



Trinity Trumpeter



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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Mission statement: "To make disciples of all people through a faithful ministry of Word and Sacrament."

VOLUME 1

December, 2018

NO. 12

Christmas as it was, is, and must ever be!

You've heard it said, "Back to the basics." Schools have been saying that for the past few years. We need to get back to reading, writing and arithmetic if we hope to succeed.

"Back to the Basics", has also become a cry for some of the people in our church. It is time to dig out the old familiar Sunday School stories. Where did Jesus change water into wine? The responses from confirmation classes may surprise you: "At a Party!", "At the Last Supper!", "I don't know!" If the answer to such a simple question cannot be given, what answers might we hope to receive for a more difficult question like, "Why did God give us the Bible?" We indeed need to get back to basics.

It is true about everything in life. When we get away from the basics, we tend to forget what the point is all about. Have we gotten too far away from the real meaning of Christmas with frothy and sentimental music and worry about proper and ample gifts. In the process of celebrating a Christmas of secularism and commercialism we easily forget that the giving of Christmas is first, foremost, and forever the gift of God Himself in Christ Jesus. Again, we must go beyond a baby in a manger and His poverty. There's much more to Christmas!

The Epistle for Christmas Eve says it all: "The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say no to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for Himself a people that are His very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:11-14).

That's how Christmas was, is, and must ever be. Let your celebration focus on the Christ Child, our Savior and His gift to us, and yours will be a blessed Christmas regardless of the circumstances under which you now live.

Have a Blessed Christmas,

Pastor Kohnke

Dinner out, Pot Luck and Nibbles: Our next dinner out will be January 13th. Let us know on the Survey where you would like us to eat!!! Because we have so many events happenings in December there will be no Nibbles, Dinner out or Pot Luck this month. All three will resume in January.

Monday Night: Will resume on December 3rd for an Advent Study. 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Advent Bible Study

Advent 1 – The Child Who Is Zechariah’s Hope: Texts: Isaiah 40:1–5; Luke 1:5–25

Advent 2 -- The Child Who Is A Virgin’s Great Son: Texts: Judges 13:2–7; Luke 1:26–38

Advent 3 – The Child Who Is John’s Joy Texts: 2 Samuel 6:12–23; Luke 1:39–45



Old Testament Bible Study on Sunday morning: Do you love a good true story? Beginning next Sunday (Nov. 25th) the Sunday morning Bible class will be studying the stories in the Old Testament which show how God’s hand in history saved His people through whom Jesus would come to bring us all salvation. You will probably read stories you never knew were there.

Our Mission dollars at Work

For the month of December, Trinity Voters have elected to send all of our mission receipts to the Nebraska District office for administrative and program support.

Beginning January 2019 our receipts available for missions will change. Instead of congregation members specifying their mission contributions on the front of their envelopes all receipts will be added for the month and 10% will be designated for missions. \$500 will be sent to the special mission as previously voted and the remainder will be sent to the Nebraska District office for their support. This was approved at the October voters’ meeting and is in keeping with biblical teaching.

Since the 2019 envelopes are already on order, they will look the same as 2018 envelopes. Please disregard the mission side as it will not apply. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Kohnke or Rosanne McClarnon.

Quarterly Voters Meeting was held on October 29th. The Wedding guidelines were updated with changes that were discussed at the previous meeting and were approved by the voters. A new mower for the church was approved for purchase. The Ladies aide asked for approval to buy a second refrigerator for the kitchen. The single one, while bigger, still didn’t have enough room for everything when a funeral is held. It was voted that memorial money would be used to pay for half of the cost of the fridge, the Ladies Aid will pay the remainder. More debate on the new church sign was held but was again tabled for further investigation is needed to determine the best placement and type of sign needed.

Ladies Aide Report: meeting is held on the 3rd Thursday of every month in the church basement at 1:30 p.m. In November the Ladies Aid pass out small mite boxes to all the members. They would like you to collect your penny's during the week in your mite box and then bring them to church and put them in the big mite box in the Narthex. The money is then sent to the district and is used to help with missions and various scholarships. There is a list of all the Mission grants that are affected/helped by your mites! If you didn't get a mite box please let one of the Ladies know and they will be happy to get you one!!



Best Choice labels goal was met for 2018! The ladies would like to thank everyone who took the time to save and bring them in to church. Keep saving the labels for next year!



Sunday Circle group: Meets the first Sunday of every month after church and is always looking for new members to join the group.

Sunday Circle group will host the 1st Advent meal, which is December 5th.

We have sent a Christmas package to the Derricks family, Lutheran Bible Translators in Cameroon, Central Africa. The package contained seeds for their garden, various cd's for them to listen to while on their long drives, and dolls for their daughters. They are so pleased to receive these gifts from home and God bless our congregation for supporting them!



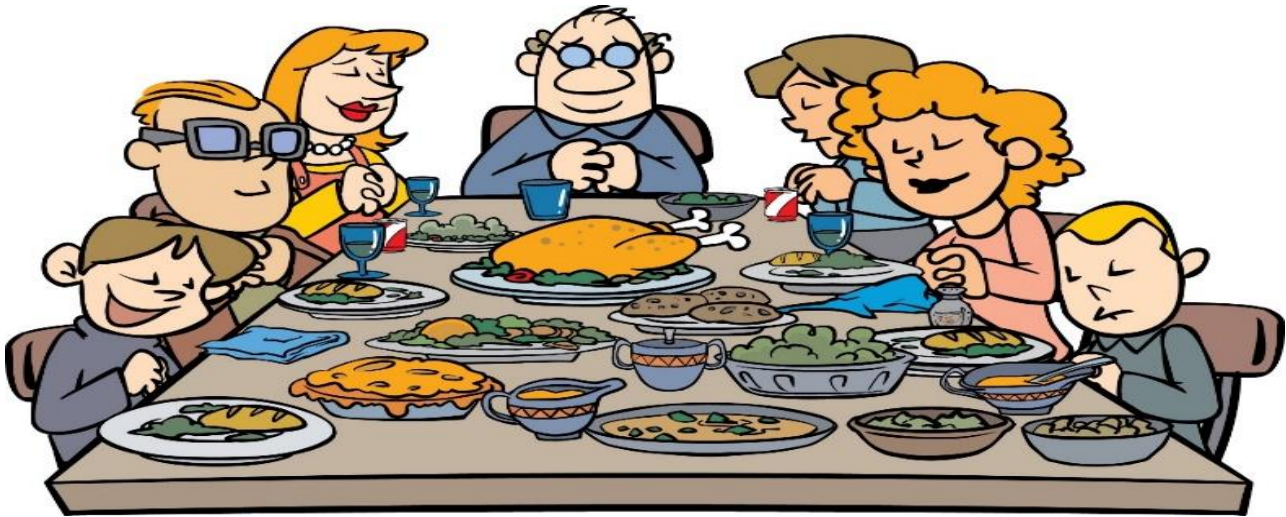
We will be hosting the cookie walk on December 16th. Monies raised will be used to create new banners for our church as well as other charitable works.

They have also started working on the pillow case dresses for Orphan Grain Train. Here is a picture of the first one that is almost done! It just needs some ribbon added to make it more girly!!



Choir to sing!!

John Recknor has volunteered to lead us in singing. We will practice on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving (November 28th) @ 6:00. Then we will practice after the 3 Advent services on December 5, 12 & 19.



Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands:

Next meeting: December, 12 @ 10:30

2nd Annual Holiday Dinner with Friends December 1st, begins at noon!

Everyone is invited to join us for a homemade holiday dinner. You don't need to bring anything. Please feel free to bring your family and friends. Come and enjoy food, friendship, fellowship and games.

RSVP: Deborah Rocker

(402)-499-6522

By: November 25th 2018

Youth Group!

Will be hosting December 12th's Advent Dinner!

Nebraska District Middle School Gathering:

We had 7 youth registered but 1 canceled due to family obligations. Six youth and two counselors spent 24 hours learning to SHOW Him in our lives. We all wear different masks to fit in or be someone we think we are supposed to be to others. Some do this by the clothes they wear, the stuff they have and the groups they want to fit in with. But who has God called us to be? We are to take off our various masks and SHOW we are a beloved child of God. Our sins are no more. We thank our congregation for supporting us in this journey of our Faith. Participants: Marin Maahs, Bailey Jackson, Shannon Moerer, Katheryn Stewart, Whitney Bruce and Madelynn Stewart. Counselors: Grace Kohnke and Karla Snoozy



December Birthdays



12/1 Gordon Maahs
12/6 David Keagy
12/7 Shirley Holtzen
12/8 Jasi Maahs, Joshua May
12/9 Nathaniel Kemper
12/10 Marvin Kemper
12/11 Amber Lemke
12/13 Ashley May
12/15 Tim Holtzen, Ted Oehlert
12/17 Knoxley May
12/22 Genny Keagy
12/26 Gary Cheney

Anniversaries

12/3/1983 David & Kim Cheney
12/3/1977 David & Kathy May
12/4/1977 Gordon & Julie Maahs
12/18/2011 Joshua & Ashley May
12/30/1962 David & Ginny Keagy
12/31/2012 Matthew & Erin Singh

Lady Ushers

The board of Elders have approved to have women to be Ushers in the church. Those who wish to sign up to be an Usher, please do so in the Narthex. Tim Holtzen will be creating the 2019 Usher Schedule on December 16th. Just what do the Ushers do? They greet the members as they come into church, pass the collection plate down the rows of pews, and usher people from their pews to communion. This topic was brought up at the October voters meeting.

Christmas Trivia:

Answers on the next page:

1. Who said, "God Bless us, every one!"?
2. The most popular item to put on top of a Christmas tree is?
3. How many Wise Men were there according to the Bible?
4. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, they went to which country?
5. What does Advent mean?
6. December 24th 1814 ended what war?
7. Greensleeves is another name for what Christmas song?
8. What city name do the states Kentucky, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut, and Georgia have in common?

Bonus question: Which U.S. President barred the Christmas Tree from being displayed in the White House?

Holiday Planning:

December:

1st Dinner with Friends @ Noon ~~ Sponsored by Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands

16th Cookie Walk after church Sponsored by Sunday Circle

Newsletter deadline will be December 19th.

Advent Meals: Dec. 5, 12, 19 will be served from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. Advent worship Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve December 24th
Children's Christmas Service 3:00 p.m.
Candle light Service @ 7:00 p.m.
Devine Service December 25th @ 10:00 a.m.

TBD:

On a Sunday Evening we will take a bus around to see Christmas lights. Watch the Bulletin for further details.



What Child Is This? The angel answers the question this way in the presence of the shepherds: "A Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). The hymnwriter answers it this way: "This, this is Christ the king" (LSB 370:1). They both want to leave us with no doubt regarding the identity of this Child. This is the theme for our Advent and Children's Christmas Service.... fast approaching!

Important Dates: Rehearsals will be on Sunday mornings during the music time of Sunday School, as well as Saturday mornings, December 15th & 22nd 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. The service will be Christmas Eve, December 24th @ 3:00 p.m.

January Events!

Nibbles: January: 13th hosted by Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands

Potluck: January 9th

Dinner Out: Place TBD: January 20th

Newsletter deadline is Friday January 18th.

Voters Meeting January 27th Reports due by Sunday January 20th.

Trivia Answers:

1. Tiny Tim
2. Angel
3. It does not say
4. Egypt
5. Coming
6. The war of 1812
7. What child is this
8. Bethlehem

The answer to the bonus question is: Teddy Roosevelt.

Newsletter Survey

1. Please let us know what places you would like to eat out at in 2019
2. This is the first time we have had a monthly newsletter. Is this something you would like to continue?
3. What kinds of things would you like to see in future newsletters?
4. Starting in January we will be sending out the newsletter via EMAIL! Please include the email you would like the newsletter to go to! Feel free to include more than one. If you do not use email, we will still print a copy for you!!
PLEASE PRINT:
5. What kinds of fun activities would you like to see happening in our church?
6. What Bible study topics would you like to see offered?
7. What particular day that would be best for a Bible study?
(Current Studies available now on Sunday morning before church, Monday evening @ 7:00, and the women's Bible study once a month on the first Tuesday)

8. We have tried to put together a large event around the Easter and Christmas Holiday, but we have not had anyone sign up to help. However, in the Nord study it was discussed that we need to do such an event to help bring in new people. Many people agreed and said they would help!!

Would such an event be possible if someone besides Pastor (who tried to get an event going around Lent last year) or Laura (who tried to get the Living Nativity started with no luck) was in charge? Would we have a group of people who would be able to work together to do large events?

OR would you like to brainstorm a different kind of event?

December

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			November 28 Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m.			1
2 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Sunday Circle: 11:15 a.m. Confirmation 11:15a.m.	3 Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	4 Grief Support Group 10:00 Ladies' Bible Study @ Cheddars @ 11:30a.m. Christmas Lunch	5 Advent Dinner 5:30-6:30p.m. Advent Service 7:00p.m. Choir rehearsal 8:00p.m.	6	7	8 Elder's Meeting at HyVee 7:30 a.m.
9 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Church Decorating 11:15 a.m.	10 Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	11 Grief Support Group 10:00	12 Giving Hearts ~N~ Hands 10:30 a.m. Advent Dinner 5:30-6:30p.m. Advent Service 7:00p.m. Choir rehearsal 8:00p.m.	13	14	15
16 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m. Cookie Walk 11:15 p.m.	17 Evening Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	18	19 Deadline January Trumpeter Newsletter Advent Dinner 5:30-6:30p.m. Advent Service 7:00p.m. Choir rehearsal 8:00p.m.	20 Ladies Aid 1:30 p.m.	21	22
23/30 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m. Divine Service 10:00 a.m.	24/31 Children's Service 3:00 Candle Light Vigil: 7:00	25 Christmas Day Devine Service 10:00	26	27	28	29

Acolytes, Ushers, and Altar Guild servers please send an email to Tim Holtzen as he is setting up an email reminder for those who serve. Thank you! tah@nebrwesleyan.edu

Those serving in December, 2018
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Elders

2nd Alan Retzlaff, Roger Pearson
9th Tim Holtzen, Tracy Refior
16th Alan Retzlaff, Roger Pearson
23rd Hank Oetjen, Tim Holtzen
30th Nathaniel Kemper, Alan Retzlaff

Ushers

2nd John Page, Jakob Kemper
9th Matt Broening, Mark Moerer
16th Ryan Plager, Jeff Plager
23rd Randy Schroeder, Roland Meyer
30th Kirk Nisley, Carl Seifert

Acolytes

2nd Grayson & Sophia May
9th Katheryn Stewart, Kaytlan Rocker
16th Grayson & Sophia May
23rd Nolan & Marin Maahs
30th Shannon Moerer, Whitney Bruce

Altar Guild

2nd Shirley Retzlaff, Denise Moerer
9th Kristi Refior, Allison Kemper
16th Deb Pavey, Madeline Hiatt
23rd Lori Cartagena, Betty Hodtwalker
30th Erin Singh, Megan Rexroth

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