



Church Newsletter
November 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 Wednesday and Confirmation Class Schedule:

Due to concerns about the COVID virus, in person gathering for WOW Wednesday will be temporarily suspended. Please check in on our facebook pages on Wednesday for a virtual message! Confirmation Class will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity on Wednesday, Nov. 4 and Nov. 18.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

Then Job arose, tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell on the ground and worshiped. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrongdoing. Job 1: 20-22

I was "pondering" what to write this morning for the November newsletter. November is usually the month where we take time to give thanks to God for all that God has provided during the year, usually associated with the harvest and with the holiday of Thanksgiving. So, I looked in the subject guide at the back of my study bible for passages about thanks and found this passage from Job listed under "thankfulness."

The book of Job is the story of a good, innocent man who suffers terrible loss. Everything he has is destroyed: his wealth, his beloved children, and his health. Three friends come to comfort him and offer reasons for Job's misfortunes, but Job will not accept this insincere comfort. He protests his innocence, he yells, he dares God to answer him. At the end of the book, God does indeed answer him, with a vision of creation in all its glory.

It is a complicated book, because it addresses a very difficult question: "Why do the innocent suffer?" There may be no good or final answer to this question, but the book of Job does claim certain things about suffering, about God, and about the world: Suffering is not always the result of sin. Prayer is the proper response to suffering. God cares for the good creation God has made and takes delight in it.

This November it may be difficult to give thanks. We may have the temptation to dwell on all that has seemingly been "taken away." We may not be able to gather with family and friends for the usual festive feast. We may not be able to gather together in church to give thanks for the hard work of farmers who have been gathering the harvest to put food on our tables. That food that has been harvested may be harder to obtain and share. We could find ourselves dwelling on the negatives, what can't happen or what we can't do.

Instead, as I ponder Thanksgiving **this** November in the face of all that could be distressing today, I find myself pondering the words of Job: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there; the LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." All that we have, our wealth, our families, our friends, our very being comes from God. We came into the world naked, with nothing and we can not take out of the world anything that we have acquired while alive. Can we, like Job, bless the name of the LORD even in these trying times?

Let's ponder what we CAN do! We can feed the hungry, by making sure that food pantries are well stocked with all that has been harvested. We can clothe the naked by donating warm clothes, blankets, bedding, and other necessities as the weather turns colder. We can visit family and friends through the mail with cards and letters or virtually in many ways like FaceTime, Snapchat, Skype or even visit by a good, "old-fashioned" telephone conversation!

As we continue to plan to do ministry in experimental ways, let's focus on what we can do and give thanks to God for creativity, flexibility, and grace! Please remember that I give thanks every day for all the ways that you show God's love through Jesus Christ in our community.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Dian

MINUTES Endowment Fund of Trinity Lutheran Church

Thursday, October 29, 2020

The Meeting postponed by weather from October 22 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.

Christine Anderson led us in Devotions with reflections on All Saints Sunday and Hebrews 11-12:2.

The Minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

The September 30, 2020 Financial Report was reviewed and accepted. The Fund Balance on that date was \$47,957.67, an almost 20% growth from the initial deposit of \$40,000 in March.

The Draft of the Endowment Fund's Initial Gift Application was reviewed and modifications were agreed upon.

The Gift Policy for Trinity's Endowment Fund and Memorial Fund was reviewed and several modifications were agreed upon.

Wayne will make these modifications to both of these documents and send them to members via email for final committee approval.

Drafts of a Gift Receipt and a Thank You Letter for gifts to the Endowment Fund and Memorial Fund were reviewed. The Committee selected the Thank You Letter as the means for expressing appreciation for these gifts. The Committee determined that the Endowment Letter would be signed by the Pastor and Committee Chair.

With no further business the next meeting was set for April 27, 2021 at 6:30 PM at church. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Kendrick

Trinity Church Council Minutes

October 20, 2020

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

Devotions led by Pastor Diane. All were asked to share a word to describe our feelings right now (covid, politics, etc). Words were tired, exhausted and frustrated. Read Matthew 11:28-29 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” Amen.

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Reports:

Secretary’s Report: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the September council meeting by Steve Anderson and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report: The monthly statement was provided and discussed by the council. The summary for Sept. 15-Oct. 15 is:

Income \$6525 (average of \$6600 needed each month to match annual budget)

Total Expense..... \$997 (operating expenses, this month’s salary was not paid in this time frame)

Oct. 15 balance ... \$5528 (monthly balance only)

Checkbook Balance: \$26,453

Mission of the Month donations (school lunches): No new donations this month

Motion to approve the report as written was made by Christine, seconded by Debbie. Report approved.

Pastor’s Report:

- **Luther Park:** Thank you to our congregation for prayer and donation support. The annual auction fundraiser brought in \$28,000 for Luther Park!
- **First Communion:** Parking lot worship continues to go well. Looking forward to Tucker Wickstrom’s first communion celebration in the coming weeks. Date has not been set yet.
- **Facebook Live:** Worship services will continue to be posted at 10:30 every Sunday and the YouTube recording sent out to those on the newsletter e-mail list. Georgetown will be having outdoor worship on September 20th. This will be broadcast on Facebook Live.
- **Confirmation Update:** The Affirmation of Baptism service was held with Nels, Dawson, and Ryan and their families on Sunday, Oct. 18th at 3:30pm. Special thanks to Deedra Wagner for making matching red facemasks for everyone and the WELCA group for family cakes and flowers! It was a special afternoon. Waiting for the video to post on Facebook.
- The In-person Confirmation sessions continue every other Wednesday at Trinity. The 5 youth are following precautions (physically distant seating, face coverings) very well.
- **One License Fee** is what we pay for permission to use hymns and songs in worship. Georgetown is asking that we pay half the streaming fee for permission to use these during

our on-line worship services. Total fee is \$77. **A motion** was made by Steven to pay half the One License fee for live streaming. Seconded by Christine. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- **Drive-In Worship** Thank you to Paul Grenquist for hauling his wagon to church for services every week! Thank you to George House for the sound system every week! These two elements have made our parking lot worship possible. The sound has been really good, it can even be heard inside the car with the windows up.
- **Covid Update**
 - Council had a long discussion about staying in the parking lot or moving inside for worship. If we come inside we have a clear list of precautions that must be taken. Some adjustments would be seating assignments, mask wearing, no gathering in narthex or fellowship hall, managing people coming in and going out so there is no crowding, and limited access to bathrooms.
 - Currently Barron and Polk counties are in the “red” zone which according to the Barron County health guidelines limits indoor gatherings to 10 people (with the above precautions).
 - The consensus was that since the growth in cases is so strong in Polk and Barron counties right now, it would be best to continue with parking lot services. We will have to see what another month brings in terms of Covid.
 - **A motion was made to continue parking lot worship until Pastor Diane gets too cold. At that time the council will meet to discuss the next steps.** Motion made by Steven, seconded by Debbie. Motion carried.
- **WOW** – Given the above decision to meet outside only for worship, council recommends WOW be suspended until we are able to meet in person inside. This will need to be discussed with Georgetown. In place of WOW, **Pastor at the Parsonage** will return each Wednesday to Facebook.
- **Pen Pal** project for Sunday School. Debbie has matched 19 kids with adults in the congregation and the letters have started. So far, the kids have been enthusiastic. Thank you Debbie for the idea and coordination!
- **Youth**—Discussing ways to connect with our youth. Christine will talk with Lacy about virtual connections that could be short and fun.
- **Asian Beetle spraying** was completed. We got a new rate for 2021 (\$165 for church and \$125 for the parsonage). Council will discuss with Georgetown about paying half the parsonage treatment.
- **PPP loan** application for forgiveness has been completed. Bank asked Steve to resubmit the application. This has been done.
- **Egress Window** has been installed in the parsonage. Still need someone to finish the trim.
- **Mission of the Month/Quarter:**
 - School lunch donation through December 2020.
 - Council is looking for suggestions for upcoming Missions of the Month (Jan-March)
- **Handicap parking signs:** Signs are ready to put up.

New Business:

Joint Council meeting will be November 17th at 7pm at Georgetown. Trinity Council will meet at 6:30pm before the joint meeting.

- Health care insurance plan for pastor Diane must be chosen by each council in October, before the joint meeting. **A motion to select Gold Plus plan** was made by Christine and seconded by Debbie. Motion passed.
- One year ago at the joint council meeting, the idea of an annual review was brought up. Trinity council discussed this with Pastor Diane and thought it may be healthy for our congregation to have a reflection about our ministry together. Reflection about what is going well and what are ways to improve in the following areas: Worship, Faith Formation, Responding to the needs of the community. This will be presented to the Georgetown President for discussion at the Joint Council meeting.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Christine and seconded by Debbie. Meeting adjourned.

Next council meeting will be at Georgetown on Tuesday, November 17th at 6:30pm with the Joint Council meeting to begin at 7pm. Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson



Georgetown Church Council Minutes October 13, 2020

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

Absent: Stacy Bergmann, Dennis Weise, Keith Ward.

The meeting was called to order at 6:48 pm.
Pastor led prayer and devotions.

Secretary's Report: There was no secretary's report of the September meeting as there was some confusion as to whose responsibility it was.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for September 1 – 30, 2020. We are behind budget \$10,453.42 with net operating funds of \$44.82, subtracting the Payroll Protection Program funds of \$8,500.00 which may have to be repaid to the government if the loan is not forgiven. Roberta presented a letter from Countryside Coop outlining a plan to temporarily discontinue our budget plan for propane and allowing us to use the credit amount of \$2222.53 to pay for LP deliveries. Ending the budget plan would eliminate the monthly payment of \$225.00 and may carry us through most of the heating season. The LP tank will still be kept on a "keep fill" basis during the heating season. They recommend beginning a new budget plan for the 2021-2022 heating season. A motion was made to end the current budget plan and move our credit amount into an open account and to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report: We need to re-think the WOW Wednesdays as the weather is a concern. We may want to change to once a month and consider how we can be inside. Confirmation has been going well and 3 young men will be confirmed on Sunday at 3:30 pm with only their family members in attendance. Concerns were brought up about the following church members and prayers were requested for Vicky Dorner, Georgia Palas and Marvel Nielsen.

Old Business: The entry doors got painted as planned. On Sunday, October 25, 2020, we are planning our service indoors. Based on guidelines, we can only accommodate 25% of the recommended building capacity, which would be approximately 50 people. Pews will be marked for usage and non-usage and will hold the bulletins to be used during the service. Windows will be open to provide a fresh air source and members will be asked not to sing. Everyone will be expected to be wearing a mask. Sherry will be contacting the Shepherding Groups so that they can be involved in the planning and facilitating of the indoor services. They will be asked to provide ushers to arrange the seating, sign in attendees for contact tracing, guide attendees to the available seating, reading of the Lessons, and cleaning and disinfecting of the building after services.

New Business:

1. Portico: A motion was made and seconded to select the Gold Plus plan for the Pastor's benefit plan.
2. Replacement Elder: Stacy Bergmann has resigned her position as an Elder to the Georgetown Lutheran Church Council. Jody Binfet has agreed to finish Stacy's assignment for the remainder of this year. Judy Gammel agreed to act as Secretary.
3. Split bills with Trinity: This discussion will take place at the joint meeting of our churches.
4. Other new business: There will be a blood drive at Georgetown Lutheran Church on November 2, 2020.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

6:30 pm Georgetown Church Council

7:00 pm Joint Meeting: Georgetown Church Council and Trinity Church Council



Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church
 Treasurer's Report
 September 1-30, 2020

Opening Balance September 1, 2020 **\$31,917.39**

September Income

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Offering | \$4,482.00 |
| Blessing Bucket | \$23.00 |
| Built Strong Exteriors (refund) | \$911.14 |

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| <u>Total Income</u> | \$5,416.14 | \$37,333.53 |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|

September Expenses **\$7,751.23**

Closing Balance September 30, 2020 **\$29,582.30**

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

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Offering Through September 30, 2020 | \$39,705.65 |
| Budgeted offering to date | \$50,159.07 |
| Ahead/Behind Budget | -\$10,453.42 |

Offering:

| | |
|--------|------------|
| 6-Sep | \$1,470.00 |
| 13-Sep | \$1,435.00 |
| 20-Sep | \$782.00 |
| 27-Sep | \$795.00 |

Fund Balances

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Youth Activities Fund | \$2,977.49 |
| Memorial Fund | \$1,804.19 |
| Blacktop Fund | \$13,553.64 |
| Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal | \$506.87 |
| P & C Claim Fund | \$0.00 |
| Mission Endowment Fund | \$2,000.00 |
| Blessing Bucket Fund | \$195.29 09/31/20 |

Funds totals **\$21,037.48**

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| OPERATING FUNDS | \$8,544.82 |
| Payroll Protection Program | -\$8,500.00 |
| NET OPERATING FUNDS | <u>\$44.82</u> |