



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Give, Worship, Prayer, Invite, Serve, Study, Encourage

**From the Pastor's Study - December 2018**

**Rev. C. Richards**

Hark the Glad Sound!

# Trinity Messenger December, 2018

47

Number 12

I am embarrassed to admit that when I first read the title of the Advent Devotional I chose for us to use this year I was more than skeptical. I think when I saw it I thought to myself something like – really? Is that the sound of facebook despairing the next faux tragedy? Or is it the sound of another scandal hitting the media?

It's easy to get caught up isn't it? To feel that all of the dramas, all of the tragedies are our dramas, our tragedies. I know in my line of work – this is special risk. Pastors, Nurses, Doctors, Teachers, Counselors, First Responders, EMT's, Firemen and Women, Police officers: all those who serve others in difficult times are especially prone to getting caught up in the pain and difficulty that other's experience.

In our rapidly changing culture of 24 hour everything and social media, researchers are discovering, outrage is the most effective and "clickable" item. There is no better way to grab attention and change minds than to create content and share content that excites the emotion of outrage.

So you'll have to excuse me when I say that I was skeptical about the title of this year's Advent devotional. The funny thing is – outrage seems to inspire anger – but it is determination and cooperation that actually accomplish things. Outrage is the spitting into the wind of emotions on it's own. We complain – we fuss. We righteously and indignantly marvel at the terrible things we have heard. And then we sink back into despondency - unless outrage is coupled with calm and rational research, planning, storytelling, cooperation, and finally, unified action.

Worse – Outrage can give us the same sort of dopamine hit as other novel and exciting experiences. We can crave outrage just like anything else! (Dopamine is the neural transmitter that give us excitement and pleasure amongst other things). This is probably part of the reason it is so hard to check up on a new story or a research or debunk something we've seen or read – because its boring. It isn't fun or exciting to check on something. And it isn't rewarding – at least not in the same way.

But as I dug into this year's devotional – I discovered that I was wrong. In a year that has had significant hard stories, significant pain and loss all around the world – the devotional is focused on a hymn you've probably heard plenty of times at Advent and Christmas. Hark the Glad Sound – The Savior comes, the Savior promised Long.

It's hard isn't it? To give up our worry, to give up sinking into the dark days of winter and wrapping isolation and our homes around us like comforting shawls. It is hard to simply praise and thank God for what God is doing in Jesus Christ – especially during Advent and Christmas.

It's hard because when we praise God – when we say – nice work! We are accepting what God is doing, and how God is doing it. And I don't know about you – but I get impatient with God – hurry up – fix the world, fix my problems and the issues we all struggle with. Hurry up God and bring us home – get the new creation underway!

But when we sing out with a glad sound, with a happy and joyful cry of thanks to God – we are also accepting God's activity in our lives as it is – not as we wish it were, and not as we think it should be – but simply as it is. Praise God! means also allowing God to be God and to do God's thing as God sees fit. It means giving up our control and accepting grace and forgiveness both for ourselves, and for others whom we may not think deserve it or whom *we* cannot forgive.

Joy to the World – the Lord is come! It's harder to say when we acknowledge that this is how God saves us and all of humanity – Hark the Glad Sound! Angels are singing! We can sing too. We can praise! Peace to you this Advent  
- PrCR

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
Tuesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
6:00 pm

Present: President Lonnie Anderson, Vice-President Holly Rutter, Pastor Chris, Treasurer Joel Hanse, Secretary Diane Estenson, Parish Secretary Jody Mickelson.

Committee Chairs: Jenny Huntley, Education, Diane Hanse, Worship, Barb Hesse, Outreach

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Holly Rutter

Pastor Chris gave devotions.

A motion was made by Barb Hesse, and seconded by Jenny Huntley to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Motion made by Joel Hanse and seconded by Barb Hesse to approve the Secretary's minutes as published in the October Messenger. Motion passed.

Motion made by Diane Estenson and seconded by Barb Hesse to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion passed.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

**Old Business**

Advertisement for the Organist position was placed in Stevens, Pope, Douglas and Grant County publications and on-line. As yet, there has been no response.

**New Business**

Joel made a motion, seconded by Jenny to support Judy Rau on a dental mission trip to Jamaica with the amount of \$500. Motion passed.

The sale of desktop computers no longer used in the church offices was discussed. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to place the complete computer for bids on the Mission Fest Silent Auction. The computer with just the tower will be offered to someone in need of it.

Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Joel and seconded by Holly to schedule the Annual Meeting for January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019, following worship service. Motion passed.

The Council budget meeting will be held December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.:

Holly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Diane E. Motion passed.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted by,  
Diane Estenson, Secretary

# Trinity Lutheran Women

## Deborah Circle

Mon., December 10 @ 9:00 a.m.

Hostess:

Bible Study: from Gather

## Ruth Circle

Tues., December 18 @ 1:30 p.m.

Hostess:

Bible Study: from Gather

## Elizabeth Circle TBA

## Martha/Mary

Noon Circle – TBA

Night Circle – TBA



## Do Days

Tues and Wed & .

Quilt making continues

As an ongoing project.

Cost of sending each

Quilt to LWR is \$2.50

**NO DO DAYS IN DECEMBER**



## December Messenger Article

2018 is now almost a memory. It is a good memory as the Trinity Women have accomplished quite a lot. All of our kits for Lutheran World Relief, our boxes sent to Marie Sandvik, quilts made for LWR, a couple special get togethers, hosting the Glacial Ridge Fall Gathering, and soon we'll be having our "Taste of Christmas" party. That will be Sunday, December 2 after church. Martha/Mary circle is on food and serving, Ruth has punch and coffee, Deborah will clean-up and Elizabeth is in charge of decorations.

We'll be working on our new ladies booklet soon and if there are any changes or errors in the current book please let us know.

Thank you to all who make things run so smoothly. Enjoy the Advent and Christmas season. Looking forward to 2019.

Karen Edlund and Thale Ludwick

**December 2 will be the Taste of Christmas Party** after church. All ladies of the congregation will provide cookies. Please bring at least 2 dozen as left-over cookies will be used for the Christmas baskets.



Food and Serve

Punch, Coffee

Clean-up

Decorations

Martha/Mary

Ruth

Deborah

Elizabeth

Pedersen Funeral Home's annual holiday service, "**A Time To Remember**" will be held Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the funeral home in Morris. This memorial service is centered on keeping memories of loved ones alive to help endure the pain that the holidays can bring following a death.

There will be scripture readings and special music during the service, along with a reading of all names of those who have died in this area within the last year. This service is open to everyone, even if your family hasn't experienced a death within the last year.

Reverend Chris Richards will lead this year's ecumenical service, along with a variety of minister from all the surrounding communities.

**Wedding reception** for Dustin Retzlaff and Katelyn Wilson on December 27th, 2018 at the Old #1 Southside from 7-10 pm. Please come and wish them well and enjoy live music. All are welcome!

**The Cyrus Seniors** will meet Tuesday, December 4th at the church at 11:00 a.m. to car pool to Starbuck to have our Christmas luncheon at the Nutcracker Restaurant at 11:30 a.m.

**Annual Meeting Reports Due** January 11, 2019.

**+++ Worship +++**

**ACOLYTES**

\* December 2 Brayden Ness  
 December 9 Pierce Richards  
 December 16 McKenna Ahrenholz  
 \* December 23 Aidan Davis  
 \* December 24 Pierce Richards  
 December 30 Desamus Estrada

ER  
 December 2 Choir  
 December 9  
 December 16 Cantata  
 December 23  
 December 24  
 December 30

**READER**

Kayla Schmidgall  
 Denise Olson  
 Kathy Banta

**COMMUNION SERV-**

Kayla Schmidgall  
 Richard or Barb Barsness

**Sunday School children come at 9:10 am the morning they sing at worship**

HOLY COMMUNION Sunday, December 2, Sunday, Monday, December 24

Communion Preparation Work Group 5 & 6

December 2 Angie Joos, December 24 Christmas Eve Jodi Jergenson and Clori Carlsen. Please have communion set up before the beginning of the service.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**

**Financial Status As of**

**Jan 1—Nov 10, 2018**

	<u>Jan 1 - Nov 10, 18</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Income	144686.90	161,096.67
Special Offering Income	329.00	
Revolving Income	1,051.50	0.00
Miscellaneous Income	813.89	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>146,881.29</u></b>	<b>161,096.67</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b><u>146,881.29</u></b>	<b><u>161,096.67</u></b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>146,881.29</u></b>	<b>161,096.67</b>

Ushers: Neil Rutter, Brian Payne, Karen & LeRoy Edlund

Greeters:  
 December 2 Keith & Lynn Asmus  
 December 9 Karl & Linda Retzlaff  
 December 16 Roger & Janice Pieske  
 December 23 Peter & Joyce Brandt  
 December 24 Scott & Dena Carbert  
 December 30 Matt & Jen Huntley

**MUSIC** We would like to welcome anyone interested in sharing God's message through special music in our service to please let the office know.

**December Birthdays**

Remember these people in your daily prayers

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Carol Vanderweyst | Kevin Meixel         |
| 3. Steve Tollefson   | 22. Carly Maanum     |
| Jamie Mix            | 23. Jean Boots       |
| 4. Tim Jergenson     | Peggy Christensen    |
| Wesley Braaton       | Trisha Stallman      |
| 5. Bradley Mix       | 25. Marjorie Lerdahl |
| 6. Nancy Savre       | Reina Asmus          |
| 7. Randy Went        | 29. Tyler Solvie     |
| 8. Betsey Alessi     | Vera Steffens        |
| 9. Austin Crow       | 31. John Ettesvold   |
| 10. Paul Carbert     |                      |
| Erland Mickelson     |                      |
| Luke Joos            |                      |
| 11. Vernon Mickelson |                      |
| 12. Barb Barsness    |                      |
| 14. Jordan Stallman  |                      |
| 19. Sandra Andereson |                      |
| Rick Gades           |                      |



# December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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<b>2</b> Food Shelf Offering 8:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Worship/Communion 10:30 Sunday School Taste of Christmas MLH Annual Christmas Tea 2:00 Pedersen Funeral Home Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 11:00 Cyrus Seniors	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 8:30 Choir Practice 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School	<b>10</b> 9:00 Deborah Circle	<b>11</b> 11:30 Ruth Circle at Linda Dahl's 6:00 Church Council	<b>12</b> 11:00 Skyview Plaza 6:00 Advent Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:30 Worship/Cantata Sunday School Christmas Program 10:30 Sunday School Fellowship	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 MLH/Holly Ridge Christmas Communion Service	<b>20</b> 3:00 West Wind	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Luther Crest Offering KMRS Radio Broadcast 9:30 Worship	<b>24</b> 4:00 Christmas Eve Worship Communion	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 7-10 Wedding Reception Dustin & Katelyn Retzlaff Old #1 Morris	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:30 Worship	<b>31</b>					

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
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Office phone: 320-795-2569

## COFFEE SERVERS

**December 2 Taste of Christmas**  
**December 9 Would you serve?**  
**December 16 Would you serve?**  
**December 23 Would you serve?**  
**December 30 Would you serve?**



**CHRISTMAS BASKETS** will be assembled and delivered Saturday morning, December 8<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9:00. Helping hands are needed to assist in this rewarding Christmas experience. Any questions, contact Diane Estenson or Denise Olson.

