

Trinity News

December 2021

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Pastor: Dale Degner

Secretary: Pam Anderson

Council President: Brian McNeill

Custodians: Karen Nelson

Mission

Statement

Grow Faith,



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Dear members and friends of Trinity Lutheran:

Happy New Year! I know: the calendar's new year is more than a month away yet, but not the church's new year. Advent begins the new church year, and Advent begins on November 28 this year. This means we won't be hearing from the Gospel of Mark much any longer and we'll be hearing primarily from the Gospel of Luke in 2022.

Before we really begin digging into the new year, let's get a little perspective on how Luke might be different from the other gospels. First of all, Luke is the only gospel that talks about birth, life, and death, resurrection *and* the ascension of Jesus Christ. The gospel begins in the temple and praising God and the gospel ends in the temple praising God. Those are the bookends of this gospel.

The Holy Spirit plays a huge role in the gospel of Luke, and also in the second book of Luke called Acts. The Holy Spirit is illusive in so much of the Bible, but Luke shows the activity of the Holy Spirit in the lives of so many people in the Bible. This is perhaps one of the most exciting things about Luke, because we get to see how the Holy Spirit interacts with the lives back in Jesus' time and that helps us to better understand how and why the Holy Spirit is interacting with us. It's good to understand this, because it is through the Holy Spirit that we are given power to change and be changed.

And speaking of change, transformation is also huge in Luke. Transformation in Greek is "metamorphosis", which we think of in terms of caterpillars being transformed into butterflies. It's a beautiful thing to behold. And the same is with us—sort of. What "metamorphosis" really means is that we have a change of how we see things, understand things. Many times we think we understand God completely and we don't have to work on understanding God anymore—we say "We got this!" Luke disagrees. Luke declares that God is too big to ever even think we might have a glimpse of who God is. There is always room for transformation—and there is always time for repenting... changing how we see things. This year, it might be beneficial for us to write down what believe about God and His creation early on, and then write about the same thing at the end of the year. Then check how you've grown, changed, or shifted in attitudes towards different things. If you see no change, it may be a time to check if you've been resisting the Holy Spirit in your life – you should find change.

How does the Holy Spirit open our eyes? One way is by the way Luke portrays Mary, Jesus' mother: ponder. We tend to live our lives dualistically, meaning that we see things as either black or white, right or wrong, left or right. If you haven't figured this out yet, we don't have a dualistic God, an "either-or" God: we have a "both-and" God Who encompasses everything in life. God finds us in the light and in the dark, in the good and the bad: God finds us as 100 percent saint and sinner always. Yes, indeed, we have a "both-and" God and we are created in His image—we are to be "both-and" people. So ponder this year. Ponder everything. If you discover you are seeing in dualistic terms (i.e., black and white, good and bad), check it out: ask why you might resisting the Holy Spirit in your life. This is really hard work, but this is one of the callings in Luke, to be transformed, to repent, and to ponder – not necessarily in that order.

God be with us in this new year. May the Holy Spirit be active in our community. May we not resist the Holy Spirit's guidance. Let's go ponder, repent and live the new life centered in our Savior, Jesus Christ. Happy New Year!!

Pr. Dale

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes November 3, 2021

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

Welcome by President Brian McNeill at 7:01 PM. Members present were Adam Kolander, Toni Lindstrom, Jason Anderson, Jason Heinzig, Maureen Erdman and Jodee Erickson. Also present were Bill Hoberg and Pastor Dale Degner. Absent were Diane Schuerman and Robert Neuman.

Devotions by Pastor Dale from Psalm 50 and 1Thessalonians – Rejoice always and pray without ceasing. Thank God for everything he does for us.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Dale met with the conference pastors and was able to meet the majority of the pastors who are in the Glacial Ridge Conference. He has completed the schedule and training for the acolytes. The schedule for confirmation is complete and classes are planned for each time. The confirmation class has met three times. "They are a wonderful group of students. I enjoy them." He has contacted three confirmation families who have not yet come to classes. Pastor Dale met with Donald Young from the Gideon's and he will be sharing the work of the Gideon's here at Trinity on January 23. Pastor Dale attended the SW Minnesota Theological Conference on October 11 – 12. He has watched the installation of our new Southwestern Minnesota Bishop, Bishop Dee Pe-

erson. Pastor Dale continues to call families to introduce himself and to ask one question: "If there was just one thing that would make Trinity Lutheran Church a place that you just had to go to on a regular basis, what would that be?" Pastor Dale made one in person visit and gave that person communion. He will be on vacation December 27 to January 2.

Reports:

Secretary Jodee Erickson – The October minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

Financial Secretary Pam Anderson – Motion by Jason H to approve with second by Toni. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bill Hoberg – October total income was \$15,539.47 and total expenses were \$12,501.09. Checking account balance as of October 31, 2021 was \$29,251.80. Motion made by Maureen to approve with second by Jason A. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth – Plans for the Sunday School Christmas Program are moving forward. The date for the program is Sunday December 19 during worship service.

Outreach and Community Relations (B.A.C.K.) – Did not meet. Julie McNeill has written grants for Team Promise. Team Promise was awarded a total of \$3,500.00 from Benson Area Community Foundation jointly with the Galen Hanson Endowment Fund and Robert Sonsteng Fund. Team Promise hopes to resume in January, 2022.

Property and Grounds – Jason A will ask Robert to check with Craig's regarding the thermostats for the church. A floor drain in the north room of the parsonage basement has backed up on occasion.

Adam Fahje could be a possibility for removing the snow from the church parking lot. He has been doing snow removal for the school and other businesses in town.

Stewardship and Finance – Did not meet. The endowment fund has been brought up to date. A total of \$6,134.47 for distribution will be as follows – Global Health Ministries - \$3,026.34 and balance of \$3,108.13 will go to Trinity Quilters \$500.00; Best Life Ministries \$500; and Human Services \$2,108.13 to sponsor two or three families in need.

Worship and Music – Did not meet.

Discussions

Discussed how serving coffee is assigned. Brian will talk with Pam to see if a new schedule could be used starting the first of the year.

Old Business – Discussed parking lot snow removal. Adam Fahje was suggested as a possibility.

New Business – None

Announcements – December newsletter articles are due November 15. The next Church Council meeting is December 1, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned by President Brian at 8:00 PM

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



OCTOBER 2021 INCOME

ENVELOPE OFFERING	\$ 8,986.00
LOOSE	\$ 213.50
SUNDASY SCHOOL	\$ 13.00
INTIAL	\$.50
ENDOWMENT	\$ 6,134.47
SYNOD SALARY	\$ 192.00
OCTOBER INCOME	<u>\$ 15,539.47</u>

INCOME COMPARISON

YTD 2021 (\$1,922 parsonage work, 6,134.47 Endowment)	\$ 120,712.10
YTD 2020 (4,492.00 to Team Promise, 1,000 to WELCA, 2,500 from WELCA for lighting, 3,000 Roofing, 500, Hospital remembrance, 2997.00 Thrivent, 20,800 Loan/grant, 200 rent, 920 hunger, 250 facemasks, 1463.42 Video fund)	<u>\$ 144,297.17</u>

MEMORIALS/GIFTS RECEIVED

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (First Security)

ALTAR FUND	\$ 1,079.91
BUILDING FUND	\$ 303.00
HANDBELLS	\$ 793.73
LANSCAPING	\$ 00.00
LIBRARY FUND	\$ 808.00
MEMORIAL FUND	\$ 2,335.08
MUSIC FUND	\$ 663.24
PARKING LOT FUND	\$ 3,258.50
ROCK	\$ 163.00
SUNDAY SCHOOL/VBS FUND	\$ 2,809.51
TEAM PROMISE	\$ 2,604.00
VIDEO PROJECT	\$ 1,607.21
INTEREST (+ 2.22)	<u>\$ 41.31</u>
BALANCE TO DATE	\$ 16,466.49

SAVINGS ACCOUNT (Bank of the West)

BUILDING & GROUNDS	
Large	\$ 1,702.36
Furniture	\$ 11,740.79
COMMUNITY OUTREACH	
Global	\$ 11,407.46
Local	\$ 11,444.53
EMERGENCY	\$ 22,026.53
MARKETING	\$ 3,537.06
TRANSPORTAION	\$ 14,851.50
INTEREST (+ .65)	\$ 951.55
ENDOWMENT	<u>\$ 1,021.41</u>
TOTAL	\$ 78,683.19

P ANDERSON, F. SEC.

Income & Expense- Budget vs. Actual

January through October 2021

	Jan - Oct 21	Budget	% of Budget
Income			
Offering	106,330.95		
Transfers	4,559.07		
Other	9,822.08		
Total Income	<u>120,712.10</u>		
Expense			
Regular Expenses			
Payroll Expenses			
Organist	3,597.66	4,145.70	86.8%
Secretary	9,056.64	10,812.00	83.8%
Custodian	1,703.93	5,233.20	32.6%
Payroll Taxes Church	1,052.46	1,544.60	68.1%
Pastor	39,085.53	65,921.00	59.3%
Mileage	151.93	2,000.00	7.6%
Pension and Related	9,852.95	13,909.20	70.8%
Health Savings Account	0.00	1,000.00	0.0%
Pulpit Supply	1,788.04	480.00	372.5%
Continuing Education	0.00	750.00	0.0%
Payroll Expenses - Other	0.00		
Total Payroll Expenses	<u>66,289.14</u>	<u>105,795.70</u>	<u>62.7%</u>
Utilities			
Light & Water Parsonage	1,126.07	1,300.00	86.6%
Light & Water Church	3,346.77	4,500.00	74.4%
Telephone Parsonage	99.00		
Telephone Church	1,577.66	1,650.00	95.6%
Fuel Parsonage	522.42	600.00	87.1%
Fuel Church	2,148.65	4,000.00	53.7%
Garbage	390.16	700.00	55.7%
Total Utilities	<u>9,210.73</u>	<u>12,750.00</u>	<u>72.2%</u>
Other Expenses			
Conference Dues & Registration	495.00	1,000.00	49.5%
Mowing and Related	1,120.00	1,700.00	65.9%
Snow Removal and Related	656.25	1,750.00	37.5%
Committment			
Radio Ministry	1,260.00	1,820.00	69.2%
Southwest Minnesota Synod	7,000.00	7,000.00	100.0%
Bible Camp	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.0%
Total Committment	<u>9,760.00</u>	<u>10,320.00</u>	<u>94.6%</u>
Library	0.00	300.00	0.0%
Insurance	5,970.00	5,700.00	104.7%
Workmans Comp Insurance	0.00	1,200.00	0.0%
Church Supplies	5,953.24	7,000.00	85.0%
Sunday School Supplies	921.84	1,000.00	92.2%
Music	0.00	900.00	0.0%
Postage	970.00	950.00	102.1%
Maintenance	6,998.96	6,500.00	107.7%
R.O.C.K. Ministries	63.62	200.00	31.8%
Total Other Expenses	<u>32,908.91</u>	<u>38,520.00</u>	<u>85.4%</u>
Total Regular Expenses	<u>108,408.78</u>	<u>157,065.70</u>	<u>69.0%</u>
Misc Exp (Transfers)			
TEAM PROMISE	325.00		
Video System	911.43		
Healing Garden	3,036.00		
Food Shelf	1,625.00		
Altar Guild	50.00		
Missions	2,756.60		
Sunday School	115.08		
Transfer for Flowers	103.82		
Misc	4,436.67		
Total Misc Exp (Transfers)	<u>13,359.60</u>		
Total Expense	<u>121,768.38</u>	<u>157,065.70</u>	<u>77.5%</u>
Net Income	<u>-1,056.28</u>	<u>-157,065.70</u>	<u>0.7%</u>

Balance 10-31-2021 29,251.80

Members Serving in the Month of December

Usher

Mick Boone,
Brock Duncan,
Hans Helgenset
Taylor Duncan

Lectors

12/05 Byron Giese
12/12 Sunday School
Program
12/19 Taylor Duncan
12/24
12/26 Deb Connolly

Assisting Deacon

Altar Guild
All members

Acolytes

12/05 Haden Thole
Isaac Wilson
12/12 Anthony Aeikens
Addison Schauer
12/19 McKenna Molden
Emily Wilson
12/24 Brooke Hoberg
Addison Schauer
12/26 Phoebe Overlie
Dylan Wroblewski

Slide preparer/computer:

12/05 Shelly Mikkelson
12/12 Marlene Giese
12/19 Laura Rear
12/24 Laura Rear
12/26 Becky Woitte

Coffee Hour

12/05 *Kermit & Phoebe Overlie, Zoe & Dugan Halvorson, Mason Moe, Gavin Olson, Logan & Addison Schauer, Haden Thole, Isaac & Emily Wilson
12/12 * Anna McNeill, Anthony Aeikiens, Blake & Imani Brehmer, Sara Dehne, Rylee Erickson, Tyler & Logan Hadfield, Jordan Grussing, Austin & McKenna Molden
12/19 * Taylor & Elise Duncan, Kyra Gronseth, Sara Larson, Chaden & Keala Carroll, Jack & Kadia Helgenset, Blake & Aubree lien, Alexis & Brooke Hoberg
12/26 Altar Guild

ATTENDANCE

Date	In Person	Communed
10/31	101	
11/07	72	54
11/14	72	
11/21	117	



NOVEMBER STATISTICAL CHANGE

Sympathies to:

-Tim Slaughter and family on the death of his cousin Duane Slaughter

-Verna Quandt and family on the death of her brother, Junior Munsterman

-Nancy Benjamin on the death of her mother Clarine Fejfar.

Notes from the Library

Featured books for December:

“Once Upon A Christmas” by co-authors Lauraine Snelling/Lenora Worth
Two festive, Joyous romantic novellas by award winning Authors.

“White Christmas Pie” by author Wanda E. Brunstetter-author of many Amish novels. This Story is about a young boy, abandoned by his Father and raised by an Amish family. This story contains all the ingredients for a heartwarming, bittersweet Amish Christmas.


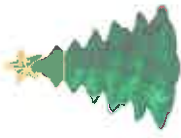

“Martin Luther’s Christmas Book” edited by Roland H. Bainton-this is a collection of excerpts from Martin Luther’s Christmas sermons.

“The Christmas Candle - by Max Lucado, New York best-selling author-Journey back to a simpler time to a small English Village where nothing out of the ordinary ever happens-except at Christmas time when a mysterious angel suddenly appears in a lowly candlemakers shop!

“The Christmas Joy Ride” by Melody Carlson-a story of a young woman taking her 85 year old neighbor to her new retirement home which turns into an exciting ride.

“A Prairie Christmas Collection”-author-Tracie Peterson and others-9 historical Christmas Romances.

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:30-Confirmation 7:00-Council	2	3 Wedding rehearsal	4 Wedding
5 2 nd Sunday in Advent 9:00-Communion Worship 10:00-Coffee hour 10:15-Sunday School	6 	7	8 5:30-Confirmation	9 9:00-quilting	10	11
12 3 rd Sunday in Advent 9:00-Worship-Sunday School program 10:00-Coffee hour 10:15-Sunday School	13	14	15 5:30-Confirmation	16 9:00-quilting	17 	18
19 4 th Sunday in Advent 9:00-Worship 10:00-Coffee hour	20 January Newsletter Articles due	21	22 5:30-Confirmation	23 9:00-quilting	24 5:00-Chirstmas Eve Worship	25 
26 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9:00-Worship 10:00-Coffee hour	27 Annual Report articles due	28 8:30-Volunteers for newsletter	29	30	31	

Youth Happenings

Sunday School 10:15-11:15 am
There will be NO Sunday School on December 19 & 26

ROCK (Reaching Our Community Kids) 4-6 grade Youth Group

We were busy at our November meeting. We studied the parable of the mustard seed. We also made the posters for our stewardship project in December. We will be donating new and slightly used clothes, toys and hygiene products to Fostering Love Clothing Closet in Alexandria, for children 0-17. They especially need children sizes 2-5 for boys and girls. It is used by families who are fostering children. **Donation baskets will be available on Sundays, December 5 & 12.** If you are interested in becoming a foster family in Swift County, please contact Swift County Human Services at 320-843-3160 for more information. Our December ROCK meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 3-4:30 p.m. Contact Marlene Giese if you need a ride, 320-226-7372.

TIDES Happenings

7-12 grade Youth Group
(Together In Devotion Everyone Serves)

Thank you notes

- **Trinity Lutheran Church Members**, Thank You so much for your very generous donation. Swift County Human Services will use this money to help families in need this holiday season. Warm Regards, Cati Lee, director
- **Dear Trinity Lutheran Church**, What a great blessing it was to open the mail and see your generous check to Best Life Ministries, This past year has been a great challenge for us all!! Ministry has been tough, so what a kind blessing that you would be so generous! Thank you so much!! Kathy

It's time to order Poinsettias for Christmas. Anyone interested in ordering a Poinsettias for the church the cost will be \$15.00 for 6" or \$20 for 8". Please fill out this form and turn into the church office by **December 13th with your payment.**

In _____ honor of or _____ in memory of _____

From _____

You are welcome to bring poinsettia or other plants and flowers purchased elsewhere, as well. If you do, please let the church office know so we can list them in our Christmas Garden.

December Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Loen
- 1 Mary Jaeger
- 2 Amelia Solis
- 3 Keagen Pangrac
- 4 Hans Helgense
- 5 Sherry Moser
- 7 Allison Egenes
- 9 Taelynn Bluhm
- 9 Olivia Moser
- 9 Alexander Rogers
- 10 Alan Grussing
- 10 Irene Lindblad
- 10 Drake Thole
- 10 Alayna Unke
- 13 McKayla Neuman
- 13 David Peterson
- 14 Adam Gunderson
- 14 Stella Michaelson
- 14 Cora Nichols
- 15 Byron Giese
- 15 Diane Schuerman
- 17 Nicole Hoffman
- 19 Pat Hagen
- 21 Dell Hilleren
- 23 Laurel Anderson
- 23 Wayne Krienke
- 24 Bentley Grussing
- 25 Robert Hoberg
- 26 Stacy Grussing
- 26 Jamey Grussing
- 29 Jackalyn Giese
- 30 Clarice Beyer
- 30 Mark Grussing
- 30 Alexis Hoberg
- 31 Cari Ascheman
- 31 Belinda Sanders
- 31 David Tweten

Trinity Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED

