

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
1226 FIRST AVENUE NORTH
GREAT FALLS, MT 59401-3201

Jesus Loves:



Trinity Lutheran Church

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www.lwml.org

Montana District LCMS

www.mtdistlcms.org

The Lutheran Hour

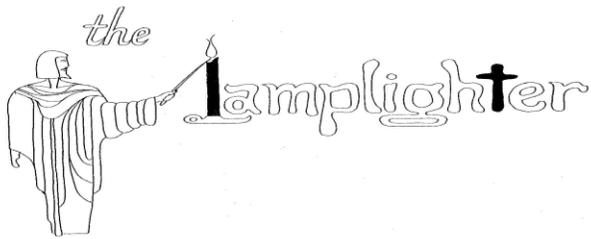
www.lutheranhour.org

The Lutheran Witness

www.lcms.org/witness

The Reporter

www.lcms.org/reporter



January 2018

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



“It Is More Blessed To Give Than To Receive”

It’s a new year. It’s a time when we take stock of the year past in order to improve the year to come. It’s a time when we sit down to plan and implement what we want to accomplish and even change. Part of that is planning our stewardship for the coming year.

Often we find this difficult and daunting and even joyless. But it doesn’t have to be. In fact, it is really quite simple and full of joy. So here are some tips to make that planning less stressful. You begin by answering these three questions: Who are you? To whom do I give? And how much?

So, who are you? The Table of Duties in the Small Catechism informs us. Are you a hearer of God’s Word? Are you a citizen of society? Are you a member of a family? Stewardship covers these three estates: church, society, family. We don’t particularly struggle to give to society or family. Our struggles, our difficulties and our questions arise in giving to the church.

So, what is our duty as members of the church with regard to giving? The Table of Duties, again, gives us a guide. If you are a hearer, a member of the church who receives instruction, St. Paul taught: “Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor” (*Galatians 6:6*). This means the local congregation is primary.

Your pastor is the one called to preach the Gospel to you and administer the Lord’s blessed sacraments to you. Your congregation is the place where those things happen. Thus, when God calls us to give to the church, He has the local congregation in mind. For “the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel” (*1 Corinthians 9:14*).

How much do we give to the local congregation? Our only instructions are these: to give regularly (*1 Corinthians 6:1-2*), proportionally (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:12*), and generously (*2 Corinthians 8:20*) of our first fruits (*Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9; Leviticus 27:30*) with a spirit of eagerness (*2 Corinthians 9:2*), earnestness (*2 Corinthians 8:7*), cheerfulness (*2 Corinthians 9:7*), and love (*2 Corinthians 8:23*).

In other words, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give regularly – weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly – keeping in mind our own strengths, weaknesses, and limitations. We set it aside beforehand – before anything else is spent.

From those first fruits, we set aside a proportionate and generous amount. Ten percent was the standard for the Israelites. This was a command for the ancient Israelites. We can give as much as we want, but ask yourself: do we really want to be less generous than was commanded of the Israelites? Is the job of the New Testament Church bigger or smaller than the job given to Israel?

And how are we to give it? We give it with eagerness and earnestness. We give it cheerfully and with love, not out of compulsion. For through the preaching of the gospel and the administration of the sacraments, God has made us His children, forgiven us all our sins, given us grace upon grace, promised us life everlasting with Him in His kingdom, and filled us with His own Spirit, the Holy Spirit. This makes giving a joy, as Jesus said, “it is more blessed to give than to receive” (*Acts 20:35*).

It's that easy. And it is joyful. For in stewardship, our gracious and giving Lord invites us to take part in the work that He accomplishes here on earth, providing for the ongoing preaching of the gospel as well as those who are in need. Taking part in that makes all our work holy – work that is done in service to the Lord as priestly members of His kingdom. *(From LCMS Stewardship Ministries)*

Wishing you blessed and generous 2018!

Your Shepherd in Christ

Pastor Gerald Paul

FEBRUARY LAMPLIGHTER DEADLINE Monday, JANUARY 22ND!!
THE LAMPLIGHTER WILL GO OUT ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 25TH

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 a nursing home in Havre; **Rachel Keely** at Park Place; **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow; **Ilene Leishman** at home; **Richard Mauseth** at home; **Evelyn McNaight** at home; **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; **Ruth Schwartzenberger** 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); **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**



Wee Disciples Lutheran School and Child Care Center

We are looking forward to a new calendar year with new beginnings in so many ways. We are thankful for the opportunities that can be shared in so many ways. We are also thankful for the time Shameka has been sharing those opportunities and now she will be starting new in Germany as she joins her husband there. She will be missed here, we will continue to use the skills she helped so many of us develop in her time with us.

Concordia's *One in Christ* curriculum helps us remember that our center is a "workshop in Christian living" where discipleship is practiced as lessons are taught, relationships are established, and the issues of everyday life are experienced.

Wee Disciples Staff

Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Wednesday morning ladies' Bible study group will resume meeting on January 3rd. We have a couple of lessons left from the *Integrity* Bible study and then we will begin the Bible study, *Woman of God*. Again, each lesson is a stand-alone lesson, so if you can only attend occasionally, you will be able to easily follow along in the lesson and join in the study. Join us each Wednesday morning for a morning of fellowship as we study God's Word together!





Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study have begun 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.



Here we are at the first of another new year in God's grace. January is always a time when we reflect on blessings and activities of the past year and make virtuous plans for the new one. May your 2018 plans be achievable!

The **Friday Ladies Bible study** has just the activity for those who want to pamper themselves with the blessing of God's Word and the companionship of friends. Join them as they continue their study of the *Psalms* on January 5th, 12th, and 26th from 1:00-3:00 pm at the home of Marge Johnsten, 3000 8th Ave S.

Starting the New Year off with a song, join the ladies and gentlemen who are a part of **Assisted Living Ministry**. They will meet for a devotion and hymn singing on Tuesday, January 9th at 11:00 am at Bee Hive Homes Clover Home, 2816 15th Ave S. On Friday, January 19th at 11:45 am they will meet for a no host lunch at Four B's Restaurant, 4610 10th Ave S. Afterward many will go to Highgate House, 3000 11th Ave S. Remember, you don't have to "sing" to be a part of this group. Just bring your smile!



THANK YOU FROM SALINAS FAMILY -- Dearest members of Zion, St. John, and Trinity Lutheran Churches, We thank you for all your love, care, support and prayers that you have given to us. We thank you for driving our van and the UHAULS to bring us here to Montana, for the food pantry shower that was given to us, the wonderful unpacking and getting our beds up so fast! We also thank you for all the hard work you did for the installation supper and for all of the decorations. We thank you for welcoming us to your beautiful state and churches so warmly. Even more importantly, we thank you for all the prayers from the call meeting and your continued prayers for our unborn child and the transition to our new parsonage.

God's love and our hugs, The Salinas Family

SALINAS FAMILY NEW ADDRESS & NEW PHONE NUMBERS

Reverend Adam, BethAnn, Rachel & Isaac Salinas

207 Teton Ave

P.O. Box 11

Power, MT 59468-0011

Reverend Adam's new cell phone number: **406-750-8723**

BethAnn's new cell phone number: **406-750-8868**



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 - 2017

For the Period November 23rd through December 17th

Comparison of Income to our Monthly budget needs



Our minimum monthly budget need is: \$16,070

Actual giving for report period ~ \$15,941 **a shortfall of \$129**

The offerings since last report:	November 23 rd	\$1,375
	November 26 th	\$1,999
	December 3 rd	\$4,980
	December 10 th	\$4,143
	December 17 th	\$3,444

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

A Reminder to Use Your New Offering Envelopes

New boxes of offering envelopes for **2018 (YELLOW in color)** were issued Thursday, December 21, 2017. The last time to use the 2017 PINK envelopes is New Year's Eve Service December 31st. **Please destroy any remaining 2017 PINK offering envelopes after December 31, 2017.**

Begin using the YELLOW offering envelopes WEDNESDAY, January 3, 2018.

You are encouraged to use your offering envelopes for each church offering. Using your envelopes speeds the money counting process and ensures that you will receive credit for your contribution. If you do not place your check in an offering envelope, the person posting your contribution must look up your envelope number so proper credit can be given. **Also, please remember to write the amount of your contribution on the line provided on the front of the envelope.** This is very helpful to those counting the offering. If you are not using your envelopes at this time, please do so in the future.



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 call the church office (452-2121) or sign-up on the Chapel doors in the Narthex if you are willing to assist.

THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS NOW AVAILABLE.

You should have received one in your Narthex mailbox. If not, please contact the church office (406-452-2121) and we will see to it you get one. Please take some time to transfer your old notes, etc. into the new directory so that you will have the correct, current information. Please recycle your old directories or bring them to the church office and we will recycle them for you.



Looking for an alternative web-based LCMS supported radio station? KFUAO is the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod answer. On the web at www.kfuaoam.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.kfuaoam.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.



CALENDAR and CARD SALES - The Youth Group is selling 2018 wall and pocket calendars along with Christmas and Every Occasion cards. Prices are:

\$7 for wall calendar and cards

\$6 for pocket calendars

They will set up in the Narthex the next few Sundays or you can purchase them in the church office.



Trinity LWML hosted an Advent Brunch on December 9th with the theme *A Candy Cane Christmas*. Thirty-two ladies from Trinity, Peace, and Zion attended the brunch. The program was enjoyed by everyone who attended. Approximately sixty items (toys, games, books) were gathered for Christmas gifts for the children living at the Great Falls Rescue Mission this Christmas. Trinity LWML members brought small loaves of dessert breads which were delivered to Trinity's shut-ins. Thanks to everyone who brought breads and food to the brunch and to those who helped with the delivery of the breads. A BIG thank you to everyone in LWML and in the congregation who contributed items for the Rescue Mission.



Thank you to everyone who helped provide food and helped with set up, serving and clean up for the Advent soup supper on December 13th.



During the month of January we will be meeting in the Stahlecker Room every Friday (January 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th) at 9:30 am to sew backpacks for Indian Ministry. Come and join us for a morning of fun and fellowship as we work on this mission project. Not everyone needs to bring a sewing machine or needs to know how to sew, as we also need people to cut out the pieces for the backpacks, thread cording through the backpacks, etc. If you cannot come to the church to sew, but would like to make backpacks at your home, please talk to Myrna Philipp to get supplies and the pattern. A Thrivent Action Team project is supplying \$250 for the material and other supplies for making these backpacks.



The regular monthly gathering will be on January 13th at 9:30 am in the Stahlecker Room. The main topics of business will be: 2018 budget, selecting 2018 mission projects, and planning the Lenten brunch which will be held at our regularly scheduled meeting on February 10th.

The LWML board will meet at 11:15 am on Wednesday, January 31st everyone is welcome to attend the board meetings.

AN APOLOGY and ADDITION to the HISTORY BOOK

I would like to extend a humble and most contrite apology to Sherrie Van Vleet.

Early in 2017, as I was beginning the history book for the 125th celebration, I asked Sherrie and several others to start thinking about articles that we could include in the book of events that had happened since 1992. Knowing that Sherrie had been in the Hand Bell Choir for a long time, I asked her to put together a small article about the creation and history of the hand bells. Sherrie accomplished that task early in the year and gave me a beautifully written piece to be included in the history book. **I completely missed getting that article into the history book!** I have no excuse. So after searching, Sherrie found her article and I present it here to you. Please take a moment to take this page and include it into your history book. And so, here it is...Sherrie I am sorry I missed this.

Trinity Lutheran Hand Bell Choir

In August 2002, it was brought up at Church Council that members Ann Locke and Jean Craven were purchasing a set of hand bells for Trinity Lutheran church in loving memory of their husbands Edward Lock and Roy Craven. This purchase included three complete octaves of bells, tables, cases, gloves, pads and music.

October 17, 2002 the hand bells were received. Pastor Kent Stenzel posted a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in joining the Hand Bell Choir.

February 22, 2003 the first Hand Bell Workshop was held. Jennifer Rygg, a band director for North Middle school became the choir's first director. The Hand Bell Choir consisted of Laretta Stanfield, Barb Stenzel, Marjory Fischer, Delores Krause, Char Reehl, Sherrie Van Vleet, Pat Strand, Barb Going, Judy Boyce, Millie Birkholz, Lindsay Wandke and Sharon Mueller (a member of Peace Lutheran).

In 2006 Jennifer was married and became Jennifer Painter. In April 2010 a reception was held for her as she was retiring from directing the Hand Bell Choir and leaving to have her first child. The choir searched for another director but was unable to find anyone interested. In fall of 2010 Judy Boyce took over as director of the choir and continues as such today, some 7 years later.

In 2017 the Hand Bells Choir consists of members Alice Schuman, Laretta Stanfield, Marty Bauer, Lois Phillips, Millie Birkholz, Judy Boyce, Bethany Butler and three generations; grandmother, Sherrie Van Vleet, daughter, Dayna Van Vleet and grandson, William Harr.

The Hand Bell Choir practices every Tuesday evening from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. They start practicing in the fall and end after Easter for a spring-summer break and play once a month for worship services and occasionally special services.

In the past the choir has played at local nursing homes for Christmas and at the end of the year where they would play all the songs they had played that season. They have also played for the LWML Convention in Great Falls.



Thank you to everyone who has helped make 2017 a blessing. From the ladies who served coffee and cookies on Sunday mornings to those members who have helped keep our beautiful facility running smoothly. You are most appreciated.

A special "Thank You" to Myrna Philipp who babysat the church office so that the secretary could take a short vacation. You are a blessing.

A BIG thanks to Gary Shelden, who is retiring at the end of the year, for his faithful service as assistant Treasurer
Thank you

- to all who volunteered their time and talents
- to all who faithfully serve on the boards and committees of the congregation



Emil ♥ Lidia Neumann (55)

January 4th

Russ ♥ Ruth Waetzig (67)

January 14th

Robert ♥ Bobbie Voegel (12)

January 21st

Birthdays

January 1st Harper Lautenschlager
January 5th Sheldon Burkstrand
 Betty Guderjahn
 Piper McCurdy
 Bill Sybrant
January 9th Marlyn Gersack
January 10th Anita Erickson
January 12th Kathleen Redenbaugh
January 13th Joseph Nommensen
January 15th Sandra Baranko
January 17th Bob Nommensen
January 19th Lucy Hall



January 20th Marty Bauer
 Anita Chapman
Ilene Leishman (80+)
Chuck Lively (80+)
January 21st Hayden Houle
 Blaize Wegner
 Seth Wheeler
January 22nd ***Alvina Presler (80+)***
 Cheyenne Sharrah
January 26th Sam Chapman
 James Neumann



Baptismal Anniversaries

January 1st Michael Gramses
 Debbie Lee
 Leslie Lee
 Randi Meehan
 Emma Millet
 Gary Shelden
Helen Suek (80+)
 Joy Suek
 Sherri VanVleet
January 3rd Penny Hill
 Courtney Schroeder
January 4th Shayna Kellogg
January 5th Dennis Philipp
January 6th Keith Dalke
 Xander Dalke
January 7th Juanita Winter (80+)
January 8th Sean Ginnaty
January 10th Piper McCurdy
 Russ Waetzig
January 13th Harper Lautenschlager
January 14th Ed VanVleet
January 17th Jon Chapman
January 19th Samarah Hill
January 24th Kolter Legg
January 25th Ada Burkstrand
January 26th Aaron Neumann
 Pam Nommensen
January 31st Kyle Huestis



Worship Assistants ~ January 2018

Serving this Month

Acolyte ~ Elders

Altar Guild ~ Denise Wegner / Dayna VanVleet

Ushers ~ Alan Wegner / Elders

Counters ~ Marty & Cheri Bauer

Trustee On-Call ~ NOA

December 31, 2017 ~ First Sunday of Christmas (white)

Readings	<i>Old Testament</i>	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	<i>Epistle</i>	Galatians 4:4-7
	<i>Psalms</i>	Psalm 111	<i>Holy Gospel</i>	Luke 2:22-40
	Audio/Video			John Shaw
	Duty Elders			Jerry Grosenick / Bill Sybrant
	Organist			Anita Chapman

December 31, 2017 ~ New Year's Eve ~ The Eve of the Circumcision & Name of Jesus (white)

	Duty Elders			James Neumann
01/03/18	Duty Elders			Bob Nommensen

January 7, 2018 ~ Baptism of Our Lord (white)

Readings	<i>Old Testament</i>	Genesis 1:1-5	<i>Epistle</i>	Romans 6:1-11
	<i>Psalms</i>	Psalm 29	<i>Holy Gospel</i>	Mark 1:4-11
	Audio/Video			John Shaw
	Duty Elders			Jerry Grosenick / Roy Arves
	Organist			Joy Suek
01/10/18	Duty Elders			Bob Nommensen

January 14, 2018 ~ Second Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Readings	<i>Old Testament</i>	1 Samuel 3:1-20	<i>Epistle</i>	1 Corinthians 6:12-20
	<i>Psalms</i>	Psalm 139:1-10	<i>Holy Gospel</i>	John 1:43-51
	Audio/Video			Jon Chapman
	Duty Elders			Len Koelbel / Marty Bauer
	Organist			Anita Chapman
01/17/18	Duty Elders			Bob Nommensen

January 21, 2018 ~ Third Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Readings	<i>Old Testament</i>	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	<i>Epistle</i>	1 Corinthians 7:29-35
	<i>Psalms</i>	Psalm 62	<i>Holy Gospel</i>	Mark 1:14-20
	Audio/Video			Cody Stene
	Duty Elders			Jerry Grosenick / James Neumann
	Organist			Jeannine Eastley
01/24/18	Duty Elders			Bob Nommensen

January 28, 2018 ~ Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (green)

Readings	<i>Old Testament</i>	Deuteronomy 18:15-20	<i>Epistle</i>	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
	<i>Psalms</i>	Psalm 111	<i>Holy Gospel</i>	Mark 1:21-28
	Audio/Video			John Shaw
	Duty Elders			Len Koelbel / Roy Arves
	Organist			Anita Chapman
01/31/18	Duty Elders			Bob Nommensen

If unable to serve on your designated Sunday / Wednesday please contact the church office (406-452-2121) as soon as possible to allow time to find a substitute.