

Thank You's from Pastor Jamie

I would like to thank everyone from both congregations who made my installation service so wonderful.

- Thank you, members of both councils who participated by reading in the service.
- Thank you, confirmation class for acolyting, reading, and helping with the procession.
- Thank you, Cinda and the choir for the wonderful rendition of our anthem.
- Thank you, Corinne, for playing the clavinova so amazingly.
- Thank you, members of First Lutheran, for the beautiful cross and the gift certificates to Barnes and Noble.
- Thank you, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, for the beautiful quilt.
- Thank you, Nancy, for the cakes.
- Thank you, for everyone who brought cookies and the other refreshments that made the reception great.

And thank you for everyone who attended. Your being there made the service so remarkable.

A special offering was received and \$386 was sent to Shepherds Canyon Retreat Ministry, for their scholarship program, to help enable another pastor receive rest and renewal in his or her sense of call. Thank you to everyone who gave for this offering.

And there are many unsung heroes of faith in our congregation who often go out of their way and rarely get credit because they are just so in the background. You know who you are, for all you did to help this day and for all you do everyday around both congregations: Thank you.

I would also like to thank everyone for their holiday gifts. I am so appreciative of the blessings you have shared with my family this holiday season.

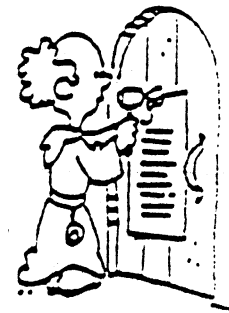


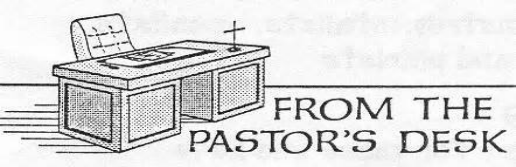
Trinity Tidings
“Sound the Good News”

January 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church, Milledgeville
717 Stover Ave. P.O. Box 637
telcsecretary@frontiernet.net

Pastor Information
Pastor Jamie Gallagher
630-200-3550
pastorjamie2002@yahoo.com





Mark 1:14-15

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

By the time you receive this newsletter, the Christmas lights will be turned off, if not already taken down (weather permitting). Trees will have been collected and recycled by our municipalities and basement storage areas will be full again of boxes of artificial trees, ornaments, and everything else that has warmed our hearts and rekindled our Christmas spirit. Now it is all away awaiting another 11-months before it makes another appearance.

Gone are all the wrapping papers, the empty tape rolls, and bows that adorned our packages. Gone, too, is the stress of mailing packages on time and getting holiday guest lists in order. The fuss of Christmas is over, and it is time to relax, to breathe a little, and to not get all up in arms over anything for a while. Perhaps not, says Jesus. The time is fulfilled - that means now is the time for all that led up to this moment is complete - now we get to discover what all the fuss was all about.

Quite a fuss was sure made just a few days ago when Jesus was a mere helpless babe quietly waking on a bed of hay, and shepherds "aw'ed" and magi "ooh'ed"? Quite a fuss was made about the star that for a moment shone brighter than any other star in our normal night sky. And now that fuss is over. Now the shepherds are forgotten background characters again, and the Magi have gone home. And even though we missed Jesus' entire childhood (it's kind of like Jesus' childhood and youth are over in a blink of an eye - much like how for most of us our children's childhood seems over in a blink of an eye) - we have entered into a new kind of fuss - a fuss over what all the fuss was about.

As we enter into Epiphany, the fuss is all about this 30-year old rabbi who shows up one day in a place as far away from the center of the Jewish world as he could get. And there, in the middle of Galilee he preaches to all who will listen that God is up to something new and good. All that fuss that we just celebrated in Christmas has now come to adulthood, to the full life-changing preaching and healing, salvation and new life bringing Jesus!

Epiphany is our season to discover what all that fuss was about. Here is John busy at work baptizing, and in one moment he will discover the one who he is unworthy of untying his sandals. Here fishermen are busy bringing in their catches, and in a moment they discover the one who changes their whole mission in life. Here the sick are going about their normal lives, being all sick, and outcast and downtrodden, and tossed aside by society and in a blink of an eye they will be healed and restored to the community.

Sure, this season isn't as flashy or as commercialized as Christmas. But all that fuss we celebrated with lights and gifts and hymn sings, all that fuss leads to something amazing and wonderful and yes very much - good news! It all leads to Jesus, the real presence, fully human embodied, nature of God here walking among mere mortals. And this season we get to discover what it all means for us.

So join us in worship. Invite your friends. Come to listen to the Good News Jesus proclaims in his words and actions. Come discover why all that fuss matters, and how our lives are never the same once we meet Jesus - not the baby in the manger; but Jesus - the Son of God, the Messiah, the Savior, the restorer of our soul, the healer of our every ill, the one who brings us Good News.

In Christ,

Pastor Jamie Gallagher

Pastor Jamie

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

Parish Secretary

Amy Hook

Organist

Corinne Nye

Companion Synod

Tanzania

Return Service Requested

Ms. Kathy Nye
14 Leeway Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21222

January 2015 Devotional Readings and Prayer Calendar

Psalm 32:6

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you

The season of Christmas continues for just a few more days.

Jan 1—Matt 2:1-2 —*The Magi begin their journey*
Jan 2— Matt 2:3-8— *The Magi visit King Herod*
Jan 3—Matt 2:9-12 — *The Magi find Jesus*
Jan 4 — Matt 2:13-15 — *Joseph and family go to Egypt*
Jan 5 — Matt 2:16-18 — *The massacre of the innocents*
Jan 6 — Matt 2:19-23 — *Joseph and the family return home*

The Season of Epiphany begins on January 6th, the day we celebrate the arrival of Jesus' birth.

The season of Epiphany is celebrated as a season of light.

Use a separate piece of paper, or a journal, and write how you see God in the image of light that each of these passages bring forth.

Jan 7 Genesis 1:1-15
Jan 8 Psalm 13
Jan 9 Isaiah 45:1-8
Jan 10 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
Jan 11 Psalm 136:1-9

Jan 12 Exodus 3:1-6
Jan 13 Psalm 36:5-10
Jan 14 Isaiah 60:1-7
Jan 15 1 John 1:5-10
Jan 16 Rev 22:1-6

Jan 17 John 9:1-12
Jan 18 Psalm 43
Jan 19 Isaiah 9:2-7
Jan 20 1 Peter 2:4-10
Jan 21 Mark 8:22-26

Jan 22 John 1:6-9
Jan 23 Psalm 118:21-29
Jan 24 Isaiah 42:1-9
Jan 25 Matthew 5:13-16
Jan 26 Acts 13:44-52

Jan 27 John 1:1-5
Jan 28 Psalm 119:105-112
Jan 29 Isaiah 58:6-12
Jan 30 Micah 7:8-10
Jan 31 Rev 21:22-27

January 4—January 10

This Week in prayer our homebound members: Myron and Linda Deets, Adeline Sheehan, Frank and Leona Ward, Gladys Reed, Elnora Hinrichs, Helen Friel, Bill and Ruth Borth, Elsie Heward, Joan Massengil, Ardree Fogel; Pray also for the residents of Southtown Terrace, a home here in Milledgeville for adults with mental and physical challenges.

January 11—January 17

This week keep in prayer those from our prayer lists in worship:

From First:

Linda Habben, Anita & Leonard Gibert, Linda & Myron Deets, Sandy Bushman, John Boyer, Jim Cusa, Roger Hinrichs, Mary Dale Kling, Jon Ryner, Ruth Borth, Tammy Hinrichs, Cook Family

From Trinity:

Tammy McCormick, June Stewart, Derrick Hunzinger, Joyce Blair, Dale Kling, Elsie Heward, Alfred Hinrichs, Art, Ryan Lerake, Tammy Hinrichs, Corinee Ohlwine, Ivan Miller, Matt Krewaldt, Ruth & Bill Borth, Leland Bryson, Barbara Brubaker, Adlee Barajas, Shirley Nye

January 18—January 24

This week keep in prayer our global ecumenical partners, the various ways the church is experienced in places near and far; missionaries bringing God's Word to people who have never heard it before; and for the common bonds we share in Christ may overshadow the doctrinal differences that keep us separated.

January 25 to January 31

This week in prayer lift up your blessings and give thanks: for home, community, family, friends, employment or other financial security, for your church home and the work we do together, for health and material blessings, and here is a blank line (add your own blessings here)

And always keep in prayers our ministry partners: Northwest Conference of the Northern Illinois Synod, the Northern Illinois Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Bishop Gary Wollersheim of the NIS and Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA. Continue to pray for our local partners here as well: Faith on Forty Ministry, Church of the Brethren on Main Street, Dutchtown Brethren, Milledgeville United Methodist, and Community Baptist Church.

Confirmation

The Confirmation Class is in the midst of studying our creed and what it means to say the words "I believe."

Our class has registered for a mission trip. We will be going to Niagara Falls during the week of July 26th through July 31st, 2015. This trip will be open to all who have completed 6th grade through high school. If you have not received information in the mail regarding this trip, please contact Pastor Jamie as soon as possible.

Class will meet on January 4th and January 18th. On January 11th, we will have a parents meeting for all who are participating in the mission trip to discuss travel arrangements and fundraising. On January 25th, there is a congregation meeting instead of class.

Please pray for our confirmation students as they prepare to affirm their baptismal faith: Connor Eubanks, Clayton and Colton Simpson, Alyvia Woodard, Heide Gallagher, Jenna Green, Brendan Eye

The Monday Sewing Ladies

Delivered Blankets to the needy.

10 Double size went to Lutheran World Relief
8 Double size went to Domestic Violence at the YMCA
6 Baby Blankets to Domestic Violence
8 Double size Blankets to the Salvation Army
5 Twin Blankets to Pads Shelter

All the deliveries were done before Christmas and each place was very grateful and happy with the blankets.

Anyone who has extra material and would like to donate it or give us a donation to help buy supplies it would be greatly appreciated. Also there is always room at the sewing machine, ironing board, tying tables, etc. All hands are welcome!

Spring Confirmation Retreat

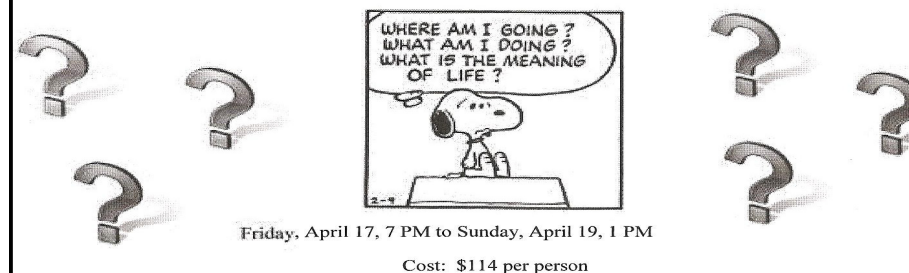
What is the meaning of Life?

Ecclesiastes 1:13-14

As humans we live our lives searching for something to give our lives meaning. We think many things will help—a fancy car, getting straight A's, being a jock, having the best clothes, being the most popular, having the perfect haircut.

- Does any of this really matter in the long run?
- Does it hold meaning past the todays of our lives?

We will use a study from Ecclesiastes to discover what King Solomon says is the most important thing that will give us meaning in our lives.



Includes lodging in our retreat villages, 5 meals, 2 snacks and all the activities

Want more information? Want to book in?

Call Audrey at 815-732-2220 or email registrations@lomc.org



Youth Room is looking for gently used couches and/or lounge chairs.



Talk to Pastor Jamie if you have anything to donate.

Social ministry is putting together an activity basket for

2 yr old Adlee Barajas

(she is taking chemo and on our prayer list).
If anyone would like to donate
see Lynn Kaufman or Kim Stewart.

Thank you



There's still time to register for the annual LYO Ski Trip. This year it will be 9am-9pm January 19 at Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena. Register your group online at Group Reservations at ChestnutMtn.com Cost is \$45 for lift, lesson, rental ski or snowboard; \$25 for a lift ticket only; \$8 for a meal deal voucher worth \$10. Questions, contact Audrey at 815-732-2220. Download a flyer for your congregation.

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 2nd Sun. of Christmas 8:30 AM Worship @ FWJ 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship @ Trinity 11:30 - 1 PM Confirmation Class	5 Noon Sewers Meet	6 6:30 PM Choir	7 9 AM Worship & Music Committee 1 PM School Mentoring	8 7 PM Trinity Council Meeting	9 Pastor's Day Off	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 AM Worship @ FWJ 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship @ Trinity 11:30-1 Confirmation Parent's Meeting	12 Noon Sewers Meet	13 6:30 PM Choir	14 9 AM Central Conf. Meeting 1 PM School Mentoring	15 7 PM Trinity Council Meeting	16 Pastor's Day Off	17
18 2nd Sun. after Epiphany 8:30 AM Worship @ FWJ 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship @ Trinity 11:30 - 1 PM Confirmation Class	19 Noon Sewers Meet	20 11:30 AM Grace Meals 4:30 PM Southtown Worship 6:30 PM Choir	21 9:30 - 12:00 Mill/Chad. Ass Meeting 1 PM School Mentoring	22	23 Pastor's Day Off	24
25 3rd Sun. after Epiphany 8:30 AM Worship @ FWJ 9:00 AM Sunday School 10:15 AM Worship @ Trinity No Confirmation Class 11:15 - 11:45 Trinity Annual Meeting	26 Noon Sewers Meet	27 6:30 PM Choir	28 1 PM School Mentoring	29	30 Pastor's Day Off	31
Trinity Delivers Golden Meals						

Elementary School Mentoring

Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, volunteers are sought to be a "grandparent" to the elementary school kids here in Milledgeville. Meet in the Elementary wing, get a desk and plan for 2 hours of amazing fun - reading and playing school games with kindergarten through 3rd graders. See the light on their face as they grow in their reading and math skills over the course of the year. Take joy in knowing you will be recognized by a kid in a store or at a restaurant simply because you gave 2 hours of your time one afternoon a week. No prior experience necessary, just a joyous heart.

Questions:
Mrs. Diane Bracken 225-7022.



If any information is incorrect or we have missed something, please let the office know.

Special Guest Preacher

Sunday, January 18th, Mr. Russ Senti, the Executive Director of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center in Oregon, IL will be our guest preacher at both First and Trinity. Russ will bring greetings from our outdoor camp and share happenings at the camp that we can all be involved with. Certainly the image of LOMC is the summer camp programs for our children, and they are quite excellent summer programs. But LOMC offers so much more than summer camp.

Russ is also a trained Lay Preacher and will share God's Word with us that morning. This is our opportunity to hear what happens at our camp - and I say our camp because we do support LOMC with direct giving and through our giving to the Northern Illinois Synod. So please join us and invite your friends and neighbors to join us, to hear Russ on Sunday, January 18th.

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 10, 2014

Roll Call: Kevin A., Cherrie S., Ken K., Jerry H., Patty M., Connie B., Sharon W., Harlen M., Karen L, Pastor Jamie.

Devotions: Pastor Jamie led the devotions based on Luke 2.

Addition to agenda: Cherrie S. moved to add a discussion on Special Charities to the agenda. Patty M. Seconded. Motion approved.
Karen L. moved to approve the agenda. Jerry H. seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report: Ken K. moved to accept Pastor's report. Harlen M. seconded the motion. Motion accepted.

Correspondence Received: 1. An Acceptance Letter from Pastor Jamie was received.
2. A thank-you card and cookies were received from the Girl Scouts for use of the Facilities.

New Business: 1. Pastor Jamie requested that the loose offering received at his installation service be designated to "The Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry." Cherrie S. moved to designate the offering to "The Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry." Jerry H. seconded the motion. Motion approved.
2. Jerry H. moved to accept the membership of the Eye family. Patty M. seconded the motion. Motion approved.
3. Ken K. moved to schedule the annual congregational meeting on January 25, 2014. Jerry H. seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Annual reports are due in to Amy by Jan. 11, 2014.

First West Jordan News



January Helpers

Wk 1 & 2: Dan & Jodi Woessner
Wk. 3 & 4: Lee & Kathy Hinrichs

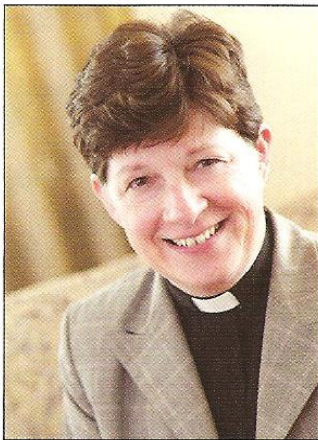
Jan. 12th: Ray Ricklefs
Jan. 21st: Meghan O'Brien
Jan. 22nd: Myron Deets
Jan. 23rd: Janet Koett
Leonard Gilbert



**Popcorn Day
Mon. Jan. 19th**

Getting to what really matters

All our work flows from being a church first, foremost



MICHAEL D. WATSON

When I served a parish in Ashtabula, Ohio, I had the opportunity to be part of a bond issue campaign for the school system. Those of you who have served in a similar capacity know the bruising intensity of local school politics. The French Revolution pales in comparison.

On our first try the bond issue failed by a narrow margin. On our second try we had our heads handed to us. We decided to hire a consultant.

At a strategy meeting the consultant asked us what we thought was the one thing we needed to do in order to pass the bond issue. We had all kinds of ideas: better campaign literature, more radio ads, more coverage in the local paper, compelling photos of adorable but underserved children, puppies. The consultant listened until we ran out of ideas. “No,” he said. “The one thing you need to do to pass the bond issue is to have one more vote than the opposition.”

The main thing is the main thing. All of the ideas we had come up with (well, maybe not the puppies) were means to pass the bond issue. If advertising or publicity became our primary focus we would be distracted from our goal. Stating the simple fact that all we needed to do was to get one more vote than the opposition brought clarity to the campaign.

We do many wonderful and important things together as the ELCA. We alleviate hunger, we’re stopping malaria, we give voice to the most vulnerable in our society, we shelter the homeless, we heal the sick, we rebuild communities after disaster strikes, we work for justice. I am not suggesting that we stop doing any of this. But we must be clear that we are church first. We aren’t a non-governmental organization. We aren’t the government. We aren’t the American Cancer Society.

Baptism makes a difference and makes us different. We are in Christ. Baptism means the death of our old self. This

implies sacrifice. It should also mean that we as church do not fit in with the surrounding culture. There are many socially conscious, kindhearted, generous, morally upright, compassionate atheists in the world. How are we distinguishable from them? If our life together consists primarily of being affirmed by God’s unconditional love and doing works of justice and charity without understanding that God has brought about the transformation of justified sinners through the costly grace of the crucified Christ, then we are not church.

How are we to live as church first? This is how I see it. At the center of our life together is worship and at the center of our worship is the crucified and risen Christ. When we gather for worship we turn our gaze away from ourselves to the source of our life and hope and salvation. When we gather for worship we are encountered by the living God in Scripture, proclamation of the gospel and the sacraments. God meets us and transforms us. We taste, touch and see the love of God in Christ. Sinners are forgiven. Freed from the incessant human striving for self-justification we can be “lost in wonder, love and praise” (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 631).

We are a community of spiritual discernment. Employing secular business strategies can be very helpful to the church so long as they are used in service to God. But as church it is important that we understand the difference between

decision-making and discernment. Decision-making is something we do. Discernment is something we receive from the Spirit. Paul takes an entire chapter (1 Corinthians 2) explaining this. We need to move beyond reliance on human think-

ing and strategizing to a place of deep listening—intentional, intense, disciplined attending to God.

We are a community of faith. Our members, congregations, synods and churchwide organization need to be intentional about incorporating prayer, worship, Scripture study, silence and giving into daily life. We are in the faith formation business; not to get more members, not to get more market share, but to know Christ and Christ crucified.

We are church first. All of our work flows from this. Let’s keep the main thing the main thing. □



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



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



1/8 Laura Buckman
1/9 Kenneth Peterson
1/10 Emily Kleckler
1/10 Leland Bryson
1/12 Elsie HeWard
1/14 Katlin 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

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.

Church Directory
Trinity Lutheran Church

<u>Council President</u>	Kevin Anderson	625-3403
<u>Council Members</u>		
Patty Murray	855-0532	Sharon Woodard 225-7973
Karen Landers	225-7755	Cherrie Simpson 225-7673
Ken Kaufman	225-7660	Jerry Heeren 535-4069
Harlen Meinsma	499-2080	
<u>Treasurer</u>	Connie Brockhouse	<u>Parish Secretary</u> Amy Hook
<u>Deacon (Custodian)</u>	Lynn Kaufman	<u>Organist</u> Corrine Nye
<u>Choir Director</u>	Cinda Heeren	
<u>Financial Secretary</u>	Ken Peterson	
<u>Cooperative Ministry</u> 1st Lutheran W. Jordan		
<u>Council President</u>	Jan Wetzel 631-9353	<u>Council Member</u> Jan Koett 718-5144

January Prayer

Shine, Jesus, Shine,

Open our eyes to see your presence at work among us. Illuminate the faith within our hearts that others may see your face more clearly in our witnessing for you. Let our congregations be a beacon of light within our communities - both gathering us to a place of safety and hope, and sending us out with the message of the Good News.

We pray in your name, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen
