



Church Newsletter
May 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



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

Congratulations Class of 2020 Graduates!

Hunter Sellent- Trinity
Zachary Peterson-Georgetown
Joe Glenna- Georgetown

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them as their God;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” Revelation 21: 1-5

As I ponder today I am seated in the dining room of the parsonage looking out at the woods. A huge Tom Turkey is resting there. A pair of yellow shafted flickers are working over the newly raked ground to find ants and other insects to eat. A robin sails in from the woods to join the flickers in finding lunch. It is almost as if the plant and animal world don't realize that there is a viral pandemic raging!

Then I remember, it is also Earth Day today. A day to remind us human beings of our God given and proper place on the Earth: as caretakers and helpers living in harmony with the rest of creation.

These prophetic words from the book of Revelation promise the day when God makes all things new, all creation new. Jesus will come again and restore creation to its original perfection. In that day death will be no more: mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away. With his resurrection, Jesus has defeated death and started to heal the affects of our sinful rebellion against God's created order. When God makes all things new I pray that we will have a chance to live in harmony with all creation properly loving and caring for it along with God.

As we continue to shelter in place to protect vulnerable humanity from the deadly affects of this pandemic, may we take time to consider how we can care for the earth as we care for one another. The Earth is our created home, plants, animals, and people. Give thanks for creation and ask God to inspire us all to better stewards of this gift until the time that these trustworthy and true words come to be!

Pastor Diane

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 cannot 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.

Council Contact Information

Name	Email	Phone
Pastor Diane	house.dianerev@gmail.com	715-822-3553 (home)
Jamie Shaffer	venice.shaffers@gmail.com	715-419-1693 (cell)
Georgetown		
Gretchen Frendt	gfrendt@yahoo.com	715-475-9453 (cell)
Tim Frendt, President	tfrendt@yahoo.com	715-771-0048 (cell)
Stacy Bergmann, Secretary	wswbbergmann@yahoo.com	715-557-0705 (cell)
Judy Gammel	rogergammel@yahoo.com	715-294-0040 (cell)
Sherry Doornick	butchshe@lakeland.ws	715-857-5331 (home)
Stephanie Fansler	fansler@lakeland.ws	715-491-0037 (cell)
Keith Ward	mstedward@yahoo.com	715-557-0503 (cell) 715-648 5766 (home)
Tom Levi	tomlevi@lakeland.ws	715-472-4400 (home)
Dennis Wiese, Treasurer	dandd@amerytel.net	715-268-6576 (home)
Roberta Hansen, Treasurer	sbrmhansen@yahoo.com	715-553-0007 (cell)
Trinity		
JoAnn Sellent	n/a	715-822-2532 (home)
John Gall	gurineann@gmail.com	715-986-4457 (home)
Robin Denver	n/a	715-419-2721 (cell)
Kathy Greenquist, Treasurer	tlctreasurermckinley@gmail.com	715-419-0449 (cell)
Steve Anderson, President	steve@andersonmaplesyrup.com	715-377-8336 (cell)
Christine Anderson, Secretary	smilechan@hotmail.com	612-418-7197 (cell)
Debbie Wickstrom	barryanddebra@centurytel.net	715-419-0482 (cell)

Trinity Church Council Minutes

April 21, 2020

Meeting was held via conference call.

Members present: Steven Anderson (TR president), Tim Frenndt (GT president), Robin Denver, Gretchen Frenndt, Denis Wiese (GT Treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Tom Levi, Debbie Wickstrom, Roberta Hansen (GT Treasurer), John Gall, Sherry Doornick, Judy Gammel, Christine Anderson (TR secretary), Stephanie Fansler, Stacy Bergman (GT Secretary), Keith Ward. Absent: JoAnn Sellent, Kathy Grenquist (TR Treasurer)

Opened with prayer

Meeting called to order by Trinity President, Steve Anderson.

Past minutes were read aloud by Stacey Bergman. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Debbie Wickstrom and seconded by Tom Levi. Minutes approved.

Reports:

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Diane has been reaching out to people who are not on social media with weekly phone calls and cards in the mail. The loneliness is difficult for some, please think about calling or sending cards to people as well.

Synod assembly has been postponed to August 29, 2020.

Thank you to Gretchen Frenndt and Sherry Doornick for their work on the Facebook Live worship services! Its rather surprising how many people are tuning in and we pray it is meaningful.

Summer plans for gathering together are on hold.

Eventually, we will be able to worship together. However, it is likely that we will need to implement safe practices for communion, offering, seating, etc. based on guidance for health considerations. Council discussed possible adaptations for communion including using individual cups, keeping distance and using hand sanitizer.

WOW is moving virtual! Theme for May is vocation/living God's call in our daily life. Wednesday worship will include a video presentation of a Godly Play story, music and invitation to post on Facebook in response. Pastor will also be contacting confirmation students with questions to discuss with someone in their life.

Thank you to Debbie Wickstrom for the idea, time and sharing of the video with kids from Trinity.

Old Business:

- The Corona Virus has us all missing gathering together in person. Virtual worship has been good and well attended. Thank you to the GT team making it possible. Feedback for the next

few Sundays is to add the Psalm and continue with the words on the screen. Please let Gretchen know what you think about the video presentation.

- There are a couple of things at the parsonage that need to be finished up.
 - Egress Window: Chad Anderson is prepared to start work on the egress window as soon as the weather is good. Windows need to be ordered as soon as possible because the manufacturers are not at full capacity at this point. Discuss crank-out window, single-hung, double-hung options. Consensus seems to be crank-out window. Steve will move forward with the crank-out. He will forward the quote from Chad to all members of the council to review.
 - Small repair items: Sanding and varnishing the window sashes need to be completed sometime. This work continues to be on hold until we can gather in groups.
- The council discussed the possibility of outdoor joint worship sometime in the summer with social distancing. While we would really love to be together, we do not have enough information to make plans at this point.
- Secretary update: We are thankful for the work of Jamie Shaffer on the newsletter. It looks great! She has decided to donate her time during this time when we are unable to meet together for worship. We thank her for this generous gift.
- Shared expenses: Roberta Hansen and Kathy Grenquist have been in communication about shared expenses.
- The overall monthly offering are average for this time of the year. Easter is down since we didn't meet together. Our congregations are generous!
- Performance Review: The ELCA or Synod has some guidelines for performance reviews of pastors. Council presidents, Tim Frendt and Steve Anderson will work on this and discuss with Pastor Diane.

New Business:

- The synod shared information about the Paycheck Protection Program. Steven Anderson called the bank for a little more information. This money has been made available in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Current funds have been spent, but more may become available in the next few weeks. As we understand it if we decide to apply each church would likely complete this separately.
 - It is a loan with 1% interest to be repaid in 2 years.
 - The money is for the purpose of maintaining an employee and must be spent within 8 weeks.
 - There is possibility for loan forgiveness if all paperwork is complete. The interest must but still be paid.
 - There are many requirements involving past financials, etc.
 - Tim and Steve will work with treasurer of each congregation to complete paperwork and meet with respective councils for approval if needed.

Closing prayer

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christine Anderson/Robin Denver. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Anderson

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

Georgetown and Trinity Lutheran Joint Council Meeting

April 21, 2020

Called to order at 6 p.m. via conference call.

Present: Tim Frendt, Gretchen Frendt, Stacy Bergmann, Judy Gammel, Sherry Doornick, Stephanie Fansler, Keith Ward, Tom Levi, Roberta Hanson, Steve Anderson, John Gall, Robin Denver, Christine Anderson, Debbie Wickstrom

Absent: Kathy Greenquist, JoAnn Sellent

Pastor lead prayer.

Minutes from the November 10, 2019 joint meeting were approved as read.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor has been working virtually, concerns on how to continue to reach out to those not on social media. Making phone calls to several people.
- She had a conference call with synod regarding resolution process. The Synod Assembly was rescheduled to August 29.
- Huge THANK YOU to Gretchen and Sherry on the virtual services and to Ryan Peterson and Tim Frendt for extra wiring for the internet service. THANK YOU!!
- How to move forward... VBS, joint worship service, campfires. When we can get together, we will still need to maintain safe practices.

Old Business

- COVID 19 – how are we doing: Virtual worship is working great, but it will be so nice to all be able to worship together again.
- Virtual Worship Activities and Emails: Services could be longer. Include the Psalm each week.
- **Parsonage Work and Repair**
 - Egress Windows: Discussed the window options. Councils agreed to order a crank out window. Steve Anderson will talk with the carpenter. Steve will send the quote to all via email.
 - The remaining projects at the parsonage will be on hold.
- Joint Activities: The council agrees to wait until things are lifted before we begin planning any joint activities and outdoor worship services.
- Secretary: Things are going well. Newsletter looks great! Secretary is not billing churches for any time spent on newsletter during COVID-19.



- Billing Questions: Pastor is waiving mileage during COVID-19. Roberta Hanson and Kathy Greenquist have been talking. We have had three online offerings through Tithley.
- Pastor Performance Review: Council presidents still need to work on getting a performance appraisal put together. There are samples on the ELCA website.

New Business

- Councils discussed the applying for the Paycheck Protection Program. There is talk of releasing more money. We can complete the paperwork now and if money is released the application will be filed. Church treasurers and presidents will work to complete the application to submit.

The meeting closed with prayer and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Georgetown Financial Report

**Georgetown Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
March 01-31, 2020**

Opening Balance March 01, 2020 \$74,898.25

March Income

Fellowship Hall Use \$50.00
Offering \$5,331.35

Total \$5,381.35

March Expenses \$8,080.81

Closing Balance March 31, 2020 \$72,198.79

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

Offering thru March 31, 2020 \$13,645.60
Budgeted offering to date \$16,719.69
Ahead/Behind Budget -\$3,074.09

Offering:

1-Mar	\$1,014.50	4-Mar	\$41.85 lent
8-Mar	\$1,740.00	11-Mar	\$210.00 lent
15-Mar	\$440.00	18-Mar	\$50.00 lent
22-Mar	\$885.00	25-Mar	\$0.00 lent
29-Mar	\$950.00		

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund \$3,706.66
Memorial Fund \$2,483.36
Blacktop Fund \$14,222.80
Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal \$57.89
P & C Claim Fund \$49,661.74
Operating fund \$1,394.05
Blessing Bucket Fund \$672.29

3/31/2020

Bible Study Tentatively Scheduled for June ***Jonah: Whom Does God Regard?***

Looking forward to the end of social distancing at the end of May, it's time to gather our Bibles and meet together to explore God's Word. A six-week study on the Book of Jonah, "*Whom Does God Regard?*" will meet on Mondays at 9:30 AM at Georgetown and 7:00 PM at Trinity. The study will be led by Wayne Kendrick and will tentatively begin June 1 (dependent upon the response to COVID-19).

Almost everyone, including very young children, can tell you about Jonah and the whale (actually, the Bible says it was a big fish). But what is the purpose of this short Biblical book and what is the role that it plays in the arc of the Biblical narrative from the Old Testament to the New Testament? These are the major questions we will explore in this remarkable and delightful story, as we together take a deep plunge into the Book of Jonah.

Bring a Friend!