



Church Newsletter October 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

October WOW Wednesday and Youth and Family Night:

Wednesday, October 6th from 5:45-7:30 there will be Godly Play and a service opportunity at Georgetown Lutheran Church. Come for a light supper and then kids K-6th Grade will hear a Godly Play story with Christine Anderson. Children of God from 7th grade and up will help pack health kits to send to places in need such as areas of the US that are recovering from recent hurricane damage.

Wednesday, October 27th is Youth and Family Night. Trinity Lutheran will be hosting **Trunk or Treat** in the parking lot from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Make plans to decorate a trunk and give out a treat or put on a costume and join in the fun receiving treats! Everyone is welcome! Invite a friend or two to come along!

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Train children in the right way; and when old, they will not stray.” Proverbs 22: 6

As I am pondering the

important task of faith formation, and passing on Christian faith to new generations, I read and want to share with you the following from the Lutheran Study Bible (New Revised Standard Version) with you. The notes in the margin of my Lutheran Study bible ask the following:

“Proverbs 22: 6 Train children: this oft-quoted (and optimistic) proverb emphasizes the importance of early foundations. Who provided or who provides you with clear direction in your life? If you are looking for such guidance, where can you find it?”

I wonder how many of you in our congregations would answer “the church community” to these questions? At our recent orientation meeting for confirmation/affirmation of faith class, I handed out Martin Luther’s small catechism. The students and parents are expected to look this book over together at home. Luther wrote the catechism to help parents teach their children about the “basics” of the Christian faith using a question and answer format to study the Ten Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. These are important foundations to the living out of our faith.

As I ponder that meeting and ponder teaching confirmation this year, I am prayerfully hoping to strengthen the communication between church and home. I hope to encourage parents and students to take the time to discuss what they are learning together. For the parents, this is your opportunity to help your students understand your commitment to God and to living out your faith in God in your life. You are the first and most important mentors in your child’s life.

As your pastor, I will support you in any way I can and will of course, guide the Christian education of the congregation. The most important thing to keep in mind is that Christian education is ongoing as we continually discuss together and discover together what God is calling us to do in our lives and in our community.

If you have never participated in bible study, maybe you would consider joining in the studies offered throughout the church year. It is a good way to build on and maintain a foundation of faith. If you are not participating in worship regularly, maybe you would consider attending one more Sunday a month than you currently do. Staying connected to God through worship is an important way to strengthen and sustain your faith.

If you haven’t participated in fellowship, maybe you would consider joining us for WOW Wednesdays, Youth and Family night, or any other opportunities that will be offered throughout the year. Staying connected to your faith community is an important way to build and maintain supportive relationships.

I really believe that it “takes a village” to raise children. The “village” of the church community should be a committed and supportive place for us to develop, strengthen, guide, and support children of God at all ages. How well this happens is up to the people who make up that village. I encourage you to think of the ways you are willing to mentor and shape the faith life of the children in our congregations. I also encourage you to ponder your relationship to God and to your neighbor. How can you be an example of faith in your daily living?

Blessings on your own pondering, Pastor Diane

Opportunities for Study and Fellowship!

Children of God of all ages are invited to join in on the first and last Wednesdays of the month starting in October! Look over the following schedule to see when and where you can join in for Godly Play and Bible study and for 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~

Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic hope for Today Bible Study

Have you ever thought that you would like to study the book of Revelation? Do you see Revelation as a prophecy of or a road map to the “End of the World!”? Many Christians are intimidated by this amazing, often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, *Revelation* ultimately is a book of hope that sustains those who are oppressed. In the nine lessons of this bible study, Lutheran pastor and seminary professor, Barbara Rossing leads us to a renewed creation in which God comes to live with us on earth. This hope-filled vision speaks to us in the mist of the urgent crises of our day. In a time when all creation stands at a turning point, *Revelation* can help guide the choices we make as we seek to live into the renewal that God promises for our world.

The Bible study will meet on Mondays, starting October 4 at two different times and locations. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at Georgetown Lutheran Church and at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in McKinley. Choose the time and place that works best for you and join us!



Trinity's Endowment Fund Accepting Initial Gift Applications Until November 1

Trinity's Endowment Fund is currently accepting Application Forms for distribution from the Fund. Deadline for application is November 1. Application Forms are posted on the kiosk in the entryway of church. Because of donor restrictions, applications are only being accepted for distributions that will benefit Trinity Church or its members.

All applicants will have an interview with the Fund's Committee. Following those interviews, the Committee will recommend distribution(s) to the Church Council. Upon Council approval, the recommendation(s) for approval will be forwarded to the January 2022 Annual Meeting for final approval.

The amount of this year's distribution(s) is determined by the Fund's balance on December 31, 2020, which was \$53,065.19. The Committee has authorization by its Bylaws to distribute from four to five percent of this amount, or \$2,122.60 up to \$2,653.25.

Any questions regarding the application or distribution should be directed to the Committee's Chair, Gurine Gall, (715) 986-4457 .

~Even **MORE** Announcements~

Trinity's Mission of the Quarter for October-December: Hope Foster Care Closet

What is a Foster Care Closet, you might be asking? The Hope Foster Care Closet is a store where foster youth can come and shop for brand new items they need and want, free of charge. Offering this opportunity sends an encouraging message to the kids who come to shop that they are deprived of new items that they choose themselves. By providing choices the children are empowered during a time in their lives where they felt helpless and not in control.

On Sunday, November 14th the family that created and runs this ministry will be offering a presentation in worship at Trinity's worship service. Please come and hear more about this amazing ministry in Polk County and how you can help support this outreach effort to children in our community.

ANNUAL SPRING GARAGE SALE

We are looking for individuals who are willing to help set up and work during the days of spring garage sale. May involve moving donated items before sale. Usually end of April or 1st part of May. Please contact Roberta Hansen at (715) 553-0007.

Homemade Pie and Lefse Sale

HAPPENING IN **NOVEMBER**

Anyone willing to bake homemade pies (tins will be provided) please call:
Chris Wetzel at (715) 651-4339



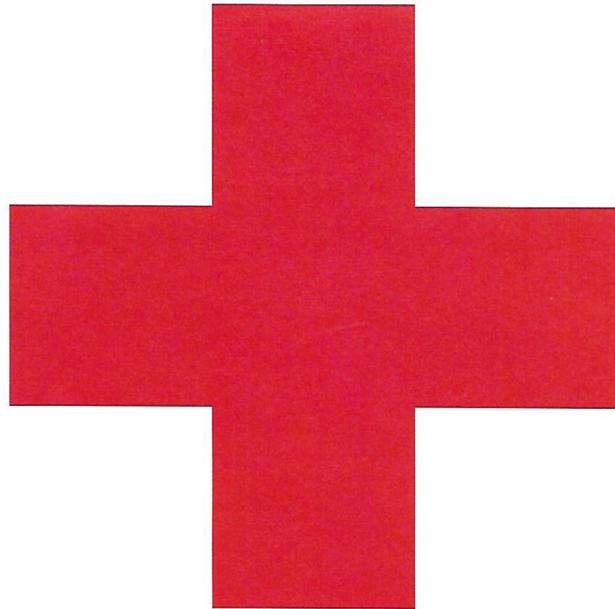
I would like to thank everyone who made the carnival a huge success. Thank you for the donations of prizes, food, and help before, after and the day of the carnival. The weather was great and the kids had a lot of fun and won some great prizes.

Debbie Wickstrom

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)

Tuesday, November 2, 2021
12:30 p.m. to 6:30 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

© 2016 The American National Red Cross



Georgetown Lutheran Church

Annual Fall Dinner

877-190th Avenue

Balsam Lake (Fox Creek)

Sunday, October 17, 2021

11:45 am to 1:30 pm

MENU

Homemade Swedish Meatballs

Mashed Potatoes/Gravy

Corn & Baked Beans

Coleslaw *Char's pickle* *Bun*

Homemade slice of pie, your choice Apple or Pumpkin

Adults: \$10.00 Children 5 – 12: \$6.00 4 & Under: FREE

NEW & IMPROVED

Drive – Thru meal only!

SALE ITEM

Meatballs/with gravy (1# bag) \$6.00

THRIVENT FINANCIAL ACTION PROJECT



Trinity Church Council Minutes

September 21, 2021

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

Prior to the council meeting there was a presentation and conversation with H.O.P.E. (Helpful Opportunities for People Everywhere) a non-profit Foster Care Closet that works with Polk County to provide foster youth with a chance to shop for brand new items they may need and want. Chris Wetzel organized this meeting and we are excited to partner with this group to gather donations from the congregation as our Oct-December “mission of the month”. HOPE was started by a group of young people who have been part of the foster care system and identified a need in Polk County. These extraordinary kids are currently ages 10-17 and operate their own non-profit organization. We are happy to have this group come to Trinity on a Sunday morning in November to tell us about this ministry.

Devotions led by Pastor Diane.

Meeting called to order by Steven Anderson.

Reports:

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

Treasurer's Report: Kathy is absent and provided the monthly profit/loss statement for Aug 15-Sept 15.

Monthly Income	\$2,722.70
Monthly Expenses	-\$8,124.13
	-\$5,401.43

During August pre-payment was made for propane and financial support to the NW synod and Mission giving donations were made. This accounts for our increase in expenses for the month. TLC Checking has \$2,245.71.

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

Kathy and Steve are continuing to look for church specific software that is simple and affordable.

Pastor's Report:

Septic Pumping Notice arrived in the mail. Christine will follow-up.

Luther Parkd Bible Camp is looking for a contact person from each congregation to help improve communication between camp and congregation.

Bone Lake Lutheran has invited us to their “Trunk or Treat” on October 30 from 12-2pm in their parking lot.

Trinity Trunk or Treat will be on Wednesday evening, October 27th

WOW update on Oct. 6, the group will be assembling School kits!

Innovative Leadership Retreat Pastor Diane will attend the retreat in Trego Sept 22-24.

Collaborative High School Youth group A few congregations in the area (Joy, Luck, Bone Lake,

Cushing, etc.) are discussing working together to have area youth activities each month or quarter. Trinity is interested when these gatherings can be outdoors.

Parsonage Bathroom repair Huge thanks to Steve and Roberta Hanson for repairing the downstairs bathroom in the parsonage!!

Tragedy Council expressed concern for the family and friends of Jesse Lueck from Luck/Osceola.

Old Business

Covid Update: Council reviewed the current numbers in Polk and Barron county. The numbers of weekly cases continue to climb, we are currently half of where we were at the highest point in Nov. 2020. Barron county is recommending vaccinations for all that are able and masks indoors in areas of high transmission (which we are currently). 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.

A motion was made by Steve Anderson and seconded by Lacy Sellent to keep most of the current practices in place with a few cautionary adjustments. The adjustments will be that the communion servers will wear masks (because of the close conversation during distribution) and outdoor fellowship or physical distance inside. Motion carried and council will continue to monitor the situation in our counties.

Youth: Lacy is looking into Roadside Clean up and Haunted Woods in October.

Virtual Services: Christine used part of the grant money from the synod to purchase a new camera for recording/streaming our worship services and other events.

Community Carnival was a lot of fun. Attendance was down, but those that came had a great time. Thanks to ALL the many people who helped out. So many individuals and groups were a part of the day; WELCA donated money, people donated time and prizes. It was truly a whole church effort!

Lefse/Pie Orders: Chris Wetzel is organizing a Lefse and Pie event for the Thanksgiving holidays. She has some donations lined up and will put more information in the newsletter. Congregation members can volunteer to make pies or lefse and other members can pre-order for their Thanksgiving dinner or holiday gathering. Orders may begin around Nov. 1st.

Portico Insurance: Church treasurers will communicate about pastors health insurance choice that must be made in October.

Welcome baskets: Debbie has contacted a few people about donations for a “Just Because basket” or “Welcome basket” for people in our community. We are looking for donations to purchase baskets. They will be filled with items “just because” or items to welcome new residents to the community.

Nitrate in Water: Culligan out of Rice Lake gave a proposal for whole building and one

location nitrate filtration systems. Council is considering a one location system, but has a few more questions before making the final decision. Options include purchasing our own and renting from Culligan. Either way we will need to have a maintenance plan in place to replace filters regularly. Christine will follow up with Culligan and bring the updated information to the October meeting.

Bats: We will be meeting with a pest company from Rice Lake to get an estimate on getting the bats out of the attic as well as cleaning up the space. They will be here on Monday, September 27th. Christine will bring the estimate to the October Council meeting.

Annual review: The annual review form was passed out. Council members are asked to reflect on what things are going well and what things need improvement in the area of worship, faith formation and responding to community needs over the past year. Bring your thoughts to the October meeting.

New Business:

Trees: Ed Ditbrenner has offered to replace the tree in front of the church. Thank you!

Motion to adjourn was made by Robin Denver and seconded by Lacy Sellent. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting will be on Tuesday, October 19th at 6:30pm.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson



Georgetown Church Council Meeting Minutes September 16, 2021

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Felicia Braastad, Judy Gammel, Keith Ward, Ryan Braastad, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer, Pastor Diane House.

Members Absent: Gretchen Frendt, Tim Frendt, Bruce Peper.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Led by Pastor Diane.

Secretary's Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes from the Georgetown Church Council Meeting of August 12, 2021. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as read. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta passed out the Treasurer's Report for August 1-31, 2021. The net operating fund balance is \$10,929.47 which is down from last month due to the payment of \$2,782.18 for the propane contract for the winter. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: The Apple River Pastor's Conference was moved to Georgetown at the last minute and our ladies group served lunch, which was very well received. Pastor reminded the Council of the Community Carnival to be held at Trinity on Saturday, September 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. There will be games and prizes and food, all free. There will also be a Dunk Tank including Pastor Diane as the dunkee. On September 20th Pastor will be attending a Candidacy meeting that will include two internships and one applicant. Confirmation orientation included 11 students from Trinity and Georgetown. The next meeting will be on September 29th at Georgetown. Pastor will be leading a Bible Study beginning Monday, October 4th for 9 weeks, studying the Book of Revelations. Bible Study will be held at Georgetown at 9:30 am and at Trinity at 7:00 pm. An optional book is available for purchase. Pastor will be attending an educational retreat on September 22 at the Heartwood Conference Center. Pastor mentioned several church members who we should keep in our prayers in the coming days.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: Stephanie shared some information about how area churches handle funerals to be held at the church. The suggestion was made that new Council members would benefit from having copies of the Bylaws and Rules of the Council.

Deacons: Felicia and Gretchen plan to discuss the future of Sunday School.

Trustees: There is a leak in the sink in the kitchen which will require a plumber. The outside light is erratic and doesn't come on at times. The timers on some of the lights are inconsistent.

Old Business:

1. Furniture donation: Ryan will contact the furniture donor when we have more information about an upcoming Garage Sale. Roberta offered to put a request in the newsletter for a volunteer to work on the Garage Sale.
2. Revisit COVID-19 protocol: Much discussion took place regarding current recommendations for wearing masks. It was mentioned that Barron County has one of the highest incidents of COVID. Discussion took place about the Church Lady

3. Fundraiser, “Pies and Pickles”, planned for September 25th. A motion was made and seconded to cancel the Fundraiser due to the concern about COVID. Motion carried.
4. Update on Sunday School: No information at this time.
5. Stained Glass window update: There is a new method to repair to window.
6. Performance evaluation: Discussion took place around the suggested areas for the Congregation including contacting members that are ill and encouraging the congregation to be aware of members that need our prayers. We were reminded that the member directory update was postponed due to COVID. Discussion took place about alternative methods to update the directory, such as digitally.

New Business:

1. Solar power – feasibility: There was much discussion about the possibility of looking into solar power for the future. Pastor mentioned that West Denmark Church is currently using solar power and would be a resource. Steve Anderson, Chair of the Trinity Church Council, would also be a resource for information as his business, Anderson Maple Syrup, utilizes solar power.
2. Trash Pick up: Our current status of no trash pick up was discussed. No change recommended. Willing members will be asked to take trash home.
3. Black Top Proposal: Roberta brought to the Council a proposal/contract from Monarch Paving Company to black top the parking lot, Option 1 & 2, which includes the parking lot and the driveway by the kitchen door. She shared with the Council that we have received a donation of \$12,000 to the Black Top Fund which brings the balance to \$30,256.71. The Monarch proposal for Option 1 & 2 totals \$32,366.40. That leaves a remaining balance of \$2,109.69 to be made up with other funds. A motion was made and seconded to accept the bid from Monarch for Option 1 & 2. Motion carried. The work will be done this fall, weather permitting.

Open Discussion: The Fall Dinner is scheduled for Sunday, October 17, 2021 and will be drive through only. Members will be asked to donate apple and pumpkin pies. Meatballs will be made on October 9 and 16 at the church and volunteers are needed. More information to come.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Council Meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church			
Treasurer's Report			
August 1-31, 2021			
<u>Opening Balance August 1, 2021</u>			
			\$38,520.52
<u>August Income</u>			
Offering		\$4,489.28	
Blacktop Fund		\$350.00	
Blessig Bucket		\$85.73	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4,925.01	
			\$43,445.53
<u>August Expenses</u>			
		\$7,352.35	
<u>Closing Balance August 31, 2021</u>			
			\$36,093.18
Budget 2021		\$67,060.64	
Needed Weekly		\$1,289.63	
Offering Through August 31, 2021		\$38,631.78	
Budgeted offering to date		\$45,137.05	
Ahead/Behind Budget		-\$6,505.27	
<u>Offering:</u>			
	1-Aug	\$680.00	
	8-Aug	\$1,008.00	
	15-Aug	\$597.00	
	22-Aug	\$1,100.00	
	29-Aug	\$1,104.28	
			\$4,489.28
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Youth Activities Fund		\$2,832.19	
Memorial Fund		\$3,546.69	
Blacktop Fund		\$18,256.71	
Blessing Bucket Fund		\$528.12	8/31/21
Funds totals			\$25,163.71
NET OPERATING FUNDS		\$10,929.47	