



Church Newsletter
December 2019

The Parish Messenger

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community rooted in God's love growing in Christ through reaching out and serving.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY AND GEORGETOWN LUTHERAN CHURCHES

Worship Times

Georgetown

Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
Sept. -May

Trinity

Worship 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School 10:15
a.m. Sept.-May



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Contact Information

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Trinity

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Join us for **Advent** Worship!

December 4 at Trinity: Godly Play story "Advent: The Prophets"
December 11 at Georgetown: Godly Play story "Advent: Holy Family"
December 18 at Trinity: Godly Play story "Advent: Shepherds"

Each Wednesday will begin with a simple meal at 5:45 p.m. and worship will begin at 6:30 p.m. After worship the 7th and 8th grade students will meet with Pastor Diane for a lesson on the Advent theme of the evening. We will be using Holden Evening Prayer for our worship. If you would like to play an instrument or help lead the singing at any worship service, please let Pastor Diane or Christine Anderson know!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“So they (the shepherds) went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they make known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.” Luke 2: 16-19

When I was a girl the story of Jesus' birth from Luke was always read at home after dinner and before opening presents. I loved listening to the story while I gazed at the manger scene that was part of our Christmas decorations. I remember always being struck by the verse “But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart” because it seemed so thoughtful and peaceful to me at the time.

Now, after being a mother myself and studying the background of the biblical text, I have a different view of this piece of scripture. I understand Mary's need to treasure and ponder. After her experience with angelic messengers, maybe messy and contentious conversations with Joseph and her parents, she has to undergo a dangerous and very uncomfortable journey. Then she gives birth in an emergency shelter far from home only to be visited by local, hard working shepherds who worship her newborn child to the accompaniment of an angelic choir! That is a lot to treasure and ponder. Now I picture a jubilant but exhausted new mother quietly treasuring and pondering the wonder of God's work in her life. And I ponder today the need to do the same.

Here at the start of Advent, those of us who follow Christ are invited to treasure and ponder God's word. We are invited to take time to dwell in the promise that this birth is, the gift that the newborn baby will be to God's world. We are invited to ask Christ to be born into our hearts, minds and lives. We are invited to anticipate all the ways this “advent” or “coming” will change the way we live and love others.

It is my hope and prayer for all of you that you take time to treasure and ponder God's word as you get ready for Christmas celebrations. Maybe this time of year is difficult for you. If so, I pray that you take time to pray and ponder how Christ is present to you in the midst of that difficulty. I pray that you can feel the love and promise of Christ as you acknowledge the pain you may feel. I pray that Christ can heal that pain.

I also pray that we can joyfully celebrate the coming of Jesus together. Even though the holidays may be difficult, we can have hope and eventually joy knowing that God promises to redeem and heal us and that the birth of this child is the way God decided to keep that promise!

May your treasuring and pondering bring you closer to the Creator of all, the Redeemer of all and the Holy Spirit who sustains us all in this faith and promise!

Pastor Diane

Announcements

Advent Fest!

Advent Fest will be held on Sunday, December 1st at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity! Come and join in the fun as your friends and neighbors entertain with songs, skits, and poetry. Afterward there will be cocoa, coffee, and cookies to enjoy during a time of fellowship. If you would like to present a song or other entertainment, please contact Pastor Diane or Kathy Grenquist. Invite a friend or neighbor or two and come join in the fun!



Christmas Brunch!

Save the date: Sat. Dec. 7, 2019, 11:00 a.m. Christmas Brunch for the Trinity women. It will be at the Red Maple Eatery

Georgetown Shepherding Groups

December 1: Sherry's Group
 December 8: Carol & Mary Lou
 December 15: Jeanne's Group
 December 22: Roberta's Group
 December 29 Teresa's Group

Youth Group Update!

Sunday, December 15 we will be caroling accompanied by tone chimes at the Pioneer Home in Luck at 4:30 p.m. And on Sunday, December 22 we will be caroling accompanied by tone chimes at the nursing home in Cumberland at 2:30 p.m. Both Sundays after caroling at the nursing homes we will be caroling at local homes in the area. If you would like to have carolers stop by your home or would like to suggest a home to stop at, please contact Pastor Diane or Lacy Sellent.



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Christmas Worship Times

Monday, December 23rd at 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight Worship at Trinity Tuesday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight Worship at Georgetown. Please come to the service that works best for your family celebrations and invite family and friends to come and celebrate Christ's coming! Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services and all are welcome to the Lord's Table at both Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran Churches!

Joint Council Meeting

November 10th

The joint council meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Pastor Diane led devotions and gave a report and discussed her calendar. Pastor Diane shared ideas for 2020 that include:

1. A stewardship program: the councils would like to see more information on this program
2. VBS combined with Georgetown and Trinity: the councils agree to work together to pick a date/time for the combined VBS program with each churches respective Sunday school superintendents.
3. Summer Joint Worship: Once a month in the summer (June, July, August) have a joint church service somewhere other than church, i.e., Hunky Dory. The councils are receptive to this idea.
4. Campfires at the Parsonage: Pastor Diane and George would like to host monthly campfires during the summer at the parsonage.

Old Business – Parsonage

- Egress Windows: A written quote was discussed for repairs to the egress windows. A motion was made and seconded to hire Chad Anderson to perform repairs to the egress windows and the parsonage. The motion carried unanimously.
- Staining and refinishing of windows: Work will take place in Spring/Summer 2020.
- Exterior Maintenance: Work will also take place in 2020.

New Business

- Lifetouch Directory: The last directory was done six years ago. Lifetouch reached out to see if we would like to schedule. A motion was made and seconded to get on the Lifetouch schedule for 2020. Debbie Wickstrom will contact Lifetouch. The motion carried unanimously.
- Faith Lutheran Church-Balsam Lake: Faith Lutheran in Balsam Lake is wondering if our churches would consider being a three-point parish. After a great deal of discussion, Tim Frendt will contact them and tell them we are not against it but need much more information before making any decisions.
- Pastors Salary: Diana Peterson, treasurer, explained the salary/compensation plan. Councils considered options that increase compensation 0% to 3%. Councils also discussed conducting regular performance evaluations. A motion was made and seconded to recommend a 2% increase in 2020. The motion carried unanimously. The recommended will go before both congregations for approval during the annual meetings. A motion was made and seconded that the council presidents develop a performance evaluation process. The motion carried unanimously.
- Shared Budget: Councils briefly discussed some shared budge items. The continuing education budget needs to be at \$450 for each church. The secretary wage will remain at \$12.50 per hour.
- Other: Jeanne Johnson will be included in proof reading the monthly newsletter. Gretchen Frendt is working on a church calendar.

The joint meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Trinity Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity council met twice in November. The first right after the joint council meeting on Nov. 10th. The second during our normally scheduled time, Nov. 19.

November 10, 2019

Members present: Steven Anderson, Brenda Rouzer (Treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Debbie Wickstrom, Christine Anderson, Allie Snowbank, JoAnn Sellent and John Gall.

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Old Business:

- There is a leak in the roof above the attic storage area and the north furnace room, it will need to be monitored and fixed in the spring. Tub should be placed to catch leak for the time-being.
- Cynthia Halverson, Regional Gift Planner from the ELCA has been contacted to guide us in our endowment questions. She will be sending information and sample documents for council review. We will meet on Nov. 19th if the documents come in time.

New Business:

- Thanksgiving service will be on Nov. 26th at Georgetown.
- LPBC has a matching capital campaign that will run for 2 years.
- Mission of the Month: One month is too short, we will try a quarterly schedule in 2020.
 - December Margaret's Project Santa
 - Jan-March 2020= Coat Drive
 - April-June 2020 = LPBC
- Palt Dinner has not been set. There are many willing hands, just need someone to coordinate.
- Noisy Offering: When the bucket gets full, the kids will be asked to help decide where to send the money collected.

Motion to adjourn made by Debbie Wickstrom and seconded by Allie Snowbank. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Nov. 19th pending documents from the ELCA.



Trinity Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2019 meeting

Members Present:

Steven Anderson, Brenda Rouzer (treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Christine Anderson Absent: Debbie Wickstrom, John Gall, Allie Snowbank and JoAnn Sellent

No official decisions can be made since there are only 2 council members present.

This is an informational meeting only.

Opening prayer

Treasurer's Report:

- October statement is posted on the kiosk in the church entry.

Discussion:

- Lifetouch will come in June to take pictures for a new photo directory!
- A discussion about confirmation was had
- The group reviewed the ELCA documents about an Endowment Fund, Gift Policy, Endowment By-laws, etc. Christine will communicate with our resource (Cynthia Halverson) to ask our questions and go over possible changes to the sample documents.
- Brenda Rouzer will step down as congregational treasurer. We are grateful for the hard work she has done for us. Congregational members are asked to consider stepping into this role. Quickbooks has been purchased for the congregational treasurer.
- Before the congregational meeting in January the council plans to:
 - Prepare the 2020 budget for the congregation
 - Request volunteers to serve on church council for 2020-2022
 - Request congregational members to consider serving as Congregation Treasurer.
 - Prepare a proposal for the congregation about Elsie Marklund's Memorial Gift.
 - Prepare a sign to display the "wish list" developed at the Oct. 13, 2019 congregational meeting.

Next Trinity council meeting will be at Trinity on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2019

Present:

Jeanne Johnson, Stacy Bergmann, Tim Frendt
Gretchen Frendt, Charlotte Peper, Dennis Wiese
Teresa Vollath, Bruce Peper, Pastor Diane

Absent:

Tom Levi



The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m.

Secretary Report:

- Minutes from the October council meeting were received as written.

Treasurers Report:

- The end of October we were \$7,474.70 behind budget. The operating fund is at \$3,450.45. A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. It carried unanimously.
- Diana Peterson explained that the P&C insurance claim of \$42,840.05 was received from the insurance company. Also, Mrs. Peterson needs direction on where to put the money left over from the lawnmower purchase. A motion was made and seconded to move \$692 left over from the lawnmower fund to the Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal Fund. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

- **Visitation Ministry:** Pastor Diane met with Charlotte Peper and Gene Palas on visitation ministry. They will be planning home visits.

New Business

- **Building Request Forms:** A motion was made and seconded to approve building use for a celebration of life on November 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. Bruce Peper will contact Jim Rennie to reschedule his classes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the building use for the Hansen Family Thanksgiving on November 28.

The next council meeting was scheduled for December 15 at noon. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Trinity Worship 9:00 Sun. School 10:15 Georgetown Worship 10:30 Sun. School 9:00 Advent Fest at 6:30	2	3	4 Advent Worship at Trinity 5:45	5	6	7 Trinity Women Christmas Brunch 11:00
8 Trinity Worship 9:00 Sun. School 10:15 Georgetown Worship 10:30 Sun. School 9:00 GT Secret Sisters at Village Pizzeria in Amery 1:00	9	10	11 Advent Worship at Georgetown 5:45	12	13	14
15 Trinity Sunday School Program 9:00 Georgetown Worship 10:30 Sun. School 9:00 GT Council Mtg. 12:00 Caroling 4:30	16	17 Trinity Council Meeting 6:30	18 Advent Worship at Trinity 5:45	19	20	21
22 Trinity Worship 9:00 Georgetown Worship 10:30 Sun. School 9:00 Caroling 2:30 GT Christmas Program	23 Christmas Eve Service Trinity 7:00	24 Christmas Eve Service at Georgetown 4:00	25 	26	27	28
29 Trinity Worship 9:00 Georgetown Worship 10:30 Sun. School 9:00	30	31				