



Church Newsletter
March 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
715-671-8333

Georgetown
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715-857-5580

Trinity
2502 E. Grenquist Lake Ln.
Cumberland, WI 54829
715-822-3001

Lenten Service Schedule

Ash Wednesday, March 2: Worship at 7 p.m. at Trinity
March 9: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m.
March 16: Worship at Trinity at 7 p.m.
March 23: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m.
March 30: Worship at Trinity at 7 p.m.
April 6: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” John 14: 1

Do you , like me, find simple comfort in these words? Are you, like me, looking for simple comfort right now? Maybe you are weary from a seemingly non-ending winter and longing for Spring. Maybe you are exhausted from work, family responsibilities, activities, appointments and all the other “stuff” of daily existence. Maybe, like me, you find keeping up with daily “stuff” more difficult because of the extra b rudeness of dealing with winter weather.

On top of all of this daily “stuff” there is much to trouble our hearts: rumors of war, rising prices, scarce resources, Covid everything...how comforting is it to hear Jesus tell us to not let our hearts be troubled? We are to believe in God, and believe in Jesus.

Jesus spoke these words to his disciples on the night in which he was betrayed. In John chapters 13-17 he has an extended discourse about all that is going to happen. Jesus wants to prepare his disciples for his arrest, torture, and crucifixion. There will be much to trouble their hearts in the events that will occur after they leave the upper room to go to the garden where Judas will betray him to the Roman authorities.

And yet, Jesus says: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.” When we are overwhelmed and uncertain we need to remember to believe in the promises of God fulfilled by Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Hold onto these promises made to you in your baptism. Trace the cross on you forehead everyday to remember that you belong to God. God created you, God redeemed you through Christ, and God sustains you in all the daily “stuff” through the Holy Spirit.

I hope in the season of Lent that begins on March 2nd, you can carve out a half hour or so of time each day to give your burdens to God. Take some time each day to let God carry those burdens and untroubled your heart. Take some time to simply believe in God and in Jesus Christ whose grace is sufficient for everything.

Blessings and peace, Pastor Diane

PALT



Lumps of Swedish Goodness

Traditional (Swedish) Boiled Palt - Butter Fried (American) Palt
Baked Ham - Cranberry Salad - Scandinavian Fruit Soup - Homemade Pie

Drive Through Only

McKinley

Trinity Lutheran Church

8 miles West of Cumberland / 14 miles East of Luck on HWY 48

Sunday March 27, 2022

11:30am - 2:00pm

~Announcements~

Lenten Series “Good Enough: Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith”

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lent season, a time when we aspire to make some room for deeper introspection and practices that will draw us into the love and assurance of faith. But sometimes faith can feel not as assured as we hoped for. We can feel “less than,” perceiving that others seem to be able to be “more faithful” in their practices and beliefs. This Lent, rather than change for “the best,” we’ll seek to gain momentum one day at a time, “to reach for a faith that is never perfect, but good enough.”

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?

Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?

Sometimes we get what we get, life disappoints us and yet, God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

Join us each Wednesday at 7 p.m. for Lenten worship. This year Trinity/Georgetown will participate in a “Round Robin.” Each Wednesday worship will be lead by a different area pastor. We will gather for worship to consider how God is present in our lives loving and encouraging us to love each other despite our imperfections. Our faith proclaims that we are forgiven and free! Join us for this meaningful time together.

Schedule:

Ash Wednesday, March 2: Worship at 7 p.m. at Trinity with Pastor Diane

March 9: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m. with Pastor Diane

March 16: Worship at Trinity at 7 p.m. Welcome Pastor Mikayla from Bone Lake

March 23: Worship at Georgetown at 7 p.m. Welcome Pastor Angela or Intern Kristin from Joy Lutheran

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

MISSION MINUTE

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service (LIRS)

Since 1939, LIRS has been the largest faith-based nonprofit dedicated to servicing vulnerable immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees in the United States, resettling more than

500,000. LIRS is a joint ministry between the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church (LELCA).

As of February 15, 2022, LIRS has resettled 10,500 Afghan exiles in the US.

Youth Group Update

During the month of March, the youth will be looking for donations of individually wrapped candies/ stickers/ small prizes/ etc. to be put into plastic Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt in April. There will be a container available to collect these items sitting in the fellowship area.

Ministry Growth Fund 2021 Year-end Report

Trinity Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund is invested in the ELCA Ministry Growth Fund.

Some 2021 year-end facts of the Ministry Growth Fund:

- + One year rate of return: 12.14%
- + Five year rate of return: 9.99%
- + Ten year rate of return: 9.03%
- + Ten year growth of each \$100 invested reached \$237.10 at end of 2021 (this less yearly distributions, see below)
- + Administrative fees are 1.06%
- + 2022 distribution of fund to investors will be \$55.078 on each unit of investment (Quarterly distributions are intended to be in line with inflation)
- + 2012 size of fund - \$385 million; 2021 - \$1 billion
- + 1,000 congregations now have investments
- + 55 of the ELCA's 65 Synods have investments

Snapshots of Trinity Lutheran Church's Endowment Fund

- * Trinity's 2022 distribution from the Ministry Growth Fund will be approximately \$2,075
- * Trinity has chosen to reinvest those distributions to buy more units
- * Trinity's total investment at end of 2021 was \$59,445.77
(Trinity's initial, and to date only investment, was \$40,000, a growth of 47.5% since March 2020)

With the year-end balance in Trinity's Fund at \$59,445.77, Trinity's Endowment Committee could recommend to Trinity's Church Council that up to \$2,950 will be available for withdrawal for the use of Trinity Church and/or its members when applications are opened in November 2022. (Last year's withdrawal from Trinity's Fund was \$2,500 and went to Jim Springsteen for education aid.)

Trinity Church Council Minutes

2-15-22

Present: Debbie Wickstrom, Christine Anderson, Steve Anderson, Shane Beecroft, Pastor Diane, Mandy Rouzer, Lacy Sellent, Rick Sellent

Missing: Robin Denver, Chris Wetzel

Steve opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions and reading led by Pastor Diane.

Elections for President and Secretary were made. Debbie Wickstrom was voted in as President.

Secretary will be determined at the next meeting.

Thank you's were given to outgoing Council members; Steve Anderson, Christine Anderson and Robin Denver

Meetings will be at 6:30 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Income: \$10,325.09 (\$5,000 from savings)

Monthly Expense: \$8891.57

Net Total: \$1433.52

TLC Checking has \$3080.35

TLC Savings has \$1000

MI Fund has \$28,000

Received \$ from endowment fund and sent to recipient, James Springsteen. Mandy made a motion to accept, Rick 2nd, all approved.

Secretary's Report: Read, Mandy moved to accept, Lacy 2nd – all approved.

Pastor's Report: New cell phone #715-671-8333, disconnecting landline.

Anna Weaver requested to use fellowship hall on March 12 for baby shower, she told her that would be just fine.

If you want to be a delegate for they Synod Assembly on April 30th, let Pastor Diane know. Can be virtual or you can go to Eau Claire.

Lent begins 3/2/22 with a round robin with 5 Pastors using the Holden Evening Prayer. "Good Enough" is the theme. Soup and Sandwich will be at 6:30 p.m. Bible Study on Mondays will be on the same material.

There will be a special offering collected during Lent for 3-5 Afghan refugee families who are being resettled in Eau Claire. They have nothing.

Old Business:

Palt Dinner possibly on 3/20 or 3/27 – Debbie will check with Judy on those dates.

Star Link is working, just waiting on a part to mount to roof and run wire.

Parsonage work/maintenance will be postponed until spring/summer. Dishwasher is out.

Bat Prevention is going well, we will delay the roof work for now.

Water issue – our water was tested again this year and is 11.7, up from 11 a year ago. At a holding spot right now as we still have bottled water available for those that shouldn't drink our water.

Lights – Glenn Greener is working on replacing the lights. We still need someone to do motion lights up front.

Covid 19 Update – rates of transmission dropping, we will continue the protocols we have in place, for now.

Youth Events/Update – Lacy gathering pictures from the well that we raised \$ for during the flapjack fundraiser 4 years ago. Going to have a Wednesday gathering next week (2/23) to burn palm leaves for Ash Wednesday.

Website – Debbie will give Brian updates.

Quarterly Mission – we have one for this quarter.

Church Use Policy – Debbie will get it from the Women’s Group

Welcome Baskets – 4 have been given out and 2 more will be going out soon.

Church Directory Pictures – possible dates are Tuesday June 21 and Wednesday June 22, or Tuesday June 28 and Wednesday June 29.

Joint GT Events – possible cancer walk in Frederic, baseball/softball tourney, WOW

Wednesdays are joint already, as is Bible School

Appointed Kathy Grenquist as Treasurer. If you are interested in the job, please see a council member, so you could train with Kathy for awhile...not immediate need, but near future.

New Business:

Council Rep for Endowment Fund will be Lacy Sellent

Bibles will be given out in September for next year’s 7th and 8th graders, since it was missed this year, as well as for next year and this year’s 3rd and 4th graders.

Pictures to be taken of new council members at next meeting.

Joint Council meeting in September and possibly April.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully, Mandy Rouzer

Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2022

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Felicia Braastad, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Nicole Norlund, Keith Ward, Ryan Braaststad, 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 from 1 John, Chapter 1.



Secretary's Report: Judy Gammel read the minutes from the Georgetown Church Council Meeting of January 4, 2022. 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 January 1 – 31, 2022. Roberta pointed out that the Opening Balance as of January 1, 2022 was \$12,239.29. The Closing Balance on January 31, 2022 was \$12,612.61 after an income of \$5,076.00 and expenses of \$4,702.68. The January income included \$209.00 from the Fall Dinner for the remainder of the meatballs and \$605.00 for the Memorial Fund from the recent funerals held at Georgetown. The offering for the month of January was \$4,126.00, which was \$2,376.10 less than needed to meet our proposed budget. Some of the proposed expenses from the 2022 budget have changed due to new information from Portico, which handles benefits for Pastor Diane. The pre-buy amount budgeted for propane has been expended. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor shared the sad news that Julie Wassberg passed away and the family is planning a graveside service. She also asked us to keep the Cran family in our prayers. We need to appoint a delegate to the Synod Assembly that is held in April. There is a \$50.00 fee per person and it can be attended on Zoom or in person. Our Lenten services will be conducted in a round robin manner this year, alternating between Georgetown and Trinity. Ash Wednesday will be at Trinity on March 2 and they are planning a soup and sandwich supper at 6:30 pm with services at 7:00 pm. We discussed having a soup and sandwich supper at Georgetown prior to services on March 9, & 23 and April 6. In addition, we need to plan for music being Pastor Diane will be conducting services at other area churches. It was also discussed to collect a special offering at the Lenten services to go to Afghan refugees in Wisconsin. Lutheran Social Services is coordinating the re-settlement of refugees in Wisconsin with the goal of them being independent in 6 months. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with a Lenten offering designated to Lutheran Social Services. Motion carried.

Trinity has contacted a company to put our directory together since it was cancelled due to COVID. The dates for pictures are Tuesday, June 28 and Wednesday, June 29. Members can go to either date. More information will be coming. Trinity has suggested that future joint Council meetings be held in April and September to allow time for working on budget issues and to allow for the necessary paperwork to be completed on time. Tracy is interested in looking into the area Cancer Walk as a possible joint activity for both of our churches. More information to follow. Bible Study will begin again on Monday, March 7 at Georgetown at 9:30 am and Trinity at 7:00 pm and each week will focus on the Lenten liturgy.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: Discussion took place about building up the General Fund. Stephanie and Roberta will create a letter to be presented to the congregation about the financial needs of the church and the weekly donations necessary to support the Church.

Deacons: There are no specific plans for education at this time, but discussion will be taking place to plan for summer and fall activities.

Trustees: Discussion took place about the furnace and an effort will be made to plan for regular furnace inspections in the future. Felicia offered to do a deep cleaning of the church on February 26 along with her family.

Election of President:

Keith Ward indicated his interest in continuing as President of the Council. A motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Keith Ward as President. Motion carried.

Appointment of Secretary:

Judy Gammel expressed her willingness to continue to serve as Council Secretary.

Appointment of Treasurer: Roberta Hansen expressed her willingness to continue as Council Treasurer.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – We will maintain the same protocols through February and possibly March.
2. Furnace – Bill Hendrickson did service the furnace and replaced the thermostat,

New Business:

1. Sale of parking lot surface mix. It will not be for sale as it is being used in the contract.
2. The suggestion was made that when a funeral is scheduled at the church it could be put on our lighted board by the road, with the family's permission.
3. Shoulder of the parking lot. The suggestion was made that we could possibly ask Marv Pass if he could spread class 5 lime.
4. The land phone line at the parsonage is gone and Pastor has a new phone number; 715-671-8333.
5. The suggestion was made to think about a snow event at Hunky Dory. Bruce will consult with Marvel for a possibility this March after Sunday worship.

Open Discussion:

In order to increase our numbers in church, everyone was encouraged to invite someone they know to come to Georgetown for church.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:30 pm

(Bring an Irish joke!)

Georgetown Lutheran Church			
Treasurer's Report			
January 1-31, 2022			
<u>Opening Balance January 1, 2022</u>			\$12,239.29
<u>January Income</u>			
Offering	\$4,126.00		
Blessing Bucket	\$56.00		
Fall Dinner	\$209.00		
Memorial Fund	\$605.00		
TOTAL INCOME	\$5,076.00		\$17,315.29
<u>January Expenses</u>		\$4,702.68	
<u>Closing Balance January 31, 2022</u>			\$12,612.61
Budget for 2022	\$67,621.70		
Needed Weekly	\$1,300.42		
Offering Through January 31, 2022	\$4,126.00		
Budgeted offering to date	\$6,502.10		
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$2,376.10		
<u>Offering:</u>			
2-Jan	\$592.00		
9-Jan	\$682.00		
16-Jan	\$940.00		
23-Jan	\$652.00		
30-Jan	\$1,260.00		
	\$4,126.00		
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Youth Activities Fund	\$3,332.19		
Memorial Fund	\$4,101.69		
Blacktop Fund	\$0.00		
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$111.35		1/31/22
Funds totals		\$7,545.23	
<u>NET OPERATING FUNDS</u>		\$5,067.38	
Savings Account - Blacktop Fund	\$32,388.79		