



**The Parish
Messenger
December 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 10:30 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

UPCOMING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Advent Fest - Trinity Lutheran Church - 6:30 PM
treats to follow

Sunday, December 22

Worship Service - Trinity - 8:45 AM
Worship Service - Georgetown - 10:30 AM

Monday, December 23

Candelight Service - Trinity - 7:00 PM
NO BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday, December 24

Candelight Service - Georgetown - 4:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

Monday, December 30

NO BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday, January 1, 2025

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS OR COMBINED WORSHIP



DECEMBER 2024 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity
Sunday, December 1	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown
Monday, December 2	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, December 4	6:00 PM	Parish Worship Service – Trinity – ALL members welcome
Sunday, December 8	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
Monday, December 9	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, December 11	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation class – Georgetown
Thursday, December 12	6:30 PM	Council Meeting - Georgetown
Sunday, December 15	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
Monday, December 16	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study - Trinity
Tuesday, December 17	6:30 PM	Council Meeting - Trinity
Wednesday, December 18	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation class – Trinity
Sunday, December 22	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	9:15 AM	Sunday school – Georgetown
	10:00 AM	Sunday school – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
Monday, December 23	7:00 PM	Candlelight Service - Trinity
Tuesday, December 24	4:00 PM	Candlelight Service - Georgetown
Sunday, December 29	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service - Georgetown



December 3	Greta Weaver (T)
December 4	Gail Anderson(*) (T)
December 5	Julie Johnson (GT)
December 6	Bruce Peper (GT)
	Trent Jensen (GT)
December 7	Mick Swiontek (GT)
December 8	Judy Gammel (GT)
	Nataleeah Root (T)
December 12	Ira Rouzer (*) (T)
December 13	Neil Jensen (GT)
December 17	Diana Peterson (GT)
	Kooper Klugow (GT)
December 22	Randy Glenna (GT)
December 23	Emily Frenndt (GT)
	Jim Springsteen (T)
December 28	Alex Hansen (GT)
December 31	Marie Sellent (T)

If we are missing your birthday and/or baptism (*) and you would like it included, please send to church email.

THE GIFT THAT IS YOU!

2024 Christmas Message – Bishop Martin



As I reflect on my time in Malawi back in early November, I had so many experiences that merit being shared. As I write this letter, perhaps the most important lesson I can offer was that of my new reality as a guest overseas.

Everywhere I turned, I truly felt like I was the most important person present. Yes, there were times where I was the honored guest as a bishop. I was granted the best seats in the church, in the van, on the stage. When I walked the grounds at the Lutheran Compound in my purple clerical, EVERYONE immediately stopped what they were doing to greet me, even if that

was their first encounter with me. I was fed better than most and I never had to carry my own luggage. I had women pour water over my hands before certain meals (including communion) much like Christ did during the Last Supper in washing the disciples' feet. And despite my innermost desires to remind them that I was just another guy, I simply could not insult them in that manner. The way in which they treated me was at the core of their faith practice.

Thankfully, Deacon Laura taught me a valuable insight that helped my understanding more clearly. They didn't treat only bishops that way, they treat all guests that way! Having been to Malawi five times before she took me, Laura has experienced that generous hospitality time and time again. And now that I'm a few weeks removed from their genuine welcome, I still firmly believe that their faith has taught them to love their neighbor and lift them up no matter how far away we may come.

What if we all treated our neighbor as though they are the most important person present at that time? What if we lifted the spirits of the people God places in our lives each and every day? As we prepare for the Christmas story once again this year, we emphasize the gift that comes in the Christ child, God made flesh to live among us mortals. Just think about the lives that the Christ child touched! It started with Mary and Joseph, continued to the shepherds in the fields, and even gave the heavenly host something to praise!

Of course, Jesus went on to touch so many lives - people in need of healing, children in need of welcoming, outcasts in need of community, sinners in need of redeeming. Jesus became the gift who helped them all feel that they were the most important person present at the time, people worthy of his unconditional love, people whose spirits were uplifted.

As we march through the season of Advent toward the birth of God Emmanuel, Jesus the savior of the world, remember the gift of God's presence in your lives. Recognize that God is even present within you and that you are a gift as well! And much like my new friends in Malawi, be that gift for others. Reveal Christ's presence to others through your continued faithfulness and dedication to the God of love because that love can overcome division. You are a gift to this synod and to God's church when you let God's light shine in and through you! May this Christmas also reveal to you the light of Christ through others.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday Bazaar and Bake Sale
Saturday, December 14
Georgetown Lutheran Church
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

****Crafts **baking goods ** raffle baskets **silent auction items****

Chili and cornbread lunch served - \$5
Complimentary coffee served during the event

Contact Nicole Norlund at 715-554-0691 or Britta Norlund-Bryan at 715-553-2132

Trinity Women's Christmas Brunch
Saturday, December 14, 11:00 AM
Red Maple Restaurant, Luck

Please let Deedra Wagner know if you can attend.
715-419-2355



Christmas Caroling
Sunday, December 15, 2:00 PM

Contact Lacy or Joann Sellent
at 715-822-2532

Light meal and refreshments to follow at
Deedra Wagner's home.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

MIRACLE
AT **BIG ROCK**
MiracleAtBigRock.com

Wednesday, December 4th • 5-9PM

Faith Night
featuring
Matt Birk

Come celebrate Faith Night with fellow Christian and Super Bowl Champion Matt Birk. Matt will be around all night at Miracle to take photos, talk, and read the Christmas Story at 7PM & 8PM, along with a Faith Service.

Get Tickets Today!


Bring your youth group!

Kids Age 3-12 are \$5 **PROMO CODE : FAITH**

The poster features a man in a suit (Matt Birk) holding a football, set against a background of string lights and a purple starry night sky.

Baby shower for Kayla Walter (Klugow)

Hosted by Jilian Tietz & Rose Klugow

Sunday, December 7 @ 12:00 PM

Georgetown Lutheran Church

RSVP Kirsten Klugow 554-4183

[Registry at Babylist.com](https://www.babylist.com)

****All Are Welcome****





'Twas the Night Before Christmas

By Clement Clarke Moore, Adapted by
Pastor Diane Norstad, 2024

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
The figures were set in the Nativity with care,
In anticipation of the Christ Child who soon would be there;

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While angels and shepherds they danced in their heads;
And mamma in her pj's, and I in my cap,
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap,

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below,
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a chorus of carolers, with old tunes so dear,

With a little old driver, so lively and grand,
I knew in a moment must be Pastor Diane.
More rapid than angels the carolers they came,
And she whistled, and shouted, and called them by name;

"Now, TERESSA! now, STEVEN! now, SHERRY and JEANNE!
On, NIKKI! on RYAN! on, EACH
GOOD GAL and FELLA!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now sing away! sing away! sing away all!"

As snowflakes that before the wild winds they fly,
When they meet true harmony, mount to the sky,
So up to the house-top the carolers they flew,
With the heart full of joy, and the Reverend, too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard in the yard
The wheezing and panting they'd all worked so hard.
As I drew in my hand, and was turning around,
Out of the carolers there came a new sound.

They spoke of a story so near to their hearts,
They spoke of a small child who played a great part;
He came to this world, and took away our sin,
Yet lived with us all like one of our kin.

His eyes -- how they twinkled! His dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, His nose like a cherry!
This was God's greatest gift drawn up with a bow,
It was God's own Son who we now would know;

The fate of the world in a small baby's hand,
Life and forgiveness, true gifts so grand;
He had a kind face and a warm little heart,
That shone in life's darkness, giving love it's true part.

He was chubby and plump, a good little boy,
Frankincense and myrrh, but nary a toy;
A look in His eye and a twist of His head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread;

He cried not a bit, but went straight to His work,
And filled all our hearts; love is God's greatest perk,
And laying down His life His sacrifice shows,
And giving His all, up to heaven He rose;

He came back to life, to disciples gave a mission,
For further instructions to Jesus we listen.
Baptize all nations with all share God's light,
A BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL,
AND TO ALL A GOOD-NIGHT!



NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

Georgetown Church Council Minutes November 14, 2024

Members Present: Sherry Doornink, Stephanie Fansler, Nicole Norlund, Judy Gammel, Bruce Peper, Keith Ward, Dennis Wiese, Treasurer Roberta Hansen.

Members Absent: Tim Frendt, Andrew Frendt

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward.

Prayer and Devotions: Pastor shared a story about a recent uplifting Confirmation class where the 3 continuing and 3 new students participated in a test and made 80 health kits. A prayer followed.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the October Council meeting were available and reviewed by Council members. The October minutes of the Georgetown Church Council meeting were accepted as written.

Treasurer's Report: Roberta Hansen passed out the Treasurer's Report for October. \$500 will be returning to the Blessing Bucket from a local family that experienced a fire. The Prudential stock, which was donated by a parishoner, is doing well. There was a motion to send the Synod Benevolence Fund \$3000. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report, Calendar, and Family/Visitor Update: Pastor indicated that Confirmation is going well. She is keeping up with home visits. Pastor is renting a vehicle while hers is being repaired. Outreach for migrant workers is on hold. Confirmation is considering going on an overnight in the spring.

Holiday Bazaar Information: Nicki, Jan, and Britta are organizing the Holiday Bazaar that will be held at Georgetown on Saturday, December 14. They need at least 5 more volunteers for collecting money for the chili feed and fundraising activities. They requested advice on advertising the event and discussed radio ads, Facebook, etc. The proceeds from the even will be allocated 50% to Georgetown Lutheran Church and 50% to Operation Christmas. Donations for the event need to be brought to church by Friday evening. There will be no outside vendors this year.

Council Member Reports:

Elders: There was a discussion about whose responsibility it is to ring the bell before church. The question was asked if there was an usher responsibility sheet? There was discussion about WOW and the low attendance this past month.

Deacons: The Sunday school will be helping out with crafts for the Bazaar in December. Nicki is considering writing an invitation letter at the beginning of the year and asked for ideas for outreach. Council members want to support Nicki in providing Sunday school outreach and activities.

Trustees: We discussed recent problems that have occurred with the thermostats and appropriate heating and colling of the church. There was discussion about

moving away from programmable thermostats. Sherry will make the contact to change thermostats throughout the church. There was also a comment that the furnace filters, especially over the kitchen, were very dirty.

Old Business:

1. Update regarding the parsonage and Call Committee. Progress was made at the parsonage painting, removing carpet, etc. It was suggested that leaf guards may be needed on the front of the parsonage.
2. Technology sign-up sheet. It was acknowledged that the technology was complicated in order to live stream our church service on the internet. We still need volunteers and training will be provided.
3. No other old business.

New Business:

1. Building Use Requests:
 - a. Kirsten Klugow: December 7, 2024, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM, baby shower. Approved.
 - b. Emily Jones: December 28, 2024, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Approved.
2. Other new business: Judy will miss the December 12 meeting for health reasons. Dennis will bring snacks.

Open Discussion:

Next meeting: Next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 6:30 PM. Dennis will bring treats.

Meeting adjourned and closed with Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel

	<u>October</u>		<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
INCOME	\$12,797.00		\$69,384.37
EXPENSE	\$5,194.18		\$59,921.87
DIFFERENCE	\$7,602.82		\$9,462.50

Trinity Church Council Minutes

November 19, 2024

Present: Heidi Wagner, Deedra Wagner, Judy Kelch, Steve Kelch, Lacy Sellent, Steve Anderson, Bill Anderson, Pastor Diane Norstad.
Meeting called to order at 6:35pm.

Secretary's Report

Deedra Wagner made motion to approve minutes from September (no meeting in October). Second by Judy Kelch—approved.

Treasure's Report

Net Revenue: \$520.94

Total Expenditures: \$4,175

Checking (2092): \$1,891.74

Savings (3300): \$10,974.45

Endowment Savings (8210): \$592.40

Lacy Sellent made motion to approve, second by Heidi Wagner—approved.

Pastor's Report

- Everything has been going well.

Youth Report

- Bell Ringing for Salvation Army at Rice Lake Marketplace on Wednesday, November 27
- Sunday School program to be part of Candlelight Service Monday, December 23 at 7pm
- Luther Park Retreat (Trinity/ Georgetown youth) Friday, February 28 – Sunday, March 2. If interested, let Lacy Sellent know by January, 19 2025.

Old Business

- Saturday, October 12 work day at the parsonage went well—multiple rooms had carpet ripped out, one room was painted (and wallpaper scraped off in another), a large number of furniture items were carried out, and gutters were cleaned. Next workday possibly January 2025.
- Wiring for video system is complete.
- Brant Beecroft stopped at parsonage to check and replace the pressure tank.

New Business

- Advent Fest Sunday, December 1 at 6:30pm
- Caroling Sunday, December 15 from 2pm – 5pm
- Discussion of choir for Christmas.
- Endowment minutes from November 7, 2024 were read. At April Endowment meeting, the committee designated \$2600 for dispersal for Trinity and/or its members. Committee received one application for funds this year. The application was submitted anonymously in memory of Glenn Greener to use this year's annual disbursement for an education fund for Elliot and Evelyn Erickson. After reviewing the application and careful discussion the following motion was made by Lacy Sellent and seconded by Christine Anderson: "The endowment committee recommends \$1300 be granted to establish a 529

account for Elliot Erickson for future education needs and \$1300 be granted to establish a 529 account for Evelyn Erickson for future education needs. Should these funds not be used for educational purposes by their 30th birthday, the fund will revert to Trinity Endowment Fund.”—Motion passed unanimously at the Endowment Committee meeting. At council meeting, Steve Kelch made motion to approve this recommendation so that it can be presented at the annual meeting. Seconded by Steven Anderson—passed unanimously.

- Annual meeting Sunday, January 26 at 9:35am. Steven Anderson, Deedra Wagner, and Lacy Sellent terms are ending.
- Aquarius checkup scheduled for July 2, 2025.
- Looking into new candelabras through Daylight Cabinets. Cost is \$2,400—may already have donations to cover cost.
- Received information from Mission Investment Fund that nonprofits are now eligible to access federal Direct Pay Rebates as part of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Nothing new to report from call committee.
- Motion made by Lacy Sellent to adjourn the meeting. Second by Heidi Wagner. Closed with the Lord’s Prayer. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next Trinity council meeting:
Tuesday, December 17th at 6:30pm

Respectfully,
Lacy Sellent

Trinity Endowment Fund Committee Meeting November 7, 2024

Members present: Wayne Kendrick, Kris Mattson, Christine Anderson, Lacy Sellent (Council representative), Rev. Diane Norstad (advisory member).

Prayer led by Christine Anderson.

Meeting called to order by Wayne.

Old Business

Motion to approve minutes from the April 2, 2024 meeting made by Kris, Lacy seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

Financial Report:

- 1/1/2024-9/30/2024 financials were reviewed. There are 3 funds in the Ministry Growth Fund.
 1. For Trinity and its members: \$56,984.88
 2. For ELCA ministries: \$2,411.87
 3. Undesignated: \$3,672.88

Kris made a motion to approve financial statements, Christine seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Review of funds waiting deposit.

Deposits must be more than \$2000 before sending to the Ministry Growth Fund. At the time of the April, 2024 meeting Trinity was holding \$240.82 for ELCA ministry and \$101.03 Undesignated in an Endowment Savings account until the \$2000 minimum could be reached. The Trinity Treasurer notified Endowment committee secretary of two donations made in September, 2024 (\$100 to

Undesignated in memory of Glenn Greener and \$50 to ELCA missions), these have been added to the previous amounts listed above.

New Business

2024 gift amount: The by-laws dictate that the committee may disperse no more than 5% of the

amount in the Endowment Fund at the end of the previous year. At the April meeting, the Endowment Committee designated \$2600 for dispersal for Trinity and/or its members.

Review of Gift Application: We received one application for funds this year. The application was submitted anonymously in memory of Glenn Greener to use this year's annual disbursement for an education fund for Elliot and Evelyn Erickson. After reviewing the application and careful discussion the following motion was made by Lacy and seconded by Christine.

"The endowment committee recommends \$1300 be granted to establish a 529 account for Elliot Erickson for future education needs and \$1300 be granted to establish a 529 account for Evelyn Erickson for future education needs. Should these funds not be used for educational purposes by their 30th birthday, the fund will revert to Trinity Endowment Fund."

The motion passed unanimously.

Next steps: Lacy will bring this motion to the Council for their approval. If approved by council, this motion will be brought forward to the congregation at the annual meeting for final approval.

If this motion passes at the annual meeting, Wayne (endowment treasurer) will work with Bill Anderson (Trinity treasurer) to set up the accounts as specified in the motion.

Other business:

- Christine's first full term will be up at the annual meeting. She is willing to serve an additional term unless there is another nominee.
- Wayne pointed out that the Endowment Fund has now dispersed \$10,000 (all of which has been interest) to Trinity and/or its members—and the Endowment Fund continues to grow!
- Endowment Committee minutes will be given to Lacy to share with council and to church secretary for publication in the church newsletter.

Next meeting is April 29th, 2025 at 6:30.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lacy and seconded by Kris. Meeting Adjourned
Lord's Prayer

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson