



Church Newsletter
November 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

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Georgetown

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Trinity

2502 E. Grenquist Lake Ln.
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November Christian Education Schedule for Wednesdays:

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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason, they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

Revelation 7: 13-17

These words from Revelation are used at funerals. Most recently I spoke these words at the graveside of Roland Renstrom. The Sunday following Roland’s funeral two young people from Trinity’s congregation put on robes of white and confessed and affirmed their faith in similar promises of faith made for them at their baptism.

The very next day, Monday, bible study was held that discussed this book of “Revelation.” In this study, I think we are gradually coming to appreciate the book as a book of comfort and hope. The kind of comfort, encouragement, and hope that can help us live through “ordeals” of our time.

The first Sunday of November is a time to remember the saints of the church, those who have died and now rest in God’s promise of eternal life. I have been pondering the example of some of these saints, like Roland Renstrom. Saints who were instrumental in passing on the faith in many ways. How thankful I am for them and for the saints in my own life that were instrumental in my life of faith.

As we gather for worship, study, and fellowship I ponder how we can all be examples of faith. I ponder ways we can encourage each other to keep the faith during individual “ordeals” and community “ordeals.” What ways can we reach out to others to share the good news of comfort, encouragement, and hope?

I hope and pray that each of you will join me in this pondering. I hope and pray that each of you will discover saints to be thankful for. I hope and pray that each of you will discover ways God is calling you to be a saint to your neighbor in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Diane

~Announcements~

Trinity Special Congregational Meeting on Nov. 7th Immediately following worship

Trinity has bats in our attic storage area. Some of the Sunday School Christmas Program and Carnival supplies have been destroyed because of the bats and guano in the attic. The council made the decision to pay Prompt Action Pest Control to remove the bats. The cost was \$1200. This needed to be done quickly before the bats hibernated in our attic over winter. Now we are turning to the congregation for the next steps. What has been done: A one way "door" has been installed in 2 places that will allow bats to exit the building but not be able to get back in. Additional potential entry points have been identified and sealed. This exclusion process usually takes a few weeks and is guaranteed by Prompt Action for 2 years from this coming spring. Guarantee in effect until April 2024.

What council is asking: Our constitution requires the council get approval from the congregation to "enter into contracts over \$1000 for items not included in the budget."

1. Council is seeking congregational approval to pay Prompt Action Pest Control \$1900 for guano clean up and sanitizing of the attic area. This is recommended to be completed 30 days or more after the bat exclusion.
2. Council is asking to discuss prevention at the annual meeting in January. Preventative measures include installing a ridge guard on the roof to prevent bats from entering the most common way. Estimated cost is approximately \$3600.

Why: Attic storage space has been used to store materials for Sunday School programs and summer carnival. Some of this has been destroyed due to bat and guano contamination. Bat guano releases spores when disturbed which can infect human lungs. Clean up should be completed by people wearing HEPA filter masks.

Attention Women of Trinity!

Women of Trinity, quilting Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021. We will start at 8:30 and go until 2:30. Come when you can and leave when you must. Lite lunch will be provided. We will also decide on our charitable giving. Discussion of December Christmas brunch is on the calendar also.

Pie/Lefse Sale

Sign up to purchase homemade pie and/or lefse!!

Sale starts Nov. 1st.

All orders are pre-paid and limited to availability!

Sign-up sheet posted at the church.

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO ELCA WORLD HUNGER

MUST PICK UP PIE/LEFSE ON WED. NOV. 24TH between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Trinity Church Council Minutes

October 19, 2021

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

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 read by Chris Wetzel and seconded by Robin Denver. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Thrivent members can contribute to our congregation by designating their annual grant payment. Trinity received such a donation recently, Kathy explained this process and we thank the members who have made this donation.

Trinity also recently received a grant from the NW Synod of Wisconsin to help pay for video equipment. This has not been spent yet.

Monthly Income	\$7,746.95 (includes \$3000 technology grant)
Monthly Expenses	-\$4,694.74
	\$3,052.21

TLC Checking has \$8723. Trinity MIF has \$33,000.

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

Pastor's Report:

Water Stain The previous roof leak into the furnace room has been addressed. Discussion about how to treat the water stain in the ceiling of the furnace room. It is possible there is condensate from the air exchanger.

Trunk or Treat will be Wednesday, October 28th from 6-7:30pm.

Confirmation Sunday is October 24th for Landon Wickstrom and Mya Anderson.

Funeral for Roland Renstrom. Discussion about Covid precautions (see update in next section)

Old Business

Covid Update: Council reviewed the current numbers in Polk and Barron county. The numbers of weekly cases remain high, but thankfully we have seen a two week decline. Barron county is recommending vaccinations for all that are able and masks indoors in areas of high transmission (which we are currently). The discussion led us to continue to have communion servers wear masks during distribution. Signs will be changed to remind people that large indoor gatherings present more risk and therefore masks are recommended.

Youth: Haunted Woods will be October 30th starting at 6pm at Sellent's woods.

Virtual Services: Services should be uploaded to YouTube as well as Facebook.

Endowment: It is time to award money from the endowment fund. Applications are requested to be turned in by Nov. 1st. We have around \$2500 to give out, and so far no applications. This

money can be spent to support the work of “Trinity and its members”. Disbursements must be approved by the congregation at the annual meeting.

Lighting: Dustin Schell will be helping us install the LED lights in the fellowship area and the external motion light as soon as he has time.

Web Site/Social Media: Steve has drafted a list of “opportunities for giving” to post. The idea is to provide people trusted organizations looking for donations. There would be 4 categories (Trinity, Local Community, NW Synod of WI, and ELCA/Global. Please bring ideas for organizations to a council member.

Lefse/Pie Orders: Chris Wetzel is organizing a Lefse and Pie event for the Thanksgiving holidays. Funds raised will be donated to ELCA World Hunger. 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 Nov. 1st and pick up on Nov. 24th at church. Chris will put more information in the newsletter.

Church Use Policy: Is being revisited. Christine talked with Deedra Wagner and will add suggestions to next draft.

Just Because baskets: or “Welcome basket” will be filled with items “just because” or items to welcome new residents to the community. We are looking for donations to purchase baskets.

Nitrate in Water: We have estimates from Culligan in Rice Lake for rental or purchase of a filtration system. This will need to be addressed at the annual meeting.

Palt Dinner: Planning to hold it in March 2022. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

Bats: Bat exclusion will be started on Oct. 20th. The constitution requires congregational approval of expenditures over \$1000. Therefore, we will have a special congregational meeting on Nov. 7th after church to discuss paying the same company to complete the guano clean up in the attic. The price for clean-up and sanitation is \$1900

HOPE group will be at Trinity on Nov. 14th to explain the store for Foster Families. This group of kids have been adopted out of foster care and are working to provide other kids benefits that they had when needing to move quickly out of their homes. This is our mission of the quarter and will be a wonderful opportunity for us to learn about and help kids in need.

Copier at Trinity: Do we need our own copier at Trinity? There are times we need to make copies for funerals/events, treasurer reports, endowment letters, etc.

Annual review: Council members took a good amount of time to discuss things that are going well and what things need improvement in the area of worship, faith formation and responding to community needs. Notes from this conversation will be given to council president who will compile them with the notes from Georgetown discussion and shared with the pastor.

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council meeting will be a joint meeting with Georgetown, date to be set at their council meeting.

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

Georgetown Church Council Minutes

October 21, 2021

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Felicia Braastad, Gretchen Frendt, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Tim Frendt, Keith Ward, Roberta Hansen, Treasurer, Pastor Diane House.
Members Absent: Ryan Braastad.

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 September 16, 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 September 1 – 30, 2021. The net operating fund balance as of September 30, 2021 was \$8,703.33. Roberta pointed out that the weekly offering has not met the proposed weekly budgeted amount. We received a Thank You from the Polk County Mental Health Task Force for the donation of \$190.00. The Fall Dinner served 352 meals and brought in \$5,724.00 for both dinners and meatballs. We also received \$670.00 in donations. Someone also paid for 10 meals to be donated. Congratulations were offered to everyone that worked on the Fall Dinner and contributed to the smoothness of serving on Sunday. Roberta suggested that we get a savings account to hold the funding for the black top project, being that the project will not be completed until spring. A motion was made and seconded to move the money from the black top fund into a savings account. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: We have received a request to transfer Doug Jensen's membership to Balsam Lake Lutheran Church. We have the opportunity to work with the Luck School FFA to purchase poinsettias through them. We discussed the possibility of bringing the Hope Foundation of Polk County, which is a 501C3 organization working with foster children and families, to a future presentation to the congregation on Sunday morning. Judy Gammel volunteered to contact the organization to plan for a future visit. Discussion took place regarding clarification of the license numbers needed for streaming our Church services on YouTube.
Pastor mentioned several church members that need our prayers at this time.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: Sherry shared an information sheet that could be provided to families requesting a funeral at Georgetown Church.

Deacons: There is a plan to meet after church on Sunday to discuss the future of Sunday School. There was discussion about the need for Sunday School and the popularity of WOW Wednesdays and how they might meet the needs of families.

Trustees: The kitchen sink has been fixed. The stained glass window has been repaired. There is a need to replace the heater in the bathroom by the kitchen. There was discussion about whether the furnaces needed to be checked before winter. Bruce has re-booted the outdoor sign to see if that might be successful. He will contact the sign manufacturer in California.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – The numbers of cases seem to be coming down but they are still high. We need to continue our precautions.
2. Update on Sunday School – under discussion
3. Update on stain glass repair – repair complete
4. Performance evaluation – Two questions were discussed: 1. What is going well? 2. What could we do better or change? Sherry brought a completed form to the group for discussion which will be shared at the Joint Council meeting in November.
5. Blacktop update – The blacktop will be completed in the spring.
6. Annual Church Garage Sale – Roberta put a notice in the Church newsletter and one person volunteered to help next spring.

New Business:

1. Joint meeting of Georgetown and Trinity Church councils – Georgetown Church will be hosting the joint meeting which was planned for Tuesday, November 16 at 5:30 pm. Plans were made to provide for a meal for the two councils along with the meeting.
2. Discussion took place regarding having Communion available every week. A motion was made and seconded that we will begin to offer Communion every week as a part of the Church service. Motion carried.
3. Semi-annual Church cleaning – There is a need to arrange for semi-annual cleaning of fans, vents, etc. that are not currently being accomplished by the Shepherding Groups. We discussed hiring a professional cleaning organization to accomplish that work. Felicia and her daughter, Mercedes, offered to do the cleaning.

Open Discussion: None

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Joint Council Meeting with Trinity scheduled for Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 5:30 PM at Georgetown



