



Church Newsletter
September 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

WOW (Wonder of the Word Wednesdays) in September

There will be a WOW Wednesday education opportunity offered on Wednesday, September 16, at Trinity Lutheran Church from 6:30-7:30 pm. We will not be serving dinner because of COVID-19 restrictions and will be meeting outdoors observing physical distancing recommendations. Join us for time of Wondering with the Word of God!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.” Psalm 122: 1-2

This Psalm is one of eight Psalms that are designated “A song of Ascents” or a “pilgrimage” song. Here is what biblical scholar “Claus Westermann has to say about this Psalm in his book “The Psalms: structure, content and message”:

“The very journey to a sanctuary was itself considered part of the sacred activity by people of earlier ages. It was part of what had to be observed. Hence the pilgrimage song in its original sense was not simply a song sung on the way to a sanctuary, but rather the words belonged to this observance. In it was expressed what was going on in the pilgrimage s, and that meant above all the departure from home and the arrival at the sanctuary.” (Westermann, page 100)

I have been pondering, once again, creative ways we can worship together even though we are unable to gather in person for worship inside the church building. Actually, since March this has been a constant issue I have pondered every minute of everyday, it seems. Lately, I have been working on orders of worship for us to gather around at our buildings although outside, not inside them. I have been thinking about how to make sure worship is meaningful and expresses our thanks and praise to God that also conveys the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I find it interesting that the journey to a sanctuary was considered part of worship by our faithful ancestors. Just the act of journeying and what happened along that journey was part of the worship of God! In these days of Covid-19 health and safety protocols that prevent us from worshipping together in our sanctuaries (and worshipping very differently even when we can return) I find it reassuring that even the act of traveling to worship is part of worship. This frees us to be creative and flexible in the way we praise and thank God anywhere and everywhere two or three of us are together! We can confidently proclaim that Christ is present among us!

As we continue to love one another in the way we practice health and safety measures such as isolating, distancing, and mask wearing, let's make sure we remember that these are worshipful ways to share God's love for us by loving our neighbor. Let's also remember that we are witnesses to the gospel of Jesus wherever we are. Share your “pilgrimage” worship at home, at school, at work to the glory of God!

Blessing on your worship journeying! Pastor Diane

~Announcements~

Mission of the Month School Lunches!

Did you know that more than 50% of the kids in our community may not be certain where their next meal will come from? Based on the 2019-20 school year data, the school districts of Cumberland, Luck, Frederic and Unity have between 50-60% families that qualify for Free and Reduced-price lunches. In conversation with the lunch personnel at Luck and Cumberland we have learned that there are many families who do not qualify for free lunches by a small margin and still cannot afford the reduced-price lunches provided at school. These statistics have only gotten worse since Covid-19 has impacted employment.

Trinity has chosen to make school lunches at Luck and Cumberland the Mission of the Month for July-September. We will give to these schools so that they can add it to the accounts of children that need a little extra help. Please donate to Trinity's Mission of the Month by check (mission of the month in the memo line) or on-line <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1899109> (choose mission of the month from the drop down).

Trinity Lutheran's Endowment Fund Is Now Open And Fully Operational

With the March 2 deposit of the \$40,000 from the bequest of Elsie Marklund into the ELCA Endowment Fund and the organizational meeting of its Endowment Committee, Trinity's Endowment Fund is now functioning fully. Gifts to Trinity's Endowment Fund may be discussed with the Committee Members: Christine Anderson, Gurine Gall, Steve Kelch, Wayne Kendrick or with Pastor House.

Because no funds may be withdrawn from the Fund in its first year of operation, applications for gifts from the Fund will not be received until October 2021. Those applications for gifts would then need Committee approval, Council approval and finally Congregational approval at Trinity's 2021 Annual Meeting in January 2022.

The June 30 Account Activity Summary of Trinity's Account showed that the \$40,000 initial deposit had grown to \$45,206.50. That amount will increase or decline based upon market performance

Holy Communion

This Sunday there we will offer Holy Communion by drive through at Georgetown Lutheran Church from 9-10 a.m. Please bring your own elements, either a small piece of bread or a cracker and some juice and come to the church. You will be directed where to go by an usher in a mask. As you approach Pastor Diane you can roll down your windows and she will share a brief service of distribution with you and then you can exit the parking lot. There will be a limited number of pre-packaged elements available for those who forget.

Trinity Church Council Minutes August 18, 2020

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

Devotions led by Pastor Diane

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from Trinity July 21st council meeting were read. Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Robin Denver and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Grenquist provided a copy of the monthly profit/loss statement and the current savings account balance.

The summary for the month of July:

Income	\$3,275
Total Expense.....	\$5,801 (including Trinity's portion of the egress window work)
June balance	- \$2525

Savings account balance as of 8/16/20 is \$21,863. Our balance has been within this general range over the past 6 months.

After discussion by council a motion to approve the report was made by JoAnn Sellent and seconded by Christine Anderson.

Pastor's Report:

- Local Salvation Army serving Polk County is gathering funds for their backpack program. This program provides a backpack of food for children to take home from school over the weekend. This need has increased since Covid has put many vulnerable families out of work. They have a fundraising goal of \$30,000 by September 4th. Links to donate will be put on the church Facebook page.
- Fall Planning
 - Confirmation will likely use an on-line curriculum guided by Pastor Diane. She has been in conversation with the families in order to make logistical decisions. One possibility is to wait until Oct. to begin.
 - Sunday School planning, a small group will meet to brainstorm possibilities.
 - WOW. A discussion was held about doing something once a month, either in-person and outside or some virtual event combined with interaction in a surprising way.
 - Pastor on the Porch will continue and maybe become a traveling event.
- Pastor Diane will be involved in Continuing education from August 27-Jan. 2021. This is a free, virtual opportunity called "Congregational Vitality".
- Georgetown is hosting a "Drive-Through Communion" on September 6th before the Facebook live service is broadcast at 10:30. Participants will provide their own elements (bread and juice), Pastor Diane will lead a Liturgy with Words of Institution with the people in each vehicle.
- Pastor Diane will take vacation September 7-13th. Wayne Kendrick has agreed to lead worship on the 13th.
- Discussion about Parking Lot Service on August 30th was begun and will continue in Old business.

Endowment Committee Report:

The Endowment Committee met on August 10, 2020. Minutes were shared with the council:

MINUTES

Endowment Fund of Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, August 10, 2020

The Organizational Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Committee members Christine Anderson (Council Representative) and elected members Gurine Gall, Steve Kelch, and Wayne Kendrick. Also present was Pastor House, Advisory Member.

Gurine Gall led us in devotions with the reading and reflections on the Parable of the Talents from Matthew 25:14-30.

Lots were drawn for the length of member terms. Results: Gurine - 2 year; Steve - 1 year; and Wayne - 3 year. Gurine was selected as Chair by unanimous consent. Wayne as secretary.

The Bylaws under which Trinity's Endowment Fund operates were reviewed and discussed.

Gurine gave the June 30 financial report. On March 2, 2020 the account was activated with an opening balance of \$40,000. Closing balance on June 30, 2020 was \$45,206.50.

A discussion was held on the Fund's Plan for Distribution. It was noted that under the rules of the ELCA Endowment Fund, the first distribution from Trinity's Fund would not take place until February, 2022. That Distribution would follow approval of the Committee's 2021 Plan for Distribution by the Congregation at the Congregation's 2021 Annual Meeting in January 2022.

A draft of the Gift Application Form was reviewed and revisions were decided upon. A second draft will be prepared and distributed by Wayne. A draft of the Gift Policy for the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Fund and the Memorial Fund was reviewed and revisions were decided upon. A second draft will be prepared and distributed by Wayne.

A draft of a Newsletter Article reporting the Fund's Operation will be prepared by

Old Business:

- **PPP loan** money has been spent. The opening day to apply for loan forgiveness was Aug. 10th. We will complete the EZ form and submit to begin the process.
- **Egress Window** is installed. Still looking for volunteers to trim out the window.
- **Facebook** We will add information about the Salvation Army Backpack program fundraiser.
- **Tith.ly** is an on-line donation platform of the ELCA. A video tutorial has been found and will be posted on the web-site and Facebook pages.
- **Mission of the Month/Quarter:**
 - July-September will focus on school lunch money. There are a large number of families who do not qualify for Free school lunches, but still cannot afford reduced price lunch. We will donate to both Luck and Cumberland Schools to help fill this gap. If making a donation by check, make a note in the memo line "School Lunches". If making a donation by tith.ly choose "mission of the month" from the drop-down menu.
 - Council is looking for suggestions for upcoming Missions of the Month (Oct-Dec and Jan-March)

- **Wi-Fi** Preliminary information says it would be between \$80-110 per month for a 2-year contract. This is being strongly considered by the council especially for Facebook Live worship and any other on-line experiences we may want to have in the future.
- **Propane.** A motion was made by Christine to pre-buy based on last years use at the quoted price of \$1.09 per gallon. Motion seconded by Robin and carried unanimously.
- **COVID update** Council continued to discuss the local situation, recommendations from the synod and concerns of our congregation. The numbers of positive cases in Polk and Barron Counties continue to rise by 1.3. and 1.7 per day over the past 7 days. The recommendations continue to be to wear facemasks in public places, keep 6 feet distance, wash hands, and stay away if you are sick or have been with someone who is sick.
 - Facebook Live worship services will continue each week at 10:30am.
 - A motion was made to hold a parking lot drive-in service on August 30th with a survey to be completed by those who attend. The motion was made by Steve, seconded by Robin and the motion passed.

New Business:

- **WOW** will be held on September 16th from 6:30-7:30 OUTSIDE. There will be no meal provided at this time. Similar Covid precautions from the Summer Wednesday gatherings will be implemented: Tables for family/sheltering groups placed 6 feet or more apart, activities to minimize close contact, and supplies in one box set on each table before the event begins.
- **Parking lot service** will be August 30 at 9am at Trinity with guidelines to keep worshippers safe. Congregation members should remain in their cars for the worship. Facemasks are recommended when talking with anyone outside of your vehicle. If you do not feel well, please stay home. Services will continue to be shared on Facebook Live at 10:30am.
- **Handicap Signs** for the parking lot have been priced on-line. The lowest price found was \$13.45 for one sign, not including the stakes. We will look for stake pricing locally.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Robin and seconded by JoAnn. Meeting adjourned.

Next council meeting will be at Trinity on Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson



Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes August 11, 2020

Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Tom Levi, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Dennis Weise, Tim Frendt, Pastor Diane House, Roberta Hansen.

Absent: Stacy Bergmann, Keith Ward.

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm. Pastor led prayer and devotions.

Secretary's Report: Sherry read the minutes of the July 16, 2020 Council Meeting. A correction was made regarding the Treasurer's Report. The electrician is scheduled to finish their work on Friday and once the "lighting is done and the fascia repaired" the contractor will be paid in full. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out two new Treasurer's Report documents dated June 1-30, 2020 and July 1-31, 2020. She had found errors in previous documents back to March, 2020 and made the appropriate corrections. Based on the most recent calculations, the Net Operating Fund balance as of July 31, 2020, is a negative \$1,551.00. The suggestion was made to include the front page of the July 1-31, 2020 Treasurer's Report in the monthly newsletter in order to inform Church members of the status of the budget. Roberta reported that the donations through Tithely, suggested on our Facebook page, have been 2 to 3 weeks behind in reporting. Due to the negative balance of the current budget, a financial appeal letter will be sent out to members and friends of the Church indicating the current need for financial support. Sherry, Stephanie and Pastor will work on creating an appropriate letter and send it out through mail and email. The Payroll Protection Plan loan used to offset the Pastor's salary is now depleted. As a result of Gretchen's grant writing efforts, we have received \$2000 in a Mission Endowment Fund, which is separate from the Bold Generosity Fund. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor received a letter from Bruce Pepper regarding the automatic lights and where we might want to put additional lights. The suggestion was made to add the men's room, the kitchen and both entrances. We were asked if we could promote the Polk County Suicide Awareness Walk on September 26. It will be put in the September newsletter. Pastor will be participating in Congregational Vitality Training beginning August 27 through Zoom meetings.

Family/Visitor Update: Nikki Norlund will be having surgery on August 17th. Charlotte Pepper is waiting for her breast cancer surgery to be scheduled. Vicki Dorner continues to wait at the Mayo Clinic for lungs to become available for transplant. Pete Mangelsen is doing well after shoulder surgery. Pastor visited with John Molamphy who is being treated for cancer.



Pastor will be on vacation September 7 – 13.

Old Business:

1. Siding/Roof. We are waiting for time to open up to finish the work.
2. Sanctuary window. The window is available to install by the contractor. We have no bill as yet, but we will announce to church that the cost will be \$700 and donations would be appreciated!
3. Parsonage repairs. The egress window has been installed but we need someone to do the finishing work including framing, insulation and sheet rocking. Volunteers would be welcome!
4. Bold Generosity Grant. Funds have been used and a report will be sent.
5. Stained Glass Repair. Gretchen met someone that may be able to repair the stained glass window. She will provide pictures.
6. Membership Survey. We had 15 responses to the survey. Of those responses, 73% preferred an outdoor service. 40% would be willing to help with a service.
7. Other. Sherry indicated that the water at the church was tested on 7/29/20 and was determined to be safe.

Pastor indicated that the parking lot service scheduled at Trinity for August 9, 2020 has been rescheduled for August 30, 2020.

New Business:

1. Fall dinner. Discussion took place about the success of the recent dinner offered at Our Lady of the Lakes Church. It was strictly carry-out and they served 475 meals. Council members discussed changing our Fall dinner to a take-out only and how that might be handled. It was discussed that people are also missing our monthly Thursday meals offered to the community and if they could continue as take-out only for the time being.
2. Red Cross blood drive scheduled for August 25 has changed their hours to 12:30 – 5:30 pm.
3. Appeal letter. As stated above, Pastor, Sherry and Stephanie will work together to create and distribute a letter to appeal for additional funds for the support of the Church.
4. Other. Discussion took place about how Sunday School will be able to carry on this fall. We counted approximately 10 children that could participate in Sunday School activities. Discussion also took place about the need to provide Communion for Church members. September 6, 2020 was set aside for members to participate in a drive through Communion for which they would bring their own sacraments. More information will follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Next Georgetown Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 6:30

Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
July 1-31, 2020

Opening Balance July 1, 2020 \$76,488.55

July Income

Offering \$2,930.00
Mission Endowment Fund \$2,000.00

Total Income \$4,930.00 \$81,418.55

July Expenses -\$4,035.75

Closing Balance July 31, 2020 \$77,382.80

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

Offering Through July 31, 2020 \$29,738.65
Budgeted offering to date \$38,583.90
Ahead/Behind Budget -\$8,845.25

Offering:

5-Jul \$1,200.00
12-Jul \$360.00
19-Jul \$600.00
26-Jul \$770.00

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund \$3,706.66
Memorial Fund \$2,483.36
Blacktop Fund \$14,282.80
Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal \$506.87
P & C Claim Fund \$46,781.82
Mission Endowment Fund \$2,000.00
Blessing Bucket Fund \$672.29 **7/31/2020**

Funds totals \$70,433.80

OPERATING FUNDS \$6,949.00
Payroll Protection Program -\$8,500.00
NET OPERATING FUNDS -\$1,551.00

August 4, 2020



Dear Polk County Faith Community,

Planning is well underway for our 2020 Polk County Suicide Awareness Walk (PCSAW). As you may have heard, we have moved the walk to Saturday, September 26th, 2020. This is exciting for us as September is National Suicide Prevention Month. We would welcome participation from your faith community. There are several ways to get involved:

- Help us spread the word about the event (we are including a summary for your website, bulletin or newsletter).
- Form a team. (this year we are working with Hunter from Tahoe Sportswear to offer the option of ordering personalized T-shirts <https://pcsaw2020.itemorder.com/sale>.)
- Formally sponsor the PCSAW through choosing one of our sponsor levels.
- Volunteer to put up signs and posters throughout the community.
- Lift the participants, family members as well as our planning committee and volunteers in prayer as we work together to remember those we lost as well as offer hope to those who may need support. .

With the generous support of our community, this event has raised more than \$125,000 over the past four years. Each year, between 500 and 700 people participate. Proceeds from the PCSAW go to the Mental Health Task Force of Polk County. This year, the priority areas to be addressed include: Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training support, Suicide Postvention community planning and parent/community education and support.

As you might imagine, COVID-19 has brought many challenges to us. For that reason, we will be offering the opportunity to participate both in person (with social distancing and other precautions) as well as virtually.

We have invited Jackson Snelling to join us. In 2019, Jackson released a song and video called "If I Only Knew," which is about suicide prevention and mental health. At the end of his video, Jackson holds up a sign that says "I am a survivor." Jackson has struggled with depression and suicidal thoughts himself. He said he hopes that by sharing the song along with the faces of those who took their own lives, and the family and friends they leave behind, it will lead to more people getting help.

Thank you for your support of the 5th Annual Polk County Suicide Awareness Walk/Run! We look forward to seeing you on September 26th, 2020.

Sincerely,
Tristan and Scott Divine, founders of PCSAW

The PCSAW planning committee: Tristan and Scott Divine (founders), Michelle Doolittle, Jennifer Griggs-Andress, Lisa Murphy and Gloria Stokes

POLK COUNTY SUICIDE AWARENESS (PCSAW) 5K WALK/RUN

Saturday, September 26, 2020

311 Tuttle Street, Balsam Lake, WI



POLK COUNTY SUICIDE AWARENESS WALK (PCSAW) SPONSORSHIP LEVELS 2020

GOLD LEVEL: \$500+

- Sign to display at your place of faith community stating that you are a proud sponsor of the PCSAW
- Logo/name featured on an individual large sign on day of the event (see logo info below)
- Recognition on PCSAW Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Recognition on the Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Faith community name listed in MHTF Annual Report as Gold Level Sponsor of PCSAW
- Recognition and link to your faith community on the MHTF website the week preceding the event (see link info below)
- Donation receipt

SILVER LEVEL: \$250-\$499.99

- Logo/name featured on a medium individual sign on day of the event
- Recognition on PCSAW Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Recognition on the Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Faith community logo/name listed in MHTF Annual Report as Silver Level Sponsor at PCSAW
- Recognition of your faith community on the MHTF website the week preceding the event
- Donation receipt

BRONZE LEVEL: \$150-\$249.99

- Faith community name featured on a small sign on day of the event
- Recognition on PCSAW Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Recognition on the Mental Health Task Force website and Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Faith community name listed in MHTF Annual Report as Bronze Level Sponsor at PCSAW
- Donation receipt

FRIEND OF POLK COUNTY SUICIDE AWARENESS WALK \$100 - \$149.99

- Faith community or individual name listed in MHTF Annual Report as Friend of PCSAW.
- Recognition on PCSAW Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Recognition on Mental Health Task Force website and Facebook page the week preceding the event
- Donation receipt

The Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) is a 501c3.



Faith Community Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Email Address: _____

Name of Faith leader: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____ Contact Email Address: _____

Faith Community Website Address: _____

Donation level:

- *GOLD LEVEL: \$500
- *SILVER LEVEL: \$250-\$499.99
- BRONZE LEVEL: \$150-\$249.99
- FRIEND OF POLK COUNTY SUICIDE AWARENESS WALK (PCSAW) \$100 to \$149.99
- Other (free will offering under \$100)

\$ _____ check enclosed (check #) _____

The Mental Health Task Force (MHTF) is a 501c3.

Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please make all checks payable to: **PCSAW/MHTF**
(Polk County Suicide Awareness Walk/Mental Health Task Force)

*LOGOs for Gold and Silver level are due by September 1st in order to be placed on signs.

Please send your company logo in Jpeg form to email below.

Email: jenniferga@mentalhealthpolk.org

www.mentalhealthpolk.org

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Polk County Suicide Awareness Walk (PCSAW)
% Mental Health Task Force of Polk County
PO Box 432
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024