the children – it was fun to leave it for the Sunday Bible Class to enjoy! Church families provided very nice foods for us to enjoy at the event and stayed to meet some of the children and their families.

Wee Disciples is going to have the Christmas worship/program on December 18th at 6:30 pm. We will have treats downstairs after the children share the message of Jesus birth. Everyone is invited to attend!

We will learn and have devotions with the Advent Wreath prepared by the youth this year. It is so important to see how the service of the youth can benefit so many areas of our church family!

Wee Disciples will be closed on December 24th and 25th for Christmas so staff can enjoy Christmas with their families. School aged children are invited to join us over break between December 22nd and January 2nd. 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.
Wee Disciples Staff

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



FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS

**During the winter months the FRIDAY LADIES BIBLE CLASS will be in recess.
Snowbird activity affects this group.**

Assisted Living Ministry continues no matter what the weather! Ladies and gentlemen committed to this activity will meet at the following locations for hymn singing and a devotion. On Tuesday, December 9th at 11:00 am at Bee Hive Home #1, 2816 15th Avenue South. On Friday, December 12th, the group will gather for a no host lunch at 11:45 am at 4 B's Restaurant, 4610 10th Avenue South. Afterward many of the group will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Avenue South. As part of your Advent Walk try to join in part of this ministry. Singing Advent and Christmas carols with the residents brings the true meaning of the season to all involved!



Christmas Worship Schedule

Advent Services

Wednesdays ~ December 3rd, 10th, 17th ~ 7:30 pm
(preceded by soup suppers at 6:00 pm)

Wee Disciples Christmas Program

Thursday ~ December 18th ~ 6:30 pm

Combined Christmas Service at Peace Lutheran Church

Sunday ~ December 21st ~ 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday ~ December 24th ~ 7:00 pm

Christmas Day Service

Thursday ~ December 25th ~ 10:00 am

New Year's Eve Service

Wednesday ~ December 31st ~ 7:00 pm



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.



CALENDAR AND CARD SALES

It is that time of the year again. Time to prepare our hearts and homes for Advent and Christmas and time to get a new calendar for the coming new year. Trinity Youth have just what you need. We have beautiful "God's Creation" calendars and card packs for sale again this year. Stop by the table in the Narthex and choose from a selection of card packs (both Christmas and general purpose) as well as calendars, pocket calendars, magnetic notepads and small notepads. These are perfect stocking stuffers for most anyone you may know. Calendars and Greeting card packs are \$7.00 each and pocket calendars are \$6.00 each.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS are available at the back of the sanctuary. If you would prefer to read or listen to them online, you may go to the website at www.adventdevotions.net. You may also subscribe to the devotions and receive them by email every day. You may subscribe (free) to just the seasonal devotions or to the daily devotions all year long.

A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

COMPARISON REPORT

Comparison of Income This Year to the amount Needed
For the Period January 1 through November 23, 2014



DATE	NEEDED	RECEIVED
January-October	\$138,761	\$138,532
November 2	\$3,227	\$3,493
November 9	\$3,227	\$3,226
November 16	\$3,227	\$3,128
November 23	\$3,227	\$3,545
TOTAL	\$151,669	\$151,924

**** To obtain this number, the projected income for 2014 (envelope \$162,772 + plate \$5,000) is divided by 52 or $\$167,772/52 = \$3,227$. Remember that this number (\$167,772) is below our total budget needs. So we are tracking what has been pledged - if I can use that word. Hopefully, the actual giving will be FAR ABOVE this number.**

If you have any questions, please call me at 761-7073.
Gary Shelden, Treasurer



PEACE LUTHERAN YOUTH SKI & SWIM RETREAT

**Peace Lutheran Church is sponsoring a Youth Ski and Swim Retreat
Friday through Sunday, December 19th through the 21st.**

Friday night is dinner, devotions, fellowship and games at Peace Lutheran Church. Saturday will include breakfast, a bus trip to Showdown Ski area for a day on the slopes and after skiing, they will go to White Sulphur Springs for pizza and swimming before returning back to Great Falls for sleep. Sunday morning will include breakfast and worship. If you would like to join them for a fun ski weekend, you may pick up agendas and registration forms in the church office or speak with Jamey Wheeler.

VAN AVAILABLE – SUNDAY MORNINGS

The church van is available for individuals who are shut-in to attend services at Trinity. Please contact Kathie Sybrant at 231-1291. Pick up will now be every Sunday, because Holy Communion will be celebrated every week. **Drivers are needed!** If you would be interested in helping drive, please call the church office. If three or four people would be willing to serve in this area, you would only have to drive approximately one Sunday a month.



ON CALL TRUSTEE FOR DECEMBER: Barry Eastley



December ANNIVERSARIES

December 9 Ron ♥ Yvonne Lee
 19 Jerry ♥ Pam Grosenick
 19 Robert ♥ Shelly Vernon
 27 Alvin ♥ Kathleen Redenbaugh

December 28 George ♥ Myrtle Pence – **50th!**
 30 Fred ♥ Heather Hoffman
 30 Robert ♥ Norma Nommensen – **60th!**



December 2 Jean Craven
 3 Brielyn Ginnaty
 Nickolas Kessel
 4 Sarah Chapman
 Shantelle Hutchinson
 Aaron Neumann
 5 Donna Hayes
 Kelly Norris
 Courtney Walker
 6 Kali Holmberg
 13 Deryk Pearsall
 Zeke Morrison
 John Shaw
 15 Lydia Laubach
 16 Hui-Min Meehan
 Jessi Webb
 17 Hayden Olson

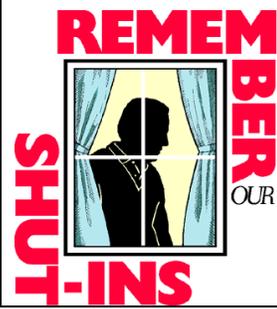
December 19 Keith Dalke
 Sean Ginnaty
 Evelyn Pearsall
 20 Matthew Maddox
 22 Austin Johnson
 23 Eleanor Boumans
 Michell Dalke
 24 Christopher Magis
 26 Lynette Copp
 Justin Lee
 Ed VanVleet
 27 Janelle Clausen
 Jarrid Clausen
 Jordan Larsen
 28 Ed Hickel
 Kenzie Legg
 30 Kaden Hill



BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

December 1 Ashlee Doll
 Channing Hartelius
 3 Heidi Paul
 4 Evelyn McNaught
 5 Nickolas Kessel
 Colton Martello
 Logan Stene
 6 Shelley McClellan
 12 Donna Hayes
 13 Cheryl Bauer
 16 Jacob Lietz
 Scott Mansch
 Patrick Norris
 17 Kali Holmberg

December 18 Wes Johnson
 19 Kathie Sybrant
 21 Ron Lee
 Cody Western
 22 Dustin Dalla Mura
 23 Rochelle Kimmerle
 Yvonne Lee
 26 Hunter Hestekin
 Betty Wandke
 29 Sarah Chapman
 Johnathan Larsen
 Caitee Miesmer
 30 Rachel Hill
 31 John Shaw



TRINITY SHUT-INS

May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength and faith, patience and peace to each of His own: **Gary Adams** at home, **Bob & Sherrie Blomstrom** at home, **Ellen Carpenter** at Eagles Manor, **Wes Johnson** in Conrad, **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow, **Jacob Lietz** at home, **Evelyn McNaight** at home, **Emma Millet** at Golden Eagles, **Gladine Nehus** in Helena, **Alvina Presler** at Cambridge Court, **Ruth Schwartzenberger** at home, **Myrtle Storhaug** at The Lodge and **Ted Young** in Helena.



Dear Members of Trinity,

In order to keep names, addresses, phone numbers, etc. current in our Church Directories, in each Lamplighter, we will be publishing all new and changed information for your directories. Please take a moment to take this page out of your Lamplighter each month, and put it in your directory. If you misplace this page with the new information on it, just give me a call here at the church 452-2121, and I'll be happy to get you the page you are missing.

Thank you!

God's blessings, Vicki Roath, Secretary

✝ **NOTE: Pastor Paul's Cell Phone Number is 307-413-9671** ✝

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES: (December 2014)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1) ADELMEYER , Michael & Karla | New Members: | Address: | 705 14 th St N, GF 59401 |
| | | Phone: | 403-1288 |
| 2) SOMMERFIELD , Scott & Jordan | New Member: | Address: | 3920 4 th Ave S, GF 59405 |
| | | Phone: | 836-2527 |



Be sure to check out our **NEW** 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, please click on the "**Contact Us**" link on the website.

We also have a Facebook page! Be sure to 'Like' us on Facebook!



PLEASE GET ANY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND UPDATED INFORMATION FOR THE CHURCH DIRECTORY TO THE CHURCH OFFICE PRIOR TO THE LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE EACH MONTH. THANK YOU!!



Trinity Lutheran Church

www.trinity-mt.org

Also visit & "like" our Facebook Page

Concordia Publishing House

www.cph.org

Higher Things

www.higherthings.org

Issues, Etc.

www.issuesetc.org

LCMS

www.lcms.org

Lutherans for Life

www.lutheransforlife.org

LWML

www.lwml.org

Montana District-LCMS

www.mtdistlcms.org

The Lutheran Hour

www.lutheranhour.org

The Lutheran Witness

www.lcms.org/witness

The Reporter

www.lcms.org/reporter