

TRINITY LUTHERAN'S **JANUARY** NEWSLETTER



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FROM REV. DIANE KRAUSZER

Dear beloved,

Welcome to 2017, a new year with new blessings, new challenges and new opportunities.

Recently, I was in the dentist chair getting my teeth cleaned. My dentist is an avid hunter and he excitedly told me that his wife had been awarded a coveted goat permit somewhere in the Rocky Mountains. He told me she was currently in training so she would be fit when the time came to climb the mountains and hunt for goats! I must admit that I was impressed.

We too, have been awarded a great opportunity. As followers of Jesus, we know there is hope when everything looks bleak, that God can bring good out of evil. As followers of Jesus, we see people as children of God, made in God's image, as our sisters and brothers rather than strangers and enemies! We have the opportunity to help other people change their lives with God's love. People who follow

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual congregation meeting is January 29 following church service. Council members, please have your reports in by January 13. Annual meeting packets will be available for pick-up January 22.



ON HIATUS

Pastor Diane will be away from the office January 16-18 while at a preaching workshop. Then the 19-23 will be a vacation. Call the church office during this time to be directed for pastoral help.

EPIPHANY PARTY

Come join us Friday, January 6 for an Epiphany party. Held 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room. Please see Pastor Diane for more information on this event.



THANK YOU

I just wanted to express my heartfelt thanks for all of the support and love we have received from all of you throughout Jeremy's illness. Your prayers, e-mails, texts, kind words, hugs, etc., was all a great comfort to me and my family, and continues to be. Dealing with Jeremy's passing has been peaceful.

Thank you, also, to everyone who was involved in putting on the reception for us after Jeremy's memorial. Being surrounded by the love of friends and by the love of our church helped us so much on that day. Jeremy always loved attending Trinity events; whether it was picnic in the Park or helping out at weekend recycling when he was in high school. I know he felt Trinity was his church family; so it was so fitting to have the reception here. Thank you, again, to all. -Cathy and family

Article continued from page 1

From Rev. Diane Krauszer

Jesus are also called disciples, a word that shares a root with discipline. Are you a disciplined disciple? Maybe 2017 is the year you can begin the journey to become one!

An athlete, a musician, an artist or a serious hunter all must be disciplined in their training and preparation in order to accomplish their goals. What are you doing to train as a disciplined, disciple of Jesus so you can accomplish your goal of sharing God's Love? Over the next few months I would like to share some thoughts about the disciplines of faith that help us to grow in faith. Many of them you may already practice. If that is true for you then I encourage you to consider adding depth and commitment. Or to use an exercise phrase, maybe it is time to increase your reps or move to a new level.

This month, let's think about prayer. First, let me ask a few reflection questions. When do you pray? How do you pray? Do you pray off the cuff, when a thought hits you or have you set aside a time to pray? Do you record prayers in a prayer journal or pray for all the people listed in our bulletin? Do you just ask God for things for yourself or is a time of thinking about others? Do you use a specific prayer like the Lord's Prayer, the Prayer of Assisi or even "Now I lay me down to sleep"? Who does all the talking, you or God? Take a few minutes and think about your prayer style. Do you even have one?

Prayer is a time to be in communication with God, a two way conversation. Prayer is an activity that requires us to slow down, to be still, and to be silent so that God has an opportunity to break into our busy lives. I have heard it described as being still long enough to make a space in our busyness for heaven to creep in. When was the last time heaven crept into your life?

I encourage you to find one thing that works for you; a set time to pray, writing in a prayer journal, being still, praying the psalms, saying a specific prayer, using embodied prayer (you can find many other possibilities on the internet) to add prayer to your life in a conscious, disciplined way. Just like any other exercise, do it every day for the month of January. Be a disciplined, disciple of Jesus and see what happens to your relationship with God and your ability to share God's love! Happy New Year!

Peace,
Pastor Diane

SABBATICAL THOUGHTS BY PASTOR DIANE

On September 1, 2008 I was appointed by Bishop Keyes to serve as interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church while I completed my Luther year through the TEAM program at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. When I completed my year of study, Trinity extended a formal call to me which I accepted. I was officially ordained and installed as Trinity's pastor in January 2010. It is amazing to think that I have been serving as your pastor for over eight years. They have been good years. Trinity has seen renewal and transformation in those years. We have moved from being a small, failing, disheartened group saddled with a huge building to a small, vital congregation working in partnership with our building and our neighbors to do ministry that brings health and hope to our community. In the past eight years we have watched people come and go. We have rejoiced over births and baptisms and cried at deaths and funerals. We have supported

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FROM THE TREASURER

I will have a final total for the Bazaar early in January. The estimated amount is around \$3,500! Well done everyone! We could not have done as well without your help - both for those making items, and those buying them!

Thrivent Choice members, please remember that you need to designate your funds to Trinity each time you receive a dividend - it does not happen automatically. Trinity appreciates any donations received.

Also, the property taxes for the building will be due on February 15. The amount for the first half will be approximately \$5,000. Any donations to this expense will be greatly appreciated. -Pat Kilmain



CHRISTIAN UNITY

Come join the Valley Interfaith Action Churches for *Time for Christian Unity* liturgy service, January 22 at Sacred Heart, Wasilla. Service begins at 6:00 p.m.



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Sabbatical Thoughts by Pastor Diane

each other during health and sickness, faith and doubt. Together we have been the family of God.

I am at a place now where I would like to recharge my batteries. I have begun to think that a sabbatical might be good for me and for Trinity. A sabbatical in the church is a time of renewal, of rest and recreation. A sabbatical can bring new perspective, renewed passion and vision.

What follows is a paragraph out of the Clergy Compensation and Benefits Guidelines of the Alaska Synod ELCA

Sabbatical Leaves: The Alaska Synod recommends all congregations establish a sabbatical leave policy for their pastors.... Sabbatical leaves have been shown to benefit both the pastor and the congregation. Communication with the synod office is required before sabbatical approval can be given. We recommend that sabbatical leaves be offered after the pastor completes six years of continuous service in one place. The sabbatical may be 60-90 days in length and can be divided into two or three parts. Credit for years served does not pass from one call to another, and we recommend the policy state that the pastor is obligated to stay with the congregation for at least one full year after returning from her/his sabbatical. Sabbaticals should include three parts: (1) re-creation (2) spiritual, educational and pastoral study or projects, and (3) exploring an area of particular interest to the pastor. Pastors should start planning their sabbatical in consultation with the church council one year prior to going on sabbatical. The congregation is expected to pay the pastor's full salary, housing allowance, and health and pension benefits during the sabbatical, but not a car allowance, mileage reimbursement, or travel costs. In addition, the congregation will need to provide pulpit supply, and it may need to "purchase" part-time interim pastoral help. In any case, these budget matters should be thought through as early in the budget process as possible so that they can be included in the budget for the sabbatical year. CLERGY COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS GUIDELINES of the Alaska Synod ELCA. Pages 11-12.

I have been talking with Bishop Shelly and Trinity's council for several months now. We are in agreement that a sabbatical would be good for us all. I want this sabbatical time to benefit the whole church. I would like your input on areas of study or growth that you think might benefit the congregation. I am also looking for two people who would work with me in planning this sabbatical to insure that it is a positive, growing experience for Trinity as a whole as well as for me as your pastor. Please let me know by the annual meeting time, January 29, 2017 if you are interested in working with me to plan a sabbatical. If you have an area of study you would like to recommend, please write it out with the reason you are recommending it and give it to me. (I forget things all the time! I need it in writing to remember!)

My hope and goal is that I can continue to be a faithful, capable pastor in the years ahead and that together we will continue to invite people to know Christ here at Trinity Lutheran and help them to grow in Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Diane

LETTER FROM FAMILY PROMISE

Warm greetings to you, as our 2016 draws to an end. We are writing on behalf of Family Promise Mat-Su, our Community Response for Families without Housing. Our family shelter program has served almost 34,000 shelter bed nights since our Valley volunteers and congregations have opened in 2005. We wanted to share some sweet stories with you from this year. One single Mom and her 16-month old daughter came to us several months ago and their story is very inspiring and shows a common outcome for our shelter guests! Mom was a go-getter and was able to set up Daycare, gain employment, and move into her and her daughter's own rental within 3 weeks! She had been a victim of family dissolution, previously dependent upon her husband for all support. Now, she often comes back to volunteer with Family Promise Mat-Su shelter guests, and her little toddler "helps" and is almost as cute as my daughters were at that age!

Our supportive volunteers (about #400!), donors and terrific office staff work so well together to complete our mission to the Mat-Su Valley, Alaska Community. Our mission is to mobilize community resources and local congregations to provide compassionate care through shelter, meals, and case management to families without housing. We hope you will consider taking this opportunity for the end of the year to give a tax deductible donation to join in supporting our guest families' services. We are very thankful to those of you who have continuously blessed our work in the past. As we move away from government grants and towards more community support, we are learning how marvelously generous you all are. Thank you for everything! Please make your online donation on our secure website at: http://www.familypromisematsu.org/Support_Family_Promise.html Tax ID# 68-0510566 -Laurie Kari

CANDLELIGHT CEREMONY

Our daughter, Kellsie Green, died on January 10th of 2016 from heroin withdrawal complications in an Anchorage jail. Kellsie was just 24 years old.

Kellsie's mother Kathi and I know the pain and sorrow of those who have lost someone and are grieving. Some of the lost are still living. We know that this is not just our story. On the evening of January 10, 2017, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Nunley Park- 250 E. Swanson Ave. Wasilla we will hold a candlelight ceremony to remember and recognize all of those that have been lost to this disease and those whose struggles were never recognized because of the stigma. And to share our love and support to everyone who has lost someone to addiction.

We are asking every city, town and village to participate. We would like to invite all members of every community who have been affected by this epidemic to join us. We would especially like to invite the recovery community to share their experience, strength and hope. It is time to bring awareness, recognition and to make a change, ending opioid abuse. And to say in one voice that addiction is NOT a choice. But rather, a symptom to a disease for which there is a daily reprieve in recovery.

We are also asking that if you would like the name of the one you lost to be read that you please add them or message them to Kellsie's Facebook. Names and those communities planning to participate may also be emailed to KellsiesKey@yahoo.com. The list of names will be shared with all communities participating and will be read during the vigil.

Thank you for your support!

John Green

BIBLE READING PLAN

Explore these stories of the bold and brave women in the Old Testament. Find each story in your Bible and look it up using the page numbers at right.

Story: Sarah	Bible Verse: Genesis 18:1-15	Pages: 34-37 Spark
Story: Deborah	Bible Verse: Judges 4:1-16	Pages: 106-109 Spark
Story: Ruth and Naomi	Bible Verse: Ruth 1	Pages: 110-113 Spark
Story: Esther	Bible Verse: Esther 2,3,8	Pages: 152-157 Spark

Ask

I wonder how these women felt when they faced a challenging situation.
How did these women surprise others with their actions?
What will you remember about the women in these stories?

Do

Ask each family member to name a woman who lives out her faith in bold and brave ways. Make her a card, give her a call, or invite her to a meal. Celebrate her faithful actions.

Pray

Say this prayer together, including the names of faithful women your family knows.

Dear, God, Thank you for the women who live out their faith in you each day. (Name the faithful women you know.) Amen.

PICTURE REVIEW OF OUR 2016 BAZAAR

Photos courtesy of Phyllis
Gielarowski



THE LITTLE CHURCH THAT COULD

Matt Hickman December 4, 2016 Frontiersman Newspaper

PALMER — Fourteen years ago, Trinity Lutheran Church, which, 14 years earlier had been established as a community service-focused offshoot of larger Lutheran churches in Wasilla and Palmer, was in need of a spark.

“The congregation was at a real low point at that point,” said church member Wayne Berg, who along with his wife Shirley, had just moved to Palmer from Ketchikan at the time. “They’d lost their pastor and were just struggling along, so my wife and I talked about we needed to do something to create energy here.”

What began with little ‘seed bags’ sewn in decorative cloth by Shirley, each containing a small amount of money donated by a member, grew into an annual holiday bazaar, the 13th of which Trinity Lutheran celebrated on Saturday.

“It allowed the church people to do something from their heart,” explained Patti Hurt, one of the church’s two founding members. “Whatever their gift was, to donate it to be sold. I make dilly beans. I don’t have two brain cells that can do woodwork, but I can cook.”

Rev. Diane Krauszer explained that each year one-third of the money raised from the bazaar goes to national or international causes, a third goes to state causes through the denomination and another third remains in the congregation with this year’s focus going toward a Latino mission ministry. Last year funds went to aid victims of the Sockeye Fire.

“Our biggest growth is in the ways we reach out to the community,” Krauszer said. “Our theme is ‘God’s work, our hands.’”

The church began by leasing a single space in the large, barn-looking Palmer-Wasilla building, sharing space with commercial entities that included a pet store, laundromat, small engine repair shop, photo studio, coffee shop and even a barber shop. When the building’s owners wanted to get out of the building, they sold it to the congregants for one dollar, though the unbeatable purchase price did come with tens of thousands of dollars in back taxes.

Immediately, the new landlords sought to use their good fortune to prefer likeminded nonprofits for tenants.

“We wanted to serve the community through here and serve God through the building,” Krauszer said.

Among the services provided is grief counseling every Thursday night, led by Joyce Lund, who is also the church’s pianist, as well as the principal of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School. “We do it cooperatively with Hospice, both meet together,” Lund said. “It gives an opportunity for people who may not have the financial means to seek professional counseling, especially during holidays or anniversaries, times when people are really struggling.”

On Dec. 22, at 7 p.m., the church will host its annual “The Longest Night” event, meant to help those dealing with the death of a loved one at one of the most difficult times of the year.

The church also has a community garden in back that contributes a goodly amount of food each summer and autumn harvest to the Palmer Food Bank.

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The Little Church That Could

“We are small, but vital and we have recognized that in many ways, we are a place where people for a while, often to get healthy, and move on to other places,” Krauszer said.



LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CAMP

Winter Camp will begin Friday evening, January 27th and run through the weekend, ending Sunday afternoon, January 30th. Pre-registration is required as Victory Bible Camp needs to plan for food and housing of our group (as well as any other groups who wish to share camp that same weekend). Questions, comments, and concerns can be directed to Shelli at [907-227-4036](tel:907-227-4036) or by email at info@aklutherancamps.org

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES*

- 7 Pat Kilmain
- 8 Will Walton
- 14 Brunhilde O'Brien
- 16 Melissa Andrews
- 17 Anna Sharon Jacobson
- 19 Paul & Diane Krauszer*
- 22 Larry McGee & Pat Kilmain*
- 27 Jeff & Cathy Hart*

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA

Happy New Year! I am thankful to all the wonderful people who have shared their time, talents and financial resources with our ministry. It is because of your concern and care that we were able to touch the lives of over 30,000 of our neighbors in need last year.

A great big thank you to everyone who supplied Christmas stockings that we distributed to the children of clients in the Food Pantry. These stockings are so well received from the parents and it helps us bring the Christmas message to over 800 children.

We served 4,264 families and over 9,000 children at this year's Neighborhood Gift. Thanks to everyone who purchased toys for The Salvation Army or Marine Corp Toys for Tots campaigns, volunteered their time for set-up and distribution. We couldn't do this without a tremendous effort from so many in our community.

Also a large thank you to all the women who donated diapers and/or financial contributions at the Lutheran Women's Advent Brunch. We received 36 boxes of diapers and 28 packages of diaper wipes from the event and another 15 packages were dropped off at the Food Pantry. In addition there were donations of \$3,390 donated at the event and on-line. We appreciate the continued support from this event.

The shelves at the Food Bank of Alaska have been full this holiday season and we have also been blessed in the amount of food donated through congregations and individuals. However we are going into the first quarter of the new year that is when the Food Bank donations decrease. We can use your help in keeping our shelves full. Things like chili, soups, canned fruit, cereals, oatmeal, spam, tuna, and packages of noodle, rice or potato mixes are some of the foods items most requested.

Beginning January 1st you will again have the opportunity to contribute to our ministry through the Pick.Click.Give. when you apply for your Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend. When applying on-line, you will have an option called “the Gift of Giving.” Simply follow the instructions to make a donation. In 2016 LSSA received \$15,320 in donations through this program from 216 donors. The on-line Permanent Fund Dividend application for 2017 will be available beginning January 1st, 2017 at 9:00am.

Together caring for others,

Alan Budahl

PICTURE REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Photo courtesy of Gail Clinch



COUNCIL MEMBERS

President Richard Clinch 376-6124

Vice President Rhonda D'Aigle 373-3138

Treasurer Pat Kilmain 745-2365

Secretary Mary Brothers 841-4862

Worship Deb Till 746-1637

Stewardship Glenn Jacob 354-6105

Education Paul Krauszer 357-7714

Outreach Deb Burlinski 7463334

Property Mngmt Dana Tesch 717-8499

Reverend Diane Krauszer 354-3944

CDC Jana Moser 746-0974

Health/Wellness Richard Clinch 376-6124

If you are interested in being a part of the council, talk to Richard Clinch to see how you can qualify.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

Please send in your info for the February newsletter by January 27.

WORSHIP HELPERS

Jennie & Barrett Barge

Shirley & Wayne Berg

Paul & Nancy Fox

Betty Hein

Patti Hurt

Jennifer Ivory

Pat Kilmain

Paul & Diane Krauszer

Lew & Brunhilde O'Brien

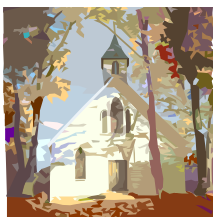
Marti Rustigan

Dana Tesch

If you are not on a team and you would like to serve, please contact the church.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM BISHOP EATON

We are never far from home because Christ is as near to us as our own breath or our own pulse. So, where ever you find yourself this year, dear church, remember that Jesus is with you, and you are home for Christmas. Hear her full message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IlNy9YHBPz0&feature=youtu.be>



LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT TRINITY

Gathered: This 10:30 a.m. Thursday morning Bible study is held in the Trinity Room. The participants are using *The Great Story*, an introduction to the Bible. Come and join in on this discussion. Call Phyllis Gielarowski for more information at 745-6703. (September-May.)

Bible Study: Join the Monday night group at 7:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room as they study the Bible. Call Janet Jacob for more information at 745-4163. (September-May.)

The Men's Breakfast Group: This group meets faithfully every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the Trinity Room. After a delicious breakfast, they read and discuss the scripture for the coming Sunday. The conversation is lively and intense. For more information, call Glenn Jacob at 745-4163.

Adult Forum: Join other adults as we discuss a series of Bible studies on the practices around caring for our world, our neighbors, and ourselves. 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning in the Trinity Room. Contact 745-0726 for more information.

In Stitches: Come share your love of sewing, knitting, crocheting, quilting, and any other crafts with our fine group of knit wits. On Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. in the Trinity Room. For more information, call Phyllis Gielarowski at 745-6703. (September-May.)

Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane: This group of religious athletes meet every Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. Come experience the athlete in you. Prayer following exercise. Contact 745-0726 for more information.

Mat-Su Grief Support Group: Are you grieving or know someone who is grieving? We are here to help. Come to the Mat-Su Grief Support Group every Thursday in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Call Mary Brothers at 841-4862 for more information.

Preschool Chapel: Come worship with the little ones every Thursday at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary while they learn that Jesus loves them. Call the preschool at 745-LOVE (5683) for more information. (September-May.)

Trinity Singers and Players: Do you like to sing? Do you play an instrument? How about you join the Trinity Singers and Players? You get to participate in church, and they practice every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Call Jana Moser at 746-0974 for more information. (September-May.)

Sunday School: Bring kids to the Upper Room every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for a children's Bible study. Call Jan Walton at 745-1242 for more information.

Worship: Join us every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary to praise God and have communion with Pastor Diane. Contact 745-0726 for more information.

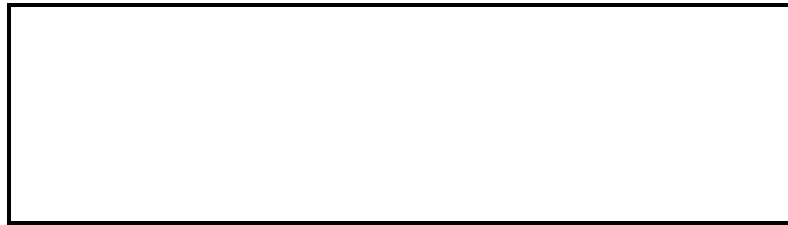
Fellowship: Join us every Sunday following service for a chance to get to know your fellow Christian friends. Snacks available. Contact 745-0726 for more information.

Youth Group: This is for age 6-12 grade, and they meet every 1 and 3 Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in the Trinity Room for faith and games. Contact 745-0726 for more information. (September-May.)

Local Organizing Ministry: This group meets every other Sunday from 4:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. in the Trinity Room. All are welcome in learning the tools used for organizing. Call Richard Clinch at 376-6124 for more information.



10355 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy.
Palmer, AK 99645



Annual Meeting January 29



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.	2 Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible study, 7:00 p.m. No school for students	3 Trinity Singers and Players, 7:00 p.m. No school for students	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. No school for students	5 Exercise/Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Women's study, 10:30 a.m. In Stitches, 11:30 a.m. Grief Support Group, 7:00 p.m. No school for students	6 No school for students Epiphany Party, 7:00 p.m.	7 Mountain River Counseling, 9-4 Trinity Room
8 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:30 a.m.	9 Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible study, 7:00 p.m.	10 Trinity Singers and Players, 7:00 p.m. Outreach, 4:00 p.m. Candle lighting ceremony, 6:00 p.m.	11 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m.	12 Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10 a.m. Women's study, 10:30 a.m. In Stitches, 11:30 a.m. Grief Support Group, 7:00 p.m.	13 Annual reports due	14
15 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:30 a.m. Youth group, 5:30 p.m.	16 Adult Bible study, 7:00 p.m. Pastor away at workshop	17 Trinity Singers and Players, 6:00 p.m. Council, 7:00 p.m. Pastor away at workshop	18 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Pastor away at workshop	19 Women's study, 10:30 a.m. In Stitches, 11:30 a.m. Grief Support Group, 7:00 p.m. Pastor away for vacation	20 Pastor away for vacation	21 Mountain River Counseling, 9-4 Trinity Room Pastor away for vacation
22 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:30 a.m. Annual packets distributed Singing with the Seniors, 1:00 p.m. Pastor away for vacation Christian Unity, 6:00 p.m.	23 Adult Bible study, 7:00 p.m. Pastor away for vacation	24 Trinity Singers and Players, 7:00 p.m.	25 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m.	26 Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10 a.m. Women's study, 10:30 a.m. In Stitches, 11:30 a.m. Grief Support Group, 7:00 p.m.	27 Newsletter article due Lutheran Community Camp	28 Lutheran Community Camp
29 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Youth group movie night Annual meeting following service Lutheran Community Camp	30 Exercise and Prayer with Pastor Diane, 8:30 a.m. Adult Bible study, 7:00 p.m. Lutheran Community Camp	31 Trinity Singers and Players, 7:00 p.m.				