



Church Newsletter August 2021

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.

Trinity

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Contact Information

Pastor Diane

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Cell: 715-702-1240

Georgetown

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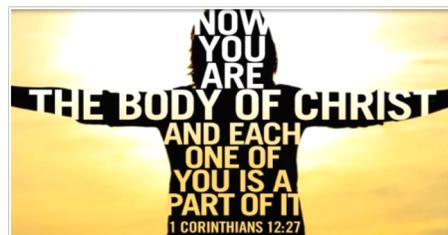
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Trinity

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Pastor Ponderings

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.
Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.
All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you
sing praise to your name."
Psalm 66: 1-4

I am "pondering" a couple of things this evening. First, I am pondering how to interest you in studying the Psalms. Do you have a favorite Psalm? Can you recite Psalm 23 from memory. Many people hold that Psalm close in their heart! Starting on Monday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and at 7 p.m. at Trinity, Wayne Kendrick and I will be teaching on the Psalms together.

Wayne will teach us about different types of Psalms, why they may have been written and how they may have been used in worship in ancient times. Because they Psalms were sung before they were ever written down and compiled, I will be teaching us how to chant them. We will also look at some hymns from our ELW hymnal that are based on different Psalms. I hope you will consider joining in on what will be a fun and informative study.

The other issue I am pondering regards worship. We are moving closer to "post pandemic" worship and have relaxed some earlier precautions. Masks are now optional. If you are fully vaccinated you don't need to wear a mask. If you are not vaccinated, yet, you are encouraged to wear one for your and others' protection, but it is optional. We have also begun to have fellowship time after each service. You are encourage to get a cup of coffee, a cup of juice, and a baked treat and head outdoors to visit. As we get closer to September and our fall schedule we will be adding other worship practices that have been missing since March of 2020.

In August we will return to distributing Holy Communion at the communion rail. At Trinity we will be distributing the wafer and cups of wine at the front near the communion rail (just like when we did intinction, but we will not be doing intinction right now) and at Georgetown us here will direct you when to come up to the rail six people at a time.

In September, I will be inviting the children forward for a children's sermon. And we may slowly re-introduce piece of the liturgy into the worship service, keeping in mind how much congregational singing we can do and length of time we can be gathered indoors. The council and I will continue to keep an eye on vaccination rates, infection and hospitalization numbers and the spread of any variants in the area as we decide when and how to implement any changes. the health and safety of the congregation is our first priority.

Thank you for your patience during this time. It is wonderful just to have the chance to gather in person once again and I am always so happy to see each of you on Sunday! We will still post a video of the worship services for those who are still unable to gather in person.

God's peace and love be with you all!

Pastor Diane

Announcements

Join us for a Bible Study on the Psalms

Pastor Diane and Wayne Kendrick will be offering a bible study together starting on Monday, August 2! Come and study and sing with us!

Schedule:

Monday, August 2, 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and 7:00 p.m. at Trinity
Introduction to the Psalms

Psalms of Narrative Praise, Psalm 124 (A song of Ascent)

Monday, August 9, 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and 7:00 p.m. at Trinity

Psalms of Descriptive Praise or Hymn, Psalm 113

And we will look at hymn texts based on the Psalms

Monday, August 16, 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and 7:00 p.m. at Trinity

Wayne will teach about Royal Psalms

Monday, August 23, 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and 7:00 p.m. at Trinity

Liturgical Psalms, Psalm 66

Monday, August 30, 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown and 7:00 p.m. at Trinity

Lament Psalms: Community Lament Psalm 80, and Individual Lament Psalm 13

Trinity Women

The Women of Trinity will be meeting the second Thursday, each month, at 8:30 AM to quilt. In August we will be bringing 10 1/2" squares to make quilt tops. We will also be assembling quilt tops with batting and bottoms. Lunch will be offered. Come when you can and stay as long as you like. If you have sewing machine, we would appreciate you bringing it. If you have any questions please call Deedra 715-822-3025 or Gail 715-822-5019.

Newsletter Information

Information for the upcoming newsletter is due the 25th of each month.

Please send information to jamie.shaffer09@gmail.com. Please note this is a different email address than the one previously used.

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

July 14, 2021

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



Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson
Opened with prayer

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was read. Motion to approve minutes as ready by Lacy Sellent and Chris Wetzel. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly profit/loss statement for June 15-July 15 was discussed by the council. Income \$2,946.11

Expenses	<u>\$4,461.78</u>
	-\$1,515.67

We have spent more than our income in the past two months by around \$2000 each month. A copy of the monthly summary is included with this report. It includes the balance in TLC Savings and the Mission Investment Fund. Since moving part of our savings to the Mission Investment fund (MIF) in May we have made \$16.54 in interest.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Christine Anderson and Lacy Sellent. Report accepted.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Diane is on vacation this week. She provided us with a written report.

VBS was held for 5 weeks rotating between GT/TR. Attendance was around 30 people of all ages. A great time was had by all.

BFF (Bible Family and Fun) has started! We are meeting with about 5 other congregations from the Apple River Conference about once a month. Events are for all ages and held from 5:30-7:30 at various churches. Bring donation for food shelves to donate. The next event will be August 8th at Cushing ball field.

Luther Park Bible Camp: We have about 6 kids attending the week of July 25-30. Pastor Diane will stop by while they are there as well.

Seminar: Pastor and Wayne Kendrick will be attending a conference on Justice at Luther Point on July 24th.

Ordination: Pastor Diane has been asked to be part of an ordination on July 31st!

Cumberland Care Center has started allowing worship services and Pastor Diane has been able to participate.

Bible Study: on the Psalms will be led jointly by Pastor Diane and Wayne Kendrick in August. Dates are Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30 at 9:30am at Georgetown and 7pm at Trinity.

Old Business

Church Covid Policy: Council reviewed the current numbers in Polk and Barron county. They continue to look good! Discussion was held about current safety parameters, including fellowship inside. Conversation about how to continue to keep one another safe while understanding that not everyone is/can be vaccinated. The county and CDC guidelines state that it is much safer to gather together outside than inside. A motion was made to continue keeping pews spread apart, not requiring masks and holding fellowship outside was made. The motion passed.

Youth: Lacy is exploring some youth events in August. Possibilities include Shanty Town, cleaning Grave Stones and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. She will set a date and contact the youth.

Church projects Electrician Dustin Schell, has been contacted and we're waiting for his schedule to allow him to come.

Palt Dinner Lacy will call various people to find out about possible dates and volunteers.

Community Carnival is tentatively set for September 18th. Debbie Wickstrom is organizing. Council discussed the importance of having it outside in case the Covid numbers increase again.

New Business:

Mission of the Month Lidixe Montoya is a former medical doctor from El Salvador who fled with her small children to escape violence there. She moved to the Eau Claire area about 7 years ago as a student and earned an undergrad degree from UWEC and a master's degree from Luther Seminary. She has been working as a Mission Developer. She is currently serving the NW Synod of WI as an intern in the "Neighbor to Neighbor" program. The synod applied for her work visa from the federal government as usual, but due to the pandemic the processing time is nearly double the normal amount. As a result, Ms. Montoya is unable to work and earn a salary in the US. There are two interim ministers carrying out her responsibilities however, the main concern is how to provide for Lidixe Montoya's family while she waits for her work visa. She is allowed to receive grants and gifts, so the synod applied for and received part of the funds needed to support Ms. Montoya's family for the next year. Congregations have been asked to donate money to fill the gap between what is needed and what the grant covers. Chris Wetzel made a motion that council send \$200 to the synod for Lidixe Montoya's family AND to make this family the beneficiaries of the July-Sept. Mission of the Month. Motion was seconded by Christine Anderson. Discussion was to write an article for the newsletter and make announcements in church to explain the situation and encourage donations. Motion passed.

Council is looking for ideas for the Sept-Dec. Mission of the month. The following council members will research areas and bring information back to the August council meeting: Chris W. -- Christmas Tree idea, Christine -- Northwoods Homeless Shelter program, Lacy -- Salvation Army, Steve -- Project Margaret

Church Use Policy Christine will talk with WELCA about the use policy currently in place to see if there is any need for changes or communication.

Church Secretary We have not had a secretary for a few years. The newsletter is put together by Jamie Shaffer and that is going very well. Council has discussed ways to support pastor with things that may come up more infrequently, such as funerals, weddings etc. A volunteer has come forward to consider being an “event planner” for this type of help. We will discuss in more detail with pastor at the August meeting.

Joint Events with Georgetown Trinity Council is very interested in having a joint outdoor worship at Hunky Dory in August. We will discuss with pastor to see if that can be arranged.

Church Water The Polk County Health Department has contacted us that the water at Trinity has Nitrate levels that should not be consumed by pregnant women or children under 6 months. Our level is slightly over the recommended limit. Research done so far includes talking with the health department, DNR water person, Brandt Becroft (well driller) and researching the requirements on the DNR and health department web-sites. The required steps or posting signs at all water sources and providing bottled water have been taken. The water is OK to use to wash dishes, make coffee and for those who are over 6 months and not pregnant to drink. Council discussed looking into filtration and ways to prevent this in the future.

Motion was made by Lacy Sellent and seconded by Chris Wetzel to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, August 17 at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

Shepherding Group for August

Christine Anderson- Jan and Norman Anderson, Darren/Tonja Johnson, Chad and Staci Lundmark, Tim and Peggy Lundmark, Tom and Anna Weaver, Linda Weaver, Kevin and Diane Wickstrom, Jay and Sabrina Gardner



3:35 PM
04/11/21
Accrual Basis

Trinity Lutheran Church
Profit & Loss
June 15 - July 15 2021

If you make any changes to this worksheet, you will lose them the next time you update.

Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
interest	\$	4.11
Tithes/Offerings	\$	2,942.00
Total Income	\$	2,946.11
Exp Church		
Electric	\$	78.03
Maintenance and Improvemnets	\$	225.00
Phone	\$	138.45
Total Church	\$	441.48
Parsonage		
Electric-Parsonage	\$	53.37
Total Parsonage	\$	53.37
Mission		
Lutherpark		
Bemjamin House		
Total Mission	\$	-
Pastor's Salary		
Social Security	\$	198.01
Pastor's Salary - Other	\$	1,991.04
Total Pastor's Salary	\$	2,189.05
Portico-Benefits	\$	1,313.18
Shared Expenses		
Worship and Office Supplies-GT	\$	150.00
	\$	150.00
Worship and Encouragement		
Devotionals and Bulletin Insert	\$	26.70
Sunday School and VBS	\$	150.00
Office Supplies	\$	138.00
	\$	314.70
	\$	4,461.78
Net income	\$	(1,515.67)
MIF	\$	33,016.54
TLC Savings	\$	1,006.76

Georgetown Council Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Gretchen Frendt, Keith Ward, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 pm.

Prayer and Devotions: In the absence of Pastor Diane, Sherry led us in prayer.

Secretary's Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes of the May 11, 2021 Council meeting. A correction was made to the cost of advertising in the Laker. The minutes stated that it would cost \$149.00 for 7 weeks of advertising, but the actual cost was \$173.88. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for June 1 – 30, 2021. The net operating fund balance has increased to \$13,515.34. A large offering check was received this month. Also, there were increased expenses including the kitchen license and the repair of the lawn mower. Also, Pastor Diane submitted mileage reimbursement request forms for May and June which she had not submitted for many months previously due to our budget constraints. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Family Bible School was a great success, meeting for 5 Tuesdays beginning on June 15th and alternating between Georgetown and Trinity and had an average of 30 people from ages 6 months to over 70 attending! I would like to give a HUGE thanks to the "crew" who helped lead: George House, Christine Anderson, Gretchen Frendt, Mandy Rouzer, Chandra Cummings and Judy Gammel. They each took a part of the curriculum and planned that part of the lesson and collected, purchased and donated the materials needed! Thank you! I would like to thank Chandra Cummings who donated and organized the first meal and also Steve and Ali Anderson for organizing and serving the Brat Feed!

Bible Family and Fun has met twice now and seems to be well received. Georgetown and Trinity hosted on June 27th and it was a very fun and inspiring evening. Thanks again to those who led that night: Gretchen Frendt, Christine Anderson, Judy Gammel, and Bruce Peper. I attended the event on July 11th at North Valley along with the Frendt family, Jeanne Johnson and Marvel Nielsen. BFF will continue once a month through September. I would like to see more of our people taking advantage of this opportunity to get to know our ELCA neighbor congregations, so let's think of ways we can invite people to participate. The next event is in



Cushing at the ball field on August 8th at 5:30 pm. (Pastor Neil Weltzin is their part time interim so it would be a chance for you all to visit with him.)

July 25-30 Trinity has several kids attending Luther Park Bible Camp. Keep them in your prayers and I plan to drop in to visit and to play.

July 24th Wayne Kendrick and I will be attending a Justice Seminar offered by the Synod at Luther Point Bible Camp. We will be getting information on the work being done in the synod on justice issues and ways we might want to join in that work.

July 21st there is a memorial service at Georgetown at 10 am for Vicky Dorner's father, Cliff Swager.

July 31st I will attend an ordination for a candidate, Jen Hatleli who I mentor as part of the Candidacy Committee. She has honored me by asking me to preach. Please keep us both in your prayers.

Please keep Shirley Schilling (from Georgetown) in your prayers as she is at home on hospice. She is weak but still mentally sharp and does enjoy people stopping in to visit. Her granddaughter, Rochelle and I are in frequent contact for updates and we had Holy Communion together on July 12th.

I was also able to lead worship at the Care Center at Cumberland on July 11th. Masks are required for all visitors but it felt good to be able to be with people once again.

Roland and Cecelia Renstrom enjoy visits as does Rita Glenna who is now a resident of River Bend Assisted Living in Amery. Her room number is 105.

A bible study on the Psalms is being planned for August. Wayne Kendrick and I will teach together. It is hoped that we can learn to sing them! We will meet August 2, 9, 23, and 30 at 9:30 am at Georgetown and 7:00 pm at Trinity.

I will be taking Friday, August 27 through Sunday August 29 off so that I can officiate for a friend's wedding in La Crosse. Wayne Kendrick will fill in for me.

Old Business: Discussion took place about the need for a secretary, which came up at the joint Council meeting with Trinity. Various duties were brought up that could be carried out by a secretary, but without Pastor Diane in attendance, the issue was table for the next Council meeting. A motion was made and seconded that the Council form a Funeral Committee to discuss future needs of funerals held at Georgetown. Motion carried.

New Business:

- A. Communion Distribution. A discussion took place about how to manage the distribution of communion elements. A motion was made to resume communion at the rail using proper safety precautions and keeping the groups small. Sherry will work with the Shepherding groups and ushers to manage the distribution. Motion carried.
- B. Coffee Fellowship. Beginning August 1, coffee, juice and a packaged treat will be available for fellowship after church services. Sherry will notify the Shepherding groups what their responsibilities will be.
- C. Jim Rennie request. Jim Rennie asked about the possibility of resuming use of the Fellowship Hall for his martial arts classes. The request was tabled and Jim will be

asked for further information about the classes including the schedule, cost of classes, etc.

- D. Garage Sale 2022. A request has been received for the possibility of picking up donated furniture for our next garage sale. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of a one day sale this fall. More information will be requested about the furniture donation before a decision can be made.
- E. Blake Lake Association request. The Blake Lake Association requested the use of the Fellowship Hall for their association meeting on August 21st along with breakfast, both of which they would pay for. A motion was made and seconded to approve their request.

Other Business:

1. Electronic road sign. It was noted that part of the lighted sign on County Road G does not work properly. Bruce offered to contact the manufacturer which is in California.
2. Letter from Northwest Synod of Wisconsin about Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry. Pastor shared a letter with the Council from the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin about the need for an additional \$15,000 grant to keep Lidixe Montoya and her family safe and taken care of until her visa is processed. Lidixe is a physician from El Salvador who has been working to connect our ELCA congregations with local Latinx communities. Because of the pandemic, processing time for visas has doubled, so Lidixe's visa was not renewed prior to its expiration on June 1st, 2021.
The Council moved and seconded that \$200.00 be designated for Lidixe from the Blessings Bucket and also suggested that a request go out in the newsletter asking for additional funds. Motion carried.
3. Gretchen reported that someone is willing to teach Sunday School this fall.
4. Stephanie reported that she will be contacting Christine Anderson to put a plan together for the Pastor's performance review.

Meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm

