



Church Newsletter June 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

Contact Information

Pastor Diane
715-671-8333

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Balsam Lake, WI 54810
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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
Romans 12: 2

It happens every year! I am utterly astounded at the transformation of creation during Spring! Starting at the end of April, all through May and into June, Nature turns from white and gray, to dull browns to a myriad of bright and vibrant colors. And then, just to top off the transformation, the migratory birds return with all their colorful plumage! What was formally a dull, deathlike and silent landscape is just bursting with color and sound. What a stunning transformation!

All this got me thinking about the transforming and renewing of our minds that Paul encourages in the book of Romans. According to my Lutheran study bible note on this verse: “Paul call believers to resist behaving the way nonbelievers want them to behave. The structure of the Geek verb here translated as ‘conformed’ indicate an ongoing action—not conforming has to be done again and again. However, ‘be transformed’ in Greek, also indicates and ongoing action.”

Just like the yearly and ongoing transformation of creation from winter to spring and back again, the ongoing action of the Holy Spirit works in us to bring our thinking and acting in line with God’s intention for the new age that God is ushering in through Christ. As we live and work in God’s world, we are constantly bombarded by the way the world want us to behave. There are so many claims on our time, our opinions, and our lives. How do we sort out and discern what the good and acceptable will of God is?

We best discern God’s will for us through regular worship, study of God’s word, and prayer. We best discern God’s will for us by careful attention to the Holy Spirit. When Jesus told the disciples that God would send them (and us) this advocate, Jesus said that the Spirit would guide us and remind us of all that Jesus taught.

The Holy Spirit not only guides us to discern God’s will, but actually gives us the power to DO God’s will in the world. By attending to the Holy Spirit in prayer and discernment we are reminded of Jesus’ teaching on how to live together in community: love and pray for our neighbors, including our enemies. We are to be servants to one another constantly transforming our relationships and advocating for peace and justice. As Paul teaches later in this same chapter of Romans:

“Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, preserver in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

May God bless and keep you as you continue to do his will in the world witnessing to the love and grace of God that transforms our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus! Pastor Diane

Announcements

YOU ARE INVITED TO INTER-GENERATIONAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!

Join in as we study the “Tree of Healing” curriculum from ELCA World Hunger. “Tree of Healing” VBS is a chance for children and adults to consider what health means and how God invites us to share in the building of a just world where all can enjoy the gifts of God’s creation. The program offers a broad understanding of health and wellness.

Each day includes skits, games, crafts, and snacks. We will hear stories about health and wellness from the Bible as well as learn about our neighbors around the world! We will talk about the work of congregations around the world as they adapt to meet the growing and changing needs of their communities.

VBS will be offered on Wednesday evenings the week of **July 18-22 from 5:30-7:30 pm**. We will meet at alternate church sites on this schedule:

Monday, July 18-Georgetown
Tuesday, July 19-Trinity
Wednesday, July 20-Georgetown
Thursday, July 21-Trinity
Friday, July 22-Georgetown

We start at 5:30 p.m. with a light supper provided. If you would like to volunteer to serve the meal let Pastor Diane know. If you are a Thrivent member and would like to apply for an Action Team card to support VBS, let Pastor Diane or a council member know. Thanks!

Please come and bring your family! Please invite a friend to come and bring their family! Invite a neighbor to join us!

June Joint Worship and Softball Game Sunday!

Sunday, June 26 there will be one worship service at 10 a.m. at Trinity followed by a potluck lunch and softball game! Trinity and Georgetown will meet together for worship, fellowship and lunch and then meet on the field for a friendly game of softball!

So, mark your calendars and make a dish to pass. Bring a lawn chair or two for spectating or sign up for your church’s team. Get ready to have some friendly fun and fellowship on June 26th!

Trinity Church Council Minutes

May 17, 2022

Present: Debbie Wickstrom, Shane Beecroft, Pastor Diane, Kathy Grenquist, Christine Wetzel. Rick Sellent and Lacy Sellent arrived late. Not present: Mandy Rouzer.

Debbie opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

Devotions and reading led by Pastor Diane.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Secretary's Report was given.

No quorum was present. Secretary's report will be approved at next meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Monthly income: \$4,899.95

Monthly expense: \$5,520.45

Net Income: \$-620.50

TLC checking has \$6,825.99

TLC Savings has \$512.01

MI Fund has \$28,112.04

Endowment Fund Savings – \$2,150.99

Reconciled discrepancy \$457.67 (correction goes back to Nov. 2021) There are still other items that need to be reconciled from prior.

No quorum was present. Treasurer's report will be approved at next meeting.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Gille Septic sent a card offering services.

Board of Directors, United Pioneer Home in Luck needs directors. Three of nine are expiring.

They are asking for nominations. We received a letter from YNS-Land indicating they wished to purchase our land. Kids going to camp – council will pay 1/3 of cost. Five are going so far; three Rouzers, Blake Lundmark and Riley Cummings. Cost is \$425 each so we'll pay \$142

each. Checks can be sent since this was approved at a prior meeting. Vacation Bible School will be Wednesdays, starting June 15th and going through July 13th. Wednesday, May 25th there will be a VBS planning meeting at Trinity at 6:30 p.m. At Synod Assembly, Care of Creations Green Team Resolution was approved. We will have a Green Team in our church. Lacy will be asked to head it. ELCA youth gathering for St. Paul/Minneapolis was cancelled. There will be a Rebound at River Falls July 25th through 27th. Cost is \$225 for the event. This is for our synod plus La Crosse synod. Ten possible kids could attend. Glen Greener reported Ervin Peterson will be turning 90. Dorothy Beecroft has passed away. Our prayers are with the family.

We are also keeping Jan Clark in our prayers as she undergoes further radiation. And we pray for Kelly G. as she is in quarantine. Our graduate, Jerod Lundmark, will be honored May 29th. There is also a baptism on May 29th. We will provide two half sheet cakes for fellowship after church.

OLD BUSINESS

- Palt dinner – we wish to purchase a palt ladel. We will look at craft sales.
- We discussed having a light on the cross on top of the church. We will check with Georgetown since they have one currently.
- COVID update – slightly on the rise again.
- Shepherding groups, we are re-evaluating the groups. We could have a worship training night to make members feel more comfortable.
- Joint activities with Georgetown – Bible School and Softball game. VBS starts June 15th. Softball game is June 26th at Trinity with a joint worship at 10:00 a.m., potluck lunch after, then the game.
- New dishwasher for the parsonage. Chris reported Sears has two options that could be delivered to Rice Lake Sears by Friday. Both are stainless steel. Cost for delivery and installation and removal of old dishwasher is \$180. One costs \$529.99 which is regular stainless steel. The other costs \$649.99 which is print resistant stainless steel. There are more expensive options as well. Both are Kenmore which are available. (White is hard to get now). Frigidaire is a possibility, but Whirlpool and Maytag are very hard to get and have long waiting times. We must provide a copy of the church's tax ID certificate to avoid paying sales tax. Dishwasher installation kit is \$28.99. Discussion and decision: Chris will check with Amundsons as well as Menards. Then she has permission to purchase the best choice and submit the bill to Kathy on Sunday.
- Church day clean up – Debbie will come up with a list of chores.
- Quarterly mission of the month. July through September, we could extend the free clinic or we could have Benjamin's House. Will be voted on at next meeting.
- Just because baskets two were given out; one to Chris Wetzel and one to Paul Grenquist.
- Church directory. We cancelled the portrait sitting. We will do our own directory.
- No other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- We received a request to participate in the police booklets for kid. We will not be participating this year.
- Church organist substitute – Al Arndt will be playing this Sunday. Sue Rouzer has also filled in in the past. We discussed amount to pay for the substitutes. Chris made a motion to pay \$50 plus mileage of 58.5 cents per mile. It was seconded by Shane. It was not carried and more discussion was held. Chris made an amended motion to pay \$50 plus the federal rate for mileage for piano players or organ players when substituting. It was seconded by Shane. The motion carried.
- Next church council meeting will be June 14th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. on motion by Chris. It was seconded by Lacy. The motion carried.

Respectfully,
Christine Wetzel

MINUTES

Endowment Fund Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church

Thursday, May 5, 2022

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Wayne Kendrick, temporary chairperson. Present: Committee members: Christine Anderson, Steve Kelch, and Wayne Kendrick; and Pastor Diane House, advisory member. Absent: Lacy Sellent, Council representative and Council President, Debbie Wickstrom, advisory member.

Christine led devotions using Isaiah 42:6 and Ephesians 3:11 under the theme: Holding Hands.

Elections for Chairperson and Secretary were held. Steve Kelch was elected President and Wayne Kendrick as Secretary.

The minutes of the Tuesday, November 9, 2021 meeting were accepted with the correction that Gurine Gall's term was ending, not Steve Kelch's.

The password for the account will be changed as soon as paperwork can be notarized and submitted to the ELCA Foundation. Christine, being newly elected at the Annual Meeting as a member, will be added as a participant.

The 2021 Year-end and March 31, 2022 Financial Reports were reviewed. The March 31, 2022 balance is \$53,988.33. Based on the 2021 Year-end balance of \$59,445.77, the Committee could recommend the maximum amount of \$2,950 be distributed to Trinity Church and/or its members after accepting applications this Fall.

The quarterly distributions from the Ministry Growth Fund will continue to be reinvested.

Discussion was held on whether there was a need to change the date for accepting applications for distribution. No action was taken, but the Committee will be diligent in announcing to the congregation beginning in September that the date for receiving Applications for Disbursement is nearing. Also, the date of Council approval will be added to the form.

Discussion was held on the designated gifts and memorials that are currently being held in Trinity's Mission Endowment Savings account awaiting the minimum amount of \$2,000 required for deposit in the Ministry Growth Fund: Undesignated: \$1,000 and ELCA ministries: \$1,100. When these two reach the \$2,000 minimum required for deposit, they will be added to Trinity's account as designated sub-accounts. Trinity's account is currently designated only for Trinity Lutheran Church and/or its members. The Fund may also receive gifts designated for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, as well as a local non-profit or charitable organization serving the McKinley, Wisconsin area.

The Committee expressed its appreciation for Trinity's Treasurer, Kathy Grenquist, for opening the Mission Endowment Savings Account and depositing Mission Endowment Fund gifts and memorials there.

Pastor reported that she is receiving notification from the Treasurer when Memorials and Endowment Gifts are received so that Thank-you letters can be sent.

There was no further business.

Next meeting was scheduled for September 8 at 7:00 PM. Business for that meeting will include review of Bylaws D1 and D2 and possible amendments in order to fulfill the congregation's fiduciary responsibility for dedicated portions of the Fund, as well as preparing to receive Applications for Disbursement.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Kendrick



Georgetown Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2022

Members Present: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Nicole Norlund, Keith Ward, Dale Jensen, Pastor Diane House.

Members Absent: Felicia Braastad, Ryan Braastad, Roberta Hansen.

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward.



Prayer and Devotions: Pastor Diane read from the Gospel and read a prayer.

Jim Rennieke – Building Use Request: Jim expressed his desire to reinstate the use of Georgetown Church facilities for the Judo Club which used the Church facilities in the past for a group of 5 – 10 participants. He indicated that they are a sanctioned club with insurance. Their Club previously used Church facilities for about 1 to 1 ½ years and they would like to return to the church on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. They are open to including new Church members from the ages of 6 to 60. A motion was made and seconded to allow Jim Rennieke to conduct a Judo class using Georgetown Church facilities on Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 pm subject to a facility use fee of \$50.00 per month for a period of 6 months. Motion carried. New forms will be designed to accommodate the ongoing usage and fee and to explain additional facility use expectations.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2022 Council meeting. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta was not able to attend the Council meeting but provided a Treasurer's Report for April 1 – 30, 2022. The net operating funds balance was \$1,235.45. A gift of 33 shares of stock was donated to the Church. Further information will be available next month.

Pastor's Report:

1. There was a Graduation recognition at Georgetown honoring 3 students on May 29th.
2. On June 26, 2022 we will have a joint worship service with Trinity at 10:00 am conducted at Trinity Church. We will have a pot luck lunch and a softball game following lunch. Each Church will recruit their own softball teams.
3. VBS for the summer will follow the World Hunger curriculum titled "Tree of Healing". Tentative dates will be on Wednesdays beginning June 15 – July 13. There will be a planning meeting on May 25 at 6:30 pm at Trinity and all are welcome.
4. A new dishwasher has been purchased for the parsonage from Sears at a cost of \$629.00 and \$180.00 fee for delivery and installation.

5. The members at Trinity would like to have their cross lit up and asked how it was done at Georgetown. Bruce will check into it.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: The Garage Sale will be held in August and Roberta Hansen has volunteered to be the coordinator. There was discussion about the wear and tear on our tables and chairs when people borrow them. The suggestion was made that we could ask for a donation of \$25.00 when equipment is borrowed to assist with replacement costs. No decision was made.

Deacons: Planning for VBS for the summer.

Trustees: The electric panel outside has fallen down and needs to be repaired. An electrician from Dresser will be looking at the project. Ryan found a bulb for the outside light but it needs a new post. The suggestion was made to take a look at the front slab which appears to have raised up and people have tripped on it. There was discussion about removing the river rock from the edge of the new pavement and the grass.

Old Business:

1. Revisit COVID – Currently Polk County is at low risk so we will continue our current efforts.
2. Building use request – discussed previously.
3. Other old business - none

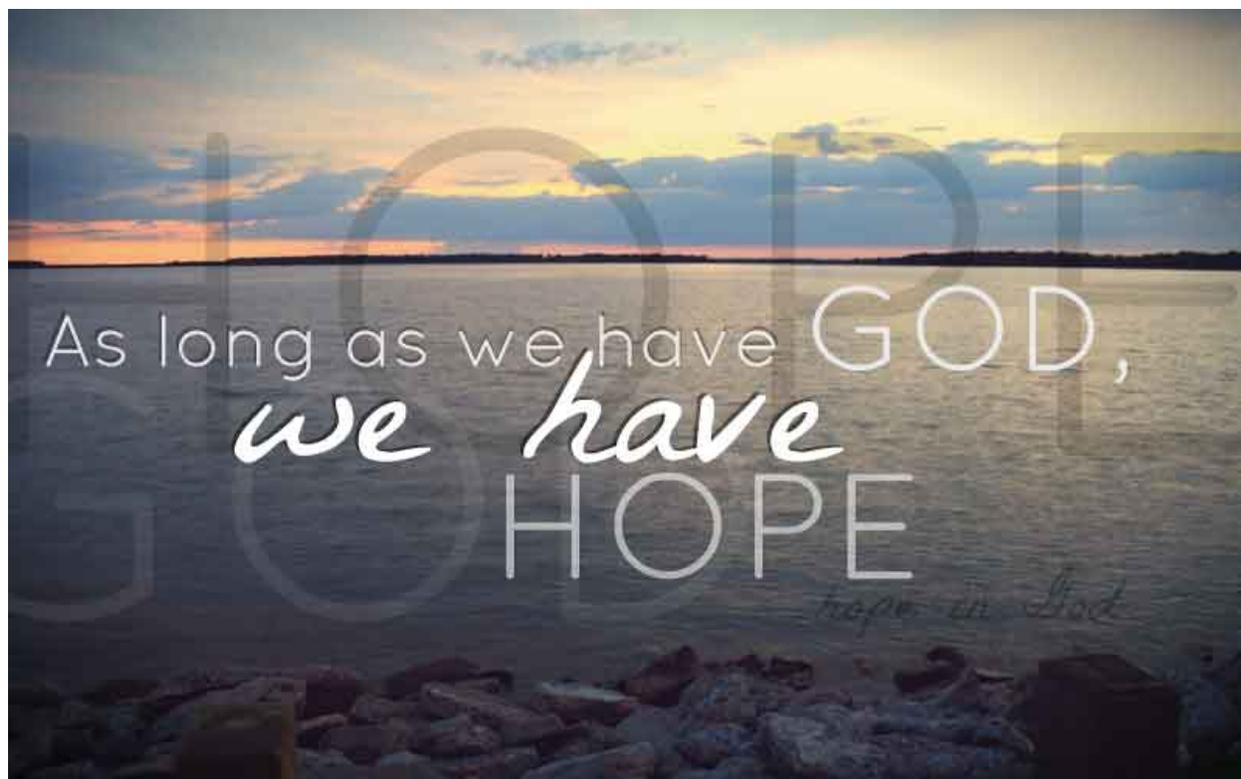
New Business:

1. Softball team for June 26th. We need to recruit ball players.
2. Fund raising ideas: Garage Sale in August, Pancake Supper, Spaghetti Supper, Ice cream & Pie Social with Square dancing.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel.

Next Georgetown Church Council Meeting: Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 6:30 pm



Georgetown Lutheran Church			
Treasurer's Report			
April 1-30, 2022			
<u>Opening Balance April 1, 2022</u>		\$10,898.01	
<u>April Income</u>			
Offering	\$4,788.00		
Thrivent Grant	\$279.00		
Memorial Fund	\$665.00		
Youth Activity Fund	\$533.00		
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$6,265.00		
		\$17,163.01	
<u>April Expenses</u>	\$7,435.36		
<u>Closing Balance April 30, 2022</u>		\$9,727.65	
Budget for 2022	\$67,621.70		
Needed Weekly	\$1,300.42		
<u>Offering Throuh April 30, 2022</u>	\$16,008.00		
Budgeted offering to date	\$22,107.14		
Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$6,099.14		
<u>Offering:</u>			
	3-Apr	\$1,160.00	
	6-Apr	\$166.00	Lent
	10-Apr	\$965.00	
	17-Apr	\$1,826.00	
	24-Apr	\$671.00	
<u>Fund Balances</u>			
Youth Activities Fund	\$3,865.19		
Memorial Fund	\$4,471.69		
Blacktop Fund	\$0.00		
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$155.32		4/30/22
Funds totals		\$8,492.20	
<u>NET OPERATING FUNDS</u>	<u>\$1,235.45</u>		
Savings Account - Blacktop Fund	\$32,393.76	(\$5.77 interest)	\$32,405.03

Brief Overview of the Assembly Of The NW Synod of Wisconsin

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin held a hybrid (280 attendees in-person and 100 by Zoom) Assembly on Saturday, April 30, under the theme: *Taking It To The Streets: Becoming a Public Church*. That theme from Proverbs 1:20, “*Wisdom cries out in the streets; in the public places, wisdom raises her voice*”, built upon last year’s Zoom Assembly where five issues of justice were addressed by means of resolutions. Pastor House and Wayne Kendrick attended in person at Trinity Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, and Bruce Peper attended via Zoom.

Synod Assemblies are comparable to the Annual Meetings of congregations: elections to offices, reports, adoption of a budget, etc. This year’s Assembly met as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) celebrates its 35th anniversary.

Highlights of this 2022 Assembly:

- The Assembly began with a Land Acknowledgement (acknowledging that these were once ancestral lands of indigenous peoples) and worship.
- The Bishop’s Report, in keeping with the theme, was a series of videos filmed on various street corners.
- The report of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin (LSS) noted that 2022 is the 140th anniversary of LSS in WI and highlighted the ecumenical/community coalition that has resettled nine Afghan men in Eau Claire.
- “Bright Spot Awards” were given to six congregations for their justice-focused ministries and to the Synod’s Lay School of Ministry.
- The 2023-24 Mission Plan, or budget, was adopted in the amount of \$1,212,000, the same as the 2022-23 Mission Plan.
- The representative from the Churchwide ELCA lifted up the goal to engage 1 million “new, young and diverse” people by the end of the decade.
- Resolutions were adopted on “Care of Creation”, “Intentional Conversations About Loving Our Neighbors”, and “2023 Minimum Standards for Compensation and Benefits”.
- The most impassioned and moving speech of the Assembly was given by a Native American pastor asking for a name change for Squaw Creek Lutheran Church of Black River Falls.
- The Synod Endowment Fund is beginning a two-year appeal “Today, Tomorrow, Together” seeking to raise \$125,000 in cash donations and \$150,000 in future commitments. [In the past two years, both Georgetown and Trinity received gifts from the Fund for technological equipment in order to stream worship services and in return gifted a tithe, 10%, back to the Fund (see Minutes of the Joint Council Meeting in the May Newsletter and the visit of Greg Kaufmann, Synod Minister for Leadership, to that meeting).]
- It was reported that \$387,000 was given to ELCA World Hunger by the congregations and individuals of the NW WI Synod.

- In a portion of Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson's written report she stated that the most frequent words reported to her by rostered leaders were "tired and exhausted". Leaders of 113 congregations reported that their congregations were Growing/Thriving/Stable, while 36 reported they were Declining/Dying. Attitudes about the future were reported by 119 to be Positive/Hopeful/Faithful/Determined, while 43 reported to be Worried/Weary/Depressed/Despairing.
- The worship offering of \$7,942 is to be divided equally between the Malawi Pastors 'Academy (The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi is our Synod's Sister Church) and the Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry (the Synod's new Latinx ministry).

Respectfully submitted by Wayne Kendrick