

Church Newsletter
April 2022

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

God
proved
his love
on the
cross.

Contact Information

Pastor Diane
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Georgetown
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
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Trinity
2502 E. Grenquist Lake Ln.
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3001

Easter Sunday Worship:

7:00 a.m. at **Trinity** outdoor Sunrise Service
9:00 a.m. Festive Traditional Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt!
9:30 a.m. at **Georgetown** Easter Egg Hunt!
10:30 a.m. Festive Traditional Worship Service

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." John 11: 25-27

These words of Jesus are one of the ten times he uses the phrase, "I am" in the gospel of John. This is also how God responds to Moses in Exodus when Moses asks who he should say sent him to Pharaoh in Egypt. God responds with "I am" meaning that God will always be and act in ways that are indicative of God's character. God's identity is revealed through God's acts of saving grace and mercy.

John chapter eleven is the story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. In that act, Jesus is revealing his divine identity. Jesus acts to bring life back to his dead friend and hope back to his sisters, Mary and Martha. That act reflects Jesus' identity as our savior. Belief in Jesus and his identity as God, our Savior, restores life and hope.

It is remarkable that Martha can proclaim belief in Jesus as the resurrection and the life even while she is deeply grieving the death of her brother. She meets Jesus with all her confusion, questions, disappointment and grief and yet she can proclaim, "Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

Whatever struggles or difficulties we are facing, we can rely on Jesus to bring life and hope to us. We don't have to be afraid to express our doubts and fears to Jesus. Jesus is the one who holds onto us through the difficult times and brings us to the time when we can proclaim our belief.

April 17th is Easter Sunday. We will hear the story of God's victory over the darkest time of all, the death of Jesus. We will hear the story of the resurrection and celebrate the meaning of Jesus as the "resurrection and the life." We will proclaim our belief and give God thanks for this miraculous saving act of grace for all! I hope you will come. I hope you will come and meet Jesus with any doubt, grief, worry or concern you may carry. Come, worship and receive resurrection and new life! Come and give glory to God for this gift of grace.

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Diane



Easter Message from Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson
April 2022

2 Corinthians 5:17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Dear Northwest Synod of Wisconsin,

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! This is the good news of Easter. By God's power death is reversed and Christ is raised from the dead. Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything! Everything is made new.

Change is good news after two years of a pandemic, right? We are ready for a change. But are we really? Do we want everything to become new like we read in 2 Corinthians 5 or do we want the change to be a return to the old and familiar?

If Jesus' resurrection from the dead changes everything, then what has changed in your life? What difference does Jesus make in your life?¹ What has Jesus made new?

- What difference does Jesus make to my 35 year old nephew whose brain tumor came back, faces radiation treatments and is struggling with his ex for visitation of their three year old son?
- What difference does Jesus mean to our siblings in Malawi who are often threatened by drought, flood and famine or to Ukrainians whose homes were destroyed by a Russian bomb?
- What difference does Jesus make to a stable congregation deciding what their next most faithful step might be or to a declining congregation wondering if their next most faithful step is to close?

As Lutherans we believe that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we go under the water as a sinner and we are resurrected with Christ, lifted out of the water, a saint. We are changed for sure and we are reborn children of God! Theologically that's beautiful, but in real life, what difference does Jesus make in your life?

As human beings, Christ's resurrection from the dead challenges us to live into that change. As broken sinful humans, whose lives are "messed or mangled"² we live into Easter reality that Christ is present and daily working in our lives. Jesus challenges and changes us. Those of us who doubt our faith and question its relevance are challenged by Easter's promise to see and know God in the transformed lives around us.

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

Christ has risen and forever lives,
to challenge and to change.
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present,
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.

Friends we know that Jesus changes our weeping into laughing, our mourning into dancing, our despair into hope, our winter into spring and our death into life. Jesus changes things and makes all things new. We are challenged to see the transformations around us and in us. We are challenged to be the change, evidence of the transformation, for the world to see and know God through us.

¹ Challenge: In 24 words or less, answer this question, "What difference does Jesus make in your life?"

²Inspired by the Hymn, *Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers*, vs 4. All Creation Sings #938, ELW Supplement, Augsburg Fortress, 2020.

Holy Week and Easter Worship Information

Join us at Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran Churches for the rest of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter opportunities for worship and fellowship:

Schedule of Remaining Lenten Services:

March 30: Worship at Trinity at 7 p.m.
Welcome Pastor Marilyn or SAM Mary from Laketown Lutheran

April 6: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m.
Welcome Pastor Emily from Pilgrim and Bethany Lutheran churches

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, April 10:
7:30-10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast at Georgetown! Free will donations will benefit youth activities!
9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship at **Trinity**
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship at **Georgetown**

Maundy Thursday, April 14 at **Trinity** at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday, April 15 at **Georgetown** at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Worship:

7:00 a.m. at **Trinity** outdoor Sunrise Service
9:00 a.m. Festive Traditional Worship Service
10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt!
9:30 a.m. at **Georgetown** Easter Egg Hunt!
10:30 a.m. Festive Traditional Worship Service



~Announcements~

Youth Group Updates

Easter Egg Hunt to be held April 17 at 10am (outdoors, if weather permitting). Those interested in hiding the eggs will need to arrive prior to the 9am service.

Roadside cleanup will take place April 24--the Sunday after Earth Day. Meet following worship. Vests and bags will be provided.



We would like to thank Pastor Diane for the service for Michael (Mick) Ebert, the prayers and support. Sherry for playing, Dolly for singing, Gretchen and Emily for videoing the service and putting the pictures on video—the Georgetown Ladies and Men for the wonderful lunch and set up and clean up. Everyone for the cards, phone calls, prayers, hugs, sympathy, everyone who in all ways supported us during this difficult time. Mick is missed every day—his caring, kindness, wisdom, and love for all—and our children who helped us-me-in so many ways!

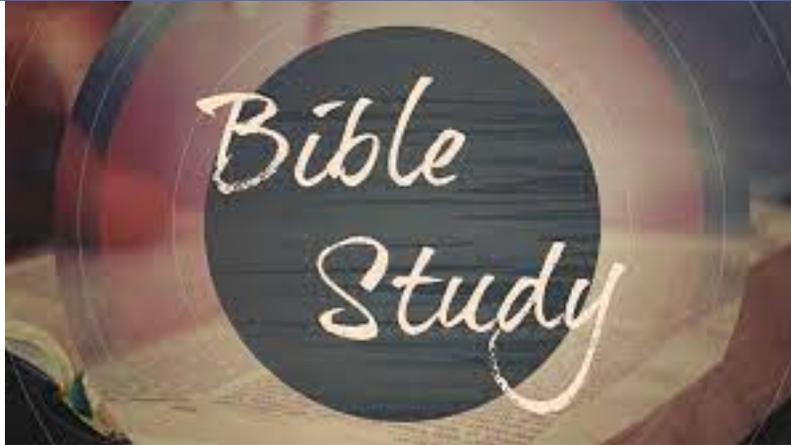
~Jean, Roy and family, Lynn and family, Jon and family

Hello people of Trinity Lutheran Church,

I just wanted to say thank you for the money from the endowment foundation, and I'm grateful for the support from this community through the years of schooling I did. I wanted to let everyone know that I graduated from UW-Stout in December with a major in Art Education and a minor in Studio Art - Printmaking. I plan on using the money from the endowment to get me started with my career and get me on my feet. I've also recently been looking at printmaking presses to help with another source of income in the off seasons of school.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness and making this a possibility.

~James Springsteen



**NEW BIBLE STUDY
1 & 2 Thessalonians**

April 18 and 25

The idea for this study began with a question by a regular study attendee: “What does it mean in 2 Thessalonians: ‘Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.’ ” In response, a two-week study of 1 and 2 Thessalonians will be held April 18 and 25. As usual, a morning session at 9:30 will be held at Georgetown and a 7:00 PM session will meet at Trinity. These studies are open to all and the shortness of the study will hopefully entice newcomers to dip a toe into Bible study, and perhaps become regular participants.

The first sessions on April 18 will cover the five chapters of 1 Thessalonians and the second sessions will study 2 Thessalonians. Study guides will be provided and will be available to those unable to attend (please contact Wayne Kendrick {715-822-3082 or wjkendrick@gmail.com} if unable to attend and desiring a study guide). Hoping for your participation.

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is for me a great joy and blessing to communicate to you that from March 10, my participation in the activities of the Neighbor-to-Neighbor Ministry has resumed.

I also want to express my sincere gratitude to all the congregations and individuals who, with their generosity, contributed not only to the continuity of this ministry, but also to the well-being of my children and myself. By thanking you, I am thanking God our Lord, because you embodied His holy presence in our lives by giving us hope and your support. I extend my gratefulness to the synod that was always attentive to us and the vitality of Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry. The reason I was not able to continue my call was an immigration status change that took the longest time it could take. In this context, let me remind you that I am originally from El Salvador, currently taking the CPE course at Wartburg Seminary to complete my deacon candidacy process.

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Ministry started in 2019, when I was still a student at Luther Seminary. Vecino a Vecino, the ministry's name in Spanish, has been developed with the purpose of building bridges of understanding and meaningful connections between the Latin American neighbors and the Lutheran community in the Eau Claire area. During that time, it was possible, with God's help and collaboration of some of you, to:

- ❖ Create scholarships for students who identify as Hispanic in the UWEC,
- ❖ Participate in the decisions of the health department to improve measures against COVID coverage,
- ❖ Hold some anti-racism sessions in churches,
- ❖ Create Facebook and YouTube pages in Spanish to share important information to the Latin American community,
- ❖ Coordinate activities with UW Extension, and more.

With the Holy Spirit guidance, and your support, Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry will:

- ❖ Continue to support scholarships at UWEC,
- ❖ Create the first 4H group for the Spanish-speaking community,
- ❖ Continue to support the anti-racism efforts that the synod is driving,
- ❖ Provide positive parenting program (Triple P) services entirely in Spanish to the Hispanic community; among others.

I invite you all to be part of the N2N ministry, since, although it has started in the Eau Claire area, the vision is to extend it to the synodal level. At the same time, I reiterate my readiness to work alongside you in:

- ❖ Worship services,
- ❖ Reading scriptures in Spanish (or in English with a Spanish accent)
- ❖ Bible studies
- ❖ Participating in anti-racism activities
- ❖ Preaching
- ❖ Sunday school,
- ❖ Supporting your congregations in your efforts to reach out your Hispanic neighbors,
- ❖ And any other ministries you can possibly need my collaboration.

Sincerely, Lídix Montoya.

Trinity Church Council Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
3-15-22

Present: Debbie Wickstrom, Shane Beecroft, Pastor Diane, Mandy Rouzer, Lacy Sellent, Rick Sellent, Chris Wetzel
Debbie opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Devotions and reading led by Pastor Diane.
Mandy was voted in as Secretary.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary's Report was given. Rick moved to accept, Shane 2nd, all approved, motion accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Income: \$4265.70
Monthly Expense: \$4153.01
Net Total: \$112.69
TLC Checking has \$4672.10
TLC Savings has \$1000
MI Fund has \$28,000
Chris made a motion to accept, Mandy 2nd, all approved.



Pastor's Report: Elliott and Evelyn Erickson received their first communion on Sunday. Sabrina Meddaugh wants to baptize Revlin on May 27th. Pastor is going to register for Synod Assembly via Zoom, it's \$50 split jointly. Lent is going and went really well last week at Georgetown. This week there will be an attendance sheet at the usher stand as well as sermon notes for the Confirmation kids. Pastor Mykayla will be here tomorrow.
Holy week and Easter Sunday -We will have our service, which will be a combo of Maundy Thursday/Good Friday on Thursday here at Trinity. It will start with the foot washing and go into the crucifixion at 7 p.m. Good Friday on Friday at Georgetown at 7 p.m.
We will have an Easter sunrise service at Trinity at 7 a.m., normal service at 9 a.m. and at Georgetown at 10:30.
A few years ago Pastor Diane was involved with a group working on sex trafficking. She was asked to be in a group that is involved with youth that are aging out of foster care and has agreed. Would involve getting grants to help these kids out so they don't fall into homelessness. It involves 12 counties in this area.
Pastor has been taking a class this year and the final retreat will be on April 21-23.
Christine got a grant for technology for our virtual services and it came from the Synod. We received a letter that they want to continue this endowment fund and increase it by \$125,000. The campaign kick-off starts at the Synod Assembly. It has already gifted over \$150,000. We were asked to contribute to the campaign either now or with a commitment for a future financial gift. Shane moved that we give \$300 to the endowment fund, Chris 2nd, approved.
Keep Richard and Joan Anderson in your prayers at the loss of their daughter. Keep Jan Clark in your prayers, surgery was successful but extensive. Keep Bill and Dorothea Beecroft in your prayers as well.

Youth Report: Easter egg hunt will be after the 9 a.m. service. If you can help hide after the 7 a.m. service that would be great. Earth Day is April 22nd. Road side clean-up needs to happen as well. Planning on doing a road-side clean-up after church on April 24th, this could include cleaning up around the church. Lacy Sellent would like to put a sign-up sheet at each church for people to put their birthdays and baptism days to put in the newsletter. This information would then go into the newsletter. If you want to help with this and/or if you want to give your dates to Lacy please contact her.

Old Business:

Palt Dinner will be on 3/27 from 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. Please see Judy if you are willing to help. It will be drive-up only. Work day will be on Saturday.

Star Link is \$99/month and is working well. Still waiting on mounting hardware.

Parsonage work/maintenance – to be discussed at next meeting and will pick a work day.

Lights – Glenn Greener has all of the lights switched to LED. THANK YOU, GLENN!! We still need someone to do the outside motion lights.

Covid 19 Update – we will no longer be wearing masks for communion. We will be putting the pews back to where they were. We will take the signs down. We will start using glass cups again for communion.

Website – Debbie will continue to give Brian updates.

Quarterly Mission – Starting in April we will be giving to Rice Lake Area Free Clinic, for three months.

Church Use Policy – Debbie got it from Christine. It will go on the website soon as well as there will be some copies at the church. There will also be a sign-up form.

Welcome Baskets – Debbie is wondering if the church would be willing to give \$ for gas cards.

Mandy moved to give Debbie \$500 for the “just because” baskets. Chris 2nd, approved.

Church Directory Pictures – Pictures will be Monday, June 27 at Trinity and Tuesday June 29 at Georgetown.

New Business:

Need to have storage for carnival games. Rick will look at some options for next council meeting.

April 26th will be our joint council meeting at 6 p.m. at Trinity with a meal first and meeting at 6:30.

Normal church council meeting will be April 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on a Chris/Mandy motion. Approved.

Respectfully, Mandy Rouzer

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022

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

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Led by Pastor Diane.

Pastor read information about the original Saint Patrick.

Secretary's Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes from the Georgetown Church Council Meeting of February 17, 2022. Pastor indicated that the schedule for pictures for the directory has changed to Monday, June 27 for Trinity and Tuesday, June 28 for Georgetown. 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 February 1-28, 2022. Roberta pointed out that the Opening Balance as of February 1, 2022 was \$12,612.61. Total income for the month was \$3,608.00 which included a Thrivent Grant designated by a church member. The Closing Balance on February 28, 2022 was \$10,896.16. We are currently behind budget by the amount of \$3,830.78 with net operating funds of \$3,265.93. Expenses were higher for the month due to a bill of \$650.00 for maintenance of the furnace. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that the Lenten service at Trinity went well. She also had a nice service at Bethany Church in Siren. It appears that the round robin approach for Lenten services is going well. Holy Week will include a Maundy Thursday service at Trinity at 7 pm and Good Friday service at

Georgetown at 7 pm. Easter Sunday there will be a 7 am Sunrise service at Trinity, a 9 am service at Trinity and a 10:30 am service at Georgetown. It was decided to have an Easter egg hunt at Georgetown before Easter service. The Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday, April 30 and Pastor will attend by Zoom. Bruce Peper volunteered to attend by Zoom also. Pastor is working with a planning committee to write a grant that would support kids that are aging out of foster care. A youth board of foster kids is being created that would seek housing and support for foster kids. Pastor reminded the Council that the Northwest Synod Mission Endowment has provided significant funds to support the purchase of equipment for broadcasting our Sunday services on the internet. A motion was made and seconded to send \$400.00 to the Synod in appreciation of their support. Motion carried. Pastor is finishing a class and will be on retreat April 21-23. The next joint Georgetown/Trinity Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 26 at Trinity beginning at 6:00 pm for supper and 6:30 pm for the meeting.

Council Member Reports:

Deacons: Will be meeting in the near future to discuss Vacation Bible School and Sunday School.



Elders: Discussed creating a work plan for proposed performance evaluation and financial audit. Discussed future activities such as the garage sale and community meals, both daytime and evening. Talked about Shepherding Groups and responsibilities.

Trustees: All furnaces have new filters and a schedule will be set for replacing filters in the future. An effort will be made to schedule annual inspections of the furnaces and air conditioners. The yard light was discussed and an effort will be made to get it functional. All of the lights in the sanctuary have been replaced with LED bulbs.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – Polk County is at the lowest level of infection currently. The blood drive can resume having soup and sandwiches for donors. The Blake Lake Association can resume using our facilities for their meetings.
2. Annual maintenance of furnace and air conditioner. Discussed previously.
3. Snow event at Hunky Dory. We missed the opportunity with the snow. We may wish to plan for next February.

New Business:

1. Donation. A parishioner would like to donate Walmart stock to the church. We need to get the appropriate paperwork set up to accept the donation. Steve Hansen is working on preparing paperwork to transfer the money. A motion was made and seconded to accept the gift of stock and to set up the account as needed to process and handle the donation. Motion carried.
2. A retreat for the WELCA women of the Apple River conference will take place on April 9 in Cushing.
3. Jim Rennie has requested the ability to use the building for Judo class. The Council discussed safety concerns and liability issues. He will be sent a building use form to complete and his request will be discussed at a future meeting.
4. Palms will be ordered for Palm Sunday.
5. When the parking lot is being resurfaced this spring, it was suggested that we use our lighted outdoor sign to thank our local community for their efforts in helping us make that improvement.
6. Reminder that our Joint Council meeting with Trinity is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26 at Trinity at 6:00 pm for supper, 6:30 pm for meeting.
7. Pancake Breakfast. Bruce Peper offered to coordinate a Pancake Breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022 beginning at 7:30 am to 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Georgetown Council Meeting: Thursday, May 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm

March 21, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Because of the shortfall in meeting the amount of money needed to meet our proposed 2022 annual budget, I have been asked to report this situation to you. As of the end of February of this year, we are already \$3830.78 behind in our annual budget. We need an average weekly offering amount of approximately \$1303 per week to keep on track. In the past, the church council would borrow from the blacktop fund to meet this shortfall. However, now that we have met the required amount for the blacktop fund, and the contracts are signed, we can no longer borrow from this fund.

At the annual meeting the church council presented the 2022 proposed budget to the membership for your approval. The amount needed weekly was noted on this proposed budget. This budget was approved.

The council relies on this budget to pay our bills, keep the light on, the building heated, pay pastor's salary, perform the mission of the church, keep our building in good repair and many other things. Simply put, we are not keeping up.

As a congregation we rely on each other for many things. We are asked to give of our God given time and talents to serve Him. We are also asked to give of our monetary blessings to help our church perform our mission.

I realize this is a trying time for all of us dealing with Covid, high fuel costs, nine percent plus inflation, job losses, single parent families, increasing childcare costs and on and on. Seemingly never ending. However, the one constant we have in our lives is God's love for us, the church in our lives, providing prayer, comfort, fellowship, purpose and a mission and responsibility.

I know many of us are living on limited incomes for whatever reason. However, I'm sure we can all contribute to our offering plate in what ever amount to insure our continued missions in our Christian service. If we strive to work together we will overcome our present circumstances with God's help and blessings, our prayers and righteous responsibility.

My prayers and love go out to you all,

Keith Ward Georgetown Trustee and Council President



Georgetown Lutheran Church			
Treasurer's Report			
February 1-28, 2022			
<u>Opening Balance February 1, 2022</u>			\$12,612.61
<u>February Income</u>			
Offering	\$3,227.00		
Loaves & Fishes	\$100.00		
Thrivent Grant	\$196.00		
Memorial Fund	\$85.00		
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$3,608.00		\$16,220.61
<u>February Expense</u>	\$5,324.45		
<u>Closing Balance February 1, 2022</u>			\$10,896.16
Budget for 2022	\$67,621.70		
Needed Weekly	\$1,300.42		
<u>Offering Through February 28, 2022</u>	\$7,873.00		
Budgeted offering to date	\$11,703.78		
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$3,830.78		
<u>Offering:</u>			
6-Feb	\$1,140.00		
13-Feb	\$352.00		
20-Feb	\$1,355.00		
27-Feb	\$900.00		
	\$3,227.00		
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Youth Activities Fund	\$3,332.19		
Memorial Fund	\$4,186.69		
Blacktop Fund	\$0.00		
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$111.35		2/28/22
Funds totals			\$7,630.23
<u>NET OPERATING FUNDS</u>	<u>\$3,265.93</u>		
Savings Account - Blacktop Fund	\$32,388.79	(\$4.97) interest	\$32,393.76