

Church Newsletter  
April 2021

## 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? <sup>4</sup> 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

**In a recent message** from our Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson she wrote:

“Are we there yet? Every parent who dared to take a family on a road trip has heard that question. It is the question we are now all asking, a year into a trip we didn’t choose for ourselves, the pandemic road trip. Are we there yet? Is it over? Can we go back to an or all? The answer from the front seat of the car usually sounds like this: ‘Almost there, just a few more miles, but you can start to get ready for it. Put your shoes on, gather up your things and put them into your back pack. We will be there soon, be patient.’”

**The Apostle Paul** had this to say about patience in Romans 12: 12: “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” This is good advice. We are rejoicing in hope as we begin to gather together again. It feels good to be in worship in person. At the same time, it feels less good to have our practices changed or restricted. It can feel like suffering. It can feel unnatural or unnecessary.

**This is where we** have to persevere in prayer, according to the Apostle. Pray for patience. Pray that we can remember to follow Jesus’ command to love your neighbor as yourself. For some of us masks and other health and safety protocols increase our confidence that we can gather and not get sick. Since we are a community of believers made up of individuals with differing opinions, we must take into consideration the needs of all of those who are ready to gather together as well as those who are not.

**Bishop Laurie states** further in her message to pastors, deacons, and congregational leaders: If you haven’t already started, you can think about returning to in person worship. Get your “health and wellness” team in place, make plans to be ready. We are almost there. Don’t do it all alone. Don’t be the gate keeper/safe worship police. Ask your “health and wellness team” or the council to see that the rules are kept. I trust that you will do what you need to do to love your neighbor and keep your congregations safe.”

**As I ponder all of this**, I ask for your help. Our church council leaders have done an excellent job managing our return to worship. They do not act as “gate keepers or safe worship police” but as concerned fellow members of the body of Christ. As the gathered community I would urge all of us to “rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” When we gather in worship remember that we are still a little way away from what you remember as normal. All the changes and requests are a way of lovingly caring for the needs of all in the community. When we love each other and serve each other we are worshipping and glorifying God. I give thanks for all the ways that this community shows that love to each other and to the world.

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Diane

## Crosses We Don't Choose

*Then Jesus told them, "... take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24b*

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,  
My friend Julie's mom had dementia. Julie picked up that cross and carried it as her beloved mother faded away. Paul was in second grade when he was diagnosed with diabetes. It was a cross he would carry for the rest of his life. Erica's drug addiction was a cross she and her family carried for years until she found sobriety. They were all crosses they didn't choose.

Jesus carried his cross on the road to his crucifixion. Along the way he falls, and a man named Simon of Cyrene<sup>1</sup> is forced to pick up Jesus' cross and carry it the rest of the way to Calvary. Simon was most likely a reluctant cross bearer. Most of us are reluctant cross bearers. We don't choose the pain or suffering we've been dealt, and yet we carry the load. We don't choose to carry another person's cross when they are too weak to carry it themselves, but we are at times compelled by love to do so.

This month marks the one year anniversary of the pandemic. It is a cross that we've all carried to one degree or another. For some it has been an inconvenience and for others a heavy burden of suffering and profound grief. Theologically there is no way to put a positive spin on the coronavirus or 2020. It has been a cross we didn't choose. The strain of carrying this cross is evident in our country and congregations. We are all weary of it.

On Palm/Passion Sunday and Good Friday we are drawn into the story of Jesus' arrest, trial, and death. We walk alongside him in the crowd as he carries his cross, our cross, compelled by love. We walk with a suffering Jesus straining under the weight of this cross, stumbling, falling, getting back up and finally letting go, letting another carry it. Jesus knew pain in his human body, and so Jesus knows our every weakness. Jesus himself was beaten, knew suffering and was unable to carry the weight this cross. He falls to the ground under the weight of his love for us.

As a church we invite others to walk in the way of Jesus knowing that they are carrying crosses they didn't choose for themselves. We invite others to walk in the way of Jesus because as a community of faith we shoulder the burden and carry it all together. We help another carry their cross out of love. We are Simon of Cyrene.

Maybe that is what this past year has taught us; that we need each other; we aren't alone. We've been isolated, quarantined, but not alone. We can't take our congregations for granted. We need our faith communities and the relationships with other believers because we can't carry our own crosses. We follow the way of Jesus together bearing our neighbor's crosses out of love. It is in the cross that Jesus carried and on which he was crucified that we can know the love of God and salvation. This is Luther's Theology of the Cross. It is in the crosses that we as a community of faith carry together as we follow in the way of Jesus that we too see and know the love God.

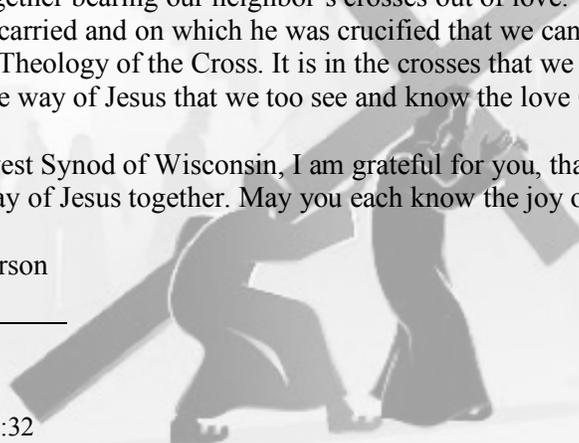
Dear friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, I am grateful for you, that during the pandemic, we were able to walk in the way of Jesus together. May you each know the joy of Easter! Christ is Risen. He is risen indeed.

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

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Simon of Cyrene Matthew 27:32

Inspired by an article titled Crosses we don't choose in March 10, 2021 Christian Century by Debie Thomas



## Holy Week and Easter Worship Information

As we prepare to gather to worship for this important and holy time, the church council leaders of Trinity and Georgetown decided on these worship times taking into consideration that we are encouraged by the CDC to gather no more than 50 people indoors with precautions. Outdoor gatherings are safer and can be done with or without masks.

There will be two evening services during Holy Week. Both will be a hybrid of Maundy Thursday's theme of loving service and the Good Friday story of the Passion of Christ.

This worship service will be offered:

**Thursday, April 1 at Georgetown at 6:30 p.m. and Friday, April 2 at Trinity at 6:30 p.m.**

Please wear a mask and follow the directions of the usher when you arrive for the worship service.

We will offer four different services on Easter Sunday, two outdoors and two indoors:

**7:30 a.m. at Trinity will be an outdoor "Sonrise" service with Holy Communion.** We will be observing physical distancing and masks will be encouraged but optional. You may want to bring a lawn chair with you.

**8:30 a.m. at Trinity will be an indoor, in person worship service with Holy Communion.** Please wear a mask and follow the instructions of the usher when you arrive for worship.

**9:30 a.m. at Georgetown will be an indoor, in person worship service with Holy Communion.** Please wear a mask and follow the instructions of the usher when you arrive for worship.

**10:30 a.m. at Georgetown will be an outdoor worship service with Holy Communion.** We will be observing physical distancing and masks will be encouraged but optional. You may want to bring a lawn chair with you.

Outdoor worship will be held outside, weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather the outdoor worship services will be moved indoors and wearing masks will be expected. Each service will be 30 minutes long to accommodate arrival and departure. There will be no fellowship time after the services. You are encouraged to bring your own elements for Holy Communion. This can be a small amount of wine or juice, some bread or crackers. We will have a limited supply of pre-packaged elements for those who forget!

It is our hope that by providing these various opportunities all believers will feel welcome to worship the resurrection of Christ on Easter Sunday!

## ~Announcements~

### CAMP IS ON!!

Luther Park Bible Camp, our Lutheran camp in Chetek, has announced that registration for the 2021 summer camp program is now available. Visit [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org) to see all the programs that are available for children and youth in Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Register by creating a new account or logging into your account through the registration system and making a secure payment with a credit card. You have the option of printing out a registration from the website and registering by mail. The 2021 summer camp brochures are available at church. Check out the new camp programs and activities. To get your first choice of program offerings, pick up a brochure or go to [www.lutherpark.org](http://www.lutherpark.org) or call 715-859-2215

### April 24th Faith Fair: Care of Creation

On Saturday, April 24th from 10-11 a.m. at Georgetown Lutheran Church there will be a faith fair to learn about caring for God's creation! Come and plant some starter seed for a flower garden, decorate a rock for a rock garden or pathway, say a prayer with Pastor Diane at a prayer garden, and take home a tree seedling to plant! All activities will be outdoors so masks will be optional. In the case of rain we will move the activities indoors. Invite a friend and join us as we give thanks for God's creation.

### Confirmation Class Schedule

The confirmation class will begin meeting in person starting April 14th! On the Wednesday evenings between April 14th and May 5th we will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Trinity in the sanctuary. Please wear a mask. Class will end no later than 7:15 p.m. See you then!



## Jeremiah Bible Study Is Coming

With the coming of warmer weather, vaccinations and the lessening of COVID infections, also comes the opportunity of gathering for Bible study. In response to last year's requests, Wayne Kendrick has prepared an eight-week study on the prophet Jeremiah. As with recent studies, it will be held in two weekly sessions: one at 9:30 AM at Georgetown and one at Trinity at 7:00 PM. The study will begin on April 12 and conclude June 7 (taking Memorial Day off). Being held in the fellowship halls of each congregation will allow social distancing and protection from adverse weather.

Jeremiah is long and non-chronological, so there will be no attempt to study the entire book. Instead, we will look at themes, theology and the prophet himself; putting each into their historical setting as best we can. The study, however, will not just look at Jeremiah's historical setting, but will also raise hard questions about what God through Jeremiah might be saying to our current theological and political crises.

It is hoped that there will be a number of first-timers, as well as the regulars involved in this study. Please do not be put off by any lack of Bible study - every attempt has been taken to make the study accessible and meaningful. Neither is having to miss a weekly session a reason not to participate (and you may bounce between the morning and evening sessions). Weekly study sheets will be provided in class; and to those who miss a week by email or regular mail.

In preparation, you **may** want to do a skim or a read through of the book.

You are requested to sign up for the study, either by phoning Wayne: 715-822-3082 or emailing: [wjkendrick@gmail.com](mailto:wjkendrick@gmail.com). Please state whether you are fully vaccinated (at least two weeks after second shot), have received the first shot, or are awaiting vaccination.

Thank you!  
Wayne



## Trinity Church Council Minutes

March 16, 2021

**Members present:** Kathy Grenquist (Treasurer), Pastor Diane House, Debbie Wickstrom, Lacy Sellent, Steve Anderson, Chris Wetzel and Christine Anderson. Absent: Robin Denver

Devotions led by Pastor Diane.

Meeting called to order by Steven Anderson.

### **Reports:**

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the February Trinity Council meeting were read. Date and description on the treasurers report need to be corrected (February 15 net income—rather than balance). A motion was made to approve the minutes with corrections by Chris Wetzel and seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Minutes approved.

Minutes from the March 4<sup>th</sup> special meeting were read. A motion to approve minutes as written was made by Debbie Wickstrom and seconded by Lacy Sellent. Minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The monthly statement was provided and discussed by the council. The summary for Feb. 15-March 15 is:

Income ..... \$3752.90

Total Expense.... -\$4976.83

March 15<sup>th</sup> net income ...-\$1223.93 (monthly balance only)

Checkbook Balance: \$23,866.26

Motion to approve the report as written was made by Christine Anderson. Seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Report approved.

Discussed Living Lutheran Magazine. Will revisit next month to identify who should get this and how to order.

**Audit committee** report was read. Books were found in order and the Auditors commended Kathy for handling the past year will. We are grateful for Kathy's work.

A motion to accept the Audit Committee's report was made by Christine Anderson and seconded by Chris Wetzel. Report accepted.

### **Pastor's Report:**

- Book Study: Pastor has been part of a book study about racism and the church.
- Continuing Education has begun and will continue throughout the year.
- Burial service will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> in McKinley cemetery.
- Home Visits Pastor will begin making visits with precautions (masks, etc)
- Nursing Homes may be having worship with residents soon.

### **Old Business:**

**Endowment Committee**—The records need to be audited. Debbie and Lacy agreed to audit the records.

### **Sunday in-person worship reflection**

28 people in attendance. Fewer people are needed at the door.

**Palm Sunday** Looking for readers. Pastor will announce on Sunday.

**Good Friday service** Will be at Trinity

**Easter Sunday** We will have two services 7am and 8:30am. Pastor Diane, Lacy, Debbie, Christine and Kathy will meet to make more specific plans.

**Synod gathering** will be entirely on-line via Zoom. We are looking for 1 man and 1 woman to represent our congregation. Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm and Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 7am-4pm. Registration is due on March. Pastor Diane will announce on Sunday.

**Pen-Pals** have been checked in with and encouraged.

**Flat Jesus** has been mailed out and a few pictures have been posted on Facebook.

**Confirmation** will meet in-person after Easter.

**Mission of the Month/Quarter:**

- January-March donations will go to Benjamin's House.
- April-June donations will go to local food shelves (Split between Cumberland and Luck)
- Consider working with Larry Geurkink and Bruce Hendricks as they support area food shelves and coat drives in the future.

**Egress Window** is finished! Thank you to Glenn Greener, Steve Hanson and Jeanie Johnson.

**Changes to the Web-site:**

- Create a "contact us" page with pastor's phone and e-mail. Debbie will tell Brian Wickstrom
- Add explanation to Endowment page (Christine will write and send to Brian)
- Update calendar events

**Wi-Fi** has been installed. A motion was made to apply for a grant to fund a Sling Studio for live-streaming worship service. Motion made by Christine Anderson and seconded by Chris Wetzel. Motion passed. Lacy Sellent will also look into Thrivent cards for funding.

**Palt Dinner** has been postponed until later this summer.

**Money in savings**-Our savings account is not getting a very good rate at this time. A recommendation was made to move it to the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) through the ELCA. This would act like a checking account with a minimum balance. We could access funds at any time, but our interest rate would 2 or 3 times more than what we are currently getting. Trinity would keep it's checking account in Cumberland, the MIF account would be where we place our savings, but it is a checking account so we could access it any time. The added benefit of MIF is that the funds kept there are used support mission congregations as they start up. An announcement will be made to the congregation. People are encouraged to direct questions to Steve Anderson.

**New Business:**

**Church Directory**- This process will be postponed until 2022.

**Reimbursements:** Pastor Diane has not been submitting mileage during the pandemic. Jamie Shaffer has not been submitting hours for her newsletter work during the pandemic. A motion was made to ask both to resume submitting hours for reimbursement by Steve Anderson and seconded by Christine Anderson. Motion passed.

**Garage Sale:** We need to check with Trinity's WELCA group. Georgetown will have one, but only with large items and all outside.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting will on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

## Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

**March 18, 2021**

Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Tim Frendt, Keith Ward, Pastor Diane, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Pastor led prayer and devotions.

**Secretary's Report:** Tim asked members to read the Secretary's Report. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Secretary's Report. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for February 1 - 28, 2021. The net operating fund balance is \$4,733.03, which is slightly better than last month. Roberta is in contact with Royal Credit Union regarding requesting forgiveness for the PPP loan. The suggestion was made that we should consider asking for a second loan if we qualify. The amount budgeted for Insurance in the 2021 Budget is \$2030. We recently received a statement for \$2742, which is more than the amount budgeted. Our fuel expenses have gone up recently which will most likely require a new contract. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor expressed a huge thank you to Jeanne Johnson and Steve Hansen for finishing the egress window at the parsonage and said that it looks fabulous. She also indicated that the window in the basement bathroom needs work. Being fully vaccinated, the Pastor has been doing some home visits. The suggestion was made that she keep a log of visits. The Continuing Education class through the Synod will be having an online retreat on April 22 & 23. Discussion took place about a member photo directory for Trinity and Georgetown Churches and the suggestion was made to wait until 2022 when we might be able to get some desirable spring photo dates. This year it is Trinity's turn to have a Good Friday service which will be held at 6:30 pm. It was decided that Georgetown would have a Maundy Thursday service at 6:30 pm. Our Palm Sunday service will need readers for different parts in the service. We also may want to access palms and have a gathering in the parking lot and procession into the Sanctuary. Easter Sunday we will be limited to 50 people in the Sanctuary and may need to provide two services. It was decided that Georgetown would have an indoor Easter service at 9:30 am and an outdoor Easter service at 10:30 am. It was also decided to provide Easter gift bags for the children. A request was made for donations of candy, trinkets and easter grass. Special music would be welcome.

**Deacon's, Elder's and Trustee's Reports:** No reports.

### **Old Business:**

1. Audit.

Our audit of 2019 and 2020 was completed and did not identify any discrepancies.

2. Annual Meeting.

The booklet for the Annual Meeting is in the process of being put together. Tom Levi and Jeanne Johnson acted as the nominating committee for positions needed on the Church Council. Felicia Braastad will be nominated to fill a 3 year term as an Elder. Bruce Pepper will be nominated to fill a 3 year term as a Deacon. Ryan Braastad will be



nominated to fill a 3 year term as a Trustee. Nominations will also be requested from the floor during the Meeting.

3. PPP Loan  
No changes.

### **New Business:**

1. Audio/Video Booth

It has been suggested that we build a booth for our equipment in the back of the church where the back pew is located. This would provide for security and enhancement of our productions.

2. Other new business

A discussion took place as to how and when to provide for children's Sunday School/education. The success of the outdoor model used for VBS this past summer was mentioned. Pastor also mentioned the "Pastor on the porch" presentation for children that she does each week. It was suggested that the Deacon's meet to discuss how and when to proceed with opportunities for children.

**Open Discussion:** The subject of our garage sale was brought up. It is the hope that we will be able to conduct a Garage Sale yet this spring, dependent on the current Coronavirus status. Nothing was planned at this time.

### **Closing Prayer**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel

**Next Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm**



# Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church  
 Treasurer's Report  
 February 1 - 28, 2021

**Opening Balance February 1, 2021** **\$32,088.28**

**February Income**

Offering	\$3,800.00
Blessing Bucket	\$100.00
Mission Endowment Fund	\$802.83

<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$4,702.83</b>	<b>\$36,791.11</b>
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**February Expenses** **\$4,879.77**

**Closing Balance February 28, 2021** **\$31,911.34**

Budget 2021	\$67,060.64
Needed Weekly	\$1,289.63

<b>Offerig through February 28, 2021</b>	<b>\$7,230.00</b>
Budgeted offering to date	\$11,606.67
<b>Ahead/Behind Budget</b>	<b>-\$4,376.67</b>

**Offering:**

7-Feb	\$1,130.00
14-Feb	\$650.00
21-Feb	\$1,420.00
28-Feb	\$600.00

**Fund Balances**

Youth Activities Fund	\$2,977.49	
Memorial Fund	\$1,804.19	
Blacktop Fund	\$13,553.64	
Bold Generosity Capital Campaign Appeal	\$0.00	
P & C Claim Fund	\$0.00	
Mission Endowment Fund	-\$42.30	803.83+54.82=858.65
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$385.29	

**2/28/2021**

**Funds totals** **\$18,678.31**

**OPERATING FUNDS** **\$13,233.03**

Payroll Protection Program -\$8,500.00

**NET OPERATING FUNDS** **\$4,733.03**