

Trinity Tidings

January 4, 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR: ANGELA KUECHLER

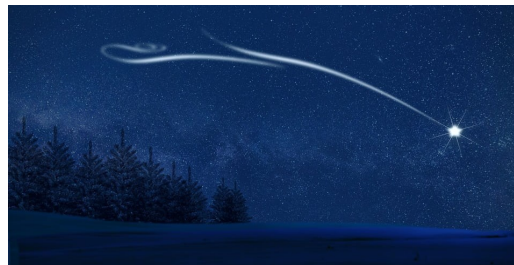
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Follow the Star

The premise is this: the magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting God can/does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to His Divine presence.

People are invited to take a star from the table in the Narthex. Each of the stars has a word on it. We invite people to trust the word that selects them. Try not to look for or trade for a word you think you might prefer.

Place the star in a place you will frequently see it, such as a bathroom mirror, the car dash, a door, etc. Ponder this word and what its meaning might be for you as the year unfolds. It will be interesting to see how your word may influence or change you in some way. Leave the star up until next Epiphany to receive the full benefit of this word.



January 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sunday, January 7

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM

Monday, January 8

- Ruth Circle 7 PM

Tuesday, January 9

- Financial Resources 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 10

- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 11

- Adult Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6 PM

Friday, January 12

Saturday, January 13

Sunday, January 14

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.

Click [here](#) for worship.

Office Hours:

8 AM - 12 noon

Monday - Thursday

Other times by appointment



Annual Reports available
Sunday, January 14.

Budget Meeting on Sunday,
January 21 after worship.

Annual Meeting, Ministry Fair,
& Potluck on Sunday, January
28 after worship.

January 28, 2024

Following Worship join us for a Trinity-Get Involved-Ministry Fair With Potluck

Come and see how the Spirit is working here at Trinity. This is a great opportunity to contemplate how you can join in and bring your time, energy, ideas, and/or talents to what is going on behind the scenes at Trinity.

Sign up at the Info Center to bring a dish to pass. Join your church family and celebrate how God's Work, Our Hands is being accomplished here at Trinity.

Praise be to God.

Email or call with your request.

Prayers & Praises

Healing:

- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Patty Dyreson - recovering from surgery
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Mary Snyder - recovering from surgery
- Shelley Henke - sister of Woody Haag, recovering from surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Loppnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Steve Gohman - nephew of Terry & Lois Wegner; cousin of Dan and Kat
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer

Comfort Crafts is partnering with Mission of Hope House to make single-bed afghans available for the residents. If you knit or crochet, please consider making afghans. Yarn has been donated and is available for your use, if needed. You may also donate yarn to this ministry. Teaching to crochet or knit is available on Thursday evenings starting at 5:30 PM. Contact a member of Comfort Crafts or the church office for more information.



Thank you for your continued support of the New London Community Cupboard! There is an ongoing need for donations. Please drop off your donations in the bin outside of the church doors.

Are you looking for a volunteer experience that directly helps your neighbors? Make the Ride Happen is still currently searching for volunteer drivers. This is a great opportunity to volunteer on your time and as much or as little as you would like. Our volunteers provide rides to people in the community to medical appointments, the grocery store and other essential needs. Not only will you helping people get to where they need to go you will also be helping overcome the barrier of isolation that can be caused by the lack of transportation. I guarantee



A Program of Lutheran Social Services
of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan

that when you volunteer with us you will have great conversations and possibly build new friendships with our riders. If this sounds like a volunteering opportunity that you would be interested in learning more about, please contact Shannon Zwitter directly at [920-979-0314](tel:920-979-0314) or our call center at [920-225-1719](tel:920-225-1719). Shannon.zwitter@lsswis.org www.maketheridehappen.org Thank you!

Trinity walkers can go indoors for the winter!

Starting in January, Trinity will use its open door hours to foster a safe area to walk this winter. Office hours are Monday - Thursday; 8:00 am - 12:00 noon. There will be an area where you can sign in (to know who is using the building) and require that you bring designated shoes to keep our carpeting clean.

You can walk in the Fellowship Hall only or head down the hallway to the lower level and walk that hallway and fellowship room as well.

Come alone or bring a friend! Let's stay in shape and stay safe walking this winter!

Sponsored by
Support and Service Committee

Our First FREE Community Meal of 2024

Sloppy Joes will be served to the New London community on **Wednesday, January 31, from 5 to 6 pm.**



Trinity Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Donations needed for the January meal are:

Healthy snacks (e.g. apple sauce, raisins, craisins, fruit cups, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)

Desserts (packaged or homemade)

PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION.

Place donations in the bin outside of church.

We are also in need of donations of Sloppy Joes. There are freezer bags located in the Narthex outside of the church sanctuary. Please take one and return your Sloppy Joe to church during office hours or during Sunday services. Please place the Sloppy Joe in the upright freezer in the storage room in the Fellowship Hall or the freezer in the downstairs kitchen by Sunday, January 28.



We celebrated Pastor's birthday this past Sunday with song, acknowledgement and a delicious cake decorated by Jen Monty. We all wish him a blessed New Year!





Baptism of Our Lord

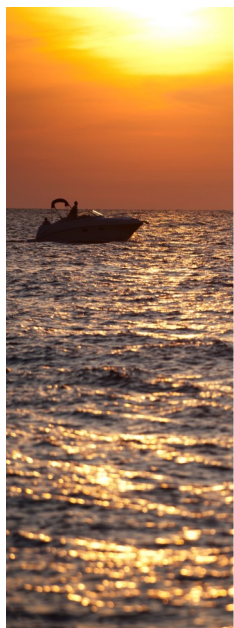
First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5


Out of chaos, God brings order. Out of the formless void, God brings light. This familiar story was good news for the Israelites, who experienced much chaos in their history. It remains good news for us. God created and continues to create new life.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Psalm 29

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.




 The voice
of the
LORD
is over the
waters ...

Psalm 29:3, NRSV



²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness. ³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the LORD is upon the mighty waters. ⁴The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; the voice of the LORD is a voice

of splendor.

⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon; ⁶the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the LORD bursts forth in lightning flashes.

⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"

¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.

¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people; give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

Second Reading: Acts 19:1-7

In Ephesus, Paul encounters people who had received John's baptism of repentance but had never heard of the Holy Spirit or of baptism in the name of Jesus. After Paul baptizes them, the Holy Spirit comes upon them and empowers them with gifts of the Spirit.

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. ²He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?" They replied, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

³Then he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They answered, "Into John's baptism." ⁴Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— ⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.



ON HEARING THIS, THEY WERE
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THE LORD JESUS.

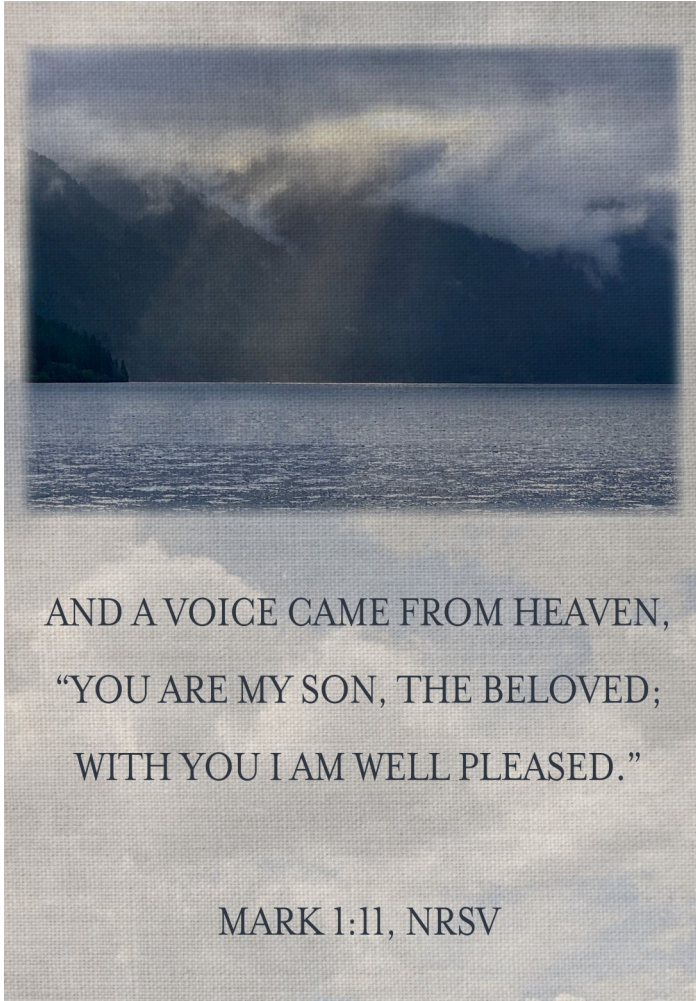
ACTS 19:5, NRSV

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Mark's gospel reports the story of Jesus' baptism with some irony: the one on whom the Spirit descends is himself the one who will baptize others with the Holy Spirit.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."



Has Anybody Here Made New Year's Resolutions?

Forbes Health once surveyed 1,000 adults which showed that some resolutions tended to be more popular than others. The first one has to do with improving fitness, with around 48% of people having the resolution to improve their fitness into the new year.

Other resolutions from the survey include:

- ♦ 38% said they would like to improve their finances.
- ♦ 36% said they want to improve their mental health.
- ♦ 34% said they would like to lose weight.
- ♦ 32% said they would like to improve their diet.

Other resolutions included things such as making more time for loved ones, quitting smoking, making more time for hobbies, improving work-life balance, and meditating regularly.

These are all well intentioned.

It is certainly good to set healthy goals for a new year.

One of mine is to journal as I read scripture. Unfortunately, we are not often successful in achieving these goals.

A 2007 study from the University of Bristol involving 3000 people showed that 88% of those who set New Year's resolutions fail.

So if you do fail don't feel bad.

We're in good company.

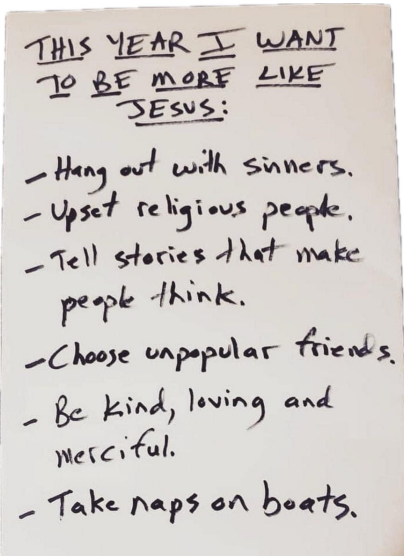
Why do so many resolutions fail? One theory is that many of us fall into the trap of the all-or-nothing mindset. One slip – a missed workout, splurge on a sale, or cake – can feel like a total failure, prompting the abandonment of the entire resolution. We just give up.

Here are six other possible reasons:

- We didn't define the resolution well.
- We didn't have a plan.
- We did not set ourselves up for success.
- We didn't define long and short-term rewards for ourselves.
- We tried to do it alone.

We knew deep down we wouldn't do it. Whatever the case we can forget that it is ok that none of us are ever going to be perfect. We do not need to beat ourselves up. That all of us are works in progress.

What if we instead of making resolutions we can't keep simply try this:



Be more like Jesus. While that is a pretty tall order, the good news is that Jesus understands us. When he went to the Jordan to be baptized by John he was identifying with us. His baptism was an act of solidarity with all of us. He did not need to be baptized. Baptism is for sinners.

John was baptizing people who came to repent of their sins and turn their lives around. People who were making resolutions to make changes in their lives.

John makes it clear that this baptism of repentance he was giving them did not compare with the one he was preparing them for.

The one who was following him would baptize with the Holy Spirit.

They were receiving a washing, a cleansing, but Jesus would give them a relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

Their own efforts paled in comparison to what God was doing for them in Christ.

God saves when all of our efforts fall short. Jesus came not only to show us how to live but to give his life so that we do not have to earn salvation, reconciliation with God.

Jesus became human so that we may know personally the God who loves us unconditionally.

None of us can attain perfection.

We are always going to be works in progress because the Holy Spirit is always making

things new. So the question is "what is God up to through the Spirit?"

It is not a matter of what we can accomplish, what resolutions we can keep, but rather how can we join in what God is doing? It is not all up to us.

We can live each day asking God to use us, asking him to help us trust in him.

Take even a few minutes a day to stop and focus on God.

Remember it is not about us but about the God who makes all things new.

Jesus came, he died and rose again to be with us now and forever!



Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Jack Jaeckle, Bill Krejcarek

Lector

Carol Cleveland

Communion Assistant

David Newton

Slides

Dawn Haag

Livestream

Randy Cleveland

Altar Guild

Dawn Haag, Dawn Hess