

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 23

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

Monday, December 24

NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS BREAK
7pm-8pm: Christmas Eve Worship Service
11pm-12am: Christmas Eve Worship Service

Tuesday, December 25

NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS BREAK
10am-11am: Christmas Day Worship Service

Wednesday, December 26

NO SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK

Thursday, December 27

NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS BREAK
9am-2:30pm: Trinity Quilters

Friday, December 28

NO SCHOOL-CHRISTMAS BREAK

Saturday, December 29

5:30pm-6:30pm: Worship Service

UPCOMING EVENTS

CIRCLE OF MOMS: Circle of Moms will be meeting on the second Friday of each month January through May in 2019. This is a great opportunity to meet other women in our church and school community and to enjoy a time of fellowship while participating in activities and service projects. Mothers and women of all ages are welcome to attend. The first meeting 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

WHOLE LIFE CHALLENGE 2019: The pace has picked up and the parties are happening, but are you looking forward to January and regaining the control amidst the chaos? As Mary D. shares about the Whole Life Challenge, "It also reinforces the idea that it's not just about food, but that sleep, hydration, stretching, nutrition and exercise all tie in together. It's not just a diet, but a lifestyle change." Join us for the Whole Life Challenge starting **Jan. 19, 2019**. Focusing on nutrition, some exercise, sleep and well-being habits will help to reset and start 2019 off on a positive note! Register now for a discount! Early registration discount ends January 6. To learn more about the challenge go to www.wholelifechallenge.com. Please contact Amy Holmes at holmesfam08@icloud.com if you have questions. Looking forward to you joining us on the challenge!

2019 LUTHERAN HIGH AUCTION: The 30th Annual Lutheran High Blue Tie and Pearls Auction is on **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!

**CHRISTMAS EVE,
CHRISTMAS DAY, AND
NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICES**

- **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

**All services will be held at the downtown church location.*

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 deaconesses and pastors to spread the Gospel. This grant will assist the staff at these food banks in buying food, toiletries, and other needed items.

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 the 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!

2019 FLOWER CHARTS: The altar flower charts for 2019 are posted at the Parish Center and at our downtown church location. If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please note your name and phone number on the days 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.

**CHOIR SCHEDULE:
JANUARY 2019**

Primary Choir:

January 27: 8am Service

Junior Choir:

January 15: 5:30pm Service

Trinity Choir:

January 13: 8am Service

January 20: 10:30am Service

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

SUNDAY MORNING HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE CLASS:

What's YOUR Worldview, taught by Youth Director Cindy Good in the church library.

SUNDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE CLASSES:

- *Lutheranism 101: The Lord's Supper*, taught by Pastor Holmes in the Science Room.
- Women's Bible Study: *Think on These*, taught by Amy Holmes in the Extended Care room. Philippians 4:8 instructs us to place our minds on things that are true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and worthy of praise...join us as we discuss what this means for us in our daily lives.
- *Burning Questions*, taught by Pastor Hemenway in the Parish Center.

TUESDAY SENIOR CITIZENS BIBLE CLASS:

The next class begins on Tuesday, **January 15** 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 Merryman 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 in Sunday School children studied "The Birth of John." Zechariah spoke God's Word announcing that this baby, John, would give people knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of sins. God speaks through His Holy Word to give knowledge of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus, His Son. In your family discuss, "How does Jesus remind us of the work He has done for us?"

TRUSTING IN THE LORD CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT:

Through the month of November 2018

Months completed: 24

Months to go: 12

Pledges made: \$746,518

Amount received (66%): \$495,833

Building Fund - Two Years Completed-With 24 months completed so far on our current building pledge drive, we are so thankful for the many faithful members that have financially supported this project. If you are unsure what you have given on your pledge you can contact the church office and we will be glad to find out this information. With the end of the year fast approaching this may be helpful for tax purposes. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

TRINITY CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS: The Trinity Church Office will be closed on the following days: **Mon., Dec. 24, Tues., Dec. 25, Wed., Dec. 26, Thur., Dec. 27, Mon., Dec. 31, and Tues., Jan. 1.**

TRINITY CHURCH AND SCHOOL CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS:

Trinity Lutheran Church and School: 217-787-2323

Trinity Church After-Hours/Emergency: 217-522-8151

We all have times that tragedy can happen and a pastor needs to be contacted immediately. The after-hours/emergency phone number is intended for emergencies such as a death, serious accident, or serious injury. When you call this number you will be connected with our answering service. The operator who receives the call will take your message and promptly forward it to the pastor on-call.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers for the altar are still needed for the first two weeks in **January, 2019**. If you can help fill this need, please call Susan Schultz at 217-483-5225 or Janie Rast at 217-585-0571.

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEER CHURCH CLEANERS: Special thanks to the following church members who have helped with church cleaning for the past six months:

Kelly Biggs	Donna Call
Mary and Jeff Bodine	Cindy Furling
Rhonda Goeres	Karen Graff
Eric Guldenstein	Amy Hayer
Peggy Moll	Sara Schlichting
Karen Summers	Tia Utinske

CHURCH CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: We are preparing a new six month church custodian schedule. Duties include

- Vacuuming
- Dusting and straightening pews
- Dust mopping floors
- Cleaning windows
- Other light cleaning of the sanctuary and cry-room areas.

Volunteers are scheduled to clean once every 9-10 weeks. Cleaning takes 2-3 hours per session. Training is provided. Contact Sara Schlichting at 217-585-0969 or email schlichts@comcast.net.

CHRISTMAS SERVE: Thank you to the 19 fifth and sixth graders (and assorted siblings) who attended Christmas Serve. They decorated over 75 Christmas cookies, assembled about 50 desk brackets for Midwest Mission, compiled nearly 40 care kits for the Matthew Project, tied fleece blankets, and organized 460 bags and 2 dozen containers for St. John's Breadline. A special thank you to Roger Schlichting, Stephanie Patridge, Erica Cave, Pastor Holmes, Angie and Adam Strong for coordinating, chaperoning or cleaning up our marvelous messes! Thanks to all those who donated care items and to Thrivent for providing a grant.

THANK YOU FROM YOUTH DIRECTOR CINDY GOOD:

Thank You, Trinity, for supporting our youth ministry through your prayers and donations! You joyfully took part in our coupon book fundraiser, Applebee's Breakfast, and Christmas Bake Sale. Your gifts contributed \$1200.00 to fund future activities and send teens to the National Youth Gathering.

GIVE THE GIFT OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CAMPAIGN-

WALL OF GIVING: As we prepare to enter into the Christmas season, please consider contributing to Trinity Lutheran School through our Wall of Giving Campaign.

Starting this weekend, you will notice a board with numbered envelopes at both the church and school locations. Each envelope contains a message or picture from a student of Trinity Lutheran School. Simply choose an envelope that displays the amount you want to contribute. Remove the student's message from the envelope, this is yours to keep. Place your donation inside the envelope and put the envelope into the box located next to the Wall of Giving.

Checks may be made out to Trinity Lutheran Church. Thank you in advance for giving the gift of Christian education this Christmas!

TRINITY 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 these weekly spotlights, we are featuring areas of the Strategic Plan that have been completed or are currently in development.

As we enjoy the beautiful Christmas decorations in our sanctuary, we are reminded of the substantial effort that has gone into the renovation project at the downtown church campus. This renovation project was a key initiative of the 2016 strategic plan.

The 2500 sq. ft. addition offers a convenient entrance, modern bathrooms on the main floor, and increased gathering space. Many improvements were also made throughout our historic church building, including:

- New flooring throughout the main floor
- New lighting with modern digital dimming systems
- Wider risers for choirs and bands in the balcony
- Rebuilt and refurbished organ
- Expanded space between pews
- New landscaping and sidewalks
- New interior paint
- ADA spaces near the front of the sanctuary
- Tuck pointing and sealing on exterior brickwork
- Roof repairs
- New hardware on entry doors
- New, high efficiency boilers and air vents

These improvements have made our facility much more inviting and accessible and we are thankful to all who contributed to and supported this project. To God be the glory!

HOMework HELP COMING TO EXTENDED CARE:

Homework Help will be coming to Extended Care beginning in **January, 2019**. The program will offer "Homework Help" to students of Trinity Lutheran School.

What is Homework Help? Homework Help is a quiet place to study, read, or do your homework. An extended care worker will be available to assist with homework.

When does it begin? Jan. 7, 2019

Who is able to participate? Students must be enrolled in the extended care program to take advantage of this offer.

Where is it located? In the cafeteria next to extended care room.

What is the cost? This program is free to any student who pays for extended care service. There is no extra fee associated with homework help.

What days is it offered? Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:45pm (after snack) until 4:30pm.

Do I have to sign my child up for this service?

Yes. A form is available on the Trinity Lutheran School website:

www.trinity-lutheran.com/homeworkhelp.

What if I sign up and my child has no homework that day? Your child will still attend and be asked to read quietly or study.

For more information about the Homework Help program, please contact Sara Opperman or Pam Sausaman at Trinity Lutheran School: 217-787-2323.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

ILLINOIS SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT - GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME TAX CREDIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

Illinois enacted the *Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program* in 2017. This program offers a 75 percent income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified *Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs)*. The SGOs then provide scholarships for students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois. Trinity Lutheran School has chosen the *Scholarship Granting Organization of Empower IL* to oversee these funds. Consult the website <https://empowerillinois.org/donors/about-tax-credit-scholarship-program/> for more information.

Last year we had 42 families apply for this scholarship. Unfortunately there were only enough funds for 6 Trinity students to receive this scholarship. If you need help in filling out the forms or guidance, we are here to assist you. Please contact the following for more information or assistance:

John Rodenburg, jrodenburg@aol.com

Carol Radtke, carol.radtke@radmen3.com or 217-698-7569

Pam Sausaman, psausaman@trinity-lutheran.com or 217-787-2323

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL: It is always a good reminder to know who the members are for the Board of Christian Day School: Sue Gwillim (Chairperson), Brent Radtke, Heather Daniel, Becki Esselman, Joe Tarr, Jennifer Harris, and Tiffany Whitaker. Meetings are held regularly every month. Thank you for your continued support.

SCHOOL STORE: The School Store officially opened Dec. 3 and was a big hit among the students and staff. Students traded in their Elements of Success cards for various items such as pencils, erasers, gift cards, and small toys. A special thank you to PTL and Thrivent for providing funds for the store. The next dates the store is scheduled to be open will be **Jan. 7-11, 2019**. Keep saving those cards! (Please note that cards and meeples from the last school year will not be accepted.)

APPLICATION REMINDERS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH

EMPOWER IL: Part one of the application will be available at empowerillinois.org on **Jan. 15, 2019** at 7pm. The application is a two-part process:

Part one is a brief reservation form which will timestamp applications. Families can access part two of the application on **Jan. 18, 2019** through their new portal on empowerXchange. Families are encouraged to complete part two before **Jan. 28, 2019**. Parents help line: 309-416-0741 or email scholars@empowerillinois.org