

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 2

8am-9am: Worship Service-Communion
9:30am-10:15am: Sunday School and Bible Class
10:30am-11:30am: Worship Service

Monday, December 3

8:30am-9:30am: Practice Advent Service
10am-11am: Preschool Practice
5:30pm-7:30pm: PTL Planning Meeting
6:30pm-8pm: Women with Mission

Tuesday, December 4

8:15am-9:15am: Practice Advent Service
10am-11am: Seniors' Bible Study

Wednesday, December 5

6:30am-7:30am: Sunrise Bible Study
8:15am-9:30am: School Chapel
1pm-2:30pm: Ladies' Aid Board Meeting
4pm-5pm: Public School Catechism
6:30pm-7:30pm: Midweek Advent Service
7pm-8:30pm: Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, December 6

8:15am-9:15am: Practice Advent Service
9am-2:30pm: Trinity Quilters
10am-11am: Preschool Practice
5pm-8:30pm: Boys' Basketball vs. Mt. Pulaski at Home

Friday, December 7

8:15am-9:15am: Practice Advent Service
10am-11am: Preschool Practice
6:30pm-8pm: Preschool Christmas Service

Saturday, December 8

9am-10:30am: Stewardship Committee
10am-2pm: Basketball at Christ Lutheran Peoria
Christ Lutheran School
5:30pm-6:30pm: Worship Service

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

MID-WEEK ADVENT

Please join us for our mid-week Advent Services on the following Wednesdays at 6:30pm:

- **December 5** at the Downtown Church Campus
- **December 12** in the Parish Center (led by the lower grade school students)
- **December 19** at the Downtown Church Campus (led up the upper grade school students)

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR'S EVE

- **Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve:**
7pm Service and 11pm Service
- **Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day:**
10am Service
- **Monday, December 31, New Year's Eve:**
6:30pm Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

TRINITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL 8TH GRADE ONLINE AUCTION: Please shop the 8th Grade Online Auction! We have gift cards, Trinity apparel, Christmas decor, wine and much more! The auction will help the 8th Grade Class raise funds for their class trip. The auction is going on now through **Dec. 2** until 9pm. The link to the auction site <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/Trinity-5840>

KINDERGARTEN PREVIEW NIGHT: Did you know that Kindergarten students at Trinity Lutheran School learn to count in Spanish, German, French and Swahili? Join us on **Dec. 4** from 6:30pm-7:30pm on the School Campus to learn more about our language program, as well as the many other features that make Trinity the perfect school for your child's elementary education.

CAPITAL AREA CONCERT BAND: The Capital Area Concert Band will perform a variety of Christmas carols on Tues., **Dec. 4** at 7pm in the Parish Center. Leroy Anderson favorites "Sleigh Ride", "A Christmas Festival" and "Clarinet Candy". Alfred Reed's "Greensleeves" will have audience members reaching for the tissues. The Band will "stump the audience" with "Minor Alterations" as very familiar carols are transposed from major to minor keys and become almost unrecognizable songs. Three modern arrangements of other beloved carols will round out the hour-long program. Light refreshments will be served after the concert. Contact Jan Zepp at 217-789-0753 for more information.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Grace Lutheran Church is hosting a Christmas Season Concert on **Dec. 5** at 6:30pm. Seating is limited and the cost is \$5.00 per ticket with all proceeds going to support the Grace Lutheran Child Development Center. There will be a time of fellowship following with German treats to enjoy. Please call the Grace Lutheran Church Office between 9am-12pm for tickets and information.

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS SERVICE: The Preschool and Kindergarten classes will present "A Night Like No Other" on Fri., **Dec. 7** at 6:30pm in the Parish Center. Join us as we celebrate Jesus' birthday through songs and Bible Words.

NOTE FOR THE PARENTS OF PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

Children should wear dressy clothes and shoes that can be worn comfortably on risers. Children should meet in their classroom at 6:15pm.

LIVE NATIVITY AT OUR SAVIORS CHURCH: Enjoy a realistic recreation of the amazing events that surround the night of our Savior's birth when you visit Our Savior's Church and School's unique drive through Live Nativity on **Dec. 7 and Dec. 8**. The free event feature holiday lights, choirs of angels, beautiful displays, live animals, and period dressed actors.

LUHI COOKIE WALK: The annual Cookie Walk at LUHI is Sat., **Dec. 8** from 8am-12pm. The Cookie Walk is one of the major fundraisers for the Lutheran High School Music and Drama Departments. Come choose from a wide range of holiday cookies, candies and other goodies!

JUNIOR YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY: Full of the Christmas spirit? Then come on down Sun., **Dec. 9** from 1pm-3pm, for an old fashioned Christmas party. Youth currently in 7th and 8th grade are welcome to join the festivities and please make sure to bring a white elephant gift (\$5 or less value). Questions, please contact Morgan Grillot at mgrillot@trinity-lutheran.com.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

- Lutheranism 101: The Lord's Supper, taught by Pastor Holmes in the Science Room.
- Women's Bible Study: Living the Fruit of the Spirit, taught by Amy Holmes in the Extended Care room.
- Burning Questions, taught today by guest speaker Rev. Dr. Tilahun Menedo.

Rev. Dr. Tilahun Menedo serves with Lutheran Bible Translators as the Executive Development Officer. Tilahun was born and raised in Ethiopia. He knows firsthand the value of the heart language to communicate the precious promises of God. Dr. Menedo spearheaded the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus effort to develop a strong, accredited training system from the many local Bible schools and training institutions that the church had throughout the country. He served as the seventh president of Concordia University in Selma, Alabama from 2010 – 2016. Drawing on his experience and relationships in both Ethiopia as well as Lutheran circles in the USA, Tilahun is delighted to serve God as part of the team making His Name known to those who have never before had the Bible in their own language.

TUESDAY SENIOR CITIZENS BIBLE CLASS:

Class begins at 10am in the Parish Center. For more information, please call the church office at 217-787-2323.

TUESDAY MORNING LADIES BIBLE STUDY:

Tuesday Morning Ladies Bible study will meet in December at the home of Rhonda Goeres, 416 Merrymen Lane (off Wabash in Sherwood subdivision across from White Oaks Mall). We have completed our Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply study. Our discussion will focus on current popular culture from a Christian perspective. For more information or directions, contact Rhonda at 217-793-8479.

SUNRISE BIBLE STUDY (Wednesday): All members of Trinity are welcome to join us in the school library for Sunrise Bible Study every Wednesday at 6:30am. For more information, please contact Bill Rast at 217-585-0571.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

THIS WEEK IN SUNDAY SCHOOL: Today's Sunday School lesson is "The Birth of John Foretold." The children learned that God in His mercy promised to send John to prepare sinful people for the coming of the Lord. God in His Word calls us to repentance, declaring us righteous because of His Son, Jesus. In your family discussions ask, "When have you doubted God's Word? How does God forgive and relieve our doubts?"

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

ADVENT SERVICE FOR 1st-4th GRADERS: This year all of the 1st-4th grade students at Trinity Lutheran will be leading the Wed., **Dec. 12** Advent service. Please join us at 6:30pm in the Parish Center for "Light a Candle."

NOTE FOR THE PARENTS OF 1st-4th GRADE STUDENTS:

We have spent a great deal of time in preparation for the service. Children should meet in the classrooms at 6:15 pm. Please take your child to their classroom and then pick them up from their classroom following the service.

Student offerings for the evening will be given to Lutheran High School in support of their ministry. Congregation offerings will be given to Trinity to support the ministry here. Children are asked to bring their offering wrapped as a Christmas gift. The offering may be brought to school on Dec. 12 or before the service. If you any questions, please contact your child's teacher. Thank you.

ADVENT SERVICE FOR 5th-8th GRADERS: The Trinity Church and School community would like to invite you to the Advent Service of Lessons and Carols at Trinity Church on **Dec. 19** at 6:30pm. This service will help prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the birth of Christ and be led by the 5th-8th grade classes. The band will provide pre-service music.

NOTE FOR THE PARENTS OF 5th-8th GRADE STUDENTS:

The service is part of school curriculum and much class time is spent in preparation. Each child will receive a major grade in religion, music, and English. Please let your student's teacher know by Mon., **Dec. 3** if he/she is not able to participate so that alternative work can be assigned. Students are needed for special leadership positions. Thank you as always for your help and support as we remember God's gift to us through His Son.

LADIES AID MEETING: Merry Christmas to all! Join us on Wed., **Dec. 12** in the parish center for our holiday program. We will have an early start time of 11:15am. Please bring three dozen cookies to be packaged and shared with the Bethesda homes and our shut-ins. Remember to also bring a gift for a Bethesda resident. Our lunch will be catered by Nelson's Catering and the Trinity Kindergarten and Preschool will provide our delightful entertainment. Faye Garvue will lead devotions.

WOOD WORKERS NEEDED: If you enjoy making sawdust or would like to learn basic woodworking, please join a group of Trinity members at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham on Thur., **Dec. 13**. We will be building wooden desks that are shipped to schools in Central America, the Caribbean, and Africa. This will be an ongoing service project the second Thursday of each month. If you would like to sign up or have any questions, please call Roger Schlichting at 217-836-2053 or email at raschlichting@comcast.net.

5TH AND 6TH GRADE CHRISTMAS SERVE: Join Mrs. Good for an afternoon of snacks, games and service projects. Fri., **Dec 14** from 3pm-5pm. Service project activities will include: decorating cookies for the Youth Christmas Bake Sale, tying blankets for those in need, assembling desk braces for Midwest Mission, sorting plastics bags and containers for St. John's Breadline, and putting together personal care kits for The Matthew Project. If you are able, please purchase deodorant to donate to the personal care kits and start saving plastic bags and plastic containers with lids. For more information contact Cindy Good at cgood@trinity-lutheran.com.

SAVE THE DATE! Our young people at Trinity will present a Christmas recital on **Dec.15** preceding the Saturday night service in the Parish Center. Plan to arrive by 5pm to enjoy wonderful Christmas music.

CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE: Visit the Christmas Bake Sale for last-minute Christmas treats and stocking stuffers on **Dec. 15** and **Dec. 16** in the Parish Center. Sale will be before and after Sat. Evening service, Dec. 15 and during Fellowship Hour on Sun, Dec 16. All items offered for a donation to support Trinity's Youth Programming. Please contact Cindy Good for more information at cgood@trinity-lutheran.com

TRUSTING IN THE LORD CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT - BLDG. FUND

Thru the month of October 2018

Months completed: 23

Months to go: 13

Pledges made: \$746,518

Amount received (62%): \$463,791

Contributions Report - Thank you for your financial support to the Trusting In The Lord building campaign. In this season of Thanksgiving, we want to thank you for your support. Your contributions are greatly appreciated in providing for our \$3 million in improvements at the church and school. Please keep this endeavor in your prayers.

CHOIR SCHEDULE: DECEMBER

SPECIAL CHILDRENS CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS

EVE: Christmas Eve Choir Students in Grades 3-8 are invited to sing in a special choir for Christmas Eve, December 24, in the 7pm service. All rehearsals will be during the school day. If your child would like to sing at this special service, please write a short note indicating this and give it to your child's teacher or send it to the school office for Mrs. Fliege by Monday, December 17.

Primary Choir:

December 16: 10:30am Service

Junior Choir:

December 15: 5:30pm Service

Trinity Choir:

December 2: 10:30am Service

December 9: 8am Service

Adult Choir:

December 2: 10:30am Service

December 5: 6:30pm Service

December 9: 8am Service

December 22: 5:30pm Service

December 24: 11pm Service

STRATEGIC SPOTLIGHT

In 2016, Trinity Lutheran Church and School adopted a Strategic Plan to guide its efforts and bring about improvements across all areas of ministry. In an effort to ensure that the congregation is aware of the substantial process that has been made in many areas, we are featuring weekly spotlights on items from the Strategic Plan that have been completed.

One area of the strategic plan focused on educating members about the importance of tithing time, talent and treasure. The Board of Christian Stewardship has been hard at work to provide more opportunities for the congregation to get involved in this area. A new financial education curriculum will be introduced at the school that engages middle school students and transforms the way they approach money. Confirmation students will once again take part in a stewardship project as part of their catechism instruction. Project details will be shared with the congregation in 2019. New eGiving tools were introduced this summer and the response has been very positive.

To learn more, or to access the eGiving tools, visit trinity-lutheran.com/giving.

UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED

PACKERS VS. BEARS GAME: Come join The Trinity Men's Group on Sun., **Dec. 16** in the extended care room for a time of fellowship and join the rivalry between Packers and Bears fans as we watch the game on the big screen. Time TBD. Lutheran beverages allowed BYOC (in cans only-no bottles). Snacks provided. Contact Scott Anderson at 217-299-3060 for more information.

SAVE THE DATE-CIRCLE OF MOMS: The Circle of Moms group will be returning on the second Friday of each month January - May in 2019. This is a great opportunity to meet other women in our church and school community and to enjoy time of fellowship while participating in activities and service projects. Mothers and women of all ages are welcome to attend. The first meeting of the new year will be held on Fri., **Jan. 11** from 8:30am-10am. Join us as we prepare freezer meals to take home or to share with others. For more information contact Karen Hemenway through email at marketing@trinity-lutheran.com

SAVE THE DATE-2019 LUTHERAN HIGH AUCTION: It's coming... the 30th Anniversary Lutheran High Blue Tie and Pearls Auction! Mark your calendars for Sat., **Apr. 27**, 2019. The Lutheran High Association Office is now accepting donations. Please keep this in mind as you are shopping those holiday sales!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

POINSETTIAS: It's poinsettia time! Advent is fast approaching and it's time to order your poinsettias for our Christmas services. Flowers are \$14 and may be ordered by contacting Judy Fliege at 217-787-9011 or judy.fliege@gmail.com. All orders need to be placed by Dec. 10. Please indicate with your order if you would like to designate someone to honor. All poinsettias may be taken home after the Dec. 25 service.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL CALENDAR: On Oct. 28, the leaders of Trinity Lutheran Church and School met to review our master calendar and to ensure that the dates of our 2019 events and meetings were in place and accurate. If your group has not yet provided its meeting and event dates, it is important that you do so to ensure facility/space availability. The master calendar can be viewed at trinity-lutheran.com/calendar. Please note that the "Calendar of Events" found in the resources section of the website does not automatically populate from the Google calendar. All efforts will be made to keep that calendar up to date, but we encourage you to visit trinity-lutheran.com/calendar for the most timely and accurate information. Please contact Karen Hemenway with questions or concerns at marketing@trinity-lutheran.com.

LWML CID MISSION GRANT #3: Ft. Wayne and St. Louis Seminary Food Banks (\$10,000) A necessary part of sharing the Gospel with others and spreading the Word is having trained church workers, including pastors. Having the ability to draw on food bank resources supports the church's mission of training church workers and pastors to spread the Gospel. This grant will assist the staff at these food banks in buying food, toiletries, and other needed items.

LUTHERAN HIGH SHOPPER'S BLESSING PROGRAM: Have you enrolled in Lutheran High Shopper's Program? With the holidays approaching, this is a great time to stock up on gift cards. You can use gift cards for your holiday purchases or to give as gifts; all while saving money for your student's future Lutheran High tuition! For more information, please contact Kim Haynes at 217-546-6363, ext. 135 or stop by her table at Trinity School on Thursday mornings during school drop-off.

THANKSGIVING DAY OFFERING: Thanks to all Trinity members for your grace in giving this Thanksgiving season. A total of \$1,724.00 was collected; and, as approved in the Voters' Assembly, these funds will be contributed to the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod - Central Illinois District to assist in its mission efforts throughout Central Illinois. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!!

ATHLETICS

Basketball Season is underway. Our Trinity Teams have played regular season and tournament games. We are always in need of volunteers to help with concessions and admissions as our numbers for both girls and boys are low. Many of the parents from the girls' team have worked a lot of hours to support our home events during the volleyball season. We also need folks to help with the clock and scorebook for our home games. If anyone is available to assist in any of these areas, please contact Lynn Friday at lfriday@comcast.net or Brett Moll at bmoll@trinity-lutheran.com.

BASKETBALL

JV & VARSITY BOYS GAMES (JV Game 1st Unless Otherwise Indicated)

Dec. 6: Home vs Zion Mt. Pulaski, 6pm and 7pm
Dec. 8: At Christ Lutheran Peoria, JV 11am and Varsity 1pm
Dec. 11: Home vs CHSA, 6pm and 7pm
Dec. 13: At O.S, 6pm and 7pm
Dec. 21: At Trinity Bloomington, JV at 5pm;
Varsity at 7pm

JV & VARSITY GIRLS GAMES (JV Game 1st Unless Otherwise Indicated)

Dec. 8: At Christ Lutheran Peoria, JV at 10am;
Varsity at 12pm
Dec. 13: Home vs O.S, 6pm and 7pm
Dec. 21: At Trinity Bloomington, JV at 4pm;
Varsity at 6pm

HOT LUNCH MENU

Monday, December 3

Chicken Nuggets, Corn, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, December 4

Hamburger W/Bun, Oven Fries, Baked Beans, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, December 5

Chicken n Rice, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk

Thursday, December 6

Pizza Stick, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk

Friday, December 7

Fish Shapes, Tater Tots, Carrots, Fruit Milk

8th GRADE CLASS FUNDRAISING EVENT

The 8th grade students at Trinity Lutheran School will be offering gift wrap service as a fundraiser for the 8th grade Class Trip. For a donation, bring your gifts to the Parish Center lobby at 4pm on:
Saturday, December 8
Saturday, December 15.
Gifts will be wrapped before and during the 5:30pm church worship services. (Please include a box for each gift to be wrapped in.)
If demand is high, an additional evening of gift wrapping services will be added on Saturday, December 22!
For more information, please email Kris Smith at ksplum3@sbcglobal.net.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

EARN A RETURN AND HELP OUR LCMS CHURCHES: The Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund (CID-CEF) provides resources to churches in our Central Illinois District that wish to grow God's ministry through building or expansion. We are able to do this because of conscientious LCMS members like you who support our churches by investing in the CID-CEF - we need *your* continued support and investments! As an added blessing for your investment, we are now offering a 24-Month SPECIAL RATE of 2.35% (minimum investment \$500) to you as well as our church organizations to support the LCMS ministry. Please contact Chris Anderson or Susan Short at the CID-CEF (phone: 217-793-1802, email: cef@cidlcms.org) or visit our website: www.cidlcms.org, for this special interest rate and other recent rate increases for our investment options. Thank you for investing in the future of our LCMS!

CALENDAR YEAR 2019 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES: In an effort to save on mailing costs, the distribution of our 2019 contribution envelope packets will be the same as last year. **All envelope packets are now available** in the Parish Center, arranged in alphabetical order, reading from the bottom of the table to the top, left to right. Please be sure to use the designated envelopes for your capital campaign offerings. Also, like last year, there is a check box marked "I/We Give Electronically" on each envelope. This is for those who have (or will) sign up for regularly scheduled electronic transfers of their set offerings from their bank account to the Church's accounts) or through one or more of Trinity's e-giving options. To make things easier for all concerned, the envelope packets for 2019 will be renumbered to match the alphabetical listing of family names. This greatly eases the administration, preparation and distribution of envelopes. Please be assured that all records of past giving will be transferred completely to your new envelope number. Please note your new number. The contribution counters ask that you write it on the memo line of your contribution checks in 2019. **Please pick up your envelope packet as soon as you can.**

Remaining packets will be prepared for mailing on Saturday, Dec. 15. Please do not use your new envelopes until after Jan. 1, 2019. After New Year's Day, you are encouraged to dispose of any unused 2018 (or previous years') envelopes. Thank you for your assistance!

2019 FLOWER CHARTS: The altar flower charts for 2019 will be posted at the Parish Hall and at the downtown church location soon. If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please note your name and phone number on the day(s) of your choice. A member of Ladies Aid will contact you in the month prior for placement and to get specifics for printing in the bulletin. Please call Susan Schultz at 217-483-5225 or Janie Rast at 217-585-0571 with any questions.

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEET THE NEED DRIVE: The results are in for the Meet the Need Food Drive! Trinity Lutheran School collected over 1800 items to help out those in need. Ten families from our Food Pantry benefitted from this drive on Wednesday, Nov. 21. Congratulations to Grade 3, Grade 6, and Grade 7 for collecting the most items by class. They will receive a pizza/movie party in the future. Thank you to Mr. Schilicting for directing the 6th graders as they sorted and bagged the items for each family. They learned a lot of useful problems solving skills in this event. Thank you to Trinity Lutheran School students and parents also for giving so generously! Also please do not forget our school offerings this quarter go to the food drive to help families with perishable items.

SPECIAL CHILDRENS CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: Christmas Eve Choir Students in Grades 3-8 are invited to sing in a special choir for Christmas Eve, December 24, in the 7pm service. All rehearsals will be during the school day. If your child would like to sing at this special service, please write a short note indicating this and give it to your child's teacher or send it to the school office for Mrs. Fliege by Mon., Dec. 17.