

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Trinity Times

Trinity Lutheran Church

From Pastor's Desk

Dear friend of Trinity,

You've always heard Jesus is the reason for the season. But what if someone else is?

I remember singing the song "Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus..." when I was a kid in Sunday School. Before we received at church our brown lunch sacks of peanuts, oranges, and candy, we even sang Happy Birthday to Jesus at the children's Christmas program a time or two.

When we consider that Christmas means goodie bags being given to the kids at church and the opening of gifts, it's not much of a stretch to think of it as Jesus' birthday party. And just as we use the occasion of a birthday party to make the "birthday boy" or "birthday girl" the center of attention, so we use the weeks leading up to Christmas to make Je-

sus the focus. We hang our decorations and put out our nativity sets. We send out Christmas cards with pictures of Jesus in the manger and a Bible verse etched on the inside. We insist on telling people "Merry Christmas" instead of the generic "Happy holidays."

This month, Christians throughout the world will celebrate "Jesus as the reason for the season." But Christmas is so much more than a birthday party for Jesus. The Christ Child is born for you and for me. We are actually the reason for the season!

Think about the message that the angels shared with the shepherd in the fields! "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12, emphasis added).

And think about the song the angels sang that night! "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!" (Luke 2:14, emphasis added). Think about the words of John the Evangelist! "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (John 1:14, emphasis added). The Child is born for you. The Christ is born to bring peace on earth for you. The Child is born to take on your flesh. He is born to suffer for your iniquities. He is born to pay your debt. He is born to die for you.

The true celebration of Christmas is not the birth of Christ. The true celebration is the birth of Christ for you. And nowhere is this more clear than in the name of Christmas itself: the *Christ Mass*. When you and I gather before the altar of God and receive the body and blood of Christ, we hear the words that are the heart of Christmas. "This is My body, which is given for

(...cont. page 4)

From Pastor's Desk

(...cont. from p. 1)

you." "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood" (Luke 22:19-20). The proper celebration of Christmas isn't our efforts to make Jesus the center of attention. Christmas is best celebrated when Jesus Christ offers Himself in human flesh given under bread and in blood given under wine.

Many of us have taught our children that Christmas isn't about the gifts. Actually, Christmas

is about the gift. Christmas is Jesus for you. The Child in the manger is the Child who pours out God the Father's great love for us with His very blood. We are the reason for the season. Let us remember the reason for Christmas by feasting on the meal our Lord has prepared for us. Merry Christmas!

in Jesus,
(signature)



Please be sure to submit announcements for the bulletin by 3PM each Wednesday.

Please submit all materials for the Newsletter and calendar by 3PM on the last Thursday of the month.

Please be sure to submit all calendar items to the office to be sure that the schedule is clear and the event has trustee approval.

We are in need of people to sign up for next year's Altar Guild (Feb 2018-Jan. 2019). There is a sign up sheet on the information table in the narthex. If you are interested in serving again or for the first time, please choose your month and sign your name.

YOUTH

On December tenth, the Youth will host their monthly Youth Luncheon following the worship service. We will be serving baked Ziti and we hope that everyone will join us for lunch!

YOUTH... Don't forget: we will be making the Baked Ziti on Saturday at 4PM. When we are finished cooking, we will cele-

brate with our youth Christmas party-- Pizza, movies, and a White Elephant Gift Exchange (\$10 gift limit). Please feel free to invite friends to the party (which will start around 5)!

Youth parent reminder: we will be discussing travel plans for retreats and High Things next week. If you plan to have your

child attend one of the winter retreats, please bring your deposit receipt. We will also sign up for Higher Things that day. If you lost the paperwork or never got a copy, please swing by the youth room to pick it up and talk it over with your family.

Special Services in December

Trinity's series of special services for the Advent and Christmas season has begun! Trinity has been holding Advent services on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. Remaining Advent Midweek services include: Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th. Each Wednesday night service will be preceded by a Soup Supper, similar to the suppers held during Lent. These suppers

begin at 6 PM. The church will also be open each night following these midweek services (until 9 PM) for prayer and meditation with Pastor. This year, Trinity's Sunday School children and Youth will present the annual Christmas Children's program during regular Sunday service on December 17th. Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. We

will have our regular Sunday morning service on that day and will also have a candlelight service that evening at 6:30. Trinity's Christmas celebration will culminate in the Divine Service for the Nativity of Our Lord at 10:30 AM on December 25th. We hope that you will join us!

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Last year, the Board of Education proposed a change of date for our Children's Christmas Service. The Children's Program was moved from Christmas Eve to the last Sunday before Christmas in order to accommodate family travel plans. This change went very smoothly and feedback was positive, so the BOE has

elected to do the same this year. The 2017 program, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", will be presented on Sunday, December 17th at our regular 10:30 AM Worship Service.

The program is based on the classic carol, "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." It's full of fun

and music. Rehearsals have begun and are being held each Sunday during Sunday School time, through December 10th. There will also be ONE Saturday Dress Rehearsal on December 19th from 9AM-Noon. Lunch will be served to the children following the rehearsal

Camp Perkins Winter Update

Greetings from Camp Perkins!

Happy Thanksgiving (a little late)! We pray that your time with family and friends was a blessing to you and that the gifts and blessings our Lord and Savior has given were celebrated. God has continued to bless Camp Perkins with you.... our camp community and family.

Winter Equipment Challenge Match - Turn \$1 donation into \$2 - A challenge match donation of \$7500 has been issued by donors for new truck and rotary blower. In 2017, the USFS opened up the opportunity for us to use the first 250 yds of Alturas Lake Road for our winter parking! An incredible blessing for future winter events that continue the work of the Lord all winter! However, we must clear the space ourselves. A 3/4 ton truck and rotary blower are necessary for this work since we can get upwards of 6ft of snow and frequent subzero temps. The cost is \$30,000. Help get us there through this challenge match!

Winter Retreats - Please pray for those coming to camp to be served and to encounter their Savior! This winter we have lots of opportunities to enjoy the camp community as well. More information and registration can be found on our website. Visit our facebook page to see updates on the snow level!

Jan 5-7 - Jr High SnowJam 1

Jan 12-14/15 - Women's Craft Retreat (only 10 spots left!)

Jan 26-28 - Jr High SnowJam 2

Feb 9-11/12 - Women's Craft Retreat

Feb 16-18/19 - Family Flurry (only 3 rooms left in the Retreat Center)

Feb 23-25 - Men's Weekend: Speaker: Rev. Clint Lutz from Xrossway Ministries

March 2-4 - Sr High Snowfest



Other Information:

2018 summer pre-registration special is over and 74 kids are already registered for 2018!

Registration is still open and people can get the Budget Buddy Discount (which is \$35 off the full price!).

Thrivent Action Teams - this is an incredible way to support the ministry of Camp Perkins. If you are a Thrivent member and have action team opportunities available, please contact Signe@campperkins.org to get signed up for a Thrivent Action Team. There is still time to use your 2017 projects.

Amazon Wishlist - One of the new great successful ways we've been blessed this year is through the Amazon WishList and the [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) option to provide support for Camp Perkins while you shop. We've updated the Wishlist with items needed this fall and for the continued work we will be doing. *Log in through [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and a portion of any purchase (even those early Christmas presents) will be donated to Camp Perkins!*

Thank you for all you continue to do for the ministry!

Merry Christmas and may your home and congregation be filled with the grace and mercy of our King who came and comes again!

Signe White
Executive Director