

TRINITY LUTHERAN'S **NOVEMBER** NEWSLETTER



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**STAYING IN TOUCH WITH YOUR LEADERS...**

**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 Management:** Dana Tesch 717-8499

**Reverend:** Diane Krauszer 354-3944

**CDC:** Jen Horacek 745-5683

**Health/Wellness:** Richard Clinch 376-6124

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## WORSHIP HELPERS FOR NOVEMBER...

Jacinda Ausbury, Mary Brothers, Richard & Gail Clinch, Zetta Jean Gardner, Dale & Helga Huelskoetter, Glenn & Janet Jacob, John & Phyllis Martin, Shawn & Jana Moser, Gloria Okeson, Stan & Shirley Platt, Jill St. Germain, and Glenn D. Westphale.

## FROM REVEREND DIANE

Dearly Beloved,

Where does your offering go?

November is Stewardship month. It is a time in the year to look ahead and ask what ministries do we as a congregation plan to engage in and how will we fund those ministries. Most of what we do is funded through our own tithes and offerings. Occasionally we hold fund raisers for special events or activities but most of the cost of weekly worship, heating and cleaning our building, Sunday school and bible study materials, choir music, paying staff and all the other things we do as a congregation come from the offerings that are collected each week.

God has blessed us at Trinity. We have much to be grateful for in our personal lives and in our life as a congregation. Scriptures tells us that our tithes and offerings are to be gifts of gratitude for what God has done for us that we are privileged to give back to God for God's work, here in our own church and in the larger world. Some of you have asked how our gifts are used beyond our doors.

Here is a description of where your offerings go. Ninety percent of what is given each week is used here at Trinity for the work and ministry we do locally. Ten percent of what we offer each week is sent on to our Alaska synod for use in funding synod ministries such as Seward Peninsula churches, leadership training, youth events and new outreach churches in several locations around the state. The synod then sends a portion (40 %) of what it receives from all of the Alaskan Lutheran churches on to the ELCA churchwide offices. The ELCA churchwide office uses 80 % of what it receives to fund ministry around the world including ministries such as World Hunger Relief, missionaries, Lutheran Disaster Relief, *Stand with Africa* aid and much more. Alaskan ministries are included in this distribution of funds from the ELCA church wide. In fact, for every dollar the Alaska Synod sends to the ELCA national headquarters for church wide use \$1.50 gets sent back to Alaska for needs and ministry here in the state. That is a good investment return these days.

Stewardship is not just about money. It is also about our time and our abilities. I am always amazed at how much we accomplish. But I must admit that I am also sometimes dismayed by all there is to do. People are hungry in our Valley. There are homeless families that need a place to sleep. Drugs and alcohol destroy lives and tear relationships apart. People are ignorant of God's saving love for them. When God spoke to Isaiah, God asked, "Who will go for us?" Isaiah's answer was simple "Here I am. Send me." Living out that response took time, ability and money for Isaiah. We are reminded that being faithful can be difficult. There will be disappointments and frustrations. People won't respond as we hope they will. Events will happen that seem contrary to our understanding of God's plan. However, God is faithful and walks with us always. God's will and work is being accomplished even when we can't see the whole picture. Being a good steward of all we have is one way to express our faith in God. After all, we are God's people, called into God's church and sent out to do God's work using our time, our abilities, and our money for God's glory. Thanks be to God.

Peace,  
Pastor Diane



## TRINITY THANKSGIVING MEAL

Join friends and family for Thanksgiving dinner at 1:30 PM on November 23. This meal is a potluck. TLC will provide the turkey. There will be conversation and games after dinner. Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to attend this meal and plan to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish. If you know of someone who does not have a place to go for Thanksgiving, or will be by themselves, invite them to come to our Thanksgiving meal.

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## TRINITY THANKSGIVING EVE PIE SOCIAL

Join us after the Thanksgiving Eve service for a pie social on November 22 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to attend or to bring a pie.

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## BIBLE READING PLAN

God loves. God welcomes. God forgives! Find each story of forgiveness in your Bible and read them. [Wearesparkhouse.org](http://Wearesparkhouse.org).

Joseph Forgives	1 Samuel 17:4-11
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6:5-15
Zacchaeus	Luke 19:1-10
The Prodigal Son	Luke 15:11-32

### Ask:

God loves us-no matter what! Tell about a time you made a mistake and asked for forgiveness. What happened next?

How does it feel to forgive someone? How does it feel to be forgiven?

What huge thing happened next?

When do you pray to God? What do you say? Do you like saying prayers already written or do you like making up your own prayers?

### Do:

Pray and Follow God's way! Cut out colored paper to look like street signs. Write a brief prayer on the back of each sign, then spread the signs out down a hallway. Walk a stuffed animal or drive a toy car down the hallway, stopping at each sign. Read the prayer before moving to the next sign.

### Pray:

Say this prayer together including all the things you are thankful for.

Dear God, Thank you for listening to us when we pray. Thank you for forgiving us when we make mistakes. Thank you for loving us always! Thank you for teaching us to pray. [Say the Lord's Prayer together.] Amen!

### Next time:

Watch, wait, and hope next month as your family gets ready for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Jan Walton

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## ADVENT SCHEDULE

Here is the Advent schedule. We will be sharing it with River of Life again this year. We will also join in on the community Advent service with our catholic and presbyterian friends. All are welcome to celebrate the Advent season and the coming of Christ.

**November 29:** Community Advent Service at St. Michael's Parish, 432 E Fireweed Ave. in Palmer. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. with service at 7:00 p.m. Bring cookies to share after the service.

**December 6:** Trinity Advent Service with River of Life, 10355 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy. in Palmer. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup or bread. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. with service at 7:00 p.m.

**December 13:** Trinity Advent Service with River of Life, 10355 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy. in Palmer. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup or bread. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. with service at 7:00 p.m.

**December 20:** Trinity Advent Service with River of Life, 10355 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy. in Palmer. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup or bread. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. with service at 7:00 p.m.

**December 27:** Trinity Advent Service with River of Life, 10355 E. Palmer-Wasilla Hwy. in Palmer. Please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall to bring soup or bread. Dinner is at 6:00 p.m. with service at 7:00 p.m.

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## CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



The 14 annual Trinity Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale is Saturday, December 2. All are welcome from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will be divided three ways- 1/3 to Trinity, 1/3 to Hazel's Latino Group, and 1/3 to ELCA Disaster Response. If you are interested in making something for the bazaar, you may pick up a talent bag on Sunday. Please have all items to the church by December 1. If you are interested in helping at the bazaar, please sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Ideas? Comments? Thoughts? Contact Janet Jacob at 745-4163.

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## FREEZER MINISTRY

The Outreach Committee is starting a Freezer Ministry. This will involve gathering and creating meals to be frozen and stored at church. A freezer just for this ministry has been purchased with a Thrivent grant. The frozen meals will be available for individuals and families in need. We are looking at December to have our first cooking day! If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Lynn Anselm at 671-9235. Thanks! -Lynn

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## TLC PRESCHOOL INSIGHT



TLC CDC had a great start to the year. Miss Kim Hopkin's class has 9 students with 7 of them from returning families. Miss Jen Horacek's class has 6 students with 5 from returning families.

We took the preschoolers to the Vanderwheele Farm. We were able to walk a field and see them harvest brussel sprouts and cabbage. We also toured the potato warehouse, the strawberry greenhouse and were treated to filling a 10 lb. bag of potatoes to take home. We also harvested the plot in the community garden.

One of my goals this school year is an effort to better communicate to our parents about our upcoming activities and daily expectations. Family lives are so full these days. I am using a variety of methods such as newsletters, group texts and our Facebook page to keep informed.

In each class the children are getting to know one another, socializing and enjoying their days at school!

Jen

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## SABBATICAL UPDATE

First let me thank you all for giving me the opportunity to go on a sabbatical. Just to clarify, a sabbatical is not a giant vacation although it may look like one with just a brief glance.

A brief overview:

Hawaii- a time of rest and rejuvenation.

West coast- a time of exploration and a time to visit other ELCA congregations. I have regularly attended only one Lutheran Church in my life -Trinity! I want to see how other Lutheran churches worship.

England- seeking out roots. Both Paul and I have family roots in England; Paul through his mother's side, the Havens and Diane through her father's side, the Harveys, (who immigrated fist to Canada and then the US only three generations ago.)

Study:

During all of this travel, study and learning will be taking place. While in Hawaii I will work with the book of John, first as a devotional source. I will be using a text by Jamie Clark-Sole, *Reading John for Dear Life*. Next I will also study the Gospel of John from Jewish perspective using a text by Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg, *The Jewish Gospel of John: Discovering Jesus King of all Isreal*. Finally I will use a text by a Lutheran professor, Robert Smith, *Wounded Lord: Reading John through the Eyes of Thomas*. I also want to begin learning how to slow down and meditate as a devotional tool. I have purchased DVDs to help me in this endeavor. Perhaps when I return some of you may want to join me in continuing to learn about meditation as a devotional tool.

While in England I will visit churches that are using café style worship to learn how it is used in other places. Café style worship is most widely practiced in England and Australia. Café style worship has been used successfully for several years in England as a way to attract younger families to worship who are not familiar or comfortable with traditional worship styles. I will also participate in Even Song weekly.

While I am away:

As we look forward together to my being away, I am confident that all will be well at Trinity while I am absent. God has blessed us with many able leaders for such as small congregation. The worship committee is working with me to cover all the Sundays I am away with pastors, preacher and presiders for communion. I have begun conversations with Pastor Bill Ottum and the people at River of Life about Advent and Lenten midweek services. Our current plan is that they will join us for all of Advent and Trinity will join River of Life for all of Lent. Plans are being made to cover all the activities of Holy week.

Two years ago I attended a seminar on transitions. The goal of the seminar was to help pastors and church leaders in making decisions about change. One of the options for change was staying where you are but finding ways to refresh and renew yourself so you can continue. That was the option I chosen for myself; To stay at Trinity and to use the Sabbatical as a time to change me so that I come back renewed, refreshed and ready to continue on as your pastor at Trinity.

Peace,  
Pastor Diane

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## THE WAY WE WALK: MUSINGS ON THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICES OF LUTHERANS

*Pastor Marcia Wakeland*

I've been interested in spirituality for a long time. I'm a spiritual director; I lead spiritual retreats; I've gone on spiritual pilgrimages; I have a library of spiritual books. But when asked by Bishop Shelley to write a series of articles on Spiritual Practices (also called Spiritual Disciplines), I felt it was an invitation to look at this topic like it was new, and to look at it particularly for Lutherans. What do we do traditionally and what new is leaking into our practices? What practices have we neglected or avoided in the wider Christian tradition?

I've always relied on the root word of spirit to define spirituality for me: in the Greek, it's *pneuma*, in the Hebrew, *ruah*, in the Latin, *spiritus*. All of these meaning in some form or other movement of that which is invisible—wind, breath, air, soul. Once I was watching a bull fight in a stadium in Madrid, sitting in a crushing mass of people, when a white dove flew into the center of the bull ring. The crowd of thousands hushed, so silent I was stunned. And then the dove flew up in a spiral into the blue evening sky and as if in one voice, the crowd began shouting, “*Spiritus, spiritus!*” in deep awe. It was that movement of the dove, that brought form to the invisible movement of Spirit for me in that unforgettable moment. (I know, a strange place to see the Spirit at a bull fight.) For me, spirituality is how God's Spirit moves in each person's life and in the life of the congregation.

But I was searching for new ways of thinking about spirituality as I began this writing, and decided to go where most in our culture search for information—Wikipedia. I was intrigued by Kees Waaijman's definition: ‘a process of re-formation which "aims to recover the original shape of man, the image of God.”

Ah, Reformation! Now there's something for Lutherans! To recover the original shape of man—the shape of God. Beautiful. Using this idea of spiritual practices as a way of re-forming ourselves into the shape of God, I want to explore a few practices that are familiar and some that may not be. And I will be asking Lutherans what spiritual practices have ‘re-formed’ them. So expect a few stories too. And contact me if you have a spiritual practice you'd like to share for this series: [mwakeland@gmail.com](mailto:mwakeland@gmail.com).

Dorothy Bass in her book, *Practicing Our Faith*, suggests that as we explore which spiritual practices to follow in our walk, we could consider: “Why is it important to the flourishing of human life? Does the practice in any way hurt or oppress? How does the practice enable us to participate in the activity of God's Spirit in the world? How have wider communities adopted it? Is it crystallized in worship?”

She and also Richard Foster who has written the time-honored, *Celebration of Spiritual Disciplines* warn of a spiritual discipline becoming a law, not a freedom. Both suggest it takes awareness so that whatever we practice moves us closer to God, not to strengthening our own ego. Our spiritual practices are those that are filled with meaning and that take us deeper into the love of God and neighbor.

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## DAY OF THE DEAD



This year United Protestant Presbyterian Church in Palmer is helping me host a Día de los Muertos Celebration on Sunday, November 5 from 1pm-5pm. It is a time to remember loved ones who have passed on; it is particularly special to my children and I this year as we remember someone very special to us. Join us in the festivities! Bring pictures or tokens of those individuals that have been special to you and place them on our communal altar. There will be music, arts and crafts projects, food and celebration.

Day of the Dead is an interesting holiday celebrated in central and southern Mexico during the chilly days of November 1 & 2. Even though this coincides with the Church holiday called All Soul's & All Saint's Day, the indigenous people of Latin America have combined this with their own ancient beliefs of honoring their deceased loved ones. Day of the Dead is celebrated throughout Mexico and the Catholic world... Italy, Spain, South America and the Philippines all celebrate All Souls and All Saints Day on November 1st and 2nd. Special Masses and

cleaning of the cemetery tombs are part of the traditional activities... however it's only in Central and Southern Mexico where the colorful parties take place in the cemeteries and elaborate ofrenda altars are built in the homes to honor specific family members who have passed on.

Hazel

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## **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF ALASKA**

### **Thanksgiving Blessing**

We are finalizing our plans with others in the faith-based community of Anchorage for this year's Thanksgiving Blessing food basket distribution. Last year we distributed food to 1,462 households which was 97 more than 2015. This year we are planning to serve 1,500 households. LSSA is the site coordinator for the distribution at Central Lutheran Church and need your help in many ways. As usual we are asking our Lutheran congregations to collect the corn, green beans, stuffing mix or gravy mix that your congregation has been assigned. We also need your help volunteering with set-up and distribution on Monday, November 20th. Shifts on Monday are from 10am to 1:00pm for set-up, 1:30pm to 5:00pm and 4:30pm to 8pm for distribution. If you can help us out at one of these times please call the LSSA office at 272-0643 ext 10 or email us at [lssa@gci.net](mailto:lssa@gci.net).

### **Christmas Stockings**

It is a tradition to present Christmas stockings to the families with young children who visit our food pantry during the month of December. Thank you to all the groups and individuals that make stockings for this ministry. We ask that you include a story or activity book about Jesus' birth in the stockings. If you need instructions or a template of the pattern please contact the LSSA office.

### **Neighborhood Gift**

This year all the Neighborhood Gift sites will again come together at the Sullivan Arena for distribution of toys and meals on Wednesday, December 13th and Thursday, December 14th. We have divided the city by zip codes as to which day families will shop. Eagle River residents food and gifts will be distributed on Wednesday, December 13th only at St. Andrew Catholic Church. You can sign up to volunteer by going this website [www.salvationarmyalaska.org/alaska/gift\\_2017](http://www.salvationarmyalaska.org/alaska/gift_2017) or [www.foodbankofalaska.org](http://www.foodbankofalaska.org).

### **Thank You**

A great big thank you to everyone who donated items and/or volunteered at the Anchorage Mayor's Charity Ball. It was a wonderful evening and we will find out in December how much was raised for LSSA. Also a big thanks to Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church and retired Pastor Dan Bollerud for again hosting another fun Beer & Hymns. I am pleased to tell that we raised \$11,000 for the LSSA Food Pantry that evening.

Together Caring for Others,

Alan Budahl

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## **LUTHERAN WOMEN'S ADVENT BRUNCH**

Please join us for a morning of fellowship where we will be exploring the journey of preparing for the Advent season. It is Saturday, December 2 Egan Convention Center, 9:00 a.m. "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our Lord." Isaiah 40:3. Tickets are available through Adrienne King, 907-227-4174 for \$24.00 each. We will be collecting diapers of all sizes and baby wipes to donate to LSSA. These may be brought to the brunch or dropped off at your church for collection.

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## LEARNING AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT TRINITY

**Gathered:** This 11:00 a.m. Thursday morning Bible study is held in the Trinity Room. Come and join in on the discussion. Call Phyllis Gielarowski for more information at 745-6703. (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 10:00 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? We are here to listen. 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:** If you like music, join the Trinity Singers and Players 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.

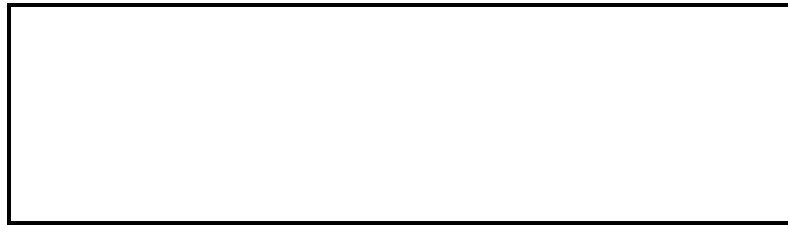
**Weed and Feed:** Come out to the TLC Community Garden every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. to weed, harvest, and care for Trinity's garden. Dinner follows at 6:30 p.m. Contact 745-0726 for more information. (May-September.)

**Always Something New:** Stay tuned for any upcoming picnics, parties, and programs for more opportunities to get to know your fellow Christian friends.





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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. By Heart, 6:00 p.m.	2 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10:00 Women's Study, 11 a.m. In Stitches, 10:00 a.m. Grief Support, 7:00 p.m. Day of the Dead prayer labyrinth, 5:30 p.m.	3	4
5 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:45 a.m. Day of the Dead family festival, 1:00 p.m.	6 Pastor Diane away at collegium in Fairbanks	7 Trinity Singers, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Diane away at collegium in Fairbanks	8 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. By Heart, 6:00 p.m. Pastor Diane away at collegium in Fairbanks	9 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10:00 Women's Study, 11 a.m. In Stitches, 10:00 a.m. Grief Support, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Diane away at collegium in Fairbanks	10	11
12 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:45 a.m. Pastor Diane preaches at Table of Grace	13 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m.	14 Outreach, 4:00 p.m. Trinity Singers, 7:00 p.m.	15 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m.	16 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10:00 a.m. Women's Study, 11 a.m. In Stitches, 10:00 a.m. Grief Support, 7:00 p.m. Grandparents Day, preschool	17 Valley Blessing	18 PLUME Los Amigos, 5-9 p.m. Valley Blessing
19 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:45 a.m.	20 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m.	21 Council, 7:00 p.m. Trinity Singers, 6:00 p.m.	22 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Eve Pie Social, 7:00 p.m.	23 Thanksgiving dinner, 1:30 p.m.	24	25
26 Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship, 11:45 a.m. Singing with the seniors, 1:30 p.m. Christ the King Sunday	27 Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m.	28 Trinity Singers, 7:00 p.m.	29 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 a.m. Exercise and Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Community Advent supper, 5:30 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.	30 Exercise/Prayer, 8:30 a.m. Preschool chapel, 10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study, 11:00 a.m. In Stitches, 10:00 a.m. Grief Support Group, 7:00 p.m.		Trinity raised 292 non perishable food items for the food pantry!  