



The Parish Messenger January 2024

Mission Statement

We are a Christian community rooted in God's love growing in Christ through reaching out and serving.

CHURCHES

Georgetown Lutheran
PO Box 86
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
Office: 715.857.5580

Trinity Lutheran
2532-15th Street
Cumberland, WI 54829
715.822.3001

PASTOR

Diane Norstad
715-501-4129 (cell)
715-268-5706 (home)
revdianenorstad@yahoo.com

WORSHIP TIMES

Georgetown
Worship 10:45 AM

Trinity
Worship 8:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES

Georgetown
9:15 AM (Sept-May)

Trinity
10:00 AM (Sept-May)

OFFICE HOURS

Mondays 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM

Trinity Youth Christmas Program Sunday, December 17



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Health Kit Event

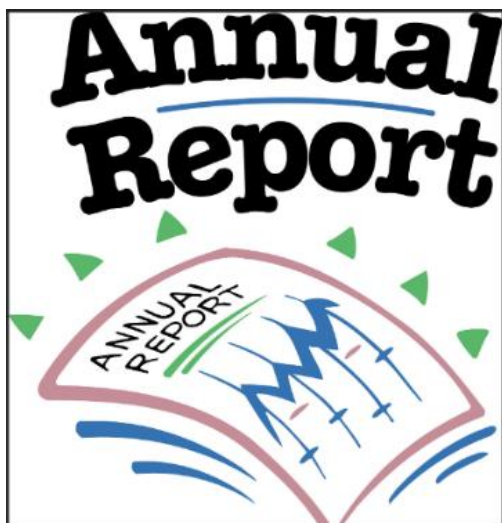
Join us at Trinity Wednesday, January 3, 5:30 PM, to help assemble 110 health kits that will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief.

Event is partially funded by Thrivent.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Georgetown Lutheran Church
Monday, January 15, 2024
12:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Balsam Lake WI to schedule an appointment.



Annual Meeting Reports

With the upcoming annual meetings, Georgetown, January 21, 11:45 AM
Trinity, January 28, 9:35 AM
all reports are due to church office or email by Wednesday, January 17 so packets can be prepared. Thank you.

JANUARY 2024 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity
Wednesday, 1/3	5:30 PM	Health Kit Event - Trinity
Wednesday, 1/3	5:30-7:00 PM	Wow Wednesday Worship - Trinity
Sunday, 1/7	8:45 AM	Church Service - Trinity
	10:45 AM	Church Service - Georgetown
Monday, 1/8	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Tuesday, 1/9	6:30 PM	Council Meeting - Trinity
Wednesday, 1/10	6:30-7:30 PM	Confirmation - Georgetown
Thursday, 1/11	6:30 PM	Council Meeting - Georgetown
Sunday, 1/14	8:45 AM	Church Service - Trinity
	10:45 AM	Church Service - Georgetown
Monday, 1/15	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, 1/17	12:30 PM	Red Cross Blood Drive - Georgetown
Wednesday, 1/17	6:30-7:30 PM	Confirmation - Trinity
Sunday, 1/21	8:45 AM	Church Service - Trinity
	10:45 AM	Church Service - Georgetown
	11:45 AM	Annual Meeting - Georgetown
Monday, 1/22	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, 1/24	6:30-7:30 PM	Confirmation - Georgetown
Sunday, 1/28	8:45 AM	Church Service - Trinity
	9:35 AM	Annual Meeting - Trinity
	10:45 AM	Church Service - Georgetown
Monday, 1/29	9:30 AM	Bible Study - Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Wednesday, 1/31	6:30-7:30 PM	Confirmation - Trinity



January 3	Kent Jensen (GT)
January 4	Roberta Hansen (GT)
January 5	Duke Rouzer (T)(*)
January 7	Kevin Klugow (GT)
	Marlys Orf (T)
	Tim Norstad (T)
January 11	Pat Bergmann (T)
	Rick Sellent (T)
January 12	Susan Schommer (T)
January 22	Christine Wetzel (T)
January 27	Kathleen Grenquist (T)
January 29	Jerry Denver (T)

Dear Congregation,

My, what a strange beginning to winter. Our family Christmas was switched to my brother's house instead of ours and I sure was glad. We'd planned a snowmobiling Christmas! Well, that wasn't going to work.

I hope and pray that all of you had a good Christmas and will have a wonderful new year. Being in interim, we don't know what God has in store but we are promised in Jeremiah that they are good things.



Jeremiah 29:11 For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Not all things are going to be easy, though. The first part of the year can be dark, boring and sometimes brings us down a bit. Many, many, people are in the same situation. Rather than to get down about this I thought I'd list some ways we all can lift ourselves up. Besides, it does us no good to sit around and worry. Work beats worry anytime.

1. Attend church more frequently. You're a part of our family and worship is definitely a case of the more the merrier!
2. Invite someone to church. This may take a little time and effort. Often people are wary of church and afraid they won't be accepted here or that we're going to take advantage of them. Take the time to explain who we are and how we serve God.
3. Talk positively about your congregation. Lift up the good things. This is where we shine. Negativity helps no one.
4. Participate in mission activities like our special Thrivent and Lutheran World Relief Projects. We're packing kits for LWR on Jan 3rd at evening worship and are still taking sheets, pillows and laundry soap for the shelter.
5. Have a special talent and aren't sure how to use it for the church? I'd be glad to help.
6. Stay after church to visit with your fellow church goers. It builds community and the treats are out of this world!
7. Give generously. It's not just about the bills. Giving and generosity are the enemies of greed and depression.
8. Would you like to contribute to the future of the church? We have an endowment fund at Trinity that can be used to invest in the future. Questions? Call the church office.
9. Have an idea for a fundraiser or a fun activity you'd like to manage or participate in? Talk to a board member.
10. Pray for our churches. Pray for our continued ministry and for renewal.
11. Greet new people at church warmly as they come in for worship. Friendliness matters.
12. When you do good things for your congregation or for those in the community, be sure to share that we love because God first loved us. There are *reasons* for what we do.

This is just a short list of how we can enliven and enrich our congregations! Do it for God, do it for your congregation, do it for those that come after us that they may learn to love God as well.

In Faith in Our Future in Christ, Pastor Diane Norstad

NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes December 12, 2023

Present: Kathy Grenquist, Steve Anderson, Pastor Diane Norstad, Shane Beecroft, Deedra Wagner, Rick Sellent, Lacy Sellent. Not Present: Mandy Rouzer

Opening devotions by Pastor Diane Norstad.
Meeting called to order at 6:45pm by Shane Beecroft.

Secretary's Report

Not present—will look to approve at next meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Gross Profit: \$4,786.09

Expense: \$10,590.88

Net Profit: -5,804.79

TLC Checking: \$8,226.33

TLC Savings: \$640.10

MIF Savings: \$13,291.32

MIF CD: \$15,189.23

Endowment Savings: \$241.39

Motion to approve made by Steve Anderson. Second by Shane Beecroft.

Treasurer's Report approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Diane Norstad getting calls from previous congregations looking for her to help with funerals, weddings, etc. Pastor Norstad let them know that she already has two congregations and so would not be able to accept these additional activities.

Had discussion of what seems to be working/ not working in service.

Youth Report

Lacy Sellent spoke with Bobbi Larson from the Department of Transportation—the two sections Trinity has for Adopt-A-Highway will now be filed together instead of each section separate.

After suggestion by Lacy Sellent, Shane Beecroft made motion for the remaining third of the palt money to be designated to the ladies group (one third already designated to Youth Group Account and another third to building of shed). Second by Rick Sellent. Approved.

Old Business

- Lacy Sellent gave update on water nitrate situation—Larry Ruetz (Public Water Supply Specialist from DNR) will be out to collect water sample on December 13. Derek Dougherty (installed system from Aquarius) and Matt Gullickson (Department of Safety and Professional Services—DSPS—from the DNR) will be out December 19 to inspect set up of nitrate filtration system.
- Steve Anderson reported that electrician has not been returning his calls in regards to the lighted cross. May seek new electrician.
- Kathy Grenquist reported that there was \$380 raised by the pie fundraiser for the shed—there is now \$894.54 left to pay on the shed.
- Call committee sent out 80 surveys on December 12.
- Steve Anderson made motion to approve the following church policies:

- 1. Funeral 2. Wedding 3. Baptism 4. General Use 5. Youth/ Child Protection
 - Second by Rick Sellent. Approved.

New Business

- Discussed 2024 budget—Steve Anderson made motion to approve the proposed budget, second by Deedra Wagner.
- Motion made by Rick Sellent to adjourn the meeting. Second by Shane Beecroft. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm and closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next council meeting: Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30pm

Respectfully,
Lacy Sellent

MINUTES

Endowment Fund Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church

Thursday, November 2, 2023

(Not final until approved at next meeting)

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chairperson Steve Kelch. Present: Committee Members: Steve Kelch, Chairperson; Christine Anderson; Wayne Kendrick, Secretary; Lacy Sellent, Council Representative; and Advisory Members: Pastor Norstad and Shane Beecroft, Council President.

Devotions were shared as each person shared a story of a purchase or expenditure that brought joy.

The Minutes of the previous meeting, August 1, 2023 were approved as printed.

The September Financial Reports of the congregation’s three funds (Trinity and/or its members; Undesignated; and ELCA Ministries) were reviewed and approved.

Action items from the previous meeting of August 1 were reported as having been completed.

A discussion took place of the request from Council that the Endowment Committee have its own Treasurer apart from the congregational Treasurer. It was noted that the Bylaws of the Fund specify that “the congregational treasurer will undertake financial transactions upon direction from the Committee, Church Council, and Congregation.” No action taken.

The three applications for the 2023 Endowment Fund Gift of \$2,400 were reviewed and discussed. A motion was made and approved to divide the Gift equally between the three applicants, with the provision that in case one or more of the projects is cancelled that those funds would be divided equally between the remaining applicants.

The applicants: Elliot Erickson, band trip to D.C.; Cash Rouzer, attend the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans; Sara Sellent, rent while attending the Dental Assistant Program at Chippewa Valley Technical College in Eau Claire.

Agenda item for next meeting: revision of Gift Application.

Next Meeting: April 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne Kendrick, Endowment Committee Secretary

Georgetown Church Council Meeting Minutes December 9, 2023

Attending: Stephanie Fansler, Sherry Doornink, Bruce Peper, Nicole Norlund, Keith Ward, Treasurer Roberta Hansen
Absent: Felicia Braastad, Judy Gammel, Ryan Braastad, Dale Jensen

Meeting called to order by council president, Keith Ward.

Secretary report read and approved.

Treasurer's report: Roberta reported that current budget is behind by \$6,678.25. Council reviewed all income and expense and current fund balances. Treasures report approved as read.

Deacons report: Nicki reported that Sunday School is going well. She could use some new crayons, washable markers and crafting supplies. She will be awarding a Sparks Bible to a new student.

Elders report: Sherry has been gathering old records to update the church's information books that include information on baptisms, confirmations, deaths, transfers etc.

Trustee Report: Any further outdoor repairs will need to wait until spring and they have an ongoing list they will continue to work on.

Old Business:

DNR and County well water test continues to be below 10, last test was less than 7. This puts the application for the grant on hold. Funding for that grant has been exhausted at this point.

Call committee has sent out 115 surveys to the congregation. Members are encouraged to fill them out and return them in the postage paid envelopes that are included in the mailing. The next call committee meeting will be in February after the annual meeting.

New Business:

Nomination committee discussed possible candidates for council positions and are working on contacting members. An announcement will be made on Sunday that volunteers are needed to serve on the church council.

Discussion on awarding gift certificates to treasure, parish secretary and videographer for their dedicated service to the weekly activities they maintain. Motion made and approved.

A 2024 budget was reviewed and discussed. Council discussed adding a line item for consideration by the congregation, for janitorial expense. Council members with contact area cleaning personal and get a quote on the possible cost.

Discussion of items to be included in the agenda for the annual meeting on January 21.

Stephane Fansler and Judy Gammel have volunteered to audit the books for this year.

Nicki discussed possible additional fund raising activities to be discussed at the annual meeting.

Next meeting: January 11, 6:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn. Closed with The Lords Prayer

Respectfully submitted by Sherry Doornink

	<u>Nov-23</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$4,525.00		\$71,373.40
EXPENSE	\$9,371.06		\$65,561.45
DIFFERENCE	(\$4,846.06)		\$5,811.95

JANUARY BRAIN TEASERS



Winter Riddles

- These keep your hands warm and nice and protect them from cold and ice. What are they?
- What do December, January, and February have in common?
- I am a dreamlike fairyland but I can be horrific to many when I cover the land with ice. What am I?
- We can be made of leather or can be made of wool, we come in pairs and keep you from cold. What am I?
- It is worn outside the cold weather, sometimes it is made of plastic, fur, wool, or even leather.
- You are in a cold house in the winter. It is dark. You have one match. There is a candle and there is a wood burning stove. Which do you light first?