

# CHIMES



Issue 792  
January 2016

News and events of interest and importance from your brothers and sisters in the faith at Trinity.

## Why It Is Good for My Church To Encourage Giving?

During the recently completed "Excel in the Grace of Giving" program, a number of questions were asked in regard to Christian giving. Many of these questions could be summarized with the question above. Last month we began to look at some of the answers to that question. This month we complete that list of answers. May God bless our study of Christian giving! Thanks to Jeff Davis for his help. Pastor Laabs

**Reason 4: Giving is a hard thing to do!** Giving away "my things" is hard! Giving causes us to have less and therefore we may think that we won't have enough to go around for ourselves or others we love. Those are real struggles that every Christian faces. We do have doubts and wonder about this giving thing.

One of the biggest obstacles to Christian giving is thinking that earth is our home. Our journey on this planet called earth is not our final destination. St. Paul describes our bodies as tents here on this earth. He also says, "Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20. We are nothing but aliens living in a foreign land.

It is kind of like a journey through a foreign land. If you were asked to walk across a country, you would want to get rid of any excess weight. I'm told that hikers who go for very extended trips, will do anything to eliminate weight. They will even take their toothbrush and cut off the 4" of the handle to reduce its drag. That is kind of a neat analogy for you and me. We have so many excess "things" in this earth. Maybe it is time to jettison some of those things. Maybe it is time give back and have a long-term focus on where we as a Christian is heading, heaven.



*We are made for one place, heaven. After 5 minutes in heaven we will know why we are there. May God bless your journey!*

**Reason 5: Giving involves asking.** It certainly does! If we look at Christian giving as a service, a ministry, then no one can deny that opportunity. The church that loves its members will ask its members to give. Jesus understood this concept when he preached and taught so many times about money while walking on this earth. Over half of the parables focus on money and possessions. There are over 500 verses on prayer, but over 2300 relating to money and possessions. Jesus was not silent on the topic of money and being generous with it.

Jesus knew that we would struggle with that first commandment, "You shall have no other gods." You see, money and possessions have a way to grab our attention and focus. At many times, our hearts follow things of this world instead of following the will of Jesus. By asking people to give, we are causing them to evaluate the importance of "things" in their lives.

**Response 6: Giving involves leadership.** It is important to remember that we all need to be taught how to give. For many of us we were taught early on by our parents or grandparents. For others, it may be that pastor who led a bible study or annual appeal one year. Or, maybe it was our spouse who understood the blessings of tithing and we reluctantly went along and now see the blessings of this way of life. Leaders help lead the way in teaching others how to give.

This learning how to give just doesn't happen once. Since we have that old self that wishes to serve itself, we all need to relearn how to give. It may be because of a situation in life that has changed or we just simply have gotten into a habit. It is important for everyone in our church to understand that learning how to give is a life-long process. One role of our leaders is to lead in the teaching of giving.

**Response 7: Giving is all about needs.** The need of the giver to give is greater than the need for the church to receive. A lot of churches frequently turn that around.

God has given us the gift of giving:

- ◆ The power and capability to give are God's gifts to us in the gospel
- ◆ It is all about the attitude of the heart. I don't give "in order to get something", but give "because of" God's gifts to us.
- ◆ Giving is all about gratitude for what our God has done, and continues to do for us.

**Giving helps us to further trust in the Lord. When we give and therefore have less, it causes us to look for God to provide for future needs.**



**Come and join us with your  
"little sport" for a kids**

**Open Gym**  
**JANUARY 17, 2016**  
**3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

**A great way for kids and parents  
to make new friends.**

**Open to any BABY - 6 YEAR OLD**

**One hour of free play.**

**Toys and play equipment provided.  
Parent must accompany.**

**Free Play - no scheduled events.**

**Held in Trinity Lutheran's gym.**



This event  
is sponsored by  
Trinity Women's  
Ministry Group.



Contact Gretchen Carran with questions.  
gretchen.carran@gmail.com

KIDS FREE PLAY

**Epiphany** The season of Epiphany (the Greek word for "appearance") recalls how Jesus proved himself to be the Son of God and the Savior of all people. The Festival of the Epiphany of Our Lord is celebrated on January 6, the twelfth day of Christmas, and is often called the Gentile Christmas. In the lessons and the Gospel, God makes it abundantly clear that his salvation is not only for his chosen Old Testament people but also for the Gentiles (non-Jews). Jesus is revealed as our Savior!



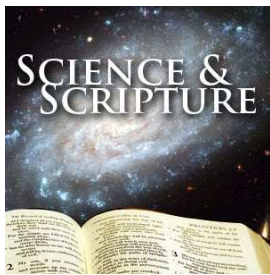
**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH** will hold their annual meeting **Sunday, Jan. 31** at 1:00 p.m. All voting members are expected to attend, and all other members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in the "open forum" portions.

**Thank You** for a great treat bag! Due to the generosity of different individuals, an enjoyable Christmas treat bag was put together for all of our children at Trinity. They received an orange, apple, cheese, fruit juice, dried fruit, chips and different candies in their bag. It was almost a balanced meal. A big thank you to those of you that helped fill the children's Christmas treat bag. The children loved it!



## Understanding God through Scripture and Science

Barely a day goes by without a headline describing new knowledge about the beginning of the world, new discoveries about the nature of the universe, new theories about the origin of our species, or even new insights about the beginning of life itself. Such headlines often tout that the Bible has once again been disproven and that only someone primitive could believe those things. This has become so common that a dividing line has been created. Scientists are viewed as anti-Christian and Christians are viewed as anti-science. This is where you come in. As a Christian, when you read such headlines, how should you respond? Are they true? Does Science really disprove the Bible? Do science and Scripture really oppose each other? If they do oppose each other, how do we reach out to scientists? What about those who say science and the Bible are in perfect harmony? How can we respond? Answer these questions and more Sundays during Bible Class, where for six weeks we will work through a course called "Understanding God through Scripture and Science" in January. Mr. William Dunn will be teaching this class. Watch your weekly bulletins for exact dates.



## Heart in Focus: Christian Stewardship and Personal Finance

will be offered as a 5 week course on Thursday evenings at 6:30-8:00pm, Jan. 7 until Feb. 4. . This course guides individual members in the basics of Christian stewardship and in the basics of wise faith-focused finances for their daily lives. The course will cover the Christian attitudes behind healthy financial decisions and practical advice for giving, saving, debt removal and financially wise lifestyles. The course is written by Cornerstone Stewardship Ministry leader Mr. Jeff Davis and Adult Discipleship Administrator Rev. David Kehl. Those who have participated in it in the past have found it extremely practical and helpful. Each student will purchase a workbook that can be used after the class to place what has been learned into action. To register please see the brochure that was put into your church mailboxes or call the church office.





## Informal discussions between WELS, ELS, and LCMS:

**A report** For the past four years, representatives from our synod and from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been meeting for informal discussions with counterparts from the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At the most recent meeting, held December 1-3, participants unanimously adopted a document that reports on the results of the meetings that have taken place. The report also looks ahead to the future and outlines some of the areas that still need to be addressed.

**[View and download the statement](#)**

As you will read in the report, those involved in the meetings have agreed that God has blessed these meetings and that there have been real benefits and blessings as a result of the discussions. Please pray that God would continue to bless these efforts, to his glory.

## Interactive Faith Bible Study

The next four-week Interactive Faith online Bible study will begin Wed., Jan. 13, 2016. Rev. Gary Pufahl, chairman of WELS Adult Discipleship and pastor at Christ, Big Bend, Wis., will lead the study twice each Wednesday at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. (central) through Feb. 3.



The theme of Pufahl's study is "Who is your God, for whom you live?"

"Ever since the fall into sin, human beings have wanted the status of 'god.' They want to be god. They want to play god," says Pufahl. "But who exactly is the one true God? What is he like? What are his attributes? What is his will? What does he do? What amazing blessings become ours as we get to know our God better? I pray that God's people will gain a greater appreciation for who God is and what he does as their God and that they

## JANUARY CHURCH EVENTS

- Jan. 4 TLS School Resumes
- Jan. 5 Education Committee
- Jan. 6 Fun Day
- Jan. 7 Heart in Focus
- Jan. 11 Trinity Choir
- Jan. 12 Stewardship Committee
- Jan. 13 FACE Meeting
- Jan. 13 Sunday School Teachers
- Jan. 14 Heart in Focus
- Jan. 16 BB Games at Trinity
- Jan. 18 BB Games at Trinity
- Jan. 18 EmBELLishment Choir
- Jan. 18 Trinity Choir
- Jan. 20 Outreach Committee
- Jan. 21 Heart in Focus
- Jan. 22 BB Games at Trinity
- Jan. 26 Elders Committee
- Jan. 27 Kindergarten Round-Up

Thank you to everyone that supports our school by purchasing scrip. We continue to see growth in the amount of people that use scrip for their everyday purchases like gas, groceries, home building supplies, and nearly all other shopping, and some heating bills as well. This past year Kwik Trip decided to change the way they donate money for card purchases. 5% is earned at purchase and if any cards are used in the station for food, soda, milk, etc. the Trinity scrip account earns another 10% on those purchases. Right now we are receiving approx. \$150 per month on these purchases! Every single purchase adds up to make this program so successful. THANK YOU to all who take the time to take part in this awesome scrip program!!!!

## Gently Used Shoe Collection!

During the month of January Trinity Lutheran School is working in conjunction with the Kiel Public School to collect gently worn shoes. (gently worn means ~ no holes or soles coming off please.) The box to drop the shoes in is located near the office door. They are partnering with [funds2org.com](http://funds2org.com) ~ an organization that collects gently used shoes and provides them to micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries. These micro-entrepreneurs clean the shoes, make minor repairs, and sell them for a profit ~ which helps them to provide basic necessities for their families, and ultimately creates a sustainable economic impact in countries where it is needed most. This will also help you start the new year with a little less clutter in your home ~ and knowing you are impacting a family somewhere across the world...now that's SOLE-LIFTING!



## Manitowoc Lutheran High School

### Friends of the Lancers Fish Fry



**Friday, January 29, 2016**  
**Twin Fountains, 7330 English Lake Rd., Manitowoc**  
**Serving from 4:30-8:30 PM**  
**Serving breaded shrimp, mock lobster, perch, beer battered haddock, chicken strips, fish sandwich, French fries, red potatoes, coleslaw, rye bread, and desserts.**



387 Cemetery Road  
Kiel WI 53042

Phone: 920-894-3012

Fax: 920-894-4742

E-mail: office@trinitykiel.com

*Return Address Requested*



Thank You For Your Service

**JANUARY GREETER SCHEDULE**

Sun.	Jan. 3	8:00am 10:30am	Joseph & Kalli Holzwart David & June Maile
Sun.	Jan. 10	8:00am 10:30am	Ron & Peggy Lauersdorf Rich & Charlotte Zahrobsky
Sun.	Jan. 17	8:00am 10:30am	Jackie Wegner & Doris Dittmar Rich & Peggy Rahmlow
Sun.	Jan. 24	8:00am 10:30am	Gerald & Doris Schnelle Dennis & Teresa Egerer
Sun.	Jan. 31	8:00am 10:30am	Dwayne & Brenda Beckmann Bonnie Overland & Erin Overland

**2015 CHURCH COUNCIL**

President:	Greg Fictum 920-464-0147
Secretary:	John Dahmer 920-323-1014
Treasurer:	Zach Wusterbarth 920-901-2293
Financial Secretary:	Mike Schmitz 920-377-6295
Education Chairman:	Bill Hanmann 920-898-4684
Outreach Chairman:	Scott Cowling 920-203-1891
Stewardship Chairman:	Peter Hansen 920-901-4850
Maintenance Chairman:	Vern Grosshuesch 920-769-5108