

Church Newsletter
April 2020

The Parish Messenger

Mission Statement

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

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

God
proved
his love
on the
cross.

Contact Information

Pastor Diane

Home: 715-822-3553
Cell: 715-702-1240

Georgetown

PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715-857-5580

Trinity

2502 E. Grenquist Lake Ln.
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3001

Romans 6:3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been **baptized in Christ Jesus** were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is **in Christ**, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.” Matthew 28: 1

“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.” Mark 16: 1-2

“But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.” Luke 24: 1

“Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.” John 20: 1

When I was a little girl and someone asked “What is your favorite holiday?” I always said “Easter,” surprising the questioner that I didn’t say “Christmas” like most of the other kids. I have always looked forward to Easter Sunday. Part of the reason is that it occurs in Spring and I am always relieved when winter is over. But, mostly I love Easter Sunday because it is the biggest and most important festival of the church year.

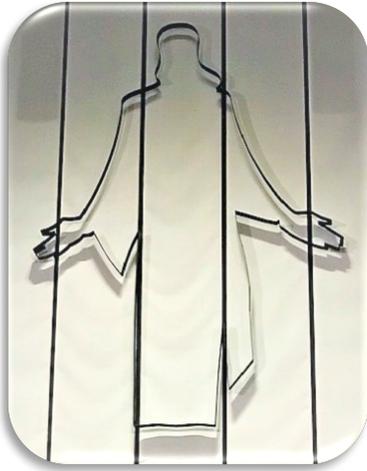
We always attended the Easter Sunday sunrise service and I can still feel that sense of eager anticipation of gathering in the dark still feeling the somber feelings of Good Friday. I remember listening to the quiet sounds of the faithful gathering in silence and waiting for the light to dawn with the surprising and joyful proclamation of “Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!” And then launching into the celebratory hymn “Jesus, Christ is risen today!” I was usually (and still am) too overcome with emotion to sing the first verse!

I am pondering all the ways that this year’s Easter Sunday will probably be very different. We may not be able to gather “very early on the first day of the week” as we might very well still be experiencing social distancing or sheltering in place. I confess a deep disappointment, a sadness that we might not be able to decorate the church with flowers and Alleluia banners. I may not be able to share the resurrection flowers with the children in the way that I had planned.

But, that is okay! The very first Easter Sunday was filled with fear, confusion, and disappointment, too. Where were the disciples? Locked away in rooms in fear. Where was the music? All was quiet after the violent and scary events of Friday and the mourning of Saturday. Only a few women dared to go to the tomb after carefully observing the social and religious rules of Passover and Sabbath. To their surprise, they did not find what they expected at the tomb. A new future was opened up for them. Jesus was raised from the dead and new life from death was possible.

However we are able to celebrate Easter Sunday, that is what we will proclaim and celebrate. That God creates new life out of death. God will see us through this time of isolation and fear and eventually we will be freed to proclaim that Christ is risen! God’s love, mercy, and grace triumph over fear, uncertainty and death! We will be free to live that out in the world once again! This is a sure and certain hope!

Living in the hope of the resurrection, Pastor Diane



Cookie Cutter Jesus: An Easter Message

I visit a different church in our Synod nearly every Sunday. This Sunday I discovered a 15 foot cookie cutter outline of the figure of Jesus hanging high above the altar.¹ I kept staring at the shape during the first hymn thinking about the outstretched arms of Jesus and realized this as an *Easter* cookie cutter. This is the resurrected Jesus who showed the wounds of the nails in hands when he appeared to Mary Magdalene and the other women. These are the women who became the first witnesses to announce that Jesus had risen from the dead to the other disciples.² I was still thinking about the cookie cutter shape of Jesus when the last hymn was sung. After worship I visited with a long time member of that congregation, Shirley³. I remarked how I appreciated the 15 foot cookie cutter Jesus above the altar. Shirley smiled and then told me this story: The church sanctuary was built in the 1970s.

Everyone was so excited for the first worship service. The construction workers were busy putting the finishing touches on the sanctuary. The metal shape of Jesus was lying flat on the floor in the church waiting to be hung above the altar. At the time Shirley's daughter, Kari was about 3 ½ years old. Shirley and little Kari were checking out the progress in the sanctuary. Kari, a normal curious child, stepped into the cookie cutter frame and stood in the middle of the Jesus shape. Kari said to Shirley, "Look mommy, I'm standing in Jesus' hand." It was a sweet memory of that long ago moment. Shirley then went on to finish that story. She told me that her daughter Kari died of complications from cancer treatment two years ago. She was only 46. Shirley said that she finds comfort in knowing that her daughter is now resting forever "in Jesus' hands." She often thinks about Kari when she sees the shape of Jesus above the altar. She envisions her daughter in Jesus, resting in Jesus. This Easter, remember we are "in Jesus." We have been baptized into his death and resurrection. We are people who believe "in Jesus."

Friends, as I write this I realize that we are living in complicated times, COVID-19 frightens, cancer kills, politics are ugly, wars rage, immigrant and refugees suffer, racism, gun violence, sexism, climate change, drug abuse are real concerns and yet here we are standing "in Jesus." During this season of Easter, no matter where you are on your spiritual journey, know that the resurrected Jesus reaches out his nail scarred hands to us all, appearing to us in our grief, in our scariest moments, in our despair. This Easter Jesus walked on the road to Emmaus with the two grieving disciples. This is the resurrected Jesus who appeared to the terrified disciples in the locked room and said "peace be with you." This is the resurrected Jesus who ascended into heaven and says to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations and remember I am with you ALWAYS to the end of the age." You are "in Jesus." Go in peace and share this Easter good news with the world. ~Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson~



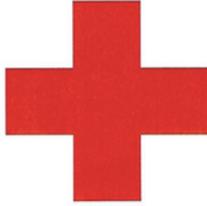
¹ I bake and decorate hundreds of rolled out cookies every year and have a collection of old cookie cutters.

² The women at the tomb were the first witnesses to the resurrection. 2020 is the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women pastors in the United States. Save the date, November 7, 2020 is the Synod's Day of Celebration for the 50th Anniversary at Luther Park's new ministry center.

³ Thank you to Shirley Bostrom for giving me permission to share this part of her story.

~Announcements~

Give blood. Help Save Live



Blood Drive

Balsam Lake Community
Locate at Georgetown Lutheran
Church

877 190th Ave./Cty. Rd. G
(Fox Creek)

Tuesday, April 7, 2020
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS
(1-800-733-2767)

or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
Balsam Lake WI to schedule an
appointment.

American Red Cross

1-800-733-2767 redcrossblood.org
Download the Blood Donor App

Your Offerings are Appreciated!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, your offerings in support of the ministries of Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran churches are always appreciated. I give thanks for the many ways you share your time, talent, and treasure to the glory of God!

Right now your offerings are critical. The wise and safe practice of social distancing makes it difficult to receive your offerings on Sunday morning because we obviously can not gather together in the church sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider giving your offering in a different way.

Those who wish to support Trinity Lutheran Church may mail their offering checks to the parsonage at:

2502 E. Grenquist Lake Lane
Cumberland, WI 54829

Those who wish to support Georgetown Lutheran Church may mail their offering to:

P.O. Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

OR you can also go to the Georgetown Lutheran Church, Balsam Lake WI website and give an offering online. On the main page you will see a green tab marked "give." Click on it and follow the instructions to make an online gift!

Thank you for your financial support of the ministries of Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran Churches!



Serving Our Neighbors

With giving hearts and hands, help us reach out to our neighbors by providing hygiene packages for the homeless in our communities. We will be collecting hygiene items, making tote bags and providing a center at Georgetown Lutheran Church for distribution. We are looking for donations for the following items: SOAP-SHAMPOO-CONDITIONER-TOOTH BRUSHES-TOOTHPASTE-MOUTH WASH (non-alcohol)-DENTAL FLOSS-DEODORANT (men & women's)-SOCKS (male & female)-KLEENEX-NAIL CLIPPER AND FILE-HAND SANITIZER-HYGIENE WIPES-COMB-RAZOR AND SHAVING CRÈME-FEMININE HYGIENE SUPPLIES-TOWELS-WASH CLOTHS-GLOVES (light weight style)-CAPS (light weight style)\$10.00 GIFT CARDS(GAS CARDS, GROCERY CARDS) -PROTEIN BARS- GRANOLA BARS



American Red Cross Alert: Blood Donors Needed During Severe Shortage

By now, you may have heard: due to the coronavirus outbreak, the Red Cross faces a severe blood shortage as high schools, colleges, businesses and other organizations temporarily close and more people are told to work remotely. **Even in this unprecedented crisis, patients and hospitals still depend on lifesaving blood to treat illnesses and injuries that can't wait:** patients who need surgery, mothers facing complications from childbirth, accident victims, patients fighting cancer and countless others.

Healthy individuals are urged to schedule an appointment to donate blood in the days and weeks ahead.

We understand why people may be hesitant to attend a blood drive or give at their regular donation center. That's why we want to reassure you that the Red Cross has implemented additional precautions to help ensure the safety of our donors and staff, including temperature checks prior to entering the blood drive, frequent disinfection and social distancing between donation beds where possible. **Learn more about why donating blood is a safe process.**

Upcoming opportunities to give blood near you:

Balsam Lake Community

877 190th Avenue/County Road G, PO Box 86

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

12:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Sponsor Code: Balsam Lake WI

Luck High School

810 7th Street South

Wednesday, April 8, 2020

9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Sponsor Code: Luck HS

Trinity Church Council Minutes

March 17, 2020

Members present: Steven Anderson, Kathy Grenquist (Treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Debbie Wickstrom, Christine Anderson, JoAnn Sellent and Robin Denver. John Gall absent.

Opening devotions.

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Secretary's Report: Secretary's report was read. Change made in the mileage reimbursement statement. Last year's rate was \$.580, not \$.570 as recorded. A motion to accept the secretary's report as amended was made by Debbie Wickstrom and seconded by Robin Denver. Minutes accepted by council.

Treasurer's Report: Thank you to Kathy Grenquist for agreeing to serve as church treasurer. Kathy provided the monthly statement and it is posted on the church kiosk. A few questions about recording processes and the new software were discussed. Kathy will contact Brenda to clarify a few items.

Pastor's Report:

- Palt Dinner was a huge success! Thanks for all the hard work.
- Worship in the days of the Corona Virus will change.
 - Sunday mornings will be shared via Facebook Live on Georgetown's Facebook page at 10:30am. Christine will repost on Trinity's Facebook page.
 - A mid-week Lenten devotion will be sent out via e-mail receive e-mail.
 - Bulletins and inserts will be available in the church entries for anyone who wants to pick them up.
 - A letter will be e-mailed to those who get the newsletter that way. The letter will explain the plan above which will be followed until we are told by health and government authorities that public meetings are allowed again.
 - Phone calls will be made to all those on the church roster to be sure the message is communicated. Debbie and Christine will work on this.
 - One License has opened all churches to broadcast hymns and songs on social media without paying the extra license fee.
 - Congregation members will be encouraged to continue giving by mailing checks to the church address.

Old Business:

- **Palt Dinner:** 237 people attended! Funds raised to date are about \$2500.
- **Endowment Fund:**
As directed by the congregation at the annual meeting, part of the funds given by Elsie Marklund (\$40,000) has been deposited in the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust – Fund A.

- **Air Conditioning:** Steve Anderson contacted Bryan Johnson from Milltown, we have a few more details. We shouldn't need a new thermostat and according to an electrician we do have enough power to the building. A motion was made by Robin Denver and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom to install all 4 AC units (including coils). The motion passed.

At the February 2020 council meeting the following funding plan was approved by the council, to be scheduled this spring/summer.

- \$5000 memorial donation designated for air conditioning
- \$5000 from Elsie Marklund's estate (At the annual meeting, the congregation directed the council to spend the remaining memorial for items on the wish list)
- \$5000 raised by congregational donations.

After discussing with the Palt Dinner coordinator (Judy Kelch), permission was given to use the profits toward paying for the AC. This means the congregation would be responsible to raise the remaining amount, which is about \$2500.

- **Church Mutual sensor:**
A sensor to monitor temperature and moisture will be installed. This service is free through our insurance provider (church mutual). It operates off WiFi and will automatically notify of a problem. Steve Anderson will contact them to set it up.

New Business:

- **Lifetouch Photo Directory:**
Starting in April, Debbie Wickstrom will organize the sign-up for Trinity by e-mail and phone.
Dates are Monday, June 8th 2-9pm at Trinity and Tuesday, June 9th, 2-9pm at Georgetown.**
- Mission of the quarter (April- June) will be Luther Park Bible Camp's capital campaign.
- Summer events are being explored for youth

Motion to adjourn made by Robin Denver and seconded by JoAnn Sellent. Meeting adjourned.
Next Trinity council meeting will be at Trinity on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 6:30pm.
Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

****March 24, 2020 The photo directory sessions have been cancelled by Lifetouch.**

Trinity Shepherding Groups April

Judy Kelch: Steve Kelch, Bill/Dorothea Beecroft, Paul/Ellen Bergmann, Patricia Bergmann, Liz Buchholz, Chandra/Jason Cummings, Shane Beecroft, Jerry/Robin Denver, John/Gurinne Gall, Paul Grenquist, Allie and Dillon Snowbank, Kristen McQuay

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

03/19/2020

Attending: Tim Frendt, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Tom Levi, Keith Ward, Dennis Wiese, Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Roberta Hansen, Pastor Diane House.
Absent: Stacy Bergmann.

Meeting called to order by Council President Tim Frendt.

Opening devotion and prayer led by Pastor Diane on Romans chapter 8.

No Secretary report available.

Treasure report: Discussion on treasure report line item of community meal balance. That item will be removed as monies received are already listed under income. Current budget is \$2,149.79 behind. Discussion methods that can be utilized by the congregation to provide their offerings during this time of no in-church services. Offerings can be sent to the churches Post Office box, the tithe.ly web site or through your own banking system. Contact Roberta Hansen for account information. Review of Building Use Policy. Treasure suggested that all deposits for building use be deposited in the church checking account and a check issued following building inspection to have the transaction on record. Refund of the deposit to be returned to applicant within 10-15 days. Building Use Form to be updated to reflect this change. Treasures report approved on a Tom Levi/Judy Gammel motion.

Pastors Report and calendar:

Pastor shared current restrictions due to the Covid 19 virus outbreak. In house visits conducted and shared concerns with the isolation of shut-ins during this time. We should all consider ways we can contact them with calls, letter, cards etc. Discussed options for providing worship during current gathering restrictions. We will utilize our Facebook- live streaming. Other internet options were discussed also discussed how can we reach those who do not have or use current technology. Church directory pictures will be taken at Georgetown on June 9 from 2:00 – 9:00 and at Trinity on June 8 by Life Touch. Coordinator needed at Georgetown. Synod Assembly will probably be postponed to a later date in the year.



Old Business:

Garage sale will be postponed until the risks from the Covid 19 virus has passed.

Technology grant- all equipment has been purchased. Checking now to see if there is enough internet power/reception to support it.

Audit committee has not yet been established. Council President will follow-up on this.

New Business:

Church closure information will be posted on the electronic church sign and on church doors.

Stephanie Fansler will contact shut-in members with this information. Information will also be posted on our website and on Facebook.

All council meetings are now suspended until notification is received that they may resume. Communication between council member will be conducted monthly by e-mail.

Gretchen provided a handout on Meeting Community Needs regarding mental health, crisis and social emotional learning resource.

Sherry reported on a mission project called Serving Our Neighbors. A list of hygiene products needed is posted in the church. These hygiene packs are intended for the homeless in our communities. Project approved by the council.

Motion to adjourn by Gretchen Frennd/Judy Gammel. Psd.

Sherry Doornink
Recording Secretary

**Georgetown Shepherding Groups April****Teressa Jensen- April**

Dale Jensen, Lyle Jensen, Gene & Georgia Palas, Teresa & Randy Vollrath, Julie Wassberg, Marvel Nielsen, Jim Rennie, Charlotte & Randy Glenna and family, Will & Stacy Bergmann and family, Kent & Heidi Jensen and family

Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
February 01-29, 2020

Opening Balance February 01, 2020 \$75,102.77

February Income

Thrivent Choice	\$178.00
Blessing Bucket	\$100.00
Offering	\$3,486.00
ELCA Souper Bowl Lunch	\$65.00
 Total	 \$3,829.00

February Expenses \$4,208.52

Closing Balance February 29, 2020 \$74,723.25

Budget 2020	\$66,879.00
Needed Weekly	\$1,286.13

Offering thru February 29, 2020	\$8,139.25
Budgeted offering to date	\$10,289.04
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$2,149.79

Offering:

2-Feb	\$1,015.00
9-Feb	\$725.00
16-Feb	\$1,206.00
23-Feb	\$540.00

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund	\$3,706.66	
Memorial Fund	\$2,483.36	
Blacktop Fund	\$14,222.80	
Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal	\$3,534.25	
P & C Insurance Claim Fund	\$49,661.74	
Operating fund	\$442.15	
Community Meal	\$0.00	2/29/2020
Blessing Bucket	\$672.29	2/29/2020

"COVID19 Death Rates Increase."

I don't write that to spark fear. I just know that in that moment the Lord was trying to speak to me.

I grabbed my Bible next to me and saw it was bookmarked to 2 Corinthians. I looked at the headline again and this is how it jumped out at me:
CO VID 19.

I thought well maybe the CO is talking about the book of Corinthians. So I opened up my bible to 2 Corinthians. I looked up the verse 1:9. And when I saw it, I couldn't believe it!

This is what it says: "Indeed we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead." Man!! Did you get that?

How many of you have been relying on yourselves? Have you been relying on your ability to stock up on food? On your ability to provide for your family?
How many of you have started to leave God out of the equation a bit more out of fear and worry?

God is using this to show us not to rely on ourselves but to rely on Him!
His power! His provision! His promises!

God is using this to break off pride and fear and to instill complete trust in Him! But wait... there is more!

The word "vid" is in the very middle. I decided to look up the meaning of it. Guess what it means? It means to see. What if God is asking us to SEE that He is still in the midst of this? He hasn't forsaken us. His promises are still YES and Amen!

As scary as the world may appear to look right now, I encourage all of you to release your fears to Him. Don't rely on your power and your ability to get by. Seek Him wholeheartedly.

The word corona has a definition of a crown. But it also has another meaning that says "what surrounds you." If you look at what surrounds us today, it may look like it is not pretty. Lack of supplies, long lines, scared people, closed buildings, etc. But let's not lose focus that in the midst of this, God is here. And He will never leave us. He surrounds us like a shield. He surrounds us with His glory.

"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the glory that will never fade away."
1 Peter 5:4