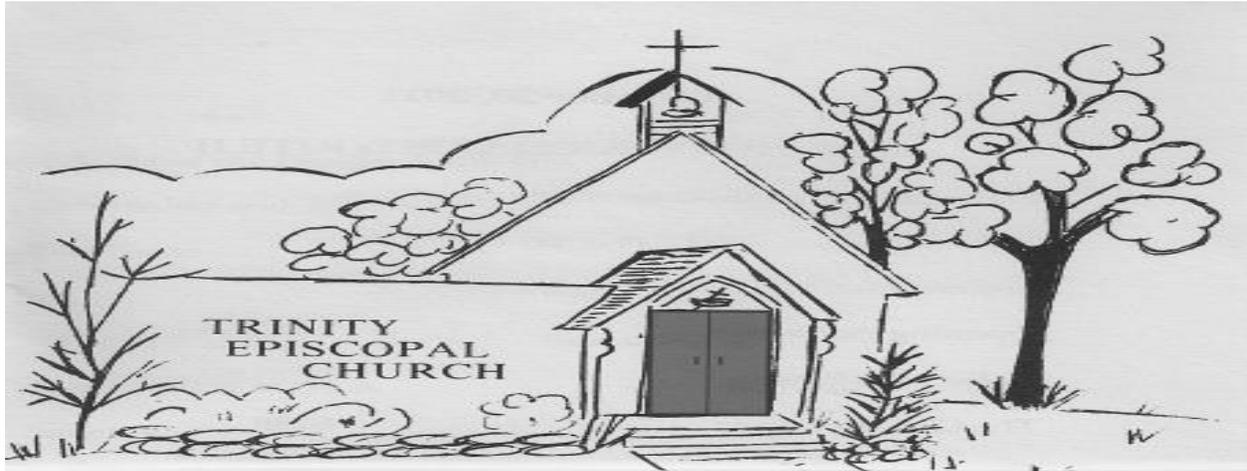


TRINITY TIDINGS

100 Harwood, Lebanon, MO

December, Volume 3, Issue 7



From Behind the Altar

One of my favorite Christmas movies is *Fred Claus*. It was released a few years ago, and it can still be purchased or downloaded. It is not of the same iconic quality as *A Christmas Carol* or *It's A Wonderful Life*. But it is worth a view because, even though it is silly at times, it speaks to one of the major theological themes of the Christmas Season.

Without giving the storyline away completely, it is about Fred Claus, who is the older brother of---you guessed it---Santa Claus. The movie addresses among other things the whole issue of sibling rivalry and how envy of a sibling can degrade and almost ruin a person's life.

Fred Claus and Santa Claus both change at the end of the movie. Santa discovers that he can make mistakes like others and that his brother Fred is someone he can finally depend on, and Fred Claus learns that he is not a failure and that he is able to teach his brother Santa (who is supposed to be the expert when it comes to children) some important lessons about children.

Why I am mentioning *Fred Claus* in my Christmas letter is because one of the theological themes of Christmas is that God comes in person to heal human relationships, especially families. God does so by uniting himself to humanity in one person, Jesus. Because of this, all human beings become brothers and sisters (members of one family) and have one Father in Heaven. What is different about this new family that God

makes is that all of the members have status in it because God has forgiven them and adopted them as his own children. None of the family members have any advantage over the others. All are loved and all our appreciated for who they are. What is noticeably absent in this new family are envy, jealousy, and resentments.

In the movie *Fred Claus*, Fred Claus and Santa Claus stopped seeing themselves as natural brothers and began to see each other, for the first time, as individuals with different abilities, interests, and qualities. They both reformulated the way they thought about each other. The result was a new relationship based on appreciation and absent rivalry and competition.

I pray that all of our families might be transformed this Christmas Season, and that any lingering envy, jealousy, competition, or resentment will be banished for good.

Merry Christmas,

Father Miller

December Crosslines Report

On November 25 Governor Jay Nixon visited Crosslines to promote Share Your Harvest. Share Your Harvest is a program which enables hunters, who kill a deer and do not want to process or use the meat, to donate the venison to feed residents of Missouri. Hunters deliver the deer to a processing plant that is part of the program since they will only be paid \$60 which is usually less than the normal charge for processing. A federation of various organizations in the state provides

the funds for the processing. Crosslines is a recipient of the processed venison. As of the last week of November 500 pounds of venison had been delivered according to Viola Blankenship.

Continuing during the month of December, Crosslines could use food supplies that could be used with the venison such as hamburger helper, spaghetti and sauce, beans and chili seasonings for chili, etc. Some people have no idea how to use the meat so recipes are provided. All of the donations brought to the church for Crosslines are put to good use feeding residents of Laclede County.

Peggy Graydon

Christmas Liturgies during the 12 days of Christmas

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) 7:30 pm

No liturgy on Christmas Day

Sunday, December 27 (First Sunday after Christmas Day) 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 30 (7th day of Christmas) 5:30 p.m.

Thursday December 31 (8th day of Christmas) 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 3 (10th day of Christmas) 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 6 (The Epiphany) 5:30 p.m.

Bodh Gaya: Eighth most holy place in the world



Bodh Gaya is a focal point of Buddhist faith as it's here the famous tree 'Bodhi Tree' is located in Bihar, India. Under the tree is where Gautama Buddha is said to have obtained Enlightenment (Bodhi mandala). 250 years after Buddha's enlightenment, this place was visited by Ashoka, founder of Mahabodhi Temple, who by then had given up worldly pleasures and sought peace through Buddha's teachings. Ashoka established the monastery and erected a diamond throne as a representation of Buddha's asana—one of over 100 sitting positions that cultivate meditation, awareness, relaxation and concentration

Every year, thousands of Buddhists come Bodh Gaya for the grand celebration of Buddha Jayanti. They come from as far away as Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan and Japan. Many of the devotees dwell near the Bodhi compound for a prolonged period just to be near the place where Gautam Buddha attained Enlightenment.

David Daniels

Youth Happenings

The youth program continues to go strong in West Missouri! We've had a fabulous fall of events at both the Diocesan and Network levels. Diocesan events coming up include Happening #73 February 26-28 at Grace, Carthage and Junior High Retreat April 1-3. The Southern Youth Network will have a Ugly Sweater Party & Lock-in at St. James, Springfield this Saturday at 6pm. So many inspiring, educating, and empowering opportunities for youth!

Amanda Perschall

Trinity's Budget for 2016

The Treasurer and the Bishop's Committee will be meeting this month to work on a budget for 2016. If you plan to make a pledge for next year, please fill out the form that was sent to you and return it to the office as soon as possible. Stewardship forms are also available in the office. Thank you.

2016 Church Calendars now available

Trinity's 2016 Church calendars have arrived. If you have not picked up your copy already, please do so the next time you are at church. They are in the parish hall. There is no charge.

On the 9th day of Christmas

You're invited to
sip and sigh,
munch and crunch,
chat and chew

Miller's 4th Annual Open House.

When: Saturday, January 2, 2016

Time: 12:00 noon until 3:00 PM

Where: 4258 East Whitehall Drive
Springfield, MO

...beverages of choice, appetizers, lunch, dessert...

We hope you can come!

(We enjoy children, but this is an adult only event.)

RSVP to Betty or Fr. Miller