

# Trinity Weekly Tidings For December 17, 2023

*"God's Love - Our Hearts - God's Work - Our Hands"*

**Trinity Lutheran Church - 612 N. Water Street - Sparta, WI 54656**

Church Website: [tlcsparta.org](http://tlcsparta.org) Phone: 608-269-5081 Office Email: [office@tlcsparta.org](mailto:office@tlcsparta.org)

Pastor—Josh Buzbee / Tel. 608-269-5081 / Email: [pastorjosh@tlcsparta.org](mailto:pastorjosh@tlcsparta.org)

Youth and Family—Michelle Hyatt / Cell & Text 608-343-0324 / Email: [thehyattfive@gmail.com](mailto:thehyattfive@gmail.com)

Christin Gasner—Ministry/Digital Communications Coordinator / Email: [ministry@tlcsparta.org](mailto:ministry@tlcsparta.org)

Contact Information for Stephen Leaders

Jan Jenkins / Cell 608-633-0512 / Email: [jenkinsjan52@gmail.com](mailto:jenkinsjan52@gmail.com)

*Welcome Guests! We are so happy to see you today! If you are traveling through the area, we wish you Godspeed on your journey. If you live nearby, we hope you will return and worship with us again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to make Trinity Lutheran that home. Please sign the guest register located at the entrance into the Sanctuary so that we can know who you are. Although you have come as a visitor, we hope that we leave worship as friends!*

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped lead worship today!

*This Week*  
**at Trinity...**



12/17	9:00 am	Sunday School Christmas Program
12/24	9:00 am 3:00 pm 9:00 pm	Worship Christmas Eve w/communion Christmas Eve w/communion
12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day worship
12/31	9:00 am	Worship (Lessons & Carols)

12/17	9:00 am	Sunday School Christmas Program (loose change offering)
	10:00 am	4G—Youth Bake Sale
12/19	5-6 pm	NA Meeting—HR
	6-7 pm	Pack 67 Meeting—EW
	Noon	Tidings articles due for the January newsletter
12/20	10:00 am	Food Pantry
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir—SR
	7:00 pm	Alleluia Choir
12/21	5:00 pm	Ladles of Love Meal—FH
	5-6 pm	NA Meeting—HR
12/22		Tidings Team to assemble January Tidings
12/23	5-6 pm	NA Meeting—HR
12/24	9:00 am	Worship—4th Sunday in Advent
	3:00 pm	Christmas Eve worship/communion
	9:00 pm	Christmas Eve worship/communion
12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day worship

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

The Council is recommending not filling two of the upcoming council member vacancies at the January Congregational Meeting. Presently, we have the maximum amount of council members (12 members, plus four (4) Officers and one(1) Youth). Declining to fill two expiring terms will not degrade the Council's function. The intention is to find an appropriate balance of representation on the Council relative to the size of the congregation. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a Council member.

Blaine Markuson

## 2023 DONATIONS

The last day and the cut-off for 2023 donations is **Thursday, December 28, 2023.**

Therefore, if you want donations credited to your account in 2023, please get them in.

Thank you!

Altar flowers today  
are given by Al & Jan Jenkins  
in Honor of Matt Jenkins  
Thank you!



**STEWARDSHIP "DID YOU KNOW" PROGRAM**

Did you know...We have the privilege of worshipping and meeting in a large, beautiful church building. Because of the size of our church, the cost for utilities, fuel, and insurance is over \$2900 per month.

**Stewardship Appeal**

We would like to thank those of you who have returned your Intent Cards and Time & Talent forms. We would like to remind those who have not, to please return them at your earliest convenience. Thank you!

Stewardship Committee

**VFW JACKETS**

There are 6 VFW jackets that are no longer used by the organization that could be used by those in need. Before they can be donated, all of the patches and embroidery needs to be removed except "Sparta, WI". The quilters have taken care of doing that with some that were donated earlier but perhaps you could help. If so, after you've finished, the jacket could be hung outside of KEPS or given to a nonprofit. Any questions, contact Alice at 487-5408. Thank you.



**ANGEL TREES**

During the Christmas season, we have two angel trees displayed; one in the narthex and one right outside the church office. Angels can be placed on either tree in memory of or in honor of a loved one. You can then write in the small book next to the angel tree in the narthex who the angel is in memory of or in honor of. If you have any questions, please contact Myrt in the church office.

**ANNUAL MEETING**



It's that time again...our Annual Meeting is fast approaching. The office is going to need reports for the Annual Report **by no later than December 29, 2023.**

If you have questions, please feel free to call the church office. Thank you!

The annual meeting will be on **Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

\*\*\*\*\*



Can you please serve coffee a Sunday? If so, the sign up sheet is in the narthex where coffee is being served. Pick a Sunday that works with your schedule and sign up. The coffee is provided, all you have to do is make the coffee, provide a treat of your choice, and clean up after coffee hours. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the church office at 608-269-5081.

Upcoming Servers:

- December 17th—Sunday School Families
- December 24th—Opportunity to serve
- December 31st—Opportunity to serve

\*\*\*\*\*



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

The 2024 flower chart is up and ready for you to sign up. It is located near the elevator by the church office. Sign up to acknowledge a special occasion or to remember a loved one. Then, you can pay for the flowers, which is only \$15.00, by stopping in the church office, mailing your payment, or simply putting your payment in the offering plate (please be sure to designate on your check that it's for altar flowers). After the service on Sunday, the flowers for your week are yours to take home or donate as you would like. Not only is this a wonderful way to keep our altar area looking beautiful every week, it's a bargain price for flowering plants.

So...reserve your date(s) today!



Thank You Trinity!

Our sincerest thank you goes to all members of our congregation who have made donations to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Your support is vital to our ongoing efforts to help provide food to those in need. Through your contributions, we have been able to touch the lives of so many in our community. Thank you for your unwavering support!

Judy Bernett  
Board Member

\*\*\*\*\*



**CHURCH DIRECTORIES**

If you would like to purchase a copy of the church directory, see Donna Boland or Jo Ellen Siver after church, or pick up a copy in the church office (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday) from 8-2 pm. The cost is only \$15.00 per copy.

\*\*\*\*\*



**LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING TODAY**

Loose change offering today will benefit **ELCA Good Gifts.**  
Please donate as you are able.  
Thank you!

**Newsletter**

**TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE DATE**

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE INCLUDED IN OUR JANUARY TIDINGS? IF SO, ARTICLES ARE DUE TO MYRT BY NO LATER THAN **NOON ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH.** THE TIDINGS TEAM WILL BE IN ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22ND TO ASSEMBLE THEM.

THANK YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*



Fellowship Meal

**ALL ARE WELCOME at the table!**

**JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!!!**

AAW (All Are Welcome) meals will resume on Wednesday, 1/3/24. We are still looking for groups to help prepare, serve, or clean up. Funding is available to help offset the costs of the meals. Here is our menu/schedule through 2/7:

- Wednesday, 1/3: BBQ (hosted by Larson-Hermann-Moorhead families)
- Wednesday, 1/10: Taco Boats (hosted by our young people & families)
- Wednesday, 1/17: Chicken Alfredo
- Wednesday, 1/24: NO meal
- Wednesday, 1/31: Baked Potato Bar
- Wednesday, 2/7: Hot Dogs/Mac & Cheese

Please reach out to Pastor Josh or Michelle if you are willing & able to serve in any of the above ways to keep these weekly meals going for our Trinity family. Let us know if you have any additional questions about this vital ministry as we come together to gather in fellowship & feed people the way Jesus did!

**Youth & Family Announcements for the week of December 17, 2023**

**God is good all the time!**

**All the time God is good!**

**You are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” You are a beloved & precious child of God.**

**You matter! You belong! You are loved!**

**God created you on purpose for a purpose!**

Please talk to Michelle face-to-face; by phone at 269-5081; call/text at 343-0324;  
email at: [thehyattfive@gmail.com](mailto:thehyattfive@gmail.com) for additional information

**Faith Formation (grades 7-9) December Schedule**

Sunday, 12/17	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00	Monday, 12/25	Christmas Day Worship at 9:00 a.m. Happy Birthday, Jesus! Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, 12/20	NO Faith Formation	Wednesday, 12/27	NO Faith Formation
Sunday, 12/24	Worship @ 9:00 NO 4G Christmas Eve Worship @ 3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.	Sunday, 12/31	Worship @ 9:00 NO 4G



Sunday, December 10 & Sunday, December 17

**Christmas Sweet Treats, here we come!**  
Our Youth Gathering Team will be hosting a Christmas Bake Sale Fundraiser on Sunday, December 10 & Sunday, December 17. It will be held each Sunday after 9:00 a.m. worship services in the hallway outside of the main office as well as the Youth Room. Thank you for your continued support!

**Coins Because We Care – Sparta Backpack Program**

Check out Ella’s cool sign outside of the main office, and if you are able, grab a stocking off the line. Fill the stocking of ONLY coins, & get creative with how you do it. As God blesses us, let’s be a blessing to others as he has called us! Return your stocking by Sunday, December 17th.

Remember that each coin makes a BIG difference as we reach out working together to love & take care of ALL of God’s beloved and precious children! ALL coins collected will go to support the Sparta Backpack Program. This program serves 170+ food challenged kids in grades K-4 on the weekends. Thank you for “digging” deep in your heart to love up our precious kids & make sure their bellies are full! Please reach out to Michelle with any questions.



**Trinity Cares Giving Tree  
God’s Love—Our Hearts. God’s Work—Our Hands.**

Our annual tradition of our “Trinity Cares” Christmas Giving Tree is up. This special tree is full of nativity scene tags representing families in our community that could use a “hand up” this Christmas season. They are also symbolic as a reminder of the true meaning of the beautiful miracle of Jesus’ birth! How can we all become more like Jesus? How can we keep our light shining for Him? Please be kind, take one or more tags, & enjoy the feeling of being a blessing to shop for the item(s) requested. Return it—UNWRAPPED—to the tree area. Not a shopper? Feel free to drop off a monetary donation, & let our Trinity Youth do the shopping for you. There are tags that request gifts cards, & those should be returned to the main office. Please be sure to attach the original tag with your gift for easier sorting. In order to give our youth time for wrapping presents to get them out for delivery before Christmas, we would appreciate ALL gifts to be returned by Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for reaching out with loving hearts & helping hands to model Jesus & His love for all of us!