



Church Newsletter
September 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



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

VBS Thank You!

Bible School was a great success! Starting June 15th we met each Tuesday at either Trinity or Georgetown 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 also 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!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” John 6: 66-69

On Sunday we were pondering these words outside at Hunky Dory Resort for our joint church, outdoor service. For the past five weeks we have been deeply considering the teaching of Jesus in this chapter of John’s gospel. In this gospel “the bread of life teaching or discourse” is connected to the feeding of the 5,000 and focuses on Jesus’ teaching that he is the true bread of life who provides relationship with and life forever in him. By verse 66 this teaching becomes difficult as Jesus says, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them...” This teaching proved to be too strange and offensive to some of Jesus’ followers and so they “turned back and not longer went about with him.”

I was pondering on Sunday what would be too hard, too offensive, too difficult to hear and follow that would cause us to turn away from Jesus. This past year has proven to be very difficult as we navigated all the changes required for public gatherings due to the Covid virus. Now it is September and we are getting ready to gather for Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible study as well as continuing to gather on Sunday mornings for worship. I am pondering who will come back. I am pondering how to reach those who have not yet returned to in person worship to encourage them to return.

I have been pondering other reasons people may be turning or staying away, too. And, I keep coming back to Simon Peter’s answer to Jesus’ question: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the word of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” We sing that testimony as our gospel acclamation right before we hear the Good News of the gospel in worship. (I hope and pray that soon pandemic protocols will allow us to once again sing more of the worship liturgy!)

And so, I invite all of you to ponder what may be keeping you away from worship, study, and fellowship. I invite you all to ponder what may be keeping you away from the opportunity to hear Jesus’ message in scripture. What is keeping you away from being part of the community and receiving the sacrament and being a part of the life of the church that loves God and loves the neighbor?

I invite you to come to **Trinity Lutheran Church on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. or Georgetown Lutheran Church at 10:30 a.m.** I invite you to all the Wednesday study and fellowship opportunities, too. (See the Wednesday night schedule posted in this newsletter) Come and hear Jesus’ words of eternal life! If you aren’t comfortable gathering in-person, check out our services that are posted on youtube and facebook every Sunday. You are missed. You are loved and we welcome you to be part of the life of God’s church.

Pastor Diane

Attention all Parents and Students!

Here is the schedule for Christian Education on Wednesday nights for September through May of 2021-2022. Please note where you can participate! Hope to see you at WOW, Confirmation and Youth and Family nights!

Christian Education Schedule for Wednesday evenings Sept.-May 2021/2022:

September:

September 8, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW Wednesday/Godly Play at Trinity
 September 15, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
September 22 No Class Pastor Diane will be at an educational retreat at Heartwood in Trego Sept. 22-24.
 September 29, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown

October:

October 6, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play at Georgetown
 October 13, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
 October 20, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown
 October 27, (5:45) or 6:00-7:30 p.m. YOUTH/FAMILY NIGHT

November:

November 3, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play at Trinity
 November 10, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
 November 17, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown
 November 24: week of Thanksgiving/hunting so no meeting

December:

December 1, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play at Georgetown
 December 8, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
 December 15, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown
 December 22: week of Christmas so no meeting
 December 29, (5:45) or 6:00-7:30 YOUTH/FAMILY NIGHT

January 2022:

January 5, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play at Trinity
 January 12, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
 January 19, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown
 January 26, (5:45) or 6:00-7:30 p.m. YOUTH/FAMILY NIGHT

February:

February 2, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play at Georgetown
 February 9, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Trinity
 February 16, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION at Georgetown
 February 23, (5:45) or 6:00-7:30 p.m. YOUTH/FAMILY NIGHT

March and April:

March 2 is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. We will have Lenten services each Wednesday until April 6th. April 14 is Maundy Thursday, April 15 is Good Friday, Easter is April 17th.
 April 27, (5:45) or 6:00-7:30 p.m. we could have a YOUTH/FAMILY NIGHT

May:

May 4, 5:45-7:30 p.m. WOW/Godly Play wrap up. Place depends on what we want to do.
 May 11, 6:45-7:30 p.m. CONFIRMATION wrap up. Place depends on what we want to do.

~Announcements~

Quilting

Trinity Women will be Quilting and putting some layettes together Sept. 9, 1921. We will start at 8:30 am and go to about 2:30 am. Lite refreshments will be provided. Yes there is such a thing as a "free lunch". Come when you can and leave when you have to. If you need a ride call Deedra 715-419-2355

SAVE THE DATE!

Save the date, details to come!

Sept 25th 6-8pm

Church Lady Pie/Pickle/Pizza Raffle

Baskets raffles too!

At Luke's Sunny Saloon

Big Blake Lake, Luck Wi (Sherrards Resort)

Please contact Jody Binfet if you'd like to help or donate in any way. 715-857-7387



Trinity Church Council Minutes

August 17, 2021

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

Devotions led by Pastor Diane

Meeting called to order by Steve Anderson

Reports:

Secretary's Report: Secretary's Report was read. Motion to approve minutes as ready by Steve Anderson and Robin Denver. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: The monthly profit/loss statement for June 15-July 15 was discussed by the council.

Income	\$6,074.04	
Expenses		-\$5,770.75
		+\$303.29

\$320 of the above income has been committed to the Synod for support of Lidixie Montoya family.

TLC Savings account has \$1009.82

Trinity savings in the MIF fund is \$33,030.23

TLC Checking has \$10,891.38

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Robin Denver and Debbie Wickstrom. Report accepted.

Kathy and Steve will look into church specific software for the treasurer.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor presented many local and national entities that have contacted the church requesting support.

Polk County Community Services has asked for churches that provide school supplies to reply.

Pastor Diane will reply to Marcia Applequist to see how we can help.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) provides support for people in need through a "Neighbors in Need" program.

Lutheran Disaster Relief is currently providing support in Haiti in response to the earthquake.

HOPE foundation of St. Croix Valley a non-profit started by kids to provide support, pillows, backpacks to foster children, families and other displaced individuals. Chris Wetzel will contact them about coming to teach us about their efforts and consider promoting in December with the congregation.

Polk County Hope and Healing Event will be held on September 18th at the park in Frederic. It is a fair-like event promoting local hospitals, mental health and substance abuse programs in the county.

A suggestion was made to add some of these options for giving to Trinity's web-site for congregation members to be aware of.

Vacation August 29th Pastor Diane will be gone and Wayne Kendrick will preside.

Fall Christian Education Pastor Diane has proposed a schedule for Wednesday nights and will communicate with families through mail, e-mail and follow up phone calls. The monthly plan is:

1st Wed = WOW with Godly Play

2nd and 3rd Wed = Confirmation

4th Wed = Youth event sometime during the week with Lacy and Pastor Diane

Catechism's will be purchased for all confirmation kids this year.

Old Business

Church Covid Policy: Council reviewed the current numbers in Polk and Barron county. The numbers of weekly cases are starting to increase, possibly due to the Delta variant. Discussion was held about current practices, updated recommendations from the CDC, Synod and WI council of churches. A high

percentage of our congregation is vaccinated, however not everyone is or can be vaccinated. Council decided to keep the current practices in place (masks optional, pews separated, fellowship outside). The numbers will be monitored weekly and if changes need to be made we will meet via phone before our next monthly meeting. It is possible we may return to pre-packaged communion from the pews in the next few weeks.

Youth: Lacy could not be at the meeting this week but provided her plans for the youth this fall. Thanks for organizing all this, Lacy!

- September 11 will be Shanty Town at the church.
- September/October will be Roadside Clean up
- Oct/Nov may be the Haunted Woods at the Sellents.
- December may be Bell Ringing and Caroling/Nursing home visits depending on Covid restrictions at that time.

Virtual Services: Council directed Christine to use grant funds to purchase a camera and tablet/laptop for recording and sharing worship services virtually.

Palt Dinner Due to the increase in Covid numbers, a motion was made by Robin Denver to hold the Palt Dinner in March, as we have done in previous years. Seconded by Christine Anderson. Motion carried.

Community Carnival will be held outside on September 18th, weather permitting. Kelch's Concessions is booked for that day so we will need to provide food. Debbie is looking for donations for carnival prizes and money donations for carnival food.

Lefse/Pie Orders: Chris Wetzel has agreed to organize a Lefse and Pie event for the Thanksgiving holidays. Congregation members can volunteer to make pies or lefse and other members can pre-order for their Thanksgiving dinner or holiday gathering. More details will be presented at September Council meeting

Event Coordinator: Funerals and weddings are changing. Many people are choosing not to use a funeral home to help organize a service. This means some of those clerical and coordination duties have been falling to the pastor. Council does not want this to interfere with the pastoral care needed during these times. Debbie Wickstrom has volunteered to help Pastor with some of the clerical and coordination work for special events such as funerals and weddings. Thank you so much to Debbie for thinking of this support and being willing to provide it.

Nitrate in Water: Christine contacted Culligan out of Rice Lake to find out about a filtration system. A proposal will be provided at next month's meeting.

New Business:

Land Rental: David Ditbrenner will continue to farm the land around the church for \$400.

Mission of the month: Chris Wetzel proposed to start a Christmas Giving Tree to HOPE foundation of St. Croix Valley (see above Pastor's report)

Refugees are coming to Fort McCoy from Afghanistan. Christine Anderson made a motion to send \$400 donation to LIRS (see pastor's report above). Motion seconded by Debbie Wickstrom. Motion carried.

Propane pre-pay: Motion was made to pre-buy 1400# at the Church and 850# at the parsonage at a rate of \$1.49/pound. Motion passed unanimously.

Welcome Baskets or "Just Because" baskets were brought up as a way to welcome new neighbors to the community or to cheer someone's day "just because". Debbie and Pastor will start organizing. They are looking for donations to purchase a few baskets to fill and have on hand.

Motion to adjourn was made by Robin Denver and seconded by Chris Wetzel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21st at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes August 12, 2021

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Tim Frendt, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer, Pastor Diane House.

Members Absent: Felicia Braastad, Keith Ward, Ryan Braastad.

The meeting was called to order by Pastor Diane, who led the meeting in Keith's absence.

Prayer and Devotions: Led by Pastor Diane.

Secretary's Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes from the Georgetown Church Council meeting of July 15, 2021. Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as written. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for July 1 – 31, 2021. The net operating fund balance is \$13,576.66. Some of the Youth Activity Fund was used to pay for kids going to camp. There was much discussion about the upcoming increased cost of propane and how we should approach a new contract. Current prices are \$1.61 a gallon for a pre-paid amount and \$1.71 a gallon for a monthly contract. Further discussion will take place under New Business. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared the names of church members that need our prayers in the coming days. We will have a joint worship service with Trinity on Sunday, August 22 at the Hunky Dory Resort at 9:45 am. We need to bring our own chairs and a picnic lunch if desired. The last Sunday of August, Pastor will be officiating a wedding. Pastor read some information from Polk County Mental Health describing some of their efforts in our community. Upon hearing of all the things they are doing, a motion was made and seconded to send them \$150.00 from the Memorial Fund. In addition, whatever money is collected in the Blessing Bucket for the remaining Sundays in August will be sent to them. Motion carried. Pastor shared a proposed schedule of Christian education for Wednesdays throughout the 2021-2022 school year. She also shared a list of youth from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade at both churches. She has purchased 10 catechisms for Confirmation.

Old Business:

1. Rennie request for building use.
Sherry sent a request for more information and has received no response as yet.
2. Blake Lake request for building use.
Roberta is working with the group to provide breakfast as requested.
3. Funeral Committee/Event planner
There was much discussion about how the use of funeral homes has changed and what is being requested currently of our Pastor and from our church. Council members were asked to gather information from other churches about how they handle funerals and bring that back for discussion at our next meeting.
4. Follow up on Garage Sale/furniture donation
No new information at this time.



5. Revisit COVID-19 protocol.
Council members are monitoring current information for Polk County and will adjust as necessary.
6. Update on electronic sign.
It seems that the sign is working currently.
7. Update on Sunday School
No update. We will revisit next meeting.
8. Review of camera usage.
Discussion took place regarding what is being filmed for our on-line services. Concern was expressed about how members feel when they appear in the footage on-line. The suggestion was made to create a sign for the door that tells church service attendees that the service is being filmed.

New Business:

1. Annual Review.
Stephanie presented a timeline for the Pastor's annual performance review process. She also handed out a copy of the "Annual Review Discussion Points" for the Council to consider and review at the next meeting.
2. Pie and Pickle Fund Raiser.
Jody Benefit presented information about the proposed Church Lady fundraiser, "Pies and Pickles", scheduled for September 25, 2021 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at Luke's Sunny Saloon on Blake Lake. There will be no snacks provided this year and the group providing music in the past is not available. Additional fundraising opportunities will be a 50/50 pot shared with the food pantry in Luck and the opportunity to win miscellaneous baskets of assorted items. The meat raffle will include the opportunity to win some of Charlotte's pickles. We will need to bring tables and chairs. A motion was made and seconded to approve the plans for the Church Lady Fundraiser. Motion carried.
3. Review the Building Use Request form
Discussion took place about the information requested on our current form. No action was taken.
4. Church secretary discussion
Pastor mentioned that Jeanne Johnson is mailing out the monthly newsletter, at her own expense, to Church members that have requested it. The subject of ordering and keeping track of office supplies was mentioned as an issue. No action was taken.
5. Other business
Discussion resumed about how to handle the purchase of propane for the coming year. A motion was made and seconded to pay the pre-buy contract for 2021-22 of \$2865.63 at the rate of \$1.61 per gallon.

Open Discussion: Sherry mentioned that our fire district has changed from Milltown to Apple River.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 pm

Georgetown Financial Report

Treasurer's Report

July 1 - 31, 2021

Opeining Balance July 1, 2021 **\$38,517.00**

July Income

Offering \$4,349.00

Memorial Fund \$850.00

TOTAL INCOME **\$5,199.00**

\$43,716.00

July Expenses **\$5,195.48**

Closing Balance July 31, 2021 **\$38,520.52**

Budget 2021 \$67,060.64

Needed Weekly \$1,289.63

Offering Through July 31, 2021 **\$34,142.50**

Budgeted offering to date \$38,688.90

Ahead/Behind Budget **-\$4,546.40**

Offering:

4-Jul \$1,004.00

11-Jul \$700.00

18-Jul \$1,430.00

25-Jul \$1,215.00

\$4,349.00

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund \$2,832.19

Memorial Fund \$3,546.69

Blacktop Fund \$18,122.59

Blessing Bucket Fund \$442.39

7/31/21

Funds totals **\$24,943.86**

NET OPERATING FUNDS **\$13,576.66**