



Church Newsletter December 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
Cell: 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

Upcoming Christian Education Schedule

Wednesday nights in December:

December 7: Deacon Lidixe Montoya at Trinity. Dinner at 5:45, Deacon's talk at 6:30.

December 14: Confirmation class at Trinity from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

December 28: Confirmation class at Georgetown from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Trinity Christmas Program:

Sunday, December 11: Program at 9 a.m., during worship service.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

"All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,' which means, 'God is with us.'" Matthew 1: 22-23

November 27th was the first Sunday in Advent and the beginning of a new church year. In preparation for this new season of the year when we hear from Matthew's gospel about the coming of the Messiah into the world and all that means for us, I was looking online for advent wreath lighting liturgies. I came across a website for the SALT project and read this:

"Advent means "coming." It is a time of longing, watching, and praying for God's healing, transformative presence to be ever more vibrantly present in the world. In this sense, Advent is a season in which we focus on that key phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "thy kingdom come." As Christians, the good news we strive to live by and declare is that love is stronger than hate, peace more enduring than war, hope more powerful than despair — and the light of God's love will dispel forever the shadows of shame cast by violence, suffering, sorrow, and contempt.

To help proclaim that God's new world is at hand, the SALT project has written four candle lighting litanies for personal, family-based, or congregational use during the holy season of Advent. Each litany begins by telling the truth about a world that is all too barren of God's hope, peace, joy, and love. Then, after the candle has been lit, we cry out with all people of faith — past, present, and future — that God is, even now, coming into the world!"

I decided to use these litanies for our worship services because I love that each one begins by "telling the truth about a world that is all too barren of God's hope, peace, joy, and love." I also think it is import that these litanies help us to "cry out with all people of faith past, present, and future that God is, even now, coming into the world!" I believe that this is the way to celebrate Advent meaningfully.

Advent is more than a time for preparing to celebrate Christmas. Advent is a deeply spiritual time of preparation for the coming of Christ into the world. During Advent we proclaim that Christ has come, Christ comes every day, and Christ will come again to restore creation fully. It is a time to celebrate how God is active and at work in this world created and loved by God.

Even so, it is a time to contemplate on how miraculous the incarnation is, to contemplate on the way God was enfleshed in a particular human being named Jesus. But also, to contemplate on all the ways the Holy Spirit is present in each baptized believer and how that realization changes the way we live out our lives of faith.

I hope you will experience this during this meaningful time of the church year. I hope that our worship, fellowship, study, and service may enrich your preparations for the coming of the Messiah into your home and into your hearts!

Blessings and Peace, Pastor Diane

“From Worry to Wonder”

A Christmas Message from Bishop Laurie

Her parents were worried. Her grandparents were worried. It is challenging enough to be pregnant and give birth in the best of times but to give birth in the middle of a worldwide pandemic is an even greater worry. We worried about the unknown dangers this virus might present to the mother, the unborn baby, and the new born baby. Our worries kept us up at night. Our worries were relieved when she was finally born, perfect in every way. Our worry gave way to wonder-filled joy. Worry transformed to wonder as we looked back to see how God was holding and carrying them through the unavoidable worry. Our worry transformed to gratitude and wonder watching for what God would be up to next in her tiny life.

It's December 2022. We prepare to celebrate the birth our Lord Jesus. This Advent we come with our fears and worries too. We are living in the midst of challenging times in our country. The very foundation of our nation seems less stable. We each come with our own personal set of worries and fears about our families, health, finances, work, safety, the future...What is it that keeps you up at night? What are you worried about today?

Folks across our church are experiencing doubts and uneasiness about the future of their church. Does it keep you up at night? What are the threats to your church's future? How can the conversation move from fear and worry to wonder? As the miracle of Christ's birth is celebrated this season, we can move from worry to wonder. We wonder what God is up to now in this day and age. Together we wonder what God's will is for the future of our church. Together we wonder; how can we use the abundance and blessings, (what we do have and opportunities in front of us), to make a difference in Jesus' name.

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. Luke 2:8-10a

Shepherds living in the fields watched over their sheep to keep them safe. There were dangers that kept the shepherds up at night and plenty of things for the shepherd's to worry about in the cold night like wild animals, predators, thieves, & bad weather. There was so much to worry about, but one night an angel of the Lord, all shiny and bright appeared and transformed their fears and worldly worry to divine wonder.

To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" Luke 2:11-14

Friends, you are precious, beloved, baptized children of God. We know that the antidote to worry is to trust in God.

During this Advent, Christmas and Epiphany season I pray that your worries will be transformed to wonder at what God **is** doing and promises **to** do in your lives and in our churches. May the miracle of Christ's birth transform your worries to wonder! I am grateful for your partnership in ministry.

Peace be with you,

Rev. Laurie M. Olson

~Announcements~

Christmas Services

Friday, December 23 – Trinity at 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 24 – Georgetown at 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 25 – Trinity at 9 a.m., Georgetown at 10:30 a.m.

Upcoming Events

There will be wreath making on Sunday, December 4 from 1pm--2:30pm at Trinity. We'll be making them in the church, but light gloves may be worn to protect from sap.

On Saturday, December 10 Trinity women are invited to a Christmas brunch at the Red Maple Eatery in Luck at 11:30am. Please let Dee know if you plan to attend.

Caroling will be Sunday, December 11--meet at Trinity at 2pm and finish the afternoon off with a gathering at Dee Wagner's at 5pm.

Saturday, December 17--Meet at Marketplace in Rice Lake for bell ringing for the Salvation Army from 3pm to 5pm. Let Lacy know by December 11 if interested.

Please put Wednesday, December 7 on our calendar!

On this Wednesday evening we will be joined by Deacon Lidixe Montoya at Trinity at 6:30 p.m. We will have the opportunity to meet her, hear her story and learn more about the Neighbor to Neighbor ministry in our synod! Everyone from Georgetown and Trinity are invited so please come and invite an area neighbor to join you!

Still to be Scheduled January 2023 Events:

Escape Room

Food Shelf Helpful Hints

At this time of year, donating to food shelves is more important than ever. Below are some helpful hints to keep in mind when donating, taken from a 2021 newspaper article.

1. Everyone donates mac and cheese in the box, but clients rarely use it because it needs milk and butter, which are hard to come by.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure; kids need it for cereal, which they also get a lot of.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. A can opener is useful, or contribute canned goods with pop tops.
5. Vegetable oil is a luxury.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Teabags and coffee make people feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. Clients are delighted with fresh produce.
10. Garden seeds are cool in spring and summer.
11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly but usually not sandwich bread.
15. Butter or margarine is nice.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury that women will cry over.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top stuffing.

Birthdays/Baptisms

Baptisms are marked with (*)

Judy Gammel	12-8
Ira Rouzer (*)	12-12
Jeanne Johnson	12-19
Emily Frendt	12-23
Jim Springsteen	12-23
Marie Sellent	12-31

A reminder that Lacy Sellent is collecting birthdays/ baptismal birthdays to include in the monthly newsletter. A notebook is located at both Trinity and Georgetown to record birthdays.

Trinity Church Council Minutes

11/15/22

Present: Debbie Wickstrom, Pastor Diane, Mandy Rouzer, Kathy Grenquist, Rick Sellent, Lacy Sellent

Missing: Chris Wetzell, Shane Beecroft

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

Devotions and reading led by Pastor Diane.

Secretary's Report: Rick moves, Lacy 2nd, all approved, carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Income: \$5152.97 Offering was \$4618.

Monthly Expense: \$ 6507.17

Net Total: -\$1354.20

TLC Checking has \$5866.82 as of November 15, 2022

TLC Savings has \$636

MI Fund has \$28188.65

Endowment Fund Savings - \$1538.38

Mandy moves to accept, Rick 2nd, all approved, carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor and George will be making fish for the last Wednesday fun night on November 30th at Trinity at 5:45 for game night. Wednesday, December 7th at Trinity for a special talk, dinner at 5:30 and talk at 6 p.m. Albert Hanson's name is now on the flag display, also keep him in your prayers. Keep Kathy Grenquist in your prayers. Some propane companies are not doing keep fill, so we will check on that. If you want something in the newsletter, please have it to Mandy by the 21st.

Endowment Fund: The Endowment committee approved giving their Endowment gift this year to Debbie Wickstrom's application to build a new shed to be done next summer at Trinity for storage. The gift was \$2500. Now the council needs to approve the ability to fundraise for the rest of the cost. Mandy moves to approve the endowment fund's gift of \$2500 to Debbie Wickstrom's application for a storage shed, Rick 2nd. All approved – carried.

Youth Report: Wreath making event, December 4th around 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. They will then be given away. Looking at bell ringing for the Salvation Army on December 17th, in Rice Lake at Marketplace for a 2 hour time slot. 9-11 or 1-3 or 3-5 or 5-7, will update on a time. Looking at possibly caroling as well, no date yet.

Old Business:

Rodent Pest Control – traps have been set out.

Lighted Cross – tabled to next meeting.

Church Secretary – some interest, but nothing solid yet.

Quarterly Mission for October – December – Feed Hungry Local Children, Mandy moves, Rick 2nd, all approved, carried.

Shepherding Groups – hold until after the 1st of the year.

Church Directory – Please send Debbie pictures for the directory to:

Debbie.wickstrom@gmail.com Debbie would also like pictures of fun events here at church.

H.O.P.E. Foundation is coming December 4th to talk during the service.

Other Old Business – Debbie would like some Christmas trees with just white lights on it for the Christmas program. If you have one she can borrow, let her know.

New Business:

Church Website – new church website is in the process of being built. Our new address will be www.trinitylutheranchurchmckinley.org There is just a shell up right now. If you have information that you want added let a council member know. It will take a bit to get finished.

Storage Shed – Debbie is in the process of getting a few estimates. Getting a couple of estimates from companies, including a stick built one with a cement shed. Looking at 12 x 20, or 16 x 20.

Other new business: We need to find a new cleaning lady or maybe have the shepherding groups do it? Needs are vacuuming, bathrooms, light dusting, kitchen floors, door windows. These items are done every other week. Shannon will be done December 15th.

Shepherding Groups – to make things easier/clearer for those in charge each month a list would be helpful. We will look at creating that.

Christmas Program on December 11th.

If interested in being Church Treasurer please contact Kathy or Pastor Diane.

Next Council Meeting December 20th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on a Lacy- Rick motion. Approved.

Respectfully, Mandy Rouzer

Trinity Endowment Fund Committee Minutes

Endowment Fund Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church

Tuesday, November 1, 2022

(Not final until approved at next meeting)

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairperson Steve Kelch. Present: Committee Members: Steve Kelch, Chairperson; Christine Anderson; Lacy Sellent, Council representative; and Wayne Kendrick, Secretary. Also attending were Advisory Members: Debbie Wickstrom, Church Council President and Pastor House.

Pastor led devotions from 1 Timothy 6 centering on being rich in generosity and reminding the committee of the blessing of the founding gift to the Endowment Fund. That theme was highlighted as she shared a very humorous story from her childhood.

The Minutes of the September 1, 2022 meeting were approved as printed.

The September 30, 2022 Financial Reports from the Ministry Growth Fund, the depository of Trinity's Fund, were reviewed and approved. The newly opened "Undesignated" Fund had a balance of \$2,699.71 and the main fund established by Elsie Marklund's bequest had a balance of \$46,061.52. Trinity has a savings account for gifts designated for "ELCA Ministries" awaiting its growth to the minimum \$2,000 required to open a new, third, account.

Reports: 1). The ELCA Secretary has reminded congregations that being "ex officio" members of committees does not mean that such members are without vote. Trinity's ex officio members of the Endowment Fund, Pastor and Council President, are in the Committee's Bylaws referred to as "Advisory Members without vote" at Committee meetings. No action taken.

2). The Church Council on October 18 approved the Committee's recommended Bylaw Amendments with no Nay votes. Received with gratitude.

The Committee then turned to the question of the 2022 withdrawal amount of \$2,500 from the Fund. (The amount of the withdrawal is set at no more than the maximum amount of 5% of the account balance on December 31 of the previous year. The account balance changes with new gifts and the loss or gain from the investment.) With only one completed request for the 2022 Gift Application of \$2,500, the Committee entered into extensive discussion of Debbie Wickstrom's request to use the Gift to open a savings account for the eventual purchase of a storage shed for the

congregation. The need has been apparent for several years, with inadequate, unsafe and unsanitary space for storage of carnival games, table umbrellas, lawn mower, snowblower, etc. A motion was made, seconded and carried to recommend to the Church Council that the Application be approved, with the recommendation that fund raising for the final cost of the shed be begun as quickly as possible and that the development of a plan for the shed be prepared for the Annual Meeting. Debbie Wickstrom volunteered to lead the follow through on these recommendations. (With Church Council approval of the Gift Application, the Annual Meeting of Trinity would vote on final approval. With approval, withdrawal from the ELCA depository of the 2022 \$2,500 gift would follow in February 2023.)

Trinity's Nominating Committee will be notified that Wayne Kendrick, whose term is ending, is open for nomination to a full three-year term.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Kendrick

Proposed Endowment Committee Bylaw Amendments

These Bylaw Amendments are proposed by the Endowment Committee. They were reviewed by the Church Council and proposed to the Annual Meeting with no Nay votes.

To Be Voted On At Trinity's January 22, 2022 Annual Meeting

(Amendments are indicated by []).

D1. When in the opinion of the [C]ommittee, circumstances are of such an emergency nature that the future of the congregation is at stake, and that the only recourse seems to be the use of the [portion of the] Fund [designated for Trinity Lutheran Church or its members], the Committee shall, upon a majority vote, recommend such authorizing action to the [C]ouncil. The [C]ouncil shall then call a special meeting of the congregation who, with a constitutionally defined quorum present and 2/3 of the present members voting to do so, may utilize [that portion of] the Fund's asset[s] for the church's needs.

D2. In the event our congregation [is moving towards] ceas[es ing] to exist, either through merger or dissolution, disposition or transfer of the Fund [assets designated for Trinity Lutheran Church or its members] shall be by recommendation of the [E]ndowment [C]ommittee to the Church Council. The Council shall then call a [special] meeting of the Congregation [who may approve] [for approval of] the recommendation in conformity with the Congregation Constitution and Bylaws and in consultation with the Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to which this Congregation belongs. [D3. In the event our congregation is moving towards ceasing to exist, either through merger or dissolution, the Fund assets designated for the Northwest Synod of WI affiliated agencies, institutions or ministries, or the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America affiliated agencies, institutions or ministries, or any local non-profit or charitable organizations, shall either be transferred to the newly merged Congregation to establish an Endowment Fund, or added to the existing Endowment Fund of the other Congregation(s) after Constitutional provisions that these designations would be honored and continued.]

[D4. In the event that D3 can not be accomplished, the Committee will recommend that the funds under D3 be dispersed to the ELCA's or the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's own Endowment Funds with these particular designations; or directly to the designated affiliated agencies, institutions, ministries, or local non-profit or charitable organization. The Council shall then call a special meeting of the Congregation for approval of the recommendation in conformity with the Congregation Constitution and Bylaws and in consultation with the Bishop of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin to which this Congregation belongs.]

Georgetown Council Minutes

Georgetown Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2022

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

Members Absent: Keith Ward, Bruce Peper.

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Doornink, Senior Elder.

Prayer and Devotions: Pastor Diane read from Thessalonians and Everyday Epiphanies.

Secretary's Report: Judy read the minutes from the October 6, 2022 Council Meeting. A correction was made to the Treasurer's Report indicating the license was for music and streaming, not "the internet". A motion was made and seconded to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Members reviewed the Treasurer's Report passed out by Roberta Hansen. The closing balance for October 31, 2022 was \$21,489.49 which included the revenue from the Fall Dinner. It was noted that we are \$9,966.26 behind budget as of October 31, 2022 based on the budgeted offering for that date. Some expenses have not been paid for the Fall Dinner including advertising and J J's.

Pastor's Report, Calendar, and Family/Visitor Update: Mandy will be out of town for Thanksgiving so will need material for the Newsletter prior to that. We will be having a Fall Harvest Potluck Dinner on Sunday, November 13 after Church. Bibles will be given out on Sunday for Confirmation students. Pastor has been participating in the "Stand In the Light" Choir in Eau Claire. There will be a rehearsal next Thursday at 10:00 am and a performance at 6:30 pm.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: It was suggested to invite a home school group to Wednesday night activities for families. December 7th at Trinity will be a neighbor to neighbor ministry at 5:30 pm.

Deacons: Nicole indicated that Sunday School has a few more kids. We will have children's participation in the December 11 Sunday Service including special music.

Trustees: The outside surfaces by the doors will need to be looked at in the spring.

Old Business:

1. Church Secretary. No new information available about a possible Church secretary. It was suggested to check with local churches to see if they have a secretary that would like to work additional hours.

2. Church Directory. We hope to have an information sheet available for Church members to check and correct their information and to indicate if they want a picture included.

New Business:

1. Building Use Requests. The Hansen family has requested the use of the Church for Thanksgiving dinner. It was moved and seconded to approve the request. Motion carried.

2. Budget. Roberta provided a Proposed Budget document for 2022 to initiate discussion about planning for 2023. Discussion took place about current expenditures through October 31, 2022 and what we need to plan for in 2023. Further discussion will take place.

3. Nomination Committee. The Nominating Committee for proposing candidates for the Church Council was appointed at the Annual Meeting and is: Kirsten Kluglow, Bruce Peper and Stephanie Fansler. Nicki Norlund agreed to help.

4. Possible grant funds for a new well. It was brought to the attention of the Church Council that the State of Wisconsin has grant money available to pay for a new well where nitrates are a problem. There was much discussion about our current well, how much a new well might cost and who might do the project. The consensus of the Council was that we should move forward with the application and ask Keith to pursue the project.

Open Discussion: The question was asked "When do kids get their first Communion?" Pastor Diane responded that it is available whenever the kids and their parents are interested. They don't have to be confirmed to participate.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel.

The next Georgetown Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022
at 6:30 pm

Georgetown Financial Report

Georgetown Lutheran Church

Treasurer's Report

October 1 - 31, 2022

Opening Balance October 1, 2022 **\$12,850.42**

October Income

Offering	\$5,795.00
Blessing Bucket	\$71.00
Fall Dinner 2022	\$8,807.00
Memorial Fund	\$170.00

<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$14,843.00	\$27,693.42
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October Expenses **\$6,203.93**

Closing Balance October 31, 2022 **\$21,489.49**

Budget for 2022	\$67,621.70
Needed Weekly	\$1,300.42

Offering Through October 31, 2022 **\$47,252.22**

Budgeted offering to date	\$57,218.48
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Ahead/Behind Budget	-\$9,966.26
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Offering:

2-Oct	\$840.00
9-Oct	\$1,555.00
16-Oct	\$1,540.00
23-Oct	\$900.00
30-Oct	\$960.00

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund	\$2,971.56
Memorial Fund	\$4,384.70
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$500.62

\$7,856.88

10/31/2022

Fuel Fund \$4,918.30

Funds totals \$12,775.18

***NET OPERATING FUNDS* \$8,714.31**

Savings Account - Blacktop Fund \$42.67 (.01 interest) **\$42.68**

Prudential Account **\$3,876.14** **\$3,924.72** **9/30/2022**

Georgetown WELCA Report

WELCA group met after church November 20, 2022. Roberta, Teresa, Marvel, Charlotte, Judy, Jeanne, Sherry and Kirsten attended. The Treasurer's Account has \$2700 in checking. Charlotte made a motion to give \$ 50 to CRA, Salvation Army, Luther Point, Loaves and Fishes and Interfaith Caregivers. \$ 100 for a gift certificate for Pastor Diane and George for Christmas. Marvel second. Motion passed.

Charlotte made a motion to pay the postage for sending the quilts and school kits. Marvel second. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned. Secretary, Kirsten