

Trinity News

April 2021

Office: 842-6981

Email: office@trinitybenson.org

Web Page:

trinitybenson.org

Pastor:

Art Wiese

Secretary:

Pam Anderson

Council President

Brian McNeill

Custodians:

Karen Nelson

Mission Statement

**Grow Faith,
Serve God,
Love Others**



Inside this issue:

Pastor Column	1
Council Minutes	2
Financial Report	3
Treasurers Report	4
April Servers	5
Attendance	5
Statistical change	5
Thank You Notes	5
Calendar	6
Narrative Lectionary	7
Minutes continued	8
Birthdays	9
ROCK	9
Shout Out	9

- "As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face." - (1 Thessalonians 2:17)

Dear People of Trinity,

After an entire year of Covid-19 protocols, I have to say that I share St. Paul's sentiments. Being separated from the people I care about is not easy for me. Being separated for a year is really not easy for me. I've missed you. I've wished that I could be with you. I've "longed with great eagerness to see you face to face."

I know it may not be time yet for everyone to get back together. We are not completely done with the threat of the pandemic and we still have cases of Covid-19 popping up in our county. But I've been vaccinated. I've been vaccinated twice. And I've waited the necessary two weeks beyond my second vaccination. That means that my immunity is as good as it's going to get. I'm ready to get back into action. I'm ready to throw off the feelings of being orphaned. I'm ready to see people once again.

Maybe that can happen now. We've been having in-person worship with a few people in attendance. On Easter Sunday, we're going to try adding live music. That will be a big change after more than a year without it. I hope it goes well. You can join us! **Make your reservations by calling the office (842-6981) by Wednesday, March 31!** We still need to limit the number of people in attendance so that we have enough room to keep ourselves socially distanced. The service will be available live on Zoom and we'll upload it to Facebook and broadcast it the next Sunday on the radio; so, if you're not yet ready to be among the crowds, you'll still have an opportunity to participate. We don't want to rush anyone into anything before they're ready.

In addition, I am once again able to make visits to people in their homes. I've made a few already to catch up with people I've really felt I needed to see. I'll be making more as we get beyond Holy Week and Easter. Please know that I won't drop by unexpected. I'll always call before I come to make sure that you are comfortable with visitors. **If you'd like a visit,** and I don't get to you soon enough, **please give me a call on my cell phone (320-212-1487)!** I'd love to make an appointment to come see you! It's been a long time!

And please know, though we've been separated by the virus and I may not have seen you on Zoom or talked to you on the phone, that doesn't mean that I've forgotten you in the least. As Paul says, we've been separated "in person" but "not in heart." Now, it's getting to be time to get back together once again!

Peace Be with You, **Pastor Art**

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes March 3, 2021

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

Welcome and Introductions by President Brian McNeill at 7:15 PM. Members present in person were Jason Anderson, Adam Kollander, Toni Lindstrom, Robert Neuman, Diane Schuerman, Maureen Erdman, Jodee Erickson with Jason Heinzig via Zoom. Also present in person were Pastor Art, Treasurer Bill Hoberg with guest Synod Pastor Kathryn Skoglund via Zoom. Brian welcomed Pastor Skoglund and council members introduced themselves to her.

Devotions by Pastor Art were the Lenten service.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Art made thirteen parish visits by phone, computer or in person plus many texts and emails. There were no hospital visits. Pastor Art held four in-person confirmation classes, led four worship services on Zoom with four services posted to Facebook and four radio broadcasts, three midweek services with three posted to Facebook. There was one baptism for Laurel Everly Anderson on February 14, 2021.

There were no confirmations, weddings, funerals or counseling sessions. He took two days of vacation and no sick leave.

The SWMN Synod is planning an all online assembly to be held on two successive weekends (June 6 and 11, 12). Because we will be electing the first new bishop for our synod in 18 years, this will allow for the nominating and first elimination ballots to take place the first weekend, time to collect information, video speeches and plan further voting, with the final elimination ballots on the second weekend. Individuals can still be pre-identified by our Glacial Ridge Conference on March 7.

The annual meeting of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries took place on

Zoom on Tuesday, February 9 at 1:00 PM. Trinity was represented by Pastor Art and Byron Giese.

Our Lenten Preaching Series for this year, "God's Word in Our Great Heritage!" a study of God's Word for our time, continues on Wednesdays through March 24 and then in Holy Week on April 1 and 2. Confirmation students will be taking part as readers and acolytes.

Glacial Ridge Conference Assembly will take place on Zoom on March 7 at 3:00 PM. We may be represented by six lay people (three male/three female). There will be discussion of the upcoming election of a new bishop, as well as other elections and approval of this year's budget.

Pastor Art handed out a Bishop Election Feedback form that should be completed by council members by March 17.

Call Process – Pastor Kathryn Skoglund works most of her time with the call process. This is her sixth year with the synod office.

At this point, we need to find an interim pastor, whether that person is full time or less than full time. To find the right person, it may not be right away. We may need to contact a neighboring pastor who would help with emergency needs such as funerals and with basic coverage. Finding an interim pastor depends on who is available. Things to consider would be if he/she would be commuting or staying in the parsonage. He/she would have 2 or 2 1/2 days away from the congregation to be with family. The contract can be ended with a thirty day notice on either side. In hiring an interim pastor, it does not require a vote by the congregation. It is a council decision. Compensation is at the same level as the pastor who is leaving.

Pastor Skoglund recommends that we not form a call committee right away. Instead, a transition team would be made up of council members to do the pre-work of gathering information from the congregation. The council can decide how many members to have on the transition team. We need to get as much information as we possibly can. That will make it easier for the synod to find a good fit. She emphasized not to rush the process. Take your time and be calm. She offered that she could come to our congregation to preach and to explain the process to the congregation.

After the transition team's work is complete, it is time to form a call committee. She asks that we be very prayerful about this mix of people, finding people of varying ages and gender and people who have been with the congregation a long time and a short time. We need to find those who are thinking of what is best for our congregation. At this point we need to start a heavy search for a new pastor. Every Wednesday, the synod office meets to discuss congregations looking for a pastor. There are three ways that they find good candidates.

The synod office gets notified of pastors willing to come to southwestern Minnesota. They try to find gifts of pastors that meet the needs of the congregation. The synod will send them our paper work. The synod will contact the pastor's own synod to verify that he/she qualifies to be called.

Identify pastors who are interested in being called.

Members in our congregation can nominate a pastor. They would go through the synod office. There is a form on the website. In order to be called, a new pastor needs to stay with his/her congregation for at least three years.

Continued page 8

FEBRUARY 2021 INCOME

ENVELOPE OFFERING	\$ 9,358.00
LOOSE	\$ 20.00
INTIAL	\$ 4.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS	\$ 110.00
RADIO BROADCAST	<u>\$ 140.00</u>
FEBRUARY INCOME	\$ 9,632.00

INCOME COMPARISON

YTD 2021	\$ 16,504.70
YTD 2020 (1,000.00 to Team Promise, 1,000 to WELCA, 2500 from WELCA for lighting, Bank of the West 3,500- 3,000 roofing, 500 hospital remembrance project)	\$ 34,407.00

MEMORIALS/GIFTS RECEIVED

In Memory of John Rear	
\$ 140.00	April Radio Broadcast
In Memory of Magnus (Bud) Peterson	
\$ 20.00	Memorial Fund

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (First Security)

ALTAR FUND	\$ 1,079.91
BUILDING FUND	\$ 303.00
IIANDBELLS	\$ 793.73
HEALING GARDEN	\$ 1,500.00
LIBRARY FUND	\$ 808.00
MEMORIAL FUND (+20.00)	\$ 2,065.08
MUSIC FUND	\$ 417.94
PARKING LOT FUND	\$ 3,258.50
ROCK	\$ 163.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/VBS FUND	\$ 2,809.51
TEAM PROMISE	\$ 2,604.00
VIDEO PROJECT	\$ 1,582.21
INTEREST	<u>\$ 34.64</u>
BALANCE TO DATE	\$ 17,419.52

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Bank of the West)

BUILDING & GROUNDS	
Furniture	\$ 11,059.85
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	
Global	\$ 10,726.52
Local	\$ 11,423.11
EMERGENCY	\$ 21,345.59
MARKETING	\$ 3,196.59
TRANSPORTAION	\$ 14,170.56
INTEREST (\$12.37)	<u>\$ 897.66</u>
TOTAL	\$ 72,819.88

P ANDERSON, F. SEC.

Income & Expense- Budget vs. Actual

January through February 2021

	Jan - Feb 21	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Offering	15,920.70		
Other	484.00		
Total Income	<u>16,404.70</u>		
Expense			
Regular Expenses			
Payroll Expenses			
Organist	974.02	4,145.70	23.5%
Secretary	1,857.12	10,812.00	17.2%
Custodian	317.74	5,233.20	6.1%
Payroll Taxes Church	210.28	1,544.60	13.6%
Pastor	10,986.84	65,921.00	16.7%
Mileage	0.00	2,000.00	0.0%
Pension and Related	2,318.20	13,909.20	16.7%
Health Savings Account	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Pulpit Supply	0.00	480.00	0.0%
Continuing Education	0.00	750.00	0.0%
Total Payroll Expenses	<u>16,664.20</u>	<u>104,995.70</u>	<u>15.9%</u>
Utilities			
Light & Water Parsonage	212.28	1,300.00	16.3%
Light & Water Church	544.17	4,500.00	12.1%
Telephone Church	410.88	1,650.00	24.9%
Fuel Parsonage	88.37	600.00	14.7%
Fuel Church	1,083.00	4,000.00	27.1%
Garbage	16.38	700.00	2.3%
Total Utilities	<u>2,355.08</u>	<u>12,750.00</u>	<u>18.5%</u>
Other Expenses			
Conference Dues & Registration	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Mowing and Related	0.00	1,700.00	0.0%
Snow Removal and Related	406.25	1,750.00	23.2%
Commitment			
Radio Ministry	490.00	1,820.00	26.9%
Southwest Minnesota Synod	0.00	7,000.00	0.0%
Bible Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Total Commitment	<u>1,990.00</u>	<u>10,320.00</u>	<u>19.3%</u>
Library	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Insurance	0.00	5,700.00	0.0%
Workmans Comp Insurance	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Church Supplies	514.48	7,000.00	7.3%
Sunday School Supplies	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Music	0.00	900.00	0.0%
Postage	200.00	950.00	21.1%
Maintenance	2,275.74	6,500.00	35.0%
R.O.C.K. Ministries	0.00	200.00	0.0%
Total Other Expenses	<u>5,386.47</u>	<u>38,520.00</u>	<u>14.0%</u>
Total Regular Expenses	<u>24,405.75</u>	<u>156,265.70</u>	<u>15.6%</u>
Misc Exp (Transfers)			
TEAM PROMISE	325.00		
Missions	1,000.00		
Total Misc Exp (Transfers)	<u>1,325.00</u>		
Total Expense	<u>25,730.75</u>	<u>156,265.70</u>	<u>16.5%</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-9,326.05</u></u>	<u><u>-156,265.70</u></u>	<u><u>6.0%</u></u>

Checking Balance \$ 20,982⁰³

Members Serving in April

Usher

Robert Hoberg
 Chad Carroll
 Kelly Aeikens
 Marcus Goldenstein
 Chaden Carroll

Assisting Deacon:

Brian McNeill



STATISTICAL CHANGE

Births:

3/11 Hazel Jo Sternfels
 daughter of Josh & Tara
 (Connolly) Sternfels

Baptism:

3/7-Mila Grace Girard
 daughter of Scott & Becca
 (Petersen) Girard

Sympathies to

Belinda Sanders and family
 on the death of her brother,
 Tim Rau.

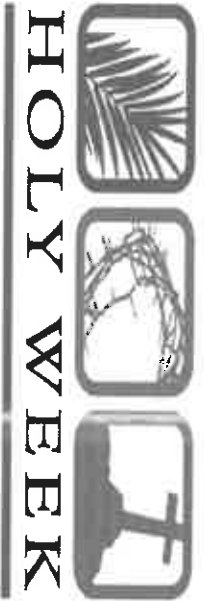
ZOOM ATTENDANCE

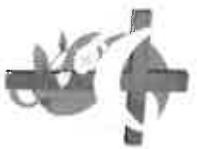


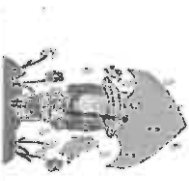
Date	In Person	Possible People	Communed
2/24	25	27	
2/28	18	70	16
3/03	30	15	
3/07	20	59	19
3/10	19	21	
3/14	26	46	32
3/17	17	24	
3/21	25	13	31
3/24	17	25	
3/28	32	43	30

Thank you notes

- **Dear members** of Trinity Lutheran Church, Thank you for the plant, the cards, and the thoughts and prayers for my family over the death of my dad. To use a quote from the service "We stand on the shoulders of Giants." He was one of those giants. Thank you for all of your kind words during this time. Thank you to Pastor Art for his call. Trinity Lutheran Church is truly a family. Brian and the McNeill family
- **Thank You.** This past year has not been kind to me or my family. Thank you for your thoughts, your prayers, reaching out, sending love...thank you for the love and support that can only come from our Trinity Family. The gifts that you all have provided helped pay medical bills, and the blanket has kept me warm, both when I was couch ridden and now back in my normal bed. Just, Thank You Krysta
- **A hearty thank you** to our Trinity family and friends for prayers and encouragement over the past few months of treatment and cardiac procedures. Your kindness is much appreciated!! Gratefully, Mick and Marlys Boone
- **Thank you** Pastor Art & Trinity congregation! Your sermons were among the most interesting ones I have ever heard. I felt I learned something with every sermon I heard. The congregation was friendly & very welcoming. As all congregations should be, but alas, they are not, I regret I did not give Trinity a try many years ago, when we first moved to Clontarf. The salad luncheon was something I always looked forward to. And everyone was so sweet at coffee after the service. THANK YOU! I have moved out of state, so this is a thank you for making me feel welcomed & helping me to renew my faith. My sincere thank you to all, especially Toni, Carolyn, Judy Eystad & of course all the folks @ coffee after church. With gratitude, Jacque Collins
- **Dear Trinity Lutheran Church,** Thank you so much for the gift of money that you gave to us for Brody's treatment! It was greatly appreciated! Joy, Jack & family

April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 EASTER						
8:30-Radio Worship 9:00-In person & Zoom Worship 10:00-10:30-Drive by communion		6	7 5:30-Confirmation 7:00-Council Meeting	8 1 Maundy Thursday 6:30-In person & Zoom Maundy Thursday Worship	9 2 Good Friday 6:30-In person & Zoom Good Friday Worship	10
11 8:30-Radio Worship 9:00-In person & Zoom Worship 9:45-In person Sunday School 10:00-10:30-Drive by communion	12	13	14 3:00-ROCK youth group 5:30-Confirmation	15 	16	17
18 8:30-Radio Worship 9:00-In person & Zoom Worship 10:00-10:30-Drive by communion	19 May Newsletter Articles due		21 5:30-Confirmation	22	23	24
25 8:30-Radio Worship 9:00-In person & Zoom Worship 9:45-In person Sunday School 10:00-10:30-Drive by communion	26	27 8:30-Volunteers for newsletter	28 5:30-Confirmation	29	30	

Narrative Lectionary Bible Readings

Read This Week: (Mar. 28-Apr. 3)

Sunday, Triumphal Entry, Luke 19:29-44
Monday: Journey to the Cross, Luke 22:28-46
Tuesday: Journey to the Cross, Luke 22:47-71
Wednesday: Journey to the Cross, Luke 23:1-31
Thursday: Last Supper (Holy Thursday), Luke 22:1-27
Friday: Crucifixion (Good Friday), Luke 23:32-47
Saturday: Burial of Jesus, Luke 23:48-56

Read This Week: (Apr. 4-10)

Sunday, Resurrection, Luke 24:1-12
Monday: Jesus Appears to His Disciples,
Luke 24:36-53
Tuesday: Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas,
Acts 1:12-26
Wednesday: The Holy Spirit, Acts 2:1-13
Thursday: Early Christians, Acts 2:14-47
Friday: Peter Heals a Crippled Beggar, Acts 3:1-10
Saturday: Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico,
Acts 3:11-26

Read This Week: (Apr. 11-17)

Sunday, Emmaus Road, Luke 24:13-35
Monday: Peter and John before the Council,
Acts 4:1-22
Tuesday: Believers Pray, Acts 4:23-31
Wednesday: Believers Share, Acts 4:32-37

Thursday: Ananias and Sapphira, Acts 5:1-11
Friday: The Apostles Heal, Acts 5:12-16
Saturday: The Apostles Are Persecuted,
Acts 5:17-42

Read This Week: (Apr. 18-24)

Sunday, Stephen's Witness, Acts 6:1—7:2a, 44-60
Monday: Saul Persecutes the Church, Acts 8:1-25
Tuesday: The Conversion of Saul, Acts 9:1-19a
Wednesday: Saul Preaches in Damascus,
Acts 9:19b-31
Thursday: Peter and Cornelius, Acts 10:1-33
Friday: Gentiles Receive the Holy Spirit,
Acts 10:34-48
Saturday: Peter in Prison, Acts 12:1-19

Read This Week: (Apr. 25-May 1)

Sunday, Ethiopian Eunuch Baptized, Acts 8:26-39
Monday: The Death of Herod, Acts 12:20-25
Tuesday: Barnabas and Paul Commissioned,
Acts 13:1-3
Wednesday: The Apostles Preach in Cyprus,
Acts 13:4-12
Thursday: Paul and Barnabas in Iconium,
Acts 14:1-7
Friday: Paul and Barnabas in Lystra and Derbe,
Acts 14:8-20
Saturday: Return to Antioch in Syria, Acts 14:21-28



Bridal Shower Honoring

Katie Stein
bride elect of Jordan Schuerman
Saturday May 1 10 am-12pm
Trinity Lutheran Church fellowship hall
Come an go as you are comfortable.
masks required
The couple is registered at Target & Amazon

Council Minutes from page 2

Be willing to think outside the box when considering a new pastor. The synod won't force us to take someone who we don't think would be a good fit. Be prayerful through this process. Keep people posted and know that God is at work.

Additions to the Agenda - Donation to Brody Solomon's family as he undergoes cancer treatment.

Reports:

Secretary Jodee Erickson - The February minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

Financial Secretary Pam Anderson - Motion to approve by Toni with a second by Maureen. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bill Hoberg - February income was \$9,432.00 and expenses were \$10,925.16. Checking account balance as of 2-28-21 was \$20,982.03. Motion to approve by Diane with a second by Adam. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth - Met briefly following Lenten service. In person Sunday School will be on the following Sundays: March 14 and 28, April 11 and 25. Will meet in the fellowship hall following guidelines.

Outreach and Community Relations (B.A.C.K.) - Did not meet. Back packs are continuing to be filled on a weekly basis.

Property and Grounds - Jason A. checked on what may need to be updated at the parsonage. It

will need a good cleaning and freshening up with paint. Upper bedroom carpeting looks good. The main level carpeting should probably be replaced as well as the washer and dryer.

Stewardship and Finance - Did not meet.

Worship and Music - On Easter Sunday, the committee recommends one service at 9 am. People will need to call the church office by Wednesday, March 31 to make a reservation to attend. Attendance will be limited to approximately 100. Pastor Art said that up to 25 people could be in the fellowship hall using the screen to view the service.

Live music from the balcony will be reintroduced at the Easter service with singing and brass. The congregation will not be singing. Live music from the balcony with three to four people singing the hymns will continue after Easter Sunday. The congregation will not be singing.

Communion during church and drive-by communion will continue every Sunday. Pastor Art will bless the wine and wafer cups for people to take home during the week and commune from home if attending church by Zoom.

Mailed Newsletters - Letters have been mailed to parishioners who have moved away or for whom we do not have email addresses asking for their email. If no response is received, newsletters will not be

mailed to them in April.

Volunteers are needed to help with Zoom and in-person greeters, lecturers and camera and computer operators. Council members could fill these roles.

Shout Out - Carolyn Rear, who has been doing altar guild duties as well as setting out communion packets.

Old Business - Volunteers needed for church services - Technicians, sign in and getting people seated. Adam will be able to help with technical support as well as Laura Rear.

New Business - The quilters would like to start meeting again. They will be able to as long as they wear masks and follow guidelines. Hand sanitizer will be available for them to use.

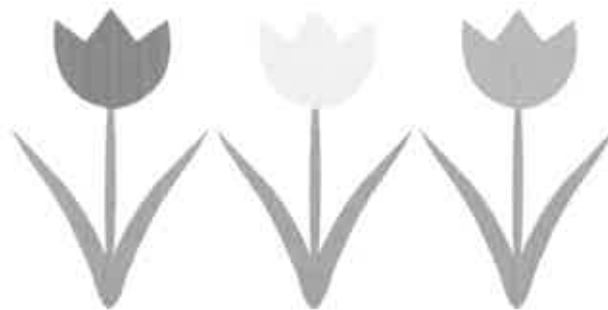
We would like to recognize Brenda Wiese for all of her hard work as technical support for worship on Zoom and in-person services.

A motion was made by Toni with a second by Adam to donate \$500.00 to Brody Solomon's family as he undergoes cancer treatment. Motion carried.

Announcements: April Newsletter articles are due March 22. The next council meeting is April 7, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned by President Brian at 8:40 PM

Closed with the Lord's Prayer
Respectfully submitted,
Jodee Erickson, Council Secretary



ROCK (Reaching Our Community Kids)

4-6 grade Youth Group

At our March meeting we discussed Lent, Easter and the Trinity. We talked about the hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today. Some of the words we discussed were: triumphant, redeemed, and endured.

Our last meeting for this school year will be Wednesday, April 14, after school. If you need a ride, call Marlene Giese, 320-226-7372.



April Birthdays

- 1 Verna Teske
- 2 Allen Crabb
- 2 Brenda Wiese
- 4 jeff Anderson
- 4 Bennett Hamblin
- 4 Rochelle Peterson
- 6 Roger Lindahl
- 6 Joshua Schuerman
- 7 Keri Frank
- 8 Bradley Wester
- 9 Lori Pangrac
- 10 Peggy Cameron
- 11 Christina Ahrndt
- 12 Judy Eystad
- 12 Mason Staton
- 13 Monica Olson
- 13 Ruuth Plackenr
- 15 Tyler Giese
- 16 Amanda Bluhm
- 16 Jerome Goff
- 17 Monica Lindblad
- 18 Piper Ascheman
- 18 Logan Hadfield
- 19 Liane GRussing
- 20 Anneka Duncan
- 24 Charles Halvorson
- 25 Ava Tweten
- 26 Jessica Schauer
- 27 Peter Lindblad
- 27 Bonnie Wrobleski

SHOUT OUT

The Trinity Council would like to recognize members who give of their time and talents to our church. Each month we will feature one or two volunteers and/or groups of volunteers in this area of the newsletter. If there is someone you would like to recognize, please contact Toni Lindstrom in person or by email lindstrom.toni@gmail.com and tell us what they are doing. We are not able to recognize everyone all at once, but you could be next.

This month we give a big hardy **Shout Out** to:

Carolyn Rear - Thank you for all of the altar duties that you handle. You change the eternal light and the paraments, clean the altar area and put out the Communion cups. You are greatly appreciated for doing these tasks.



Trinity Lutheran Church

700 Nevada Ave
Benson, MN 56215

Phone: 320-842-6981
Email: office@trinitybenson.org
Web Page: trinitybenson.org

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

