

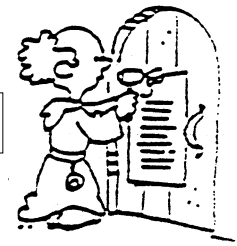
Trinity Tidings  
"Sound the Good News"

## January 2014

Trinity Lutheran Church, Milledgeville  
717 Stover Ave., P.O. Box 637  
telcsecretary@frontiernet.net  
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Kathleen Burkheimer  
Home phone: 815-225-5114

"Where We Serve Christ and You"



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Sunday January 5th: Second Sunday of Christmas

Sunday January 12th: Baptism of Our Lord

Sunday January 19th: Second Sunday after Epiphany

Sunday January 26th: Third Sunday after Epiphany



### January Prayer

Almighty and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Son by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



**Return Service Requested**  
Tanzania  
Companion Synod  
Ruth Borth  
Organist  
Amy Hook  
Parish Secretary  
Kathleen Burkheimer  
Pastor  
Ministers: The People of God  
**N. IL. Synod of the ELCA**

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



## Prayers of the People Spend time in prayer with God each day.

We keep in our prayers the men & women who serve in our nation's armed services and their families, especially, Ethan Gerdes, the wounded & the grieving. We pray for those who strive for justice & peace. For President Obama & all leaders. We pray for our enemies. We pray for knowledge of God's will and for the strength to obey:

- **Pray for:**
- For a healthy new year for all.
- .That we learn to love each other, practice living the compassion of Jesus and become more mature in the practice of the faith we claim.
- For the hungry, poor, homeless, the sick, those grieving, facing surgery, those who struggle with depression or addiction, and winter fatigue
- All the people & organizations who fight to end hunger in America & around the world.
- For persecuted Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere.
- For citizens living in the midst of lethal conflict especially in Syria, Egypt, Iraq & Afghanistan.
- For all who are fighting cancer & for their caregivers.
- For volunteers in our community who give their time and risk their lives
- For the earth & for willingness to change our behavior.

### **Those who are homebound/in nursing homes:**

Lynn Oncken, Kathy Patch, Tammy McMormic, Doris Bryant, June Stewart, Janice Geerts, Derrick Hunzinger, Matt Kriewarldt Vicki & Roger Hinricks, Ray & June Purvis, Lynn Oncken, Bill & Ruth Borth, Herm & Leora Beveroth, Linda & Myron Deets, & Anita & Leonard Gilbert

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### Thanks for Your Support of Ministry

- For your support of the choir & it's ministry with the many gorgeous poinsettia's
- To Cinda and the choir for their hours of hard work resulting in the gorgeous Cantata & the Christmas Eve service.
- To Stacey Mickelson for her work including Sunday School in the Cantata.
- To Social ministry & everyone who helped with refreshments after  
Community Worship
- To the Coleta Methodist Handbell Choir for their contribution to the Community Christmas service
- To everyone who helped with gifts for the children of our Christmas families.
- To W-ELCA for Christmas treats for the Sunday School.



**Birthdays**



- 1/1 KATHLEEN BURKHEIMER
- 1/8 LAURA BUCKMAN
- 1/9 KENNETH PETERSON
- 1/10 EMILY KLECKLER
- 1/10 LELAND BRYSO
- 1/12 ELSIE HEWARD
- 1/14 KAITLIN MURRAY
- 1/16 ROGER KOETT
- 1/17 RICHARD BUSHMAN
- 1/17 THEROL ANDERSON
- 1/18 CHARLES FAULKNER
- 1/27 KARA KOETT
- 1/31 AMANDA MILLER

**Baptismal Anniversary**



- 1/9 Carol Frederick
- 1/11 Patty Murray
- 1/21 John Murray
- 1/23 Connie Brockhouse
- 1/24 Josh Nye
- 1/28 Keasha Kelley
- 1/29 Bridget Newcomer

**Anniversaries**



- 1/4 Carl & Margaret Bauling**
- 1/7 Ed & Kali Landis**
- 1/20 Kenneth & Linda Peterson**
- 1/23 Ron & Sharon Judd**
- 1/23 Randy & Opal Kleckler**

**January Readings**

**Sunday, Jan. 5th: 2nd Sunday of Christmas**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
 Psalm 147:12-20; refrain, Ps. 147:12  
 Ephesians 1:3-14  
 John 1:(1-9) 10-18

**Sunday, Jan. 19th: 2nd Sunday of Epiphany**

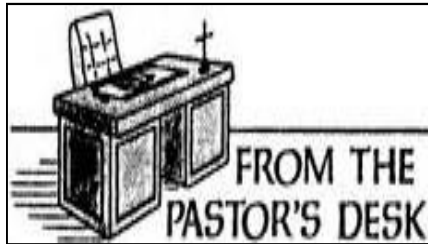
Isaiah 49:1-7  
 Psalm 40:1-11; refrain, Ps. 40:8  
 I Corinthians 1:1-9  
 John 1:2-42

**Sunday, Jan. 12th: Baptism of Our Lord**

Isaiah 42:1-9  
 Psalm 29; refrain, Ps. 39:3  
 Acts 10:34-43  
 Matthew 3:13-17

**Sunday Jan. 26th: 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
 Psalm 27:1,4-9; refrain, Ps. 27:1  
 I Corinthians 1:10-18  
 Matthew 4:12-23



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I'm so sorry to burden you with this information before Christmas but it has become necessary since it has somehow gotten out. So, yes, I'm leaving the parish to go on leave from call. This discernment and decision has followed much thought, discussion with Gary and Bishop Wollersheim, and prayer.


We have been together as pastor and parish for a good long time and I will take with me many sweet memories. The Bishop will assign an interim pastor for the parish and the joint council will receive guidance as you move forward. My last Sunday will be January 26th 2014 and I will finish up at the end of the month.

Gary and I are looking at houses in Dixon and Sterling/Rock Falls and will move as soon as possible; he will continue to work at the distribution center and I will serve the synod, if needed, with pulpit supply and possibly interim work. Of course, once I am no longer your pastor I will not return in any official capacity like weddings or funerals, etc. None-the-less we will always be brothers and sisters in Christ and you will forever be in my heart and prayers.

Thank you for your friendship and support over the years. God's blessings and Peace,  
Pr. Kathy

*Because we are God's children we can look forward to the future with hope and anticipation; the future belongs to God. "The world has not gone berserk. God's meaning and purpose are still in working order." Dr. Richard Jensen.*

# January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
W-ELCA Circles are not meeting in January	Grace Meal will Resume on the 3rd Tues. in Feb.			Pastor @ Text Study	9:30 - Noon Pastor in Office	Pastor's Day Off
<b>5 2nd Sunday of Christmas</b> 8:30 Worship @ FWJ 10:15 AM Joint Worship 3 PM Jr. & Sr. Youth meet w/pastor movie & discussion: Angels	6 Day of Epiphany Pastor Sabbath Noon Sewers	7 9:30 - Noon Pastor in office	8 NW Conference Pastors meet @ Trinity	9 10 9:30 - Noon Pastor in Office	11 Pastor's Day Off	
<b>12 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:30 Worship @ FWJ 10:15 Worship @ TLC Confirmation Class w/Pr. Kathy	13 Pastor Sabbath Noon Sewers	14 9:30 - Noon Pastor in office 7 PM TLC Council Meeting 6:30 PM Choir Practice	15 16 7 PM Joint Council Exit Interview	17 18 Pastor @ LOMC Board Meeting		
<b>19 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30 Worship @ FWJ 10:15 Worship @ TLC	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Pastor Sabbath Synod Ski Event Noon Sewers	21 9:30 - Noon Pastor in office 4:30 Worship to Southtown 6:30 PM Choir Practice	22 23 Trinity Deliver's Golden Meals	24 25 Pastor's Day Off		
<b>26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 8:30 Worship @ FWJ 10:15 Worship @ TLC	27 Noon Sewers Pastor @ Women in Leadership Retreat	28 6:30 PM Choir Practice	29 30 9:30- Noon Pastor in Office	31 Pastor's Day Off		

## Why don't people come to church?

Ask any group in your church: "Why do people not come to worship? What keeps people away from church?" You might hear:

- "We need a better youth program."
- "We have to have a different style of worship service."
- "We need to advertise."
- "If only we had a nursery for young children."

The rallying cries will begin. Usually they center around programs. If the church could just provide better programs, or more programs, people would begin to come back to church. Occasionally you will hear about preferences - about the time or worship style. Then there is the question of staff: those who think that if the right person were pastor, director of Christian education or worship director, people would come flooding through the doors.

These are the answers that church people give when they try to figure out why people don't go to church. Friends, we could not be more wrong.

I recently spent a week using social media to "listen" to people who do not go to church - listening to their explanations for why they stay away. I didn't argue with them. I didn't defend the church. I just listened. And what I heard broke my heart.

The No. 1 thing that keeps people away from the church is the people who are in the church.

Outside of our doors, there is a multitude of people who have been hurt by people in the church. They have been judged for not looking the way we wanted them to look. They have been judged for making mistakes and for choosing to live lives that look different from ours. They have heard the people who worship on Sunday say hateful things on Monday. They have witnessed the followers of the Prince of Peace spreading malicious gossip against their "brothers and sisters"

It's not that people outside the church have low expectations of Christians. It's the opposite. They expect us to love our neighbor, care for the least of these and love our enemies.

They have high expectations for us, and we have disappointed them. Instead they have been insulted, hurt and broken by us.

Programs are at the bottom of the list for why people don't come to church. One step above that are questions of preferences and style. But far and away, the top of the list is dominated by the behavior of people who bear the name of Jesus.

We can change the time of our worship. We can change the style of our worship. We can buy full page ads in the newspaper. We can add programs for youth and families and elders and couples. None of it will matter. Not one bit.

It will not make a bit of difference until we begin to live out the things we proclaim on Sundays. The church won't grow until we learn to treat one another with love and respect at congregational and council meetings.

The church won't grow until we learn to love and value people who look and sound different from us. The church won't grow until we begin to love others the way Jesus has first loved us.

There are people out there who are hungry for God's love but have been too hurt and disappointed by "church people"

And yet there is good news. There is hope.

The No. 1 reason people come back to church is also because of the people in the church. The No. 1 reason people begin worshipping with a new congregation is because they have been made to feel welcomed and loved by someone in that church.

If you and I are the problem we are also the solution. The way forward seems easy and straightforward to me. It is also uncomfortable and unpleasant. But I will begin.

If you have been hurt by the church, if you have been made to feel unwelcome, if by my words judged, I am sorry. If by my words or by my life I've made you feel like you are unloved, or that you can't trust Christians, I am sorry. From the bottom of my heart, I am sorry.

## Trinity Lutheran Church December Council Highlights

### Correspondence Received:

- 2 thanks from the Synod for our regular mission support and for the gift from the gift from Cub Zillhart.
- The ELCA Statement on Social Justice
- Info re: Sponsoring an ELCA missionary
- Form for Statement of Intent for 2014 Mission Support.
- Info re: Synod's Boundaries workshop for ordained & lay leaders.

### Business

- Received Pastor Kathy's letter of resignation
- Discussed reimbursing Corinne Nye for playing on Sunday and recording music.  
Vote: \$50 for play, \$30 for recording
- Budget: learned that bills are being paid; things are 'OK'
- Survey re: use of gift money; results will be out soon
- Update: boiler & grant
  - 1) The boiler is paid for
  - 2) The requirement for grant money has been met.
- Nominating Annual Congregational Meeting: Kim Stewart goes off council. Kevin Anderson has agreed to come on. Other names were suggested. The annual meeting was scheduled for Jan 26th following worship.
- The new system for counting the offering is coming along. Thanks to Shirley Cheeseman for her many years of faithful service to this important ministry.

### Standing Committees

- Christian Ed and Music & Worship:  
The choir & Sunday School, Cantata, & Stacy gave us a beautiful Cantata (Joint Worship)
- Youth: Friday December 27th, is the date for the annual trip to Plum Hollow.
- Property:
  1. Thanks to the 'leaf raking teams'
  2. Ken Kaufman is taking care of another leaky toilet
  3. Plans are forming to look at the lighting in the fellowship hall.





### Acolyte Schedule for January

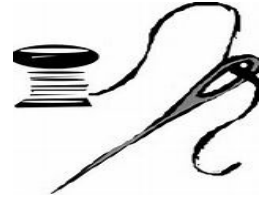
5th: Alyvia  
12th: Jenna  
19th: Clayton  
26th: Connor



Sewing Starts back up Jan. 6th

Meet for lunch between 11:30 & Noon

Then,  
SEW!!



### Looking Ahead

Tues. Feb. 11th: 11:30 Grace Meals  
4:30 Worship to Southtown  
7:00 TLC Council

Mon. Feb. 24th: 6 - 8 PM Adult Girl Scouts

### Congregational Resourcing Event

The 2014 CRE will be Saturday  
March 8th at Kishwaukee  
Community College in Malta, IL

Keynote Speaker: Nathan Dungan of  
[Sharesavespend.com](http://Sharesavespend.com)

## *Epiphany*

Date: January 6th

Commemorating: the arrival of the Magi to Bethlehem to worship the king of the Jews.

Definition: from the Greek meaning "to make known"

The Season of Epiphany: can be as short as three Sundays or as long as eight Sundays depending on the date of Easter which is the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs! upon or after the spring solstice.

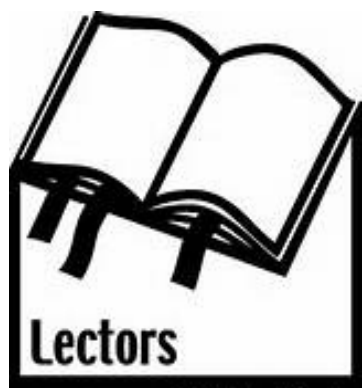
The theme of Epiphany and the entire Christmas cycle is Light, Christ's illuminating power. "Night gives way to day, darkness to light, and sin to righteousness."

The emphasis of the Season of Epiphany is evangelism: making Christ known to all the world.

The Epiphany Star is a five-pointed star which represents the Incarnation and which guides all to the mercy of God revealed in Jesus the Christ.



Don't forget to sign up for the many fulfilling jobs at Trinity.



USHERS & GREETERS



**Alter Guild**

\* sign up sheets are on the door to 3rd level

Choir will start back  
January 17th @ 6:30 PM



Reminder

Council Meeting  
Tues. January 14th @ 7 PM

**JR. & SR. YOUTH MOVIE:**

“Michael”

With discussion about Angels

Sunday January 5th @ 3 - 5

Bring a snack to share (Parents Welcome)



**Church Directory**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**

Council President

Kim Stewart

815-225-5541

Deacon (Custodian)

Lynn Kaufman

815-225-7660

Council Members

Patty Murray

815-855-0532

Sharon Woodard

815-225-7973

Karen Landers

815-225-7755

Cherrie Simpson

815-225-7673

Ken Kaufman

815-225-7660

Jerry Heeren

815-535-4069

Choir Director

Cinda Heeren

815-225-7963

Organist

Ruth Borth

815-225-7446

Financial Secretary

Ken Peterson

815-493-2769

Pr. Kathy Burkheimer

Church 815-225-7410

Home 815-225-5114

Treasurer

Connie Brockhouse

Parish Secretary

Amy Hook

telcsecretary@frontiernet.net

**Cooperative Ministry**  
**1st Lutheran W. Jordan**

Council President

Jan Wetzel

815-631-9353

Council Member

Jan Koett

815-718-5144

January Mission Focus: Home of Hope

when you and your family are faced with a diagnosis of cancer, it can be an uncertain and confusing time. You may feel overwhelmed with information, decisions and emotions but you are not alone. Home of Hope can help.

Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Centers is a not-for profit organization that offers support, wellness, educational and referral services **at no cost** to cancer patients, survivors and caregivers.

Home of Hope is a warm, welcoming environment with a professional and caring staff. If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer, we invite you to take a look around our website. Then, call or stop in to speak with our staff to find out how

Home of Hope Cancer Wellness Centers can help.