



## The Parish Messenger December 2025

### 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  
2532-15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Cumberland, WI 54829  
715.822.3001

### PASTOR

Diane Norstad  
715-501-4129 (cell)  
715-268-5706 (home)  
[revdianenorstad@yahoo.com](mailto: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**

### **Monday, December 22**

NO BIBLE STUDY

### **Tuesday, December 23**

Candelight Service – Trinity – 7:00 PM

### **Wednesday, December 24**

Candelight Service – Georgetown – 4:30 PM

### **Wednesday, December 24**

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS

### **Sunday, December 28**

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

### **Monday, December 29**

NO BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study resumes January 5, 2026

### **Wednesday, December 31**

NO CONFIRMATION CLASS



## DECEMBER 2025 CALENDAR

Date	Time	Meeting/Activity
Sunday, December 7	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 8	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, December 10	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation - Trinity
Sunday, December 14	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 15	9:30 AM	Bible Study – Georgetown
	7:00 PM	Bible Study – Trinity
Wednesday, December 17	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Confirmation class – Trinity
Sunday, December 21	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 22		NO BIBLE STUDY
Tuesday, December 23	7:00 PM	Candelight Service - Trinity
Wednesday, December 24		NO CONFIRMATION CLASS
Wednesday, December 24	4:30 pm	Candelight Service - Georgetown
Sunday, December 28	8:45 AM	Worship Service – Trinity
	10:30 AM	Worship Service – Georgetown
Monday, December 29		NO BIBLE STUDY
Wednesday, December 31		NO CONFIRMATION CLASS



Birthday  
greetings

December 3	Greta Weaver (T)
December 4	Gail Andderson(*) (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 Frendt (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.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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### **Trinity Women's Christmas Brunch Saturday, December 13, 11:30 AM Bona Casa, Cumberland**

All women are invited. If you need a ride, please ask.  
Please let Deedra Wagner know if you can attend.  
715-419-2355



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## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Dear friends,

It is that time of year again, and we are reaching out for your help with our annual holiday wish list for survivors and their families. CRA serves women, men and children who are survivors of domestic violence & sexual assault. We have attached the list of requested items for the season.

Please remember that all gifts should be unwrapped and delivered to CRA Shelter by December 7<sup>th</sup> so that we have time to organize and distribute them before the holidays.

We also have a special request this year- a bike for a mom and one for her 13-year-old daughter. In addition, wrapping paper and tape donations are always appreciated to help us make each gift feel extra special.

Your continued support means the world to those we serve. Every contribution, large or small helps bring comfort, hope & joy to families who have experienced so much. If you have questions regarding these lists or would like to schedule a drop off, please call us at 715-825-4414.

Thank you for considering being a part of this season of giving and for helping us make the holidays brighter for survivors in our community.

With sincere gratitude.

The staff of Community Referral Agency.

Joan Spencer  
Development Director  
Community Referral Agency  
715-825-6222

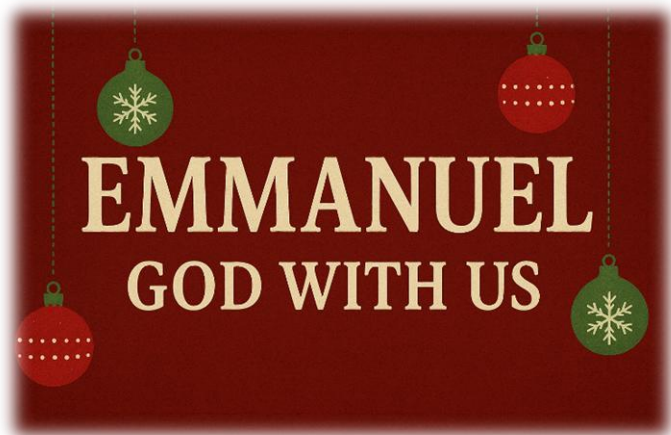
[Community Referral Agency – Providing Shelter  
and Services for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault](#)



**Community Referral Agency**

*Providing Shelter and Services for Survivors of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault*

## BISHOP HALOM'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: WHEN GOD SHOWS UP



As we approach the season of Christmas that so many of us adore, I'd like to address a few churchy words that theologians like to use and sound impressive when using them. The first word is *incarnation* and the second is *Emmanuel*.

If your church uses the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), you will again hear the passage from the first chapter of John on Christmas Day. The passage famously

concludes in verse 14 with the words, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us..." This verse speaks directly to the concept of incarnation. In other words, it speaks to a God who literally takes on human flesh and enters this world in the form of baby Jesus. It's in stark contrast to what some believe and experience - a God who exists far away, only to look down on us from God's heavenly throne. Instead, the incarnate God speaks to a God who is willing to take on the human experience with all the joys and sorrows that come with it. One can readily see that Jesus did indeed make his way through the human experience. He felt joy. He felt pain. His eyes teared up. And even if I can't recall a story when he laughed, I gotta believe that he really did!

Another passage found in the Christmas season comes from the gospel of Matthew, which references Isaiah 7:14: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, 'God is with us.'" One of the most important lessons I ever learned in seminary was in a pastoral care class. I had hoped to learn what to say, especially to someone hurting or grieving. What I learned was much more important. Instead of learning what to say, I was taught to show up - to be present. As time passes, few will remember what I say, but will remember that I was there. That's precisely why the name *Emmanuel* means so much to me. It's a constant reminder that God is always with us. Consider the final words in the gospel of Matthew: "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20b) Presence matters because God embodies it and teaches it.

Christmas is known for its gift giving nature. We share gifts with one another to reveal our love for them. This year, I hope that regardless of the quantity or quality of the wrapped presents that lay under the tree, you will recognize the gift of presence. Not only the presence of your loved ones, but particularly the presence of God. So many of you will grieve as you experience the lack of presence from a loved one due to death or distance. My heart grieves with you. My hope lies in a God who provides and will gift you all with someone who will be present with you in some way at some time. If nothing else, remember God's presence as you receive the body and blood of Christ in the worship services that you attend, for that's yet another way in which God shows up.

Fellow disciples, Merry Christmas to you all and may the presence of God incarnate, Emmanuel, embrace you in such a way that brings warmth to your heart!

Bishop Martin



Blessed Advent to you all!

Welcome to one of the busiest seasons of the year. While Lent may also be busy it doesn't come with black Friday shopping, gift lists, multiple family/friend gatherings, caroling and all the other fun (or stressful) stuff that Advent does. Now, I'm aware that you don't need that "one more thing to do" but how about "THE" thing to do. I'm talking about focus. It isn't all about the trappings and I have no idea where the crazy "elf on the shelf" came from but it's about the birth of Jesus. For Bible study we'll be focusing for the next few weeks on the scriptures surrounding the birth of Jesus. If we get lucky, we'll get to the ones about his kinsperson, John the Baptist. I thought perhaps you'd like to join us either in person or in spirit if you cannot make it so I've included the list of scriptures below:

### **The Birth Narratives of Jesus**

Luke 1:26-38 – Annunciation

Luke 1:39-56 – Mary visits Elizabeth

Matthew 1:18-25 – Birth prophesied and angel appears in Joseph's dream

Luke 2:1-7 – Journey to Bethlehem and birth of Jesus

Luke 2:8-20 – Angel appears to shepherds

Matthew 2:1-11 – the Magi

Matthew 2:13-23 – Flight into Egypt

References, Hosea 11:1 and Jeremiah 31:15

The Birth Narratives of John the Baptist

Luke 1:5-25 - prophecy of his birth

Luke 1:57-80 - his actual birth

So, please join us. Take a little time away from lists, baking, planning and stressing to focus on the birth of Jesus through the scriptures. God bless you all this Advent.

Peace, Pastor Diane Norstad

# NEWS FROM OUR COUNCILS

## Georgetown/Trinity Joint Church Council Minutes Tuesday, November 11, 2025

**Members Present:** Sherry Doornink, Judy Gammel, Tim Frendt, Nicole Norlund, Keith Ward, Andrew Frendt, Kim Doyle, Deedra Wagner, Heidi Wagner, Robin Denver, Brenda Rouzer, Steve Kelch, Randy Mattson, Treasurer Roberta Hansen, Pastor Diane Norstad

The meeting was called to order by Keith Ward. Pastor Diane talked about gratitude and read scripture from the Bible.

The minutes of the joint meeting on April 8, 2025, were reviewed by Keith Ward and approved as written.

### Old Business:

- 1) Call Committee: Nothing new at this time.
- 2) Parsonage update: Replacing the flooring in the upstairs bedroom was discussed. There was a previous estimate of \$1,000 to purchase pre-finished hardwood. There was also discussion about replacing the floors in two of the bathrooms. Steve will talk to the current resident about pricing of the flooring and his willingness to do the installation. There is also an issue of the porch separating from the building. Steve agreed to look into getting an estimate to fix the porch.
- 3) Parish activities:
  - a. November: Pastor indicated that she was focusing on farming with the Confirmants. Advent will be November 30.
  - b. December: There will be caroling at Trinity. Christmas Eve will be celebrated at both churches:
    - i. Georgetown will be on December 24 @ 4:30 PM
    - ii. Trinity will be on December 23 at 7:00 PM
  - c. January: Annual meetings at each church.
  - d. February: "Souper Bowl" will be at Georgetown on February 8, with both churches invited.
  - e. March: "LOCK IN" (date to be determined at Georgetown. Palm Sunday March 29.
- 4) Other old business: Pastor indicated that she would not be accepting an increase in salary as she continues to work at both churches.

### New Business:

1. Shared budget items. Nothing new at this time.
2. Spring Parish Council meeting. No date was scheduled as each Council will be having new members join at their annual meetings in January. It will be tentatively scheduled in April 2026 with the date to be determined.
3. Other new business: Lacy Sellent has created business cards with each church on a side. It includes name, address, and email address.
4. Georgetown has a new email address which is: [georgetowntrinityparish@gmail.com](mailto:georgetowntrinityparish@gmail.com).

Minutes respectfully submitted by Judy Gammel

# **Trinity Endowment Fund Committee meeting**

**November 4, 2025**

(unofficial until approved)

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

Devotions led by Deedra.

Meeting called to order by Wayne.

## **Old Business**

Motion to approve minutes from the April 29, 2025, meeting made by Kris, Deedra seconded.

Minutes approved unanimously.

## Financial Report:

- 1/1/2025-9/30/2025 financials were reviewed. There are 3 funds in the Ministry Growth Fund.

This Endowment Fund was started with \$40,000 and we have awarded more than \$

1. For Trinity and its members: \$61,447.38
2. For ELCA ministries: \$4,270.95
3. Undesignated: \$4,146.90

Not included in the above totals:

- o Trinity savings has \$201.58 plus interest designated for the Undesignated Fund. This will be held until the minimum deposit of \$1000 has been accumulated.
- o Trinity savings has \$100 designated for the ELCA Ministries Fund from the Anderson memorial gifts. In addition, \$200 was added to the fund in honor of a member's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. This will be held until the minimum deposit of \$1000 has been accumulated.
- o A deposit of \$2,865 was made to the Main Fund (for Trinity and its members) from the Anderson memorial gifts.

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

- Review of Erickson 529 accounts as of 9/30/2025

Each account has grown to \$1,485.57 from the initial \$1300. They are held in a Utah 529 account.

Deedra made a motion to accept the Erickson's 529 account statement. Kris seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

2025 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 \$2800 for dispersal for Trinity and/or its members.

Review of Gift Applications: We received two applications for funds this year. One for new hearing assistance equipment and one for the Barker Family for reconstruction costs. After careful discussion the Committee does not recommend the use of these funds for hearing equipment for two reasons. First, the purpose of the endowment fund is to disperse funds for Trinity and its members, however, the purpose statement written in the by-laws states that "distributions shall not be used for the annual operating budget". Second, the council could appropriate these funds (under \$1000) allowing for the equipment to be purchased within the next month, rather than having to wait until February.

The following motion was made by Kris and seconded by Deedra.

*"The endowment committee recommends awarding the \$2800 distribution to the Barker family to be used for construction costs."*

Discussion confirmed the established policy of not awarding funds directly to the recipient, but to an entity (i.e. school, landlord, fund, etc). The purpose of this is to maintain clear records for

both the Fund and the recipients. In this case the awarded amount would be paid to a construction company or material suppliers in coordination with the Barker family. This practice has been followed for all other awards.

The motion passed unanimously.

Next steps: Deedra 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, the Endowment Fund Treasurer will work on the details with the Barker Family

**Other business:**

- Christine and Wayne will coordinate to submit the Annual Report for the Congregational Annual Meeting.
- Kris's term will be up at the annual meeting. She was completing Steve Kelch's term when he was elected to the council in 2024. She is willing to serve an additional term unless there is another nominee.
- Committee began a conversation about ways to encourage congregation members to apply for funds. This will be revisited at our April meeting.
- Agenda for April meeting will include:
  - o Continued conversation about raising the profile of the Endowment Fund to encourage applicants to address needs in our congregation.
  - o Decide amount we can disburse in 2026

Next meeting is April 14, 2026, at 6:30.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kris and seconded by Deedra. Meeting Adjourned

Lord's Prayer

Minutes submitted by Christine Anderson

## **Trinity Church Council Minutes**

**\*\*none available at time of publication\*\***