



CHIMES



Issue 791
December 2015

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?



GIVING BACK TO THE ONE WHO FIRST GAVE
You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.
- 2 Corinthians 9:7

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. I would like to take this month and next to respond to these questions in an attempt to make us all aware of the role that Christian giving plays in our lives. May God bless our study of this subject!

Thanks to Jeff Davis for his help.
Pastor Laabs

Reason 1: Giving is about love. It has been said that "The church that loves its members will ask its members to give." Leaders of Lutheran churches realize a spiritual responsibility to challenge Jesus' disciples to remain focused on living a life of gratitude. Things of this world grab our attention. Focusing on the spiritual helps humans see beyond this earth. Leaders are only following through in their responsibility to members as well as the opportunity to teach and encourage. Leaders are demonstrating love by asking us to give.

Reason 2: Giving is about evaluation. 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. Many times our hearts follow things of this world instead of following the will of Jesus. All Christians have this struggle. In fact it is like a civil war going on each day in our hearts. By asking people to give, we are causing them to evaluate the importance of "things" in their lives.

When we are asked to give money it does cause us to go through an important process. It guides us in evaluating two important things in our lives:

- ◆ Our blessings. How has God blessed me in my own life? Being asked to give causes us to add up the many blessings in our lives. We come to realize that we have been blessed so wonderfully by a giving God! Remembering these blessings is a good thing.
- ◆ Our very existence. Why are we here on this earth? What is our purpose for living? How am I connected with my local congregation or church denomination? In answering these questions it causes us to go back to the very reason why we are followers of Jesus: I wish to share Jesus with more and more people.

*Every financial decision, which includes giving, is a spiritual one.
Giving impacts the very essence of our being.*

Reason 3: Giving brings blessings to the giver. How can it be that giving brings blessings to the giver? Recall the words of Jesus: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35. Three things occur when you and I receive blessings:

- ◆ We do receive a blessing from God. It is a gift. God has given you something to manage: possessions, money, talents, people. It is a deep thought to think that God has asked you to be a wise manager of them.
- ◆ Then, when you take that blessing and give it to others, they are blessed. Parents have seen this in their lives. We give our kids an education and blessings follow for them in terms of a livelihood. We give them lessons in singing, dance or athletics and see the blessings that follow. We give gifts to our church so that others are blessed: spiritually through our pastor, Christian education, or for the poor. We give gifts back so that other lives are blessed.
- ◆ God chooses to bless you in addition to the gift he gave you. You give a gift to others, he blesses you for giving that gift. "A generous man will himself be blessed" Proverbs 22:9.

Special December Offering Opportunities

Dec. 2 Assistance for Ministry College Students

Dec. 9 Local Outreach and Charity Committee

Dec. 16 Manitowoc Lutheran High School

Dec. 19 WLCFS

Dec. 24 General Fund

Dec. 25 Missions



Special Worship Service Times at Trinity for December

Advent Worship

December 2 at 6:30 PM Mid-week Advent 1
"My Son, My Savior" video will be shown

December 9 at 6:30 PM Mid-week Advent 2
Trinity Choirs Service

December 16 at 6:30 PM Mid-week Advent 3
Lessons and Carols

*A simple supper will be served at
5:30PM before each Advent Service*

***Note the new service time for the
Advent Worship Services**



Christmas Worship

December 13 at 10:30 AM
Sunday School Advent/Christmas Service

Dec. 19 at 6:00 PM
Trinity Lutheran School Christmas Service

December 24 at 3:00 and 5:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 25 at 9:00 AM
Christmas Day Worship/Communion

December 31 at 6:00 PM
New Year's Eve Worship/Communion



A NEW CHURCH YEAR

As we enter Advent, we note that the church year is divided into two distinct parts. From now through Pentecost, we study The Life Of Christ in the lessons for the day. For the other half of the year, the so-called non-festival half, we focus on Our Life In Christ. The church years allows us to hear the "whole counsel of God" each year.



Escape the hustle and bustle of holiday preparation and hear Mary's reflections on her memories of a special child, "A Mother Remembers." Trinity's Advent by Candlelight will be held on Sunday, December 6, at 6:00 PM. All women of the congregation are invited to attend, and encouraged to invite friends and family.

You will have an opportunity to be a hostess for this event by signing up to decorate a table and bring a dessert. Or simply come and enjoy the fellowship of Advent by Candlelight. Please join us for an evening of reflection, music, and delicious dessert. For more

information, contact Rachel Hanmann or Amber Hansen.

Come to the Book Fair

on Sunday, December 13 in the commons (school cafeteria) from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM featuring the Usborne Books & More picture books, beginning readers, early chapter books, upper elementary, and so much more! Give the gift of reading! Books make great Christmas gifts!



F.A.C.E. Committee of Trinity is hosting a program of Internet-Cyber Bullying & Cell Phone Safety on Tuesday, December 8 at 6:30 PM in the commons (school cafeteria). Officer Jeremy Kamp from the Kiel Police Department will be the keynote speaker.



"Police agencies all over the US are dealing with problems related to cell phone use by young people and many times we find out that parents are uneducated in what is going on with the phone us (sexting, bullying, etc.) As evidenced recently by the fall out at a school in Colorado." **Dave Funkhouser**, Chief of Police

Please join us for light refreshments and fellowship to follow while gaining valuable knowledge to help keep your child safe. *This meeting is for parents and concerned adults only.*



WELS POSITION STATEMENT ON PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

At its October meeting, the Conference of Presidents endorsed a statement developed by The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) affirming WELS' position against physician-assisted suicide.



The position statement, approved in August by TLHA's Board of Directors, includes biblical support for its position as well as historical support in the form of the Hippocratic Oath, which most medical students for centuries have sworn to uphold. The classic version of the oath includes the statement, "I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asks for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect."

TLHA's statement notes, "We strongly oppose physician-assisted suicide for people in each and every circumstance because God's Word clearly guides us in this matter. We urge the alternative, which is true compassion and care through better education on end of life issues, the use of pain management, hospice and palliative care, and delivery of proper and dignified human medical care as defined by the classical version of the Hippocratic Oath."

Rev. Mark Schroeder, WELS president, appreciates that the statement "reflects biblical teaching about the sanctity of human life and emphasizes that only God has the right to end a person's time of grace."

Rev. Joel Gaertner, vice president of ministry at TLHA, explains that as states introduce bills legalizing physician-assisted suicide, congregations and members can use this statement to clarify their position on this issue. If a congregation wants more information or a presentation on the topic of physician-assisted suicide, e-mail jpgaertner@tlha.org.

TLHA, headquartered in Belle Plaine, Minn., offers community and congregational services, including health care and housing services, especially for senior citizens and those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

A Gift for our Called Workers

Trinity is blessed with a terrific staff of committed called workers in bringing to us true Bible teachings. As we go into the Christmas Season, remember our called workers and work into your Christmas gift list budget a gift for them. Keep in mind that we have seven full time workers and one part time on our staff. Starting on Sunday, December 13 and ending on December 27, for your convenience, we will have the "gift box" available in the church narthex at each worship service. (this activity is being coordinated by your Care Committee for Called workers).



Children's Treat Bags

We are in the process of gathering items for the annual Christmas treat bags for our children that are in eighth grade and younger. There is a sign-up sheet in the church narthex and at the church office if you would like to help in donating items or a cash donation to purchase items for the treat bags. Items that would be appropriate are: fresh fruit, fruit snacks, cheese snacks, cheese sticks, fruit juice, meat sticks, candy and chips. We need to fill 200 bags, however any number of an item is appreciated. If you are inclined to help out, please get the items or cash donation to the church office or Gary Seiler by Sunday, December 6. Trinity's Outreach committee is coordinating this effort.



LIVING NATIVITY at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 441 Millersville Avenue in Howards Grove, now in its thirteenth year, will be held the first weekend in December; Friday, Dec. 4, Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday Dec. 6 and runs every 20 minutes. Times for Friday and Saturday are 6:00pm to 9:00pm and the time for Sunday is 4:00pm to 7:00pm. Admission is free and so is parking. All guests are invited to come into their gym, decorated as the town of Bethlehem at night, to warm up and enjoy hot chocolate, hot cider, coffee and cookies. In addition, they will feature signed

presentations on December 5 at 6:00pm, 7:00pm, and 8:00pm for the hearing impaired. **New this year** will be a special display of interesting Nativity sets owned by members of St. Paul's. They will be located in their commons. **Come! Celebrate the birth of Jesus!**

SCRIP UPDATE

SCRIP earnings have been averaging \$1,646 per month.



Support our School!

Imagine what we could do if all of our church family would participate. We all buy groceries and most buy gas, etc. Consider buying cards for these purchases. Pick up a sales sheet on the SCRIP table to see what we have available. Check out the listing on the SCRIP table, SCRIP box, or "Shop with Scrip" website for a complete listing of vendors available. ORDER NOW for your Christmas shopping needs. If you think you may be able to make use of "Scrip Now" purchases while shopping, be sure to set up an account on the "Shop with Scrip" website early to be sure it's activated in time.



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Return Address Requested



Thank You For Your Service

DECEMBER GREETER SCHEDULE

Wed.	Dec. 2	6:30pm	Gary & Janet Seiler
Sun.	Dec. 6	8:00am 10:30am	John & Vicki Woelfel Glenn & Jenny Hansmann
Wed.	Dec. 9	6:30pm	Todd & Jen Schmidkofer
Sun.	Dec. 13	8:00am 10:30am	Jeremie & Laura Gilbert Daniel & Harriet Kuhlow
Wed.	Dec. 16	6:30pm	Terri Grailer & Boys
Sat.	Dec. 19	6:00pm	Wendy Radder & Family
Sun.	Dec. 20	8:00am 10:30am	Bob & Marie Hughes John & Jamie Dahmer
Thurs.	Dec. 24	3:00pm 5:00pm	Roger & Carol Wordell Roland & Marian Tess
Fri.	Dec. 25	9:00am	Rich Conrad & Boys
Sun.	Dec. 27	8:00am 10:30am	Daniel & Dorothy Klemme Jeff & Debbie McCarey
Thurs.	Dec. 31	6:00pm	Donald & Imie Fictum

2015 CHURCH COUNCIL

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