

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

Jesus Loves:



Trinity Lutheran Church

www.trinity-mt.org

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www.higherthings.org

Issues, Etc.

www.issuesetc.org

LCMS Radio on the web

www.kfuoam.org

LCMS

www.lcms.org

Lutherans for Life

www.lutheransforlife.org

LWML

www.lwml.org

Montana District LCMS

www.mtdistlcms.org

The Lutheran Hour

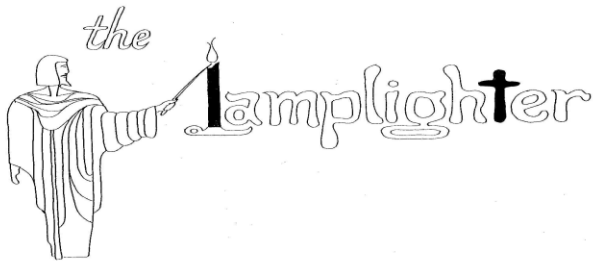
www.lutheranhour.org

The Lutheran Witness

www.lcms.org/witness

The Reporter

www.lcms.org/reporter



March 2017

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

Repentant Joy

Lent is a season of repentant joy. There is joy in repentance because in repentance, God, through His Word, turns us away from our sins — our failures of thought, word, and deed — to believe in the forgiveness and new life He has accomplished for us in the death and resurrection of His Son. For our God is our Father, and fathers discipline their children. He loves us enough to point out when and where we have erred, so that we are not weighed down by false belief, despair, and other great shame or vice.

Thus we do well to listen to God's Word, His own teaching, about giving. St. Paul exhorts: "Anyone who receives instruction in the word must share all good things with his instructor" (*Galatians 6:6*). This means that the local congregation is primary. In other words, everything else that we might give to during the year — laudable and worthy charities — are to be on top of what we give to our local congregation. For the local congregation is the place that serves us with the gifts of Christ's death and resurrection. The local congregation is where our spiritual needs are met when Christ's atonement is preached, when the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed, when we were baptized into the name of the Triune God, and when we partake of the body and blood of the risen and living Lamb of God.

But how much are we to give to this local congregation? His 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*).

Thus, giving to the church is not to be an afterthought, given after everything else is spent. In this way, it is deliberate. We give it regularly, whenever we have income. 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. Tithing was a command for them. St. Paul never mentions a tithe. Since a tithe was the bare minimum for the people of Israel in the Old Testament, perhaps St. Paul had more in mind. That aside, however, ten percent is an easy way to figure out an amount. You simply move your weekly, bi-weekly, bi-monthly, monthly, or yearly income one decimal point to the left. And that's it. That's what you put in the offering plate to support your local congregation so that you may continue to be a hearer of God's word by sharing all good things with those who teach it to you.

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. For it is more blessed to give than to receive (*Acts 20:35*).

In repentant joy, then, do we hear God's Word on giving, and we let that Word dwell in us richly. We let that word wash over our ears and seep into our hearts, to turn us away from our own selfish desires and turned toward Him in faith and love. We love the Lord and His Word. And we desire to do it. And when we have failed, that Word reproves and corrects, forgives and consoles. It calls us back to Him who is our God, our Savior, our Father. (From LCMS Stewardship Resources)

Wishing you a blessed Lent!
Your shepherd in Christ
Pastor Gerald Paul

Wee Disciples Lutheran School and Child Care Center



In March, Trinity's 125th Anniversary Celebration is highlighting Wee Disciples. In 1989 Trinity started to consider the idea of a preschool and a steering committee was formed. In May 1991 the preschool program was presented to the voters and approved. The school opened in September 1991 with six students. Three-year olds were taught on Tuesday and Thursday, and four and five-year olds were taught on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Enrollment for the school increased to 12 by January 1992. Carol Parsetich was the first teacher and she was supervised by the vicars.

Today, 25 years later, Wee Disciples provides child care and instruction to children from age six weeks through first grade, as well as providing an after school program for school age children. There have been approximately 80-100 children attending the various Wee Disciples programs throughout the past year. Approximately 80 children are currently enrolled this school year. The curriculum that is currently being used is *One in Christ*. Currently, Wee Disciples employs approximately 17-20 full-time and part-time staff members. Debbie Lee serves as the director and kindergarten teacher. Wee Disciples is governed by the Board of Early Childhood Education of Trinity Lutheran Church.

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.

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

APRIL LAMPLIGHTER AND CALENDAR **DEADLINE** MARCH 27TH!!

News from the Church Office ~ Due to the computer "crash" last month we have lost all previous bulletins, Grace Notes, Lamplighters, calendars, Worship Assistant schedules, and inserts. We are back up and running but need your help going forward. Please make sure that **ANY** events, forms, changes, information, etc. is given to the office either by email or in writing so that we can rebuild our information base for future use. Your help will make the loss of the old information less "painful" as we recreate the Grace Notes and Lamplighters for the future.



The Wednesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning from 9:30 am to 11:00 am in the Stahlecker Room. The first two Wednesdays in March we will be using two of the Bible studies from the *Winter Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. March 1st will be the study titled "*More Precious than Silver, Better than Jewels: The Gifts of Knowledge and Wisdom*" found on pages 20 and 21. On March 8th we will be doing "*The Wondrous Cross*" study found on pages 22 and 23. On March 15th we will begin a new Bible study titled *Praying the Psalms*. Come and join us for a morning of fellowship and Bible study!



With March on the calendar we know the bluebirds will be in the mountains and the robins in our yards by the 15th! Oregon grape yellow blossoms will dot the mountainsides and crocuses will brighten our flowerbeds. March is a month that vacillates between winter and spring. Fortunately these early birds and posies are Montana hearty!

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

$\$180,416 \div 52.14 \text{ weeks} = \text{about } \$3,460 \text{ (average giving per week)}$

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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

May the Lord in His grace continue to give strength, faith, patience and peace to each of His own: **Gary Adams** at home; **Alice Irión** at her daughter's home in Havre; **Lydia Laubach** at the Rainbow; **Richard & Melba Mauseth** at home; **Evelyn McNaught** 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.



The Altar Committee will once again be placing an order for lilies to grace our altar for Easter. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of these lilies, please make your check payable to *Trinity Lutheran Church*, designate on the check "**For Easter Lilies**" and drop it into the offering. **If you would like your donation in memory or honor of a loved one, please attach a note with the details to your check or contact Cheryl Bauer at the church office 452-2121 with that information.**

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 / May	Catechism / Confirmation
June	Missions
July	Marriage - already being worked on
August	Baptism
September	Lord's Supper
October	500 th Anniversary of the Reformation

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





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.

FISCHER, Marjory	<i>address change</i>	7998 West Fetlock Trail Peoria, AZ 85383-6280
	<i>phone number</i>	406-750-2835
KESSEL, Kay	<i>address change</i>	944 Avenue D NW Great Falls, MT 59404-1738
	<i>phone number</i>	406-788-4262



Thank you to all the ladies who attended the three LWML work days. The group sewed 40 backpacks to send to LWML National for one of the service projects they will be doing at the national convention in June.

At the March LWML Group Gathering, we will have a guest speaker from the **Great Falls Farm in the Dell** which 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. All women are encouraged to attend and to bring a friend.

Upcoming happenings:

LWML Board will meet March 29th at 11:15

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.*

Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent ~ Last year you were challenged to read through the New Testament during the 40 days of Lent. Some of you took that challenge. We are again throwing down the challenge to Trinity to read through God's word during Lent. This year however, we are going to give you an option: read through the New Testament like last year OR, if you found that to be too daunting a challenge, read through just the Gospels. What better way to prepare for Easter than to read the complete story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection? So dust off your Bible and we'll see you in through these 40 days of Lent!

Read through the Gospels or New Testament in Lent					
Date	Gospels only	New Testament	Date	Gospels only	New Testament
March 1	Matthew 1-3	Matthew 1 - 7	16	Mark 4-Mark 6	John 1 - 5
2	Matthew 4-6	Matthew 8 - 12	17	Mark 7-Mark 9	John 6 - 9
3	Matthew 7-9	Matthew 13 - 18	18	Mark 10-Mark 12	John 10 - 14
4	Matthew 10-Matthew 12	Matthew 19 - 24	19	Take a Break	
5	Take a Break		20	Mark 13-Mark 14	John 15 - end
6	Matthew 13-Matthew 14	Matthew 25 - end	21	Mark 15-Mark 16	Acts 1 - 6
7	Matthew 15-Matthew 16	Mark 1 - 5	22	Luke 1-Luke 3	Acts 7 - 11
8	Matthew 17-Matthew 18	Mark 6 - 11	23	Luke 4-Luke 6	Acts 12 - 17
9	Matthew 19-Matthew 20	Mark 12 - end	24	Luke 7-Luke 9	Acts 18 - 23
10	Matthew 21-Matthew 22	Luke 1 - 4	25	Luke 10-Luke 12	Acts 24 - end
11	Matthew 23-Matthew 24	Luke 5 - 8	26	Take a Break	
12	Take a Break		27	Luke 13-Luke 14	Romans 1 - 8
13	Matthew 25-Matthew 26	Luke 9 - 12	28	Luke 15-Luke 16	Romans 9 - end
14	Matthew 27-Matthew 28	Luke 13 - 19	29	Luke 17-Luke 18	1 Corinthians 1 - 8
15	Mark 1-Mark 3	Luke 20 - end	30	Luke 19-Luke 20	1 Corinthians 9 - 16
			31	Luke 21-Luke 22	2 Corinthians 1 - end



March 28th
 Don ♥ Debbie Lee (36)



Birthdays



Baptismal Anniversaries

March 1st Kathleen Hall
 Emilie Legg
 Randi Meehan

March 2nd Tristan Almon
 Rachel Hill

March 3rd Michael Biscsak
 Sherri VanVleet

March 5th Trinity Legg

March 6th Justin Thompson

March 7th Alan Larsen

March 8th Derek Jones

March 9th Rose Shelden

March 11th Trina Mans

March 13th Marjory Fischer

March 14th Ryan Nommensen

March 15th Ron Copp

March 16th **Virginia Abbott (80+)**
 Courtney Western

March 17th **Ruth Schwartenberger (80+)**

March 18th Shawn Shaw

March 19th Sylvia Adams
 Joyce Stanger
 Kelcie VanVoast

March 21st Don Lee

March 22nd **Millie Birkholz (80+)**
 Cheryl Dalla Mura
 Mick Kessel
 Spencer Payne

March 24th Matthias Paul
 Shelley Vernon
Juanita Winter (80+)

March 25th Trevyn Mans

March 27th Xander Dalke
Jay Schlecht (80+)
Audrey Remus (90+)

March 28th Jason Young

March 29th **Ivan Buhmann (90+)**
 Kaci Felstet
 Jerry Mans
Bert Waetzig (90+)

March 4th Alexandria Thompson
 Justin Thompson

March 5th Trina Mans

March 8th Joseph Nommensen

March 9th Anita Erickson
 OD Jones
 Mattie Norris

March 10th Blaize Wegner

March 13th Kelly Norris
 Courtney Walker

March 16th Nolan Joyce

March 17th Jacob Mansch

March 18th Ivan Buhmann

March 20th Kaden Hill

March 21st Judy Lively
 Trevyn Mans

March 24th Alan Larsen
 Jessi Payne
Alvina Presler (90+)
Myrtle Storhaug (90+)

March 27th Jerry Grosenick
 Amayah Hill

March 28th Travis Copp
 Brayden Ginnaty

March 29th Courtney Western

March 30th Lacey Kuki-Isakson
 Emilie Legg

March 31st Gerhard Neumann
 Bud Quickenden