

# Trinity Weekly Tidings For November 26, 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)

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Contact Information for Stephen Leaders

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*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...**



11/26	9:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Sunday School 4G—Youth Room Cookie Decorating Day
12/03	9:00 am	Worship with communion
12/10	9:00 am	Worship with communion
12/17	9:00 am	Children's Christmas Program
12/24	9:00 am 3:00 pm 9:00 pm	Worship with communion Christmas Eve w/communion Christmas Eve w/communion
12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day worship
12/31	9:00 am	Worship (Lessons & Carols)

11/26	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	4G—Youth Room
	11:00 am	Cooking Decorating Day
11/27	12-5 pm	BLOOD DRIVE
11/28	12-5 pm	BLOOD DRIVE
	5-7 pm	Food Pantry Volunteers
	5-6 pm	NA Meeting-HR
	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop 67—FH
11/29	10:00 am	Food Pantry Volunteers
	5:30 pm	AAW Meal-FH
	6:00 pm	Bell Choir-SR
	7:00 pm	Faith Formation
	7:00 pm	Alleluia Choir
11/30	8:30 am	Quilting-FH
	5:00 pm	LOL Meal-FH
	5-6 pm	NA Meeting-HR
12/02	2-5 pm	Sugar Creek Road to Bethlehem
	5-6 pm	NA Meeting-HR
12/03	9:00 am	Worship with communion
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	4G-Youth Room
	10:30 am	Advent Book Discussion-SR



## LOOSE CHANGE OFFERING

Thank you for your generosity last week for our loose change offering. We collected **\$144.28** for Faith in Action. Great Job Trinity!!!



## CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The church directories are in. If you participated by taking your photo with Harrman Studios, or submitted a photo to have included in the directory, please see Donna Boland and Jo Ellen Siver on your way out today and pick up your copy.



# Fellowship Meal

## JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!!!

AAW (All Are Welcome) meals are in need of more teams to continue to serve these weekly meals. Our

hope is to create these teams within our Trinity family that would be willing to host a meal. It can be a family partnering with another family, a group of friends, etc. We would then try to get into some type of cycle with the meals (taco boats, pizza, BBQ, hot dogs/Mac & cheese, soup), & then keep them going on a rotating basis. Please reach out to Pastor Josh or Michelle if you would be willing to help coordinate & lead a team. Here is our schedule for November & December:

Wed., 11/29	Open—Taco Boats
Wed., 12/6	Open—Hot Dogs & Mac & Cheese
Wed., 12/13	Youth—Potluck (TBA)

## STEWARDSHIP "DID YOU KNOW" PROGRAM

Did you know...Trinity provides \$30,000 of Mission Support to the La Crosse Area Synod on a yearly basis. We also offer \$2500 of yearly support to both Lutheran Social Services and Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

## Offering Envelope Cost Savings Update

Myrt has removed all the names that congregation volunteered to have removed from the list receiving offering envelopes. In addition, as the Council approved, she removed the names of people who have not used the envelopes for the last 3 years.

This cost savings project successfully reduced the number of people receiving offering envelopes from 314 to 150. That's a 52% reduction. The change will be noticeable in January 2024.

## Upcoming Advent Book Discussion

**What:** Advent Book Discussion convened by Cynthia Lockington

Eat, Fast, Feast by Jay W. Richards

**When:** First meeting Sunday, December 3rd at 10:30 a.m. in the Shalom Room (total of 6 weeks—not necessarily consecutive weeks)

"In this innovative spiritual guide Jay Richards helps readers revolutionize their physical and spiritual health with a research-backed guide to fasting. He invites Christians to recover the fasting lifestyle our spiritual ancestors maintained for more than 1,500 years, combining religious heritage with the latest science on fasting for physical wellness. Richards offers a six-week plan to help modern believers reclaim their spiritual roots and kickstart a healthy lifestyle. The result is a manifesto for the physical, mental and spiritual benefits of fasting—and a reclamation of a centuries-old practice." (Paraphrased from book jacket).

If you are interested in this book discussion, please let Myrt in the church office know by no later than **Monday, November 27th**. The cost for the book is \$15.00.

## Christ in Our Home

We have received the January, February, March 2024 edition of Christ in Our Home and copies are on the table near the church office. Please pick up a copy on your way out today.

Altar flowers today  
are given by Rita Bernette  
in Loving Memory of Stan.  
Thank you!





**DECORATE**  
the Church

**Help Needed** – Volunteers are needed and welcome to decorate and prepare the church for the Advent and Christmas season. We will decorate on Thursday, November 30th, starting at 9:00 a.m. Call Marie Grewal if you can help out – 269-6457, or just show up on that day at that time. Thank you!



**WE NEED SERVERS.** The sign up sheet will be in the narthex where coffee is being served. Please pick a date that works with your schedule and sign up to serve. The coffee is provided, all you have to do is make the coffee, provide a treat of your choice, and clean up after coffee hour. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact either the church office at 608-269-5081 or Sarah Tripp at 608-269-0000.

**UPCOMING SERVERS:**

November 26—Opportunity to serve  
December 3—Matt & Brittany Michalski  
December 10—Opportunity to serve  
December 17—Sunday School Families



Trinity will be hosting a blood drive on Monday, November 27th, and Tuesday, November 28th, from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

To sign up to give, either call Karen Edwards at 608-269-5243 or call Versiti at 877-232-4376. You can also sign up online [versiti.org/wi](https://www.versiti.org/wi)

**Join us for a fun-filled Christmas  
Wreath and Bow Making Workshop!**

Bring your friends and family members along to enjoy the festive spirit together. In this two-hour workshop, you'll learn how to make a beautiful fresh Christmas wreath and bow using natural evergreen cuttings of conifers and decorate with pinecones, your choice of ribbon and berries.

*All supplies are included, so you don't have to worry about bringing anything*

Admission Fee: \$25

When: Saturday, December 2nd, 2023 (1-3 pm)

Where: St. John's Episcopal Church  
322 N. Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656

Sign up now!

Email: [stjohnsepiscopalchurch5@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsepiscopalchurch5@gmail.com)

Call: 608-269-6103

<https://christmasworkshop.eventbrite.com>

**Join us for a Festive  
Community Christmas Dinner!**

**Menu**

Indulge in the richness of gourmet meatballs with savory gravy, relish the creaminess of mashed potatoes, enjoy the perfect balance of sweet and tangy with our glazed carrots. Pair these delights with freshly baked bread rolls adorned with whipped butter and zesty cranberry sauce. Cap off your meal with an exquisite selection of assorted desserts that promise to satisfy every sweet tooth.

**Activities:** Take a photo with Saint Nick (4:30—5:30 pm); Christmas Games, Christmas Quiz. Carol Singing Competition with Cash Prizes: 1st Place: \$100-2nd Place: \$50-3rd Place \$25 (Only 10 spots available. First come, first served. Contact us to secure your spot!)

Date: December 9, 2023 Time: 4:30-7:00 pm

Location: 322 N. Water St., Sparta

Cost: General:\$15/Kids (6-12 years) \$7/Under 5: Free

For ticket reservations and competition entry, please contact us at [stjohnsepiscopalechurch5@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnsepiscopalechurch5@gmail.com)  
608-269-6103 <https://christmasfeast.eventbrite.com>

**Youth & Family Announcements for the week of November 26, 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, 12/3	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00	Wednesday, 12/20	NO Faith Formation
Wednesday, 12/6	7:00-8:15 pm	Sunday, 12/24	Worship @ 9:00 NO 4G Christmas Eve Worship @ 3:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, 12/10	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00	Monday, 12/25	Christmas Day Worship at 9:00 a.m. Happy Birthday, Jesus! Merry Christmas!
Wednesday, 12/13	Christmas Celebration (TBA)	Wednesday, 12/27	NO Faith Formation
Sunday, 12/17	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00	Sunday, 12/31	Worship @ 9:00 NO 4G

**SAVE THE DATES!!  
Sunday, November 26**

**Cookie Decorating Day at 11:00 am  
in the Fellowship Hall**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

**We'll decorate cookies, make  
other sweet treats/salty snacks,  
& enjoy fellowship together!**

**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. If you would like to donate  
any goodies for the Bake Sale, please let  
Michelle know. We are asking that everything  
be pre-packaged on plates of 6 or 12 items.  
Thank you for your continued support!**

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

Our annual tradition of our “Trinity Cares” Christmas Giving tree will be going up on Sunday, November 26th. This special tree will be 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 Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for reaching out with loving hearts & helping hands to model Jesus & His love for all of us!