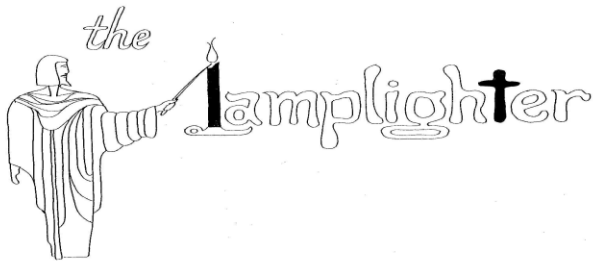


You will find the Lamplighter following this page.

Please be advised that due to a computer failure at Trinity we do not have a calendar or the Anniversaries page. These items were unfortunately lost.

Look for the “new and improved” Lamplighter, calendar and all the attachments next month.

Thank you and God bless.



February 2017

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

Time, Talents, And Treasures

We've all heard that stewardship is giving to the church of our time, talents, and treasure. This alliterative trinity helps us see that giving is not just about money, but about our whole lives. For God has given us everything we have and enjoy as we confess in the meaning to the First Article of the Apostle's Creed. And what we confess first among those is that God gives us "our body and soul, our eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses." Only then do we confess that he gives us material things. Thus the time, talents, and treasure trinity places before our eyes the fact that we are to give something of all of these things toward the mission of the church in thanksgiving for what God has provided. For everything we have and indeed everything we are comes from God's fatherly divine goodness and mercy.

The problem with this alliterative trinity comes when we replace one little word with another little word—when we replace the word *and* with the word *or*. It is always written with the "**and**", but when we read it, we read it with the "**or**". Thus this quite helpful trinity, which extolled that everything that we have and are is a gift from God and which is to be pressed into the service of God in His church, turns into a trinity that we can pick and choose which of the trinity we use into the service of God. The giving of our time, talents, *and* treasure turns into the giving of our time, talents, *or* treasure.

Then the question arises: Can we give of our time and talents instead of our treasures? Or perhaps it is the other way round: Can we give our treasure and not of our time and our talents? But these are the wrong questions. The right question is, can we give of our time and our talents in addition to our treasure? Yes, indeed, we are called to give of all three. The things that God gives us are not to be pitted against one another. They are given to us and we are to press them all into God's service for benefit of His church and our neighbors in need.

Thus we give all three. We give our treasure in the form of a generous, first-fruits, proportion of our income. We give of our time in generosity for the benefit of Christ's holy church. We give of our talents in the same manner. Since God gave us all these things, we are called to give generously of all these things in faith toward Him and in fervent love to our neighbors.

For God has provided all these things to us. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He gives us each time, talents, **AND** treasures as a means to bless those around us. We serve our neighbors with these things, blessing them with the blessings in which God has blessed us. We give of our time, talents, and treasures to our families, our society, and to our church, our local congregations. And we do this because we know that we are not our own. Rather, we belong to God. We have been bought with a price—with the holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. He gave everything—His time, His talents, and His treasure,—to have us as His own and to live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness. We have these things as gifts and blessings from God. Let us then press them all into service for the sake of His love—time, talents, and treasures together. (*From LCMS Stewardship Ministries*)

Your shepherd in Christ

Pastor Gerald Paul

Wee Disciples Lutheran School and Child Care Center



Wee Disciples Infant Toddler Caregiver position opening. We are seeking a Christian caregiver for children ages 6 weeks to 2 years of age. Childcare experience is preferred but training will be provided. Hours are 7:30 am -12:30 pm Monday to Friday. Starting wage is dependent on previous experience.

Wee Disciples Custodial position opening. Care of God's House: Preparing the church for use by Wee Disciples and Trinity. All lower level areas would need to be cleaned, including the fellowship hall, classrooms and bathrooms. Set up for Bible Class and church functions such as meals would be helpful. Also, every Friday afternoon/evening for approximately 3 hours with additional hours possible.

For more information on either position, please contact Debbie Lee via email at wee.disciples@gmail.com or text/call 406-799-5881.

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

MARCH LAMPLIGHTER AND CALENDAR **DEADLINE** FEBRUARY 20TH!!

The **Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study** is continuing with the Bible study *Forgiveness*. We will finish this study by the middle of February and plan to then do the three Bible studies in the Winter 2016 *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. We meet every Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Stahlecker Room and we have lots of extra chairs! Please join us for a morning of fellowship and Bible study.



Days are cold and snowy in February. But the atmosphere is warm and friendly in Ann Nimmick's home, where the **Friday Ladies Bible Class** continues their study of Matthew. They will meet for Bible study from 1:00-3:00 pm on February 3rd, 10th, and 24th at Ann's home, 2327 15th Ave S. Hot tea, coffee, and a warm welcome are waiting for you!



Assisted Living Ministry with hymn singing and devotions continues during these frosty weeks of February. Join the ladies and gentlemen at the following locations. They will meet at Bee Hive Home #2, 2816 15th Ave S, on Tuesday, February 14th at 11:00 am. On Friday, February 17th at 11:45 am friends will meet for a no host lunch at El Comedor Restaurant, 1120 25th St S. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave S. Come and share God's love with these wonderful residents!

As part of February's Youth and Sunday School/Midweek Month in the journey toward our 125th Anniversary Celebration, our young people would like to ask the congregation for help in compiling a list of **125 Random Acts of Kindness**. Please share acts of kindness you may already have taken part in, or ideas you may have for kindness to be shared in church and our community, and we'll have a poster board out in the narthex for you to write them down throughout the month. Examples that the young people in our congregation will be starting with this month are: helping out with ushering, volunteering to acolyte, and providing cookies for the after church fellowship. At the end of February the ideas will be reviewed by the youth, who will put as many kind acts as possible into play over the next few months. Thank you so much for your help.

Save the Date: February 18, 2017



Trip to Italy

The Trinity Youth Group would like to invite you to celebrate the month of Amore and join us on a Trip to Italy... via dinner, on **Saturday, February 18, 2017** from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. We will tantalize your taste buds with a selection of pasta and homemade sauces, salad, garlic bread, a yummy dessert, and a beverage. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to help defray costs to send our youth to the Higher Things Conference at Montana State University in Bozeman, July 18-21, 2017. Cost for dinner will be \$10.00 per adult, \$6.00 for children 10 and under, or \$30.00 per family. A “reservation” sheet will be posted in the narthex to give us an idea of how many are planning to join us for dinner, but walk-ins are encouraged and appreciated. Tickets for the dinner will also be available for advance purchase in the Narthex on Sunday February 5th & 12th, or through the Church Office.

Comparison of Giving Report - 2017

For the Period January 1st through January 22nd

Comparison of Income to our Monthly budget needs ~ January

Our Monthly budget need for January: \$16,070

Actual Giving to date ~ \$12,626

\$3,444 needed for January 29th

The offerings and attendance since last report:

January 1 st	\$2,594	Attendance:	64
January 8 th	\$2,923		84
January 15 th	\$3,544		105
January 22 nd	\$3,565		90



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

The following is my estimate for dollars needed each month in 2017: Please remember that we are talking **minimums** here. The expenses considered here are only **PART** of the 2017 Work Plan - payroll, utilities, and a few other monthly bills. There are a whole host of items in the 2017 Work Plan that are not included in this \$16,070.

MONTHLY EXPENSES

Utilities (electric, heating, telephone, water/sewer)	\$ 1,658
Montana District pledge	\$ 1,083
Concordia Plan (Pastor, Secretary)	\$ 2,480
Payroll (\$4,750 twice a month)	\$ 9,500
Synod Student Assistance	\$ 133
Kenco Security	\$ 57
SBE Copier Maintenance	\$ 150
GF Tribune Advertising	\$ 145
Groundskeeping (to cover lawn expense)	\$ 100
To cover quarterly payments (see below)	\$ 764
TOTAL PER MONTH	\$16,070

*\$16,070 ÷ 4.34 weeks per month = about \$3,703 per week (again this is the minimum needed)

QUARTERLY PAYMENTS (Dollars paid out each quarter that must be collected during the quarter)

Property Insurance	\$6,616 per year
Elevator Maintenance	\$1,600 per year
Montana State Fund	\$ 952 per year
	TOTAL PER YEAR
	\$9,168

\$9,168 ÷ 12 months = \$764 per month

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

The total giving in 2016 was \$180,416.

\$180,416 ÷ 52.14 weeks = about \$3,460 (average giving per week)

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Comparing the needs per week in 2017 with the actual giving per week in 2016, the minimum TLC deficit will be \$243 per week or \$12,670 for the year, if giving does not increase. All the estimates given do not include any funds from the Davis Trust. The Davis Trust allotment for 2017 is \$14,076. If giving stays the same, most of the Davis Trust allotment will be used to pay just the basic bills.

If giving does not increase or falls below the minimum needed or falls below the minimum needed, TLC will really struggle financially in 2017.

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

QUARTERLY VOTER'S MEETING ~ Don't forget the Quarterly Voter's Meeting Sunday, February 26, 2017 immediately following the Divine Service. All members of Trinity who are at least 18-years-old are invited and encouraged to come and be a part of the process of making decisions about Trinity.



May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength, faith, patience and peace to each of His own: **Gary Adams** at home; **Rev. Arnold & Marjory Fischer** at The Grandview; **Alice Irion** at her daughter's home in Havre; **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow; **Richard & Melba Mauseth** at home; **Evelyn McNaight** at home; **Emma Millet** at Golden Eagles; **Alene Morrell** at Hosanna House; **Gladine Nehus** in Helena; **Bob & Norma Nommensen** at home; **Alvina Presler** at Park Place; **Audrey Remus** at Golden Eagles; **Ruth Schwartzenberger** at home; **Myrtle Storhaug** at Golden Eagles; and **Ted Young** at Missouri River Manor.

The audio/video crew is looking for a few good people! Our video ministry goes out each week to a number of our shut-ins and is an important part of their continuing connection to the church. No experience is needed, we will teach you what you will need to know. If you would be interested in helping with this very important ministry contact the church office for more information.



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.

We need **YOUR** help with these remaining 125th Anniversary activities and invite you to get together with one or two friends to take on the planning of the celebration one month. Please contact one of the members of the 125th Anniversary Committee. We will gladly work with you.

April	Catechism
May	Confirmation
June	Missions
July	Marriage - already working
August	Baptism
September	Lord's Supper



November 18, 2017 (tentatively)

125th anniversary celebration of Trinity Lutheran Church

Thank you and God's blessings,

The 125th Anniversary Committee ~ Cheryl Bauer (406) 231-3968; Jay Schlecht (406) 761-4510; Heidi Paul (307) 413-9672; Lauretta Stanfield (406) 788-2353



Thank you to everyone who helped with set up, clean up, decorating, providing food, and participating in the *Spuds and Splits*. There were 66 people who attended.

Thank you to those who set up the LWML display and for the Trivia tidbits in the Grace notes.

The 2017 LWML Mission projects are:

Indian Ministry Project - Summer VBS program in Ronan

Grace Home (*A transitional living center for homeless veterans*)

The Farm in the Dell project (*The Farm in the Dell is an alternative to town-based group homes. The Farm provides a residential and vocational opportunity in a rural, farm-like setting for adults with developmental disabilities.*)

A special 2017 project will be Wee Disciples.

LWML National Convention Projects: Just a reminder to those of you who are making scrubbies and dish cloths for LWML National Convention--there are specific guidelines for colors, etc. They would like you to use the colors purple, lilac, or white or a combination of those colors. See *The Montana Missive* for the exact details! There are also other projects listed that they need help with in preparation for the convention in June.

Upcoming:

There will not be a group gathering in February ~ instead there will be a work day for making the backpacks for the National Convention, on Friday, February 3rd. There may need to be more work days added later to finish up the backpacks.

The LWML Board meeting will be February 22nd at 11:15 am.

The March Group Gathering will be March 11th at 9:30 am.

The LWML 37th Biennial Convention is June 22-25, 2017 in Albuquerque, NM. The theme is *Jesus Christ Above All* the Scripture verse is *Philippians 2:9 ~ Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.*

Defending Life in the Post-Obama Era - The Montana Lutherans for Life State Gathering will be held **Friday, February 17th and Saturday, February 18th** at Peace Lutheran Church, 3340 11th Ave. S, Great Falls, hosted by Cascade County Lutherans For Life.

Our speaker, **Colonel John Eidsmoe**, from rural Alabama, is a retired Air Force Lt. Colonel, a Chaplain and a Professor of Law at Oak Brook College of Law and Government Policy. Currently he serves as Senior Counsel and Resident Scholar for the Foundation for Moral Law with the Alabama Supreme Court. He is an ordained pastor and serves on the National Board of Lutherans for Life. The author of 14 books, he is a Constitutional scholar, does seminars on a wide range of topics and we have heard that he adds humor to his presentations.

The theme, addresses the concept of your moral code, what God's Word and the Constitution state regarding issues we face in today's society, the gender issue, life issues and laws governing our actions being in the forefront.

Defending Life in.....the Church with the Scriptures

Defending Life in.....the Courts with the Constitution

Defending Life in.....the Legislature with the Media

Colonel Eidsmoe will do a session for high school students at Foothills Community Christian School on Friday morning addressing the topic **Defending Life in...The Classroom with Your Peers.**

The event will begin with a light meal on Friday evening. It will include sessions with Colonel Eidsmoe on Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon. A continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday will also be provided. To assist us in our planning it would be helpful to contact us if you plan to attend.

To learn more about our speaker, visit the speakers' bureau on the Lutherans For Life website. www.lutheransforlife.org.

We encourage anyone interested in Truth, Constitutional Law and Life issues to attend. For more information on Colonel Eidsmoe or the event, contact Jim or Barb Going, (email jim@iamgoing.com, or call 406-727-4878). Use these same numbers when registering for the event. **There is no charge for this educational event.**

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

2017 Officers and Board Members

President: Scott Mansch
Vice President: James Neumann
Secretary: Patty Jones
Treasurer: James Lautenschlager
Asst. Treasurer: Gary Shelden
Board of Elders: James Neumann, Chairman
Don Lee, Martin Bauer, Jerry Grosenick,
Bob Nommensen, Len Koelbel, Roy Arves,
Bill Sybrant, Dennis Philipp
Board of Trustees: Don Lee
Barry Eastley, Henry Schuman
Board of Education: Sarah Lautenschlager
Jamey Wheeler
Debbie Lee ~ Advisory

Board of Missions and Evangelism: OD Jones
Roy Arves, Len Koelbel
Board of Stewardship: OD Jones
Board of Youth: Dayna VanVleet, Chairperson
Cindy Stene, Alan Wegner
Board of Early Childhood Education:
Myrna Philipp, Chairperson
Jordan Sommerfield, Reverend Gerald Paul,
Heidi Paul, Rochelle Kimmerle,
Reverend Steven Schlund, Mitch Martin
Debbie Lee ~ Advisory
Endowments Committee: Keener Boyce
Jenny Shaw, Scott Sommerfeld, Kathy Sybrant
James Neuman