

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

Sunday, December 16

8am-9am: Worship Service
 9am-11am: Bake Sale
 9:30am-10:15am: Sunday School and Adult Bible Class
 10:30am-11:30am: Worship Service
 12pm-4pm: Men's Ministry Bears/Packers Game
 3pm-4:30pm: Capital Clovers 4H Club

Monday, December 17

7pm-8pm: Board of Elders

Tuesday, December 18

10am-11am: Seniors' Bible Study

Wednesday, December 19

6:30am-7:30am: Sunrise Bible Study
 8:15am-9:30am: School Chapel
 9:30am-10:30am: Preschool Chapel
 4pm-5pm: Public School Catechism
 6:30pm-7:30pm: School Upper Grades Advent Worship

Thursday, December 20

9am-2:30pm: Trinity Quilters
 7pm-8:30pm: Adult Choir Practice

Friday, December 21

School Early Dismissal
 4pm-8:30pm: Basketball at Trinity Bloomington

Saturday, December 22

4pm-6:30pm: 8th Grade Wrapping Event
 5:30pm-6:30pm: Worship Service

**Trinity Lutheran School is on Christmas Break until January 3, 2019.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS RECITAL: Our young people at Trinity Lutheran Church 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

PACKERS VS. BEARS GAME: Come join the Trinity Men's Group on Sun., **Dec. 16** at 12pm in the Parish Center for a time of fellowship. Join the rivalry between Packers and Bears fans as we watch the game on the big screen. Lutheran beverages allowed BYOC (in cans only-no bottles). Snacks provided. Contact Scott Anderson at 217-299-3060 for more information.

ADVENT SERVICE FOR 5th-8th GRADERS: The Trinity Lutheran 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. The band will provide pre-service music.

CIRCLE OF MOMS IS RETURNING: 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 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! 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

THANK YOU TO CHRISTMAS DECORATORS: Special thanks to all the volunteers who decorated the church for Christmas this year. Lots of greenery fluffing, ladder climbing, light hanging, and ornaments hung or thrown. The decorating was done in just a few hours. The church looks beautiful!

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

MID-WEEK ADVENT

Please join us for mid-week Advent Services on the following Wednesdays at 6:30pm:
 • **December 19** at the Downtown Church Campus (led by 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

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 by Pastor Hemenway in the Parish Center.

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 in Sunday School, the children learn the account "Mary Visits Elizabeth." In the presence of the Son of God growing within Mary's womb, John the Baptist leapt inside Elizabeth's womb. God fills us with Himself in Word and Sacrament and we, like Mary, offer our praise and worship. Consider asking, "How or when does God fill us with His presence today?"

TRUSTING IN THE LORD CONTRIBUTIONS REPORT - BLDG. FUND

Thru the month of November 2018
Months completed: 24
Months to go: 12
Pledges made: \$746,518
Amount received (66%): \$495,833

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 in providing for our \$3 million in improvements. Thank you again for your prayers and support.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

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 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!

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 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.

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.

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.

SPECIAL CHILDRENS CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: Students in 3rd-8th grade 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.

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 meeple from the last school year will not be accepted.)

CHOIR SCHEDULE: DECEMBER

Primary Choir:

December 16: 10:30am Service

Junior Choir:

December 15: 5:30pm Service

Trinity Choir:

December 9: 8am Service

Adult Choir:

December 5: 6:30pm Service

December 9: 8am Service

December 22: 5:30pm Service

December 24: 11pm Service

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. The renovation project at the downtown church campus was a key initiative of the 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.

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!

SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS CONTINUED

8th GRADE CLASS FUNDRAISING EVENT: The 8th grade students at Trinity Lutheran School will be offering gift wrapping services as a fundraiser for the 8th grade Class Trip. For a donation, bring your gifts to the Parish Center lobby at 4pm on Sat., **Dec. 15**. Gifts will be wrapped before and during the 5:30pm church worship service. 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.

LUTHERAN HIGH ANNOUNCEMENTS

MADRIGAL DINNER: LUHI is hosting a Madrigal Dinner on Sat., **Dec. 15** at 6:30pm. *What is a Madrigal Dinner you ask?* A Madrigal Dinner is a form of Renaissance dinner theater set in the Middle Ages and is comedic in nature. The meal is divided into several courses, each of which is typically heralded with a traditional song. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please contact the LUHI School Office for more information at 217-546-6363.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: The Music Department presents the Christmas Concert at Lutheran High School on **Dec. 17** at 7pm.

CHRISTMAS DANCE: The LUHI Christmas Dance is Fri., **Dec. 21** from 7pm-11pm at the Sangamo Club in Springfield. Tickets are \$45 with dinner included. Please contact the LUHI School Office for more information at 217-546-6363.

ATHLETICS

On behalf of the Athletic Committee, coaches, and our student athletes, we want to thank you for your support and wish everyone a very joyous Christmas season and Happy New Year. We look forward to your continued support and seeing you in the stands!

JV & VARSITY BOYS (JV game first unless otherwise Indicated)

GAMES

Dec. 21: At Trinity Bloomington, JV 5pm/Varsity 7pm

JV & VARSITY GIRLS (JV game first unless otherwise Indicated)

GAMES

Dec. 21: Trinity Bloomington, JV 4pm/Varsity 6pm

HOT LUNCH MENU

Monday, December 17:

Mini Corn Dogs, Green Beans, Fruit, Milk

Tuesday, December 18:

Mr. Rib W/Bun, Tater Tots, Fruit, Milk

Wednesday, December 19:

Potato Bar, Broccoli, Fruit, Milk

Thursday, December 20:

Turkey/Cheese Sandwich, Chips, Yogurt, Fruit, Milk