



Church Newsletter January 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 January:

January 4: WOW/Godly play at Trinity 5:45-7:30p.m.

January 11: Confirmation at Trinity from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

January 18: Confirmation at Georgetown from 6:45-7:30 p.m.

January 25: Fellowship and fun for all ages at Georgetown from 6-7:30 p.m.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

by Pastor Diane House

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21: 1-5a

Today, I am sitting at the desk in the parsonage and looking out at the recent snowfall. I am pondering what I have to do to get ready for two upcoming funerals and four Christmas services. I am pondering the responsibility of preaching comfort and hope in the midst of grieving. I am grateful for these verses of Revelation that are often used at graveside services to bring that comfort and hope to those burying their dead.

On Christmas we will celebrate God making a home with mortals. We will celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby into Mary and Joseph's home, his coming into the world as the Savior. We will contemplate the cross as we sing carols to celebrate his birth. Through that birth God did something new. And here in the book of Revelation, John had a vision about the fulfillment of God's plan to make all things new. This is a message that gives us hope for the future!

So, let me ask you, "What's new?" What new insight or revelation occurred for you at this holy time of year? As we think about the beginning of a new year, 2023, are you making any resolutions? What new ways of thinking or behaving are you contemplating?

I hope and pray that as a community of faith you can envision new ways to boldly witness to the presence of Christ in our lives. I hope and pray that we can imagine new ministries to experiment with to bring the news of God's grace and mercy to people you may not have encountered before.

What new ways can you be generous? What new ways can you be kind, compassionate, and caring at work, at home, and at church? What new ways can you participate in the ministries of Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran churches?

What's new? Everything! Because Jesus came, because Jesus comes to us in bread and wine, and because Jesus will come again, everything is new! Everything is changed by God's love, grace, and mercy for us, and for our world! Happy New Year!

Blessings and Peace,
Pastor Diane

~Announcements~

Upcoming Events

Bible Study Information

Jesus' "'Sermon' on the Mount" Is The Topic of Next Bible Study

A five-part study of the 'Sermon' on the Mount, Matthew 5-7, will begin January 23. That date was chosen because the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12, are the Gospel reading for the following Sunday, January 29. In addition, the Gospel readings for the following two Sundays, February 5 and 12, are also from the 'Sermon'. With the "Sermon" raising so many questions and items for discussion, the study may be lengthened for a sixth section.

The study will again be offered on Mondays at 9:30 AM at Georgetown and at 7:00 PM at Trinity.

In preparation for the study you are encouraged to read the first four chapters of Matthew, paying special attention for the word righteous. Do not skip lightly through the genealogy in 1:1-17, but look for the women included there: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba (listed as "wife of Uriah), and Mary. Read the background of each of these, asking if they acted righteously (Tamar, [Genesis 38]); Rahab, [Joshua 2]; Ruth, [Ruth]; Bathsheba, [2 Samuel 12]; Mary, [Matthew 1:18-25]). Note how Joseph is described and the reason Jesus gives for his baptism.

This study will attempt to show how central Jesus' teaching in the 'Sermon' on the Mount is to the entirety of Matthew's Gospel and its portrait of Jesus, the Christ, and more importantly, the life of Jesus that we are called to live.

The first lesson will be Matthew 5:1-16, the Beatitudes. Hope to see you there. There will be study guides available in class. Those not attending on Mondays may also request the guides from Wayne Kendrick (715-822-3082 or wjkendrick@gmail.com).

Following this study, the classes will decide whether to return to the Book of Acts study or explore a new study

New Web Site – Trinity Lutheran Church

We are currently re-designing our church web site. It will be down for a couple of months. The address has been changed to www.trinitylutheranchurchmckinley.org

Youth Event – Escape Room

Youth are invited to partake in an Escape Room (at Cedar Mall in Rice Lake) on Friday, January 27 from 6pm--7pm. Cost will be \$10. Please let Lacy know by January 22 if you plan to attend, so enough reservations can be made.

Announcement from Pastor Diane

December 21, 2022

Dear Members of Trinity and Georgetown Lutheran Churches,

It is with mixed feelings that I write to you to tell you that I have accepted a new call. I was offered and accepted a call by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to be the Director of Evangelical Mission for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. This means that I will have to resign my call as your parish pastor to work with Bishop Laurie Scow-Anderson as part of her staff.

So, I feel a mix of feelings. I am excited to utilize my skill and training in a new and expanded way in this new call, but I am sad to say goodbye to you. Over the nearly six years that I have served as your pastor, George and I have very much enjoyed being part of the Trinity/Georgetown community. We have appreciated working with you to serve these communities and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We both love the north-woods and will continue to vacation here. Hopefully, we will be able to visit when we are playing in this beautiful area! Also, we will continue to work together as Church as I work with congregations in the synod to vision and imagine new and innovative ways to reach out to our communities with the gospel.

Blessed Christmas and happy New Year to all of you. Thank you for all the ways that you minister to each other and to the communities of Trinity and Georgetown.

Your Sister in Christ,

Pastor Diane

JANUARY QUILT-A-THON

Sat. Jan, 21, 2023 at 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Trinity we will be trying to make as many quilts as possible. Thrivent Financial gifted us with an action grant of \$250. We are to use this for supplies. We need people (young and old) who can pin quilts together. We need people who can use a needle to secure the quilts together. We need people to tie the thread. We need people and their sewing machines to sew all the side seams. We need all ages and all genres. Please come.

All the quilts will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief and of course, there will be refreshments. Please let me know if we can count on you. Deedra W. [715-419-2355](tel:715-419-2355)

Annual Meetings!!

The annual meeting for Trinity Lutheran Church will be held in January 22 at 9:30 am. Please plan to attend a short worship service followed by this important meeting.

The annual meeting for Georgetown Lutheran Church will be held on January 15th immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

Birthdays/Baptisms

January Birthdays & Baptisms

Baptisms are marked with (*)

Roberta Hansen	1-4
Pat Bergmann	1-11
Rick Sellent	1-11
Christine Wetzel	1-22
Kathleen Grenquist	1-27
Jerry Denver	1-29

Help Wanted

Church Cleaning – Trinity Lutheran Church

We are looking for someone to clean the church
Every other week – 2-3 hours \$15/hour
If interested or more information
Please contact Debbie Wickstrom

Church Treasurer

If you are interested in being the church treasurer
Please contact Debbie Wickstrom
Or Kathy Grenquist
You will be able to work with the current
treasurer to learn the church bookkeeping system

Part-time Church Secretary – Trinity/Georgetown Churches

Georgetown/Trinity Churches
20 hours/month \$12.50/hour
Must be able to work with deadlines and have organizational skills.
May be able to work some from home.
If interested and more information please contact Pastor Diane House - 715-671-8333

Trinity Church Council Minutes

TRINITY CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES 12/20/22

Present: Debbie Wickstrom, Pastor Diane, Kathy Grenquist, Rick Sellent, Lacy Sellent, Shane Beecroft, Chris Wetzel

Missing: Mandy Rouzer

Debbie opened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Devotions and reading led by Pastor Diane.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Given by Chris. Motion by Rick to approve. Seconded by Shane. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by Kathy.

Checkbook balance \$3,678.46.

Monthly income: \$4,086.79

Monthly expenses: \$5,255.19

Net total: \$-1,168.40 Motion by Shane to approve. Seconded by Debbie. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Discussed taking communion at the rail and intinction. Pastor is on vacation Dec. 26 through 31. Discussed cleaning duties. Since our cleaning lady is gone, discussed hiring a new person or giving the duties to the shepherding groups. January newsletter will be done by Mandy. (to be sent to Sherry, Bruce and Roberta instead of Pastor for distribution). Discussed whether or not to have church service Friday, Dec. 23rd due to weather. Chris made a motion to cancel this service. Seconded by Shane. Carried. Will be posted on Facebook page and WJMC.

YOUTH REPORT: Lacy reported she will do an escape room in Rice Lake at the mall on Jan. 27th at 6 p.m. Lacy made new Christmas carolling booklets and they sang while ringing the Red Kettle Bell for Salvation Army. Wreath making – they made seven wreaths and gave them away.

OLD BUSINESS: Lacy completed the application for the grant for a new well. \$16,000 could be received through the DNR. She reported that as of April 1st, 2023 having signage warning of nitrates in the water may not be sufficient.

Discussed the church secretary position. No one has applied yet, but Debbie will check with person who showed interest.

Shepherding groups, Debbie has the new 2023 schedule.

H.O.P.E. Chris reported that she is meeting with Angel of the H.O.P.E. Foundation on Wed. Dec. 21st to deliver the donated items and money.

Church cleaning: Debbie will clean the first of January. Looking for a new cleaning person.

Annual Meeting is January 22, 2023 at approximately 9:30 a.m. Reports to be ready by January 8th and distributed by January 15th.

Endowment Fund changes to the bylaws are to be put in the newsletter.

Mission of the Quarter – Jan. through March – Chris made a motion to donate to the school lunch program (Luck, Cumberland, Frederic, and Turtle Lake). Seconded by Shane and Rick together. Carried.

Storage Shed: Debbie reported that in addition to the \$2,500 given by the church, there were additional donations of \$2,150. This will be discussed at the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussed the new church website. Jay Gilhoi is creating this. New address for website is: www.trinitylutheranchurchmckinley.org

Budget was discussed.

Quilt-a-thon is January 21st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Next Council meeting is January 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. Motion to adjourn by Rick. Seconded by Shawn. Carried.

Respectfully, Christine Wetzel

Trinity Endowment Fund Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Amendments to the Bylaws of the Fund must be approved by the Church Council and, finally, by the Annual Meeting. (Amendments are indicated by []).

The Committee recommends that D1 be amended to read: 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.

The Committee recommends that D2 be amended to read: 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.

The Committee recommends that D3 be added to read: [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.]

The Committee recommends that D4 be added to read: [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 December 8, 2022

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

Members Absent:

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Pastor Diane read from a message from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Secretary's Report: Judy read the minutes from the November 10, 2022 Council Meeting. A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Members reviewed the Treasurer's Report passed out by Roberta Hansen. Roberta stated that the Treasurer's Report for October, 2022 was off by \$2.00. Opening balance on November 1, 2022 was \$21,491.49. Closing balance on November 30, 2022 was \$19,530.81 and we are behind our planned budget by \$10,751.94. Our budgeted offerings are not keeping up with the planned expenditures for 2022. We are finding that our planned events such as the dinner and the garage sale are helping us to keep up with expenditures. The total income from the Fall Dinner was \$9,016.00. After paying the expenses for food and advertising our balance was \$8,185.17. As in the past, donations from that balance were made to the following programs/agencies:

Youth Activity Fund	\$500.00
WELC	\$500.00
Operation Christmas	\$375.00
Salvation Army	\$400.00
Polk County Food Pantry	\$375.00

That left a balance of \$6,035.17. We are still selling the remaining meatballs for \$6.00 a bag and we will be purchasing product for the dinner in 2023. In addition to adding funds to our budget from the Fall Dinner and the Garage Sale, we are fortunate to receive donated funds and services from our members and local agencies that all help to balance the budget.

The "Christ in our Home" booklet was discussed and a motion was made and seconded to change our order to 10 large booklets and 10 small booklets. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report, Calendar, and Family/Visitor Update: This coming Sunday is the Christmas program and Autumn will be receiving communion. There will be a funeral at Church for Doug Borgerson on Friday, December 16. The January newsletter information will be due earlier because Pastor will be on vacation Monday through Friday, December 26-30. We will need help in putting the newsletter together. We will ask Mandy to send it to Bruce and Roberta who will see that it is printed. Christmas Day which is a Sunday we will have a church service. New Years Day we may have special programming.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: Nothing at this time.

Deacons: Nicole will be working with the children to include their participation in the service on December 11.

Trustees: The light outside the door is going on and off.

Old Business:

1. Discussion took place about the possibility of preparing a grant request to the State of Wisconsin that would pay for a new well. Judy offered to put the grant materials together and Dale will request an official bid for a new well that can accompany the grant request.
2. Church Secretary. We have not received any interest in the position. Stephanie offered to do some checking around after the first of the year.
3. Finalize the 2023 Budget. Roberta passed out a proposed budget for 2023 which included most of the expenditures through the date of our meeting. The proposed Grand Total will be adjusted to remove the budgeted amount for Propane because there is a separate amount already allocated as "Fuel Fund".
4. Revisit 2022 NW Synod Benevolence commitment. There was a motion and a second to send \$3000.00 to the Synod for 2022. Motion carried.
5. Directory information. We may need a notebook to gather the information needed for the directory.

New Business:

1. Building Use Requests: The Red Cross blood drive will be held on January 16, 2023. The Peterson's have requested use of the Fellowship Hall on January 7, 2023.
2. Annual Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be held on the third Sunday in January on January 15, 2023. Stephanie will prepare an agenda for the meeting.

Open Discussion Time: Keith discussed their opportunity to stay at the Mennonite House in Rochester while Mary attends appointments at Mayo Clinic and the various amenities that they provided. It was also discussed that we would like to show our appreciation to Wayne Kendrick for the times he fills in for Pastor but he doesn't cash the stipend checks given to him. We decided to give him 2 bags of meatballs and a \$100.00 gift certificate to Louie's Finer Meats in Cumberland.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel.

The next Georgetown Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 6:30 pm

Georgetown Financial Report

November 2022

Opening Balance November 1, 2022

\$21,491.49

November Income

Offering	\$4,416.00
Blessing Bucket	\$48.00
Fall Dinner 2022	\$209.00
Fellowship Hall Use	\$65.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$4,738.00

\$26,229.49

November Expenses

\$6,698.68

Closing Balance November 30, 2022

\$19,530.81

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

Offering Through November 30, 2022

\$51,668.22

Budgeted offering to date \$62,420.16

Ahead/Behind Budget -\$10,751.94

Offering:

6-Nov	\$1,350.00
13-Nov	\$1,090.00
20-Nov	\$1,051.00
27-Nov	\$925.00

Fund Balances

Youth Activities Fund	\$3,471.56
Memorial Fund	\$4,384.70
Blessing Bucket Fund	\$538.62

\$8,394.88

11/30/2022

Fuel Fund \$4,923.30

Funds totals

\$13,318.18

NET OPERATING FUNDS **\$6,212.63**

Savings Account - Blacktop Fund \$42.68 (0.2 interest) **\$42.70**

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

