



Church
Newsletter
January 2121

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

TAKE A
LEAP OF
FAITH
& BEGIN THIS
WONDROUS
NEW YEAR
BY BELIEVING.
Sarah Ban Breathnach

Contact Information

Pastor Diane

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Georgetown

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Trinity

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January Confirmation Class and Pastor at the Parsonage Schedule

Pastor Diane will send out a confirmation lesson on January 6th and 20th for the parents and students to complete and send back to her. January 13th and 27th Pastor Diane will post a "Pastor at the Parsonage" video for all WOW Wednesday participants and the congregation. Check that out on either Trinity's or Georgetown's Facebook pages.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character. And character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5: 1-5

I have been pondering these verses during the pandemic that has been plaguing us since February of 2020. As I get out a new calendar and look ahead to a new year, I ponder what could happen. I find myself approaching 2021 with more than a little caution.

In the past when reading these verses from Romans, I thought that it seemed counter-intuitive to “boast in suffering.” But, now I see that we can take some time to boast of the ways we have been weathering the affects of a global pandemic and all that has happened in the last half of the past year. Suffering has indeed produced endurance.

We have endured times of physical and social distance patiently waiting for the time when gathering together in our church buildings is possible. With character we have created new ways to encourage one another and to share our love of Jesus with our neighbors. We have been reminded of the importance of public health practices. It makes sense to wash our hands, give each other space in public places and to wear masks to reduce the spread of communicable disease. It takes character, endurance, and some common sense to relearn and practice these disciplines for the sake of the common good of all.

As we look forward to 2021, we live in hope. We hope that the vaccine will be readily available and distributed. We hope that the rate of viral transmission will fall enough and for long enough to make it possible to cautiously gather together again. We give thanks for the work of public health officials who have created common sense guidelines and practices that help us gather safely while we wait for relief from this pandemic. We may want to continue some of the practices to ensure the health and safety of our public gatherings.

None of this is the basis for our salvation. All of what we have suffered and endured is due to the fallen nature of the world and the reality of a mutated virus. Our decisions and practices are based on the concern we have for each other and are done out of love. Because we are justified by faith, we do have peace with God and the help of the Holy Spirit to endure. That is our hope. Because God has loved and saved us and has gifted us with the Spirit, we live in the type of hope that does not disappoint. Hanging onto that hope will enable us to start the new year faithfully looking forward to our plans to continue sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our homes, churches, and communities.

Blessing and Peace, Pastor Diane

Trinity Church Council Minutes

December 15, 2020

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

Devotions led by Pastor Diane.

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson.

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the November Joint Council meeting were read. Minutes from the October Trinity Council meeting were read. A motion was made to approve the minutes from the October council meeting by Robin Denver and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly statement was provided and discussed by the council. Offering donations have been lower over the past month. The summary for November 15-December 15 is:

Income \$3625 (average of \$6600 needed each month to match annual budget)

Total Expense....\$6015 (includes bi-annual contribution to NWSynod and 3 payments of Portico benefits)

Dec. 15 balance ...-\$2384 (monthly balance only)

Checkbook Balance: \$20,084

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

Pastor's Report:

- Prayers: Continue to pray for those suffering from Covid-19.
- Drive Through Christmas Display: Thanks to Lacy and JoAnn Sellent for the nice Christmas display in the church parking lot.
- Christmas Worship: Worship service for Christmas has been recorded and will be posted on Facebook at noon on Christmas Eve so that members can watch it when it best fits their schedule.
- Confirmation Update: Confirmation is happening via e-mail. The kids and parents are communicating with pastor this way.
- Vacation Pastor Diane will be taking a well deserved vacation from Dec. 25-Jan 2nd.

Endowment Committee Report:

The endowment committee met in October. The minutes were shared with the council and in the November Newsletter. The Endowment committee was tasked with developing an application to receive endowment funds and a formal Gift Policy for Trinity. Council reviewed and discussed the documents prepared by the Endowment Committee.

Gift Policy: A motion was made to accept the Gift Policy as written by Christine Anderson, seconded by Robin Denver. Council discussed the importance of communication between Endowment Committee and the Church Treasurer about gift receipts for tax purposes. The Gift Policy was approved by Council.

Initial Gift Application Form: A motion to accept the application as written was made by Robin Denver and seconded by John Gall. After a discussion, the motion was amended to approve the application with the addition of listing names of who to give the completed application to. The Application for Endowment funds was approved by Council.

Two sample Thank you letters were shared with the council.

Old Business:

- **Virtual Church** There have been some problems with Facebook Live for worship. We will move to YouTube worship and post it on Facebook. Church will continue to meet virtually for the time being.
- **Covid Update**
 - When we are able to come inside for worship, a clear list of precautions must be taken. Some adjustments include 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.
 - Barron and Polk counties continue to see increase in cases, however the rate of increase seems to be leveling off! This is a very hopeful sign. We are cautiously optimistic that this trend will continue.
- **Christmas Program** – Debbie has been working with the kids and the Christmas program is almost completely recorded. We are excited to see the finished product!
- **Pen Pal** project for Sunday School. The feedback Debbie has gotten from the kids and their pen pals has been very positive so far.
- **Egress Window** Steve Hansen from Georgetown has done a wonderful job on the trim. Glenn Greener has agreed to work on the sheet rock taping. Help to stain and paint will remain for a work day.
- **Mission of the Month/Quarter:**
 - January-March donations will go to Benjamin's House.
- **Handicap parking signs** have been installed.
- **Photo Directory** Lifetouch Church Photography has permanently stopped their services. If we want to update our photo directory we will need to find another way to do that.

New Business:

Annual Meeting will be January 24th.

After a long discussion, the council has decided to hold the annual meeting as scheduled over conference call. A letter explaining this process will be included in the January newsletter. Reports are due to Debbie Wickstrom by January 4th. A paper copy of all reports and the 2021 Proposed Budget will be mailed to members by January 10th.

Proposed 2021 Budget was discussed and developed using 2019, 2020 amounts spent as a guide. The proposed budget will be sent out to congregation members in the Annual meeting packet.

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

Next council meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan 19th at 6:30pm
Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

Trinity Annual Meeting Announcement

Our annual meeting this year will be held on the normal date and time, January 24th at 9:35 am. This year, for obvious reasons, we are going to be doing it over the phone. We have been conducting our joint meetings with Georgetown this way and feel it works well. Since we have limited business to conduct, the church council agreed a conference call would work.

We plan to send out the Annual Meeting Packets so everyone has them in plenty of time to follow along during the meeting. Please read the reports prior to the meeting so you are ready to ask questions or approve them during the meeting. You just need the packet and a phone (that can call long distance) to participate. This call is being set up through FreeConferenceCall.com.

At about 9:30 am on January 24, 2021 you can start calling in. Here is how to dial in.

How do I join the conference call?

1. First, dial your dial-in number: **(605) 313-6301** - long distance charges do apply.
2. When prompted, enter your access code **490-083** followed by **pound** or **hash (#)** key

If you call in early you will be placed on hold until the call is started. I will try to make sure the call is open no later than 9:30 am on the 24th of January.

We will take a roll call of everyone on the phone as one of our first items to make sure we have a quorum and that everyone can hear and participate.

Background noise can be an issue on these calls so please do your best to keep background noise to a minimum. Most phones have a mute button as well, so if background is a problem, please mute yourself when you are not speaking. I will try to give plenty of time during this meeting for everyone to speak up. Don't be shy, we still want to hear from all of you. Please listen closely so that everyone gets a chance to speak and be heard.

Thank you.
Steven Anderson
Council President

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2020

Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornick, Tom Levi, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Dennis Weise, Tim Frendt, Keith Ward, Pastor Diane, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer

Absent: Jody Binfet

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Pastor led prayer and devotions.

Secretary Report: There was no Secretary Report as the November meeting was a joint Council Meeting with Trinity Church Council.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for November 1-30, 2020. Our Net Operating Fund balance is \$7,326.76 which includes income from the Fall Dinner. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Gretchen, Sherry and Pastor taped a Christmas Eve service for each church, Georgetown and Trinity. The services will be available for viewing on YouTube on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. We will be live streaming our Sunday service on YouTube, which seems to be working better than Facebook. Members can go to YouTube and search for Georgetown. A link will also be put on our Facebook page. Pastor will be on vacation beginning Christmas Day through January 3rd. The service on December 27th will be conducted by the Synod.

Deacon, Elder and Trustee Reports: No reports.

Old Business

1. Parsonage Repairs. Steve Hansen has been doing a great job doing the finishing work on the egress window at the parsonage (with support from George House).
2. Stained Glass Repair. No current information.
3. Old Business. There was discussion about Secret Santa work being done at each church to provide food baskets for families in need.

New Business

1. Nominating Committee. In the past, the Nominating Committee consisted of outgoing Council Members. Because the Annual Meeting has been moved from January to March, the committee has not been named as yet.
2. Budget. The Council reviewed the 2020 Planned budget for Georgetown and made some suggested changes for 2021, based on actual expenditures as of today's date. Suggestions included:
 - Correcting the phone budget to be shared with Trinity
 - Removing the expenditure for garbage
 - Adjust the Worker's Compensation amount
 - Reduce Repair & Maintenance budget
 - Adjust the Health Insurance amount



A new item was suggested for the 2021 budget that would provide for technical support for the ongoing recording and publication of our Sunday services on YouTube in the amount of \$1300.00. A motion was made and seconded to add the above amount to the 2021 Budget. Motion carried.

Discussion took place regarding the current 2020 Budget item “NW Synod Benevolence” which was budgeted at \$3000.00. Based on the current status of our 2020 Budget, the motion was made and seconded to change that amount to \$2000.00 to be sent to the Synod in this fiscal year. Motion carried.

3. Annual Meeting. Discussion took place as to when Georgetown should conduct our Annual Meeting, which, based on our Bylaws, should be scheduled for January 17, 2021. Because the Council prefers to conduct the meeting in person rather than virtual, the suggestion was made to delay the Annual Meeting to March 21, 2021 and hold the meeting outdoors if necessary. The motion was made and seconded to postpone the Annual Meeting of the members of Georgetown Lutheran Church to March 21, 2021. Motion carried. Current Council members that would normally be replaced at the January meeting agreed to remain active on the Council until the March Annual Meeting. At the Annual Meeting, new Council Members will be voted on and the Annual Budget will be passed.

Open Discussion: Discussion took place regarding making sure that all Church members and any other interested parties have the opportunity to get a monthly newsletter. Pastor indicated that she is currently mailing 3 or 4 newsletters each month and making sure that there are several copies of the newsletter available in the Fellowship Hall. Sherry offered to contact the Shepherding Groups to see if there is a need to mail out additional newsletters and if there are members that could help with that task.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Closing prayer

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel

Next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm

**Georgetown Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
November 1-30 2020**

Opening Balance November 1, 2020 **\$35,730.53**

November Income

Offering	\$3,705.00
2020 Fall Dinner	\$171.22
Meat & Pie Fundraiser	\$920.00
Thrivent Choice	\$132.00

Total Income **\$4,928.22**

\$40,658.75

November Expenses **\$4,162.71**

Closing Balance November 30, 2020 **\$36,496.04**

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

Offering Through November 30, 2020	\$48,600.65
Budgeted offering to date	\$61,734.24
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$13,133.59

Offering:

1-Nov	\$740.00
8-Nov	\$815.00
15-Nov	\$675.00
22-Nov	\$600.00
29-Nov	\$875.00

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	\$1,631.80
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$195.29

11/30/2020

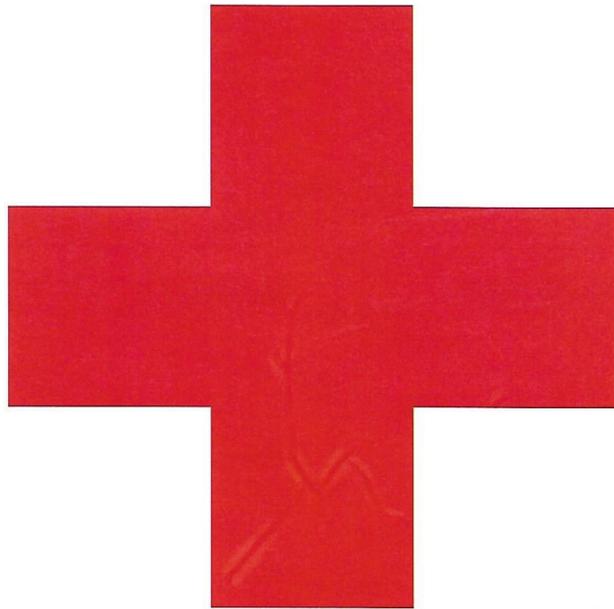
Funds totals **\$20,669.28**

OPERATING FUNDS	\$15,826.76
Payroll Protection Program	-\$8,500.00
NET OPERATING FUNDS	\$7,326.76

Give blood.

Every 2 seconds someone
in the U.S. needs blood.

American Red Cross



Blood Drive
Balsam Lake Community
Located at
Georgetown Lutheran Church

877 190th Avenue/County Road G
(Fox Creek)

Monday, January 18, 2021
12:30 p.m. to 5:30 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.



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

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

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