



Church
Newsletter
January 2122

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
GEORGETOWN LUTHERAN CHURCHES

TRINITY AND

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

TAKE A
LEAP OF
FAITH
& BEGIN THIS
WONDROUS
NEW YEAR
BY BELIEVING.

Sarah Ban Breathnach

Contact Information

Pastor Diane

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Georgetown

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Trinity

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Wednesday Night Christian Education Schedule for 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

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“[Make me to know your ways](#), O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been of old.” Psalm 25: 4-6

[Here in January](#), as I ponder the past year and begin to ponder the year ahead, I find myself a big exhausted. I bet many of you feel the same way. We have lived through year one more year of pandemic news, opinions, and health and safety protocols. We have lived through one more year of heavy news of political wrangling, school shootings and violence in our society, and even unusually severe weather producing storms that heavily damaged many areas in the United States and other places around the globe.

[There are so many voices](#) to pay attention to, so many opinions to weigh, so many people to pray for that it can become confusing and overwhelming. I think we all long for clarity. I think we all yearn for words and signs of hope.

[The words above from Psalm 25](#) are a prayer to God for guidance. In the swirl of overwhelming confusion, we look for guidance. As a community of believers we look first and always to God for this guidance. God's love for us is steadfast, merciful, and reliable.

[As we begin another year of ministry together](#), let us begin in prayer to God for guidance. Let us be ever mindful of God's calling to love and serve God and each other. May we prayerfully listen to each other in the spirit of reconciliation and community so that together as a church we may be an example of faithfulness.

[Much is uncertain about how the pandemic](#) will continue to affect our ability to gather together in the near future. We hope to continue to worship regularly, offer hospitality and opportunities for fellowship and study. We will continue to weigh all the factors and offer these opportunities as safely as possible. Much is uncertain, but what *is* certain is God's love and guidance. What is always certain is that God loves the world and guides us to share that love with the world together in Jesus' name.

[Happy New Year!](#)

Pastor Diane

Youth Group Activities 2021

This past year wasn't "business as usual", but the youth were able to participate in a number of outdoor activities. One evening the kids pulled weeds, picked up sticks, and swept off the church patio—then played some soccer and croquet. Another time the kids got to build their own houses out of cardboard and camp out in the yard at church. Once they finished duct taping their shanties, there was time for some games. The favorite was the newly discovered bocce ball... in the dark!

Youth and their family and friends also had a fun evening at the Haunted Woods. With nearly 40 people in attendance, small groups took their turns walking the self-guided "haunted" trail. There was also a bonfire, spooky music, and individually wrapped snacks for those waiting to venture into the woods (or for those that made it back out).

There were also two days (one in the spring, one in the fall) where youth helped pick up along HWY 48. In the five months between these two dates, there had accumulated: 4 bags of trash, 2 bags of aluminum cans, and half a bag of recyclable plastic—all in a two mile stretch.

Thank you to all the youth, parents, and volunteers that helped to make these activities possible!

Lacy

2021 Youth Group Account

Checkbook Balance	1-1-21	\$1067.59
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Deposits

Total Deposits:	NONE
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Expenses

Total Expenses:	NONE
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Checkbook Balance	12-21-21	\$1067.59
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Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes December 16, 2021



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

Members Absent: Tim Frendt

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Led by Pastor Diane. Pastor Diane read from “Christmas is Not Your Birthday”.

Secretary’s Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes from the Georgetown Church Council Meeting of October 21, 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 November 1-30, 2021. The net operating fund balance as of November 30, 2021 was \$8,427.79. Roberta indicated that we continue to receive money for meatballs. We also received some income from Fellowship Hall use. There was discussion about member use of tables and chairs belonging to the Church and the wear and tear that may cause. Clarification is also needed on the Building Request form as to where the form and payment should be directed. The suggestion was made to add those instructions to the form itself. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor provided a calendar and family visitor update. Roberta and Sherry were thanked for setting up the printer that was donated by Steve and Roberta. A group from Georgetown participated, with other churches, in a live Nativity program at Joy Lutheran Church in Centuria. There were live animals, music and snacks and they had a wonderful time. Both Pastor Diane and George have had their COVID boosters. The church service on Sunday, December 26th will be a service of lessons and caroles. Jeanne Johnson and Sherry are organizing the service and there will be no communion. Pastor would like to register for a Winter Theological event in Chetek on January 17th. The Annual Meeting for the church will be held on Sunday, January 16 and Annual reports from various groups need to be turned in by January 5.

Council Member Reports:

Elders:

Deacons: The meeting that was planned to discuss how to handle Sunday School has not happened as yet. Gretchen was thanked for her work in helping the children provide a wonderful program at the December 12 service.

Trustees: The furnaces in the ceiling may not be working properly and/or need filters. They may need to contact someone for an inspection and tune-up.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – people are being responsible for protecting themselves.
2. Furnace update – addressed in Council Members update
3. Other old business – Gretchen shared information about the “Super Bowl” soup tasting contest to be held on Sunday, February 6 at Georgetown. Trinity Church has been invited

to participate in the event which will be held from 11:45 – 1:30 pm. Anyone can bring their favorite soup in a crockpot, which will be sampled and voted on by the participants. Participants will have to buy tickets to sample as many soups as they would like and the proceeds will be divided between the Georgetown general fund and a non-profit organization of the winners choice.

New Business

- 1.** Hope Foundation – Pastor Diane elaborated about the presentation that the Hope Foundation gave at Trinity in November. The Hope Foundation is a charity organization that supports the foster youth of Polk County. They have fundraising events to provide for the needs of children that are in foster care. Trinity raised \$1100 in donations and received \$600 in gift cards that will allow the Hope Foundation to provide the children in foster care with special gifts during the holiday. Judy Gammel will connect with the Hope Foundation to determine what their needs might be during the spring and invite them to present at a church service.
- 2.** Nomination Committee – New Council members need to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on January 16, 2022. Stephanie offered to be on the Nomination Committee along with Charlotte Peper and Jeanne Ebert. Tim Frendt needs to come off the Council because he has already served two-three year terms. Stephanie and Gretchen are in their third year on the Council, but are eligible to continue for a second term. We need to present two names to be voted on for each position on the Council.
- 3.** Budget for 2022 – Discussion took place about the Proposed 2022 Budget that needs to be presented to the Congregation on January 16 at the Annual Meeting. Roberta presented a proposed budget that included current expenditures. The Council will have a special meeting on January 2, 2022 to approve the budget to be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- 4.** Annual Meeting – Planned for January 16, 2022. The Council discussed having a Pot Luck after the meeting but will finalize details at the January 2, 2022 meeting.
- 5.** Other New Business – Bruce indicated that the connector needed to connect the two computers to the printer would cost about \$190.00.

Next Meetings:

A special Council meeting will be held on Sunday, January 2, 2022 after church to discuss the details for the Annual Meeting.

February Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 17 at 6:30 pm
Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Georgetown Lutheran Church									
Treasurer's Report									
November 1 - 30, 2021									
<u>Opening Balance November 1, 2021</u>			\$18,320.20						
<u>November Income</u>									
Offering	\$2,930.00								
Blessing Bucket	\$185.00								
Fall Dinner	\$412.00								
Fellowship Hall Use	\$60.00								
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,587.00								
			\$21,907.20						
<u>November Expenses</u>			\$6,583.19						
<u>Closing Balance November 30, 2021</u>			\$15,324.01						
Budget 2021	\$67,060.64								
Needed Weekly	\$1,289.63								
Offering Through November 30, 2021	\$49,709.78								
Budgeted offering to date	\$61,902.24								
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$12,192.46								
<u>Offering:</u>									
	7-Nov	\$820.00							
	14-Nov	\$990.00							
	21-Nov	\$610.00							
	28-Nov	\$510.00							
		\$2,930.00							
<u>Fund Balances</u>									
Youth Activities Fund	\$3,332.19								
Memorial Fund	\$3,496.69								
Blacktop Fund	\$0.00								
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$67.34					11/30/21			
Funds totals			\$6,896.22						
<u>NET OPERATING FUNDS</u>			\$8,427.79						