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Trinity Lutheran Church
Milledgeville, IL

And



First Lutheran of
Jordan, Sterling, IL

January Mission Focus

Pitter Patter Pantry in Mt. Carroll.

We will collect diapers and diaper wipes for a diaper shower for the Pitter Patter Pantry.

Our Noisy Offering on the third Sunday of January will go to Pitter Patter as well.

Any cash donations for Pitter Patter are welcome any Sunday and will be added to the Noisy offering as a gift for Pitter Patter.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH Of West Jordan
20314 Hickory Hills Road
Sterling, IL 61081
815-625-5407
Worship: Sundays 8:30 AM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
717 Stover Ave, PO Box 637
Milledgeville, IL 61051
815-225-7410; telcsecretary@mediacombb.net
www.trinitymville.com
Worship: Sundays 10:15 AM

Glad Tidings
“Sound the Good News”



For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

John 3:16-17

The Gospel of John takes center stage now through the Easter story. Our narrative lectionary readings will all come from John’s Gospel. And this is a big deal. In the Revised Common Lectionary, John’s Gospel is read occasionally, and mostly as fill in readings for the much shorter Gospel of Mark. But in the narrative lectionary, we get John’s Gospel all the way from the fourth Sunday of Advent until after the resurrection appearances of Easter.

As we dive into John’s Gospel, there are some important things to notice. First, it is not like the other three Gospels. Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the story of Jesus in a similar way. John is very different. John’s Gospel gives us clues to Jesus’ ministry being three years long, as Jesus makes three pilgrimage trips to Jerusalem for the annual Passover festival. John does not have short stories and quick miracles. Instead, John has longer discourses that follow a brief miracle. Instead of memorable parables, John uses “I am” statements to frame many of the discourses. The I Am statements, such as I am the Good Shepherd, or I am the Vine, you are the branches, give way to larger discourses that open the way to greater understanding of these statements.

Why is John’s Gospel so different? One reason may be that John’s Gospel was written much later in time than the other three. Mark was written in the mid to late 60’s AD, Matthew and Luke were written anywhere from the mid 70s to mid 80s AD. And John’s Gospel was written in the mid to late 90s AD. John was aware of the other Gospels and didn’t try to duplicate what they already wrote. He also doesn’t deliberately try to correct anything written about Jesus. He is simply showing Jesus in a new light.

This new light is a Jesus who is fully aware of his divinity and humanity. Jesus is the Word who was in the beginning with God and Jesus is the Lamb of God preparing to end the sacrificial practices with his own sacrifice on behalf of the world. Jesus is the gate and the gatekeeper. Jesus is the bread of life and the water of life. He is the one whom people come to in the dark and whom people follow in the light.

In the end, the Gospel writer tells us the purpose of this Gospel is that we may see the signs that Jesus does, and we praise the heavenly Father who is glorified in the signs. Believing in Jesus means believing in the one who sent him. And believing means no longer needing to follow ancient rules of how to be right with God, but trusting what God has done to make us right with him and then living a life worthy of that righteousness.

John’s Gospel is very different and it is very vital to our understanding of Jesus. Join us this Epiphany season as we begin our journey through John’s Gospel, a journey that will inspire our believing.

Pastor Jamie Gallagher



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
717 Stover Ave, PO box 637
Milledgeville, IL 61051
Phone: 815-225-7410
Partner in Cooperative Ministry
First Lutheran W. Jordan
N. IL. Synod of the ELCA
Ministers
The People of God
Pastor
Jamie Gallagher
Secretary
Janet Barkley
Organist
Nancy Janssen

Bible Study
Thursdays, 10:30 AM - Noon
Beginning Thursday, January 11th

The Path to Godliness
A Bible Study on Titus

“Down the centuries, Christians have suffered from the effects of two damaging (and opposite) problems. On the one hand, there always seem to be people who impose rules and regulations for Christians to follow. On the other hand, there have always been ‘Christians’ who don’t care about how they live, and who regard God’s forgiveness as a blank cheque. (sic)

“How can we avoid these problems and be motivated to live a life pleasing to God? If the idea of ‘being godly’ is attractive, how can we turn our vague yearning for it into reality?

“In Paul’s short letter to Titus, God reveals the path to true godliness. We are warned about false trails and given stirring encouragement about the source of true godliness, its motivation and the shape it will take. Titus is not a long letter, but it gives you a thorough working over.”

The Bible study begins Thursday, January 11th and continues until Thursday, February 22nd. Sign up in the narthex so enough books and supplies may be available for the study.

TLC Dorcus Circle/WELCA

Will be meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 2:00P.M. starting on January 11th, 2018. All women are invited , please join us.

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you

Thank you to everyone who shared Christmas gifts with me and my family this season. It is a joy to serve you as pastor. I appreciate the way you welcome my family into your hearts and homes.

All the greeting cards and gifts at Christmas were wonderful and so appreciated.

God bless you and God bless us as we begin a new year ministering together to Milledgeville, Jordan and beyond.

Pastor Jamie

EPIC SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday, January 21

Come Meet The Milledgeville Volunteer Fire Department

Join us after worship for a light lunch and a presentation from our Fire Department.

What happens when you call 911?
What should you have ready when the ambulance comes to your house?
How do you prepare for a fire emergency?
Do you know someone who may be willing to join the volunteer fire department?

These questions and more will be answered as the Fire Department begins a meet/greet tour of Milledgeville with a visit to our church. Everyone is invited to join us for the lunch and presentation.

EPIC Sunday School is for everyone. Not just those with children. EVERYONE. That means you are welcome to come and grow in faith.

EPIC SUNDAY SCHOOL DATES
For the Spring of 2018

A schedule for Light Lunch volunteers with suggested menu will be posted on the bulletin board. Please consider signing up to help with the light lunches!

Sunday, January 21
Sunday, February 18
Sunday, March 18
Sunday, April 15
Sunday, May 6

Joint Worship Services for 2018

Mark your Calendars for these dates when we will worship together this year.

February 14, Ash Wednesday , 7 PM at Jordan
March 29, Maundy Thursday, 7 PM at Milledgeville
May 27, Memorial Day Weekend, 8:30 AM, Jordan
June 10, Summer Picnic, 10:15 AM, Milledgeville
September 2, Labor Day Weekend, 8:30 AM, Jordan
Dec 16, Christmas Pageant, 10:15 AM, M’ville
Dec 30, New Year’s Weekend, 8:30 AM, Jordan

Congregation Annual Meetings

Will be on January 28th after worship

At Trinity, one of the items we will vote on is an updated Constitution. We are doing this to bring our congregation constitution up to date with the ELCA Model Constitution. The ELCA Model Constitution has elements that are required to keep our congregation in-line with the ELCA Constitution.

These elements do not change our current congregation council structure or powers of the council or the ability of the congregation to call a pastor. Normally after every ELCA Churchwide Assembly there are minor revisions that are implemented into the Model Constitution that congregations are required to adopt. We have not updated the Trinity Constitution since 2011. So this year there are several updates that we are making. A letter was mailed to members 30 days in advance of the annual meeting detailing the types of changes in this revision. If you would like to see a full copy of the updated Constitution, please call the church office for a copy. Or you can go to our website. A copy has been posted there for you to see the changes as well.


Also, this year there are no council members ending terms on council. The council may have as few as 6 members and as many as 9 members. The council is currently at 6 members. If you would like to join the council, there are three possible seats available. Please see any current council member for more information. Nominations from the floor for council positions will be open at the Annual Meeting.

Birthdays and Anniversaries for both congregations will now be listed on our monthly calendar pages.

Please let the office know if your birthday or anniversary information is missing, needs to be corrected, or should be removed. Thank you.

Our January Southtown Ministry

Will be Tuesday, January 16th at 4:30 PM



Grace Meals takes January off.

Grace Meals will return in February

What to Watch For In February

LENT BEGINS!

Already? Didn’t we just celebrate Christmas?

Yep. Lent begins on February 14th, Ash Wednesday

We will have Ash Wednesday worship at 7 PM at First, West Jordan.

Our Lenten Lunch and Devotions will be at Trinity beginning Wednesday, February 21 and continuing until Wednesday, March 21.

Our Lenten Theme will be Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus. This year we will take a look at some of the archeology surrounding the places where Jesus walked such as Bethlehem, Jerusalem, the Jordan River, and a few other places as well.

We will also have an ELCA World Hunger Appeal take place during Lent. Watch for more fun details about this in upcoming bulletins and newsletters.

Epiphany

Before we get to Lent, let’s not skip over an important season called Epiphany!

Epiphany is the season which completes the Christmas Cycle (Advent through Epiphany). Epiphany begins with the arrival of the wise men. These strange foreigners come bringing gifts to worship a new born king. They followed a star which led the way. The season ends with the Transfiguration of Jesus, a mysterious moment when Jesus appears in heavenly glory with Moses and Elijah on a mountaintop, and the only witnesses are James, John and Peter.

These two revelatory experiences bookmark a season of discovery. This is a season for discovering who this man Jesus is as truly human and truly divine Son of God, the full embodiment of God walking among us.

The word Epiphany means revelatory experience. We are called to see what Jesus is doing and say, “AHA” and “I get it now”. And this season is filled with moments ready to open our hearts and minds to who Jesus is in the world today.

February 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Birthday: Donna Lenhart	Birthday: Craig Schildgen	
				10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
				6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	11a-3p Sewers Meet		Anniversary:Otto & Dorothy Wagenknecht	10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	Birthday:Tom Barkley
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ			Birthday:Luke Koett	2p-4p Dorcas Circle		
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity			Birthday:Marissa Eye			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Birthday:David Wagenknecht	Birthday: Tom Landheer	1:30p-3:30p Naomi Circle	Ash Wednesday	10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	Anniversary:Bob & Lori Oncken
Transfiguration Sunday	Birthday:Alyvia Woodard		Valentine's Day	6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement		
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ	11a-3p Sewers Meet		9a-12p Pastor at Conference Meeting			
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity			7p-8p Ash Wednesday Worship (Firstl, West Jordan)			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Birthday:Karen Landers	Presidents' Day	11:30a-12:30p Grace Meals (Trinity Lutheran Church)	Birthday:Brandi VanDyke		Pastor's Day Off	Birthday:Brody Kelley
First Sunday in Lent (Lent)	11a-3p Sewers Meet	4:30p-5p Southtown Ministry (Southtown home), Milledgeville)	12p-1p Lenten Lunch and Devotion			
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
11:30a-1p EPIC Sunday School						
25	26	27	28	Notes:		
Birthday: Amanda Beveroth	Birthday:Ron Judd	Birthday:Mike Strehlow	Birthday:Kassie Murray			
Second Sunday in Lent (Lent)	11a-3p Sewers Meet		12p-1p Lenten Lunch and Devotion			
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						

January 2018						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Birthday:Owen Peterson			6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement	Pastor's Day Off	Epiphany
	Brithday:Trevor Schluter					
	New Year's Day					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baptism of our Lord	11a-3p Sewers Meet	Birthday:Ken Peterson	Birthday: Leland Bryson	10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Birthday: Ray Ricklefs	
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ		1:30p-3:30p Naomi Circle	Birthday:Emily Kleckler	2p-4p Dorcas Circle	Birthday: Scott Hinrichs	
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity			9a-12p Pastor at Conference Meeting		Pastor's Day Off	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2nd Sunday after Epiphany	Martin Luther King Jr Day	Birthday:Roger Koett	Birthday:Therol Anderson	10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	Anniversary:Ken & Linda Peterson (50)
Birthday:Kaitlin Murray	11a-3p Sewers Meet	4:30p-5p Southtown Ministry (Southtown home), Milledgeville)		6p-7:15p Girl Scouts - Basement		
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Birthday: Meghan O'Brien	Birthday: Myron Deets	Anniversary:Randy & Opal Kleckler		10:30a-12p Morning Bible Study	Pastor's Day Off	
Third Sunday after Epiphany	11a-3p Sewers Meet	Anniversary:Ron & Sharon Judd				
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ		Birthday: Janet Koett				
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity		7p-8:30p Trinity Council Meeting				
11:30a-1p EPIC Sunday School						
28	29	30	31	Notes:		
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	11a-3p Sewers Meet					
8:30a-9:30a Worship @ FWJ	1p-3p Tri-County Conference					
9:30a-10a First Annual Meeting						
10:15a-11:15a Worship @ Trinity						
11:30a-12:30p Trinity Annual Meeting						

First, West Jordan

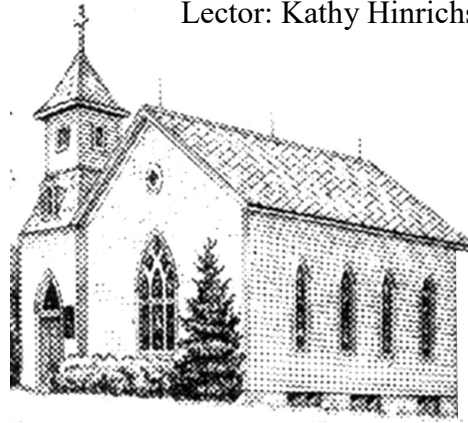
Worship Helpers

January 7 & 14—

Dan & Jodi Woessner
Lector: Jodi Woessner

January 21 & 28—

Lee and Kathy Hinrichs
Lector: Kathy Hinrichs



In our prayers:

From First:

Ruth Borth, Irene Burdick, Sandy Bushman,
Linda & Myron Deets, Kyla Eastabrooks,
Anita Gilbert, Linda Habben, Milford Habben,
Jules Headrick, Roger Hinrichs, Kara Koett and
Abel Dowse, Scotty Powell, Jon Ryner,

The family and friends of Tammy Hinrichs

In our prayers:

From Trinity:

Lori Anderson, Adlee Barajas, Carl Bauling,
Jerry Blair, Ruth & Bill Borth, Leland Bryson,
Kyla Eastabrooks, June Franks, Jenna Frawley,
Barb Gerdes, Lynn Kaufman, Lynn Kocal,
Kara Koett and Abel Dowse, Randy Landis,
Lawrence Maxwell, Kim Mennenga,
Barb and Ivan Miller, Dan Nye, Corinne Ohlwine,
Maddie and Avery Parker, Craig Schligden,
Cherrie Simpson

The family and friends of Ruth Wolf

Church Leaders Directory

Trinity Lutheran Church

President Kevin Anderson (625-3403)
Vice-President Harlan Meinsma
Secretary Karen Landers
Treasurer Connie Brockhouse
At-Large Tammy Miller
Sharon Woodard
Kim Stewart
Custodian Lynn Kaufman
Musician Nancy Janssen
Financial Secretary Ken Peterson

First Lutheran West Jordan

President Jan Wetzel (631-9353)
Secretary Jodi Woessner

Attention Snowbirds

Please let the office know
when you leave and return, so
we can make sure we send the
newsletter to the correct ad-
dress.
Thanks

Weekly Prayer Supplement

Each day when you take your quiet time to pray, here are some concerns —local and global— for you to include in your daily prayers

Week of December 31, 2017—January 6, 2018

Pray for the new year that begins. Pray that 2018 becomes a blessing to those who are desperately waiting for a blessing. Pray for all those making resolutions, that they have the strength and endurance to keep up with the changes they make.

Week of January 7—January 13

Pray for peace in war torn lands, especially in the middle east and south Asia. Pray for nations with dictator regimes that their citizens may rise up to bring change and freedom. Pray for our nation as we begin a new year, that partisan politics may give way to a stronger care and concern for all.

Week of January 14—January 20

Pray for health and healing of those suffering from long-term diseases, pray for cures for illnesses such as Alzheimer's, Cancer, Diabetes, and all the other chronic diseases that impact our loved ones near and far. Pray for health care decisions from our government that truly demonstrate mercy and compassion on "the least of these children of God":

Week of January 21—January 27

Pray for our congregations as we prepare for our next annual meetings. Pray for our members. Give thanks for the support and volunteers we have. Give thanks for the ministry we are able to do. Seek the ways God will inspire us to continue to minister to our communities in 2018.

Week of January 28—February 3

Pray for our partner ministries in Milledgeville—
Chadwick: Chadwick Evangelical Free Church, Pastor Terry Komrska; First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chadwick, Pastor Chris Schoon; Fairhaven UMC/Hope UMC/ Hickory Grove UMC, Pastor Mary Bohall; Milledgeville Brethren Church, Pastor Jim Black; Dutch-town Brethren Church, Pastor Rick Koch; Milledgeville UMC, Pastor Sophia Hyon

For the Northern Illinois Synod and Bishop Jeff Clements, for the ELCA and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Daily Devotion Bible Book Mark

In January, we will begin a new Bible study on Titus. Let's take this month and familiarize ourselves with some of the shorter epistles of the New Testament. By the end of this month, you will have read 1/3 of the New Testament books. Some are so short, you can read them while you microwave your leftovers for lunch.

___ Dec 31 Psalm 119:105-112

___ Jan 1 Titus 1

___ Jan 2 Titus 2

___ Jan 3 Titus 3

___ Jan 4 1 John 1

___ Jan 5 1 John 2

___ Jan 6 1 John 3

___ Jan 7 Psalm 119:129-136

___ Jan 8 1 John 4

___ Jan 9 1 John 5

___ Jan 10 2 Timothy 1

___ Jan 11 2 Timothy 2

___ Jan 12 2 Timothy 3

___ Jan 13 2 Timothy 4

___ Jan 14 Psalm 119:89-96

___ Jan 15 1 Timothy 1

___ Jan 16 1 Timothy 2

___ Jan 17 1 Timothy 3

___ Jan 18 1 Timothy 4

___ Jan 19 1 Timothy 5

___ Jan 20 1 Timothy 6

___ Jan 21 Psalm 119:1-8

___ Jan 22 1 Peter 1

___ Jan 23 1 Peter 2

___ Jan 24 1 Peter 3

___ Jan 25 1 Peter 4

___ Jan 26 1 Peter 5

___ Jan 27 Jude

___ Jan 28 Psalm 119:33-40

___ Jan 29 2 Peter 1

___ Jan 30 2 Peter 2

___ Jan 31 2 Peter 3

___ Feb 1 2 John

___ Feb 2 3 John

___ Feb 3 Philemon