

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

~Welcome to Trinity Lutheran...Warm Hearts and Willing Hands~



Dear Family and Friends of
Trinity,

Nearly 30 years ago Collin
Raye, on an Album “In This
Life” sang a song, “That Was
a River”, which because of
it’s words and melody has

remained a favorite of mine. Perhaps some of you will
remember it too. The chorus went as follows:

That was a river
This is an ocean,
That never carried this much emotion,
Nothing compares to this deep devotion,
That was a river,
This is an ocean.

Raye’s song is a sweet, rather pretty country sound
comparing a past love to the intensity of a current love,
but hidden within the romantic intent of the song is a
profound theological truth. (I seriously doubt the writ-
ers of the song intended that.) While the loves, passion-
ate and otherwise, of this earth are sweet, powerful, and
life altering, they are mere rivers-creeks in fact—to the
love God has for us in Jesus Christ. (This letter is writ-
ten in past tense, if it applies now, change the verb tense
to meet your situation...the fact remains, then or now,
God’s love is an ocean!)

Did you know the protecting, sustaining love of par-
ents who gave you life and nurtured you in growth?

That was a river. God’s love is an ocean.

Did you know the joy of loving brothers and sisters,
with whom you shared common life experiences, family
history, and loyalty?

That was a river. God’s love is an ocean.

Did you have the privilege of sharing your life and love
with a spouse who treasured, respected, and honored
you, in faithfulness and trust?

That was a river, God’s love is an ocean.

Did you have children who meant more to you than life
itself, in whom you saw the future and for whom you
sacrificed so they would have things you never had?

That was a river. God’s love is an ocean.

Did you have friends who in love were always there for
you, to encourage, to support, to help, to laugh or to
cry with, as the situation demanded?

That was a river. God’s love is an ocean.

Did you know no love or nurture from family or
friends? Do you live alone, and sad?

That is a desert. God’s love is an ocean.

That is the good news! In Jesus Christ, God sent us a
Valentine that said, ‘You are loved! You are loved’!
You don’t have to do anything (in fact you can’t do any-
thing) to merit or earn God’s love. It is unconditional!
You don’t have to be born into a certain family or faith
group to know this love. It ‘s God’s free gift—free to
us but it cost the life of His Son.

Ponder it this week. God’s love is an ocean!
Happy Valentine’s Day.

In Christ’s Peace and Joy,
Penny Jane

(Collin Raye: album “In This Life” produced by Garth Fundis and John
Hobbs, Sony label 1992, written by Susan Longacre and Rick Giles.)

COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Heather Tonkin
Vice President: Yvonne Noorlun
Secretary: Kathy Wilkening
Treasurer: Clayton Duncanson
Christian Ed: Nikki Smith
Ch Properties: Dallas Wegner
Stewardship: Rhonda Bonk
Lay Ministry: Laurie Wille
Worship: Jan Ringeisen
Youth: Teresa Zaharia



Council Notes

Trinity Lutheran
Wed. January 13, 2021
Council Meeting -7:30 pm

Members Present: Kathy Wilkening Yvonne Noorlun Clayton Duncanson Dallas Wegner Rhonda Bonk Teresa Zaharia Laurie Wille Jan Ringeisen (Nikki Smith and Heather Tonkin on speaker cell phone)

Pastor Penny Report: All the people on the shut-in list, including those who aren't shut-ins but lack email etc. were contacted on December 31st and wished a Happy New Year from the church. Pastor Penny also shared a scripture with each and also had prayer with some. Pastor also writes a page for the monthly newsletter.

BOARD REPORTS:

Secretary Report: Rhonda motioned to accept secretary's report as read and Clayton second.

Treasures Report: Checking account has \$8,947 with

\$49,298 in savings. Trinity owes \$26,000 for the roof fund. Teresa motioned to take money from the roof and building fund and pay on the bank loan. Jan second. Laurie motioned to accept the treasures report and Teresa second.

Stewardship- Rhonda Bonk - None

Lay Ministry/Evangelism- Laurie Wille- Continuing to send out cards.

Church Properties- Dallas Wegner has a bid from electricians to move some electrical lines or cords for adjustments to the TVs in the sanctuary.

Christian Education- Nikki Smith-Pastor Penny has agreed to lead the confirmation students. *(After the meeting, it was decided to ask Karen Koeder to lead the class for confirmation, and she accepted the position)*

Currently working on some sort of video for the kids.

Youth - Teresa Zaharia- None

Worship- Jan Ringesisen- Put up new banners.

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor Penny has been doing much more than pulpit supplies. The council has tabled increase in pay until next meeting. The Annual meeting January 17 will be by ballots picked up at the church or delivered to your house. A Calling Tree will be in place to call others with information. Many of the parishioners do not have access to media to receive church services. For those few parishioners it will be possible to attend church at 3:00 on Friday. Those who want to attend will have to call Brenda beforehand and register for that service. Virtual services will be on Facebook is available for the rest of the congregation. The nominating committee has nominees except for Treasure is still needed.

Teresa motioned to adjourn and Jan second.

Submitted by Secretary
 Kathy Wilkening



Treasurer's Summary Report

As of December 31, 2020

Checking Account	\$8,947
Savings Account	\$49,289
Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 221
Bank Loan	\$26,000
December Income	\$11,025
December Expenses	\$ 4,846
Net Income	\$ 6,179
January cash available	\$ 8,947
January Bills	\$ 6,153
Cash left	\$ 2,794

~TAKE NOTE~

This was not reflected in the treasurer's report, but monies from a Grant, from Martin County (COVID) related, and monies from the roof fund and building fund have been used to pay down the loan.

To avoid paying interest, the council voted that it was fiscally responsible to move the funds. We ask that you continue to honor your roof fund pledge so we can replace the building fund. The Building Fund is used for all other church and property repairs.

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READINGS

DATE/ CALENDAR YEAR	FIRST READING	2ND READING	GOSPEL
Feb. 7-5th Sun of Epiphany	Isaiah 40:21-31	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mark 1:29-39
Feb. 14-Transfiguration of our Lord	2 Kings 2:1-2	2 Cor 4:3-6	Mark 9:2-9
(Wed.) Feb. 17-Ash Wed	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21
Feb. 21-Frist Sun in Lent	Gen 9:8-17	1 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:9-15
Feb 28-2nd Sun in Lent	Gen 17:1-7, 15-16	Rom 4:13-25	Mark 8:31-38

LENTEN REFLECTIONS



LENT, As hard as it may be to believe, Lent will soon be upon us. Lent is a season of 40 days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, this year, February 17, and ends on Holy Saturday, April 3rd. The word *Lent* originally meant “spring”. The season of Lent is a preparation for Easter, in much the same way Advent is a preparation for Christmas. Historically Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts, who would then be baptized on Easter. It is still observed as a season of repentance and sorrow for sin. The First Sunday describes Jesus’ temptation by Satan, and the Sixth Sunday is Palm Sunday, March 28th in which Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem is remembered. Palm Sunday moves believers into Holy Week, remembering Christ’s betrayal, torture, trial, and death. In some churches flowers and banners are removed from the sanctuary during Lent, and words like “Alleluia” are not used; others however recognize Sundays as little Easter-days of celebration and joy because of the expectation of the Resurrection, and eternal life.

The Great Three Days-sometimes called the Triduum or Pasch,(meaning passing over)-from sunset holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day mark the end of Lent and the bridge into the Easter season.

Ash Wednesday, follows Shrove Tuesday, which originally was a day of confession of sin before the beginning of Lent, but in more recent times in many places has become “one last big party before Lent-Mardi Gras” would be an example. It is also known as Pancake Tuesday because cooks often made pancakes to use up any food items that were not allowed during Lent-fats, eggs, and milk, among others.

The Service of Ash Wednesday has two themes: confession of sin and our own mortality. Traditionally worshippers receive a mark, usually a cross, made from ash upon their foreheads. The branches of the Palm Sunday the previous year are burned to be used for the ashes for this service.

At one time persons were encouraged to “give up something” for Lent-not because it was wrong or sinful, but because it was offered as a sacrifice and as a reminder of what Jesus gave up for us.

A traditional prayer for Ash Wednesday would be: **Almighty and ever-living God, You hate nothing you have made and You forgive all who confess and repent of their sin. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that truly repenting-turning away from our sin-we may receive from You, forgiveness through Your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen**



WELCA News

Happy New Year, 2021!

So far it does not look much different than 2020 as far as doing our normal WELCA activities. The South Western MN Synod women are planning a convention for May 1, 2021 in Sartell. This convention is normally held annually but of course there was none in 2020. We will hear more about it later.

We decided we do not need a WELCA meeting in February. At that meeting we would read that thank you notes or letters for our benevolent gifts. I want to report that we heard from a least eight of the thirteen agencies we gave to. We also got thank you cards from Tanya's family and from Dan K.

In my last report we had received \$1,455 for our Bakeless Bake Sale but more donations were made so now the total is \$1,775! Thanks for all the donations. Also, the check book balance at the end of the year is \$56,387.63



I am wondering how the quilting ladies would feel about working at

church on quilts sometime. I would appreciate hearing how you feel about it.

Please stay well! In the Communicator one of the writers suggested setting a goal of doing at least one thing each day for another person and also to take care of yourself.



Remember
Offering **Your**



Our heartfelt sympathy to the Tom (Karen) Kneeland family on the death of Tom's mother, Patricia who passed away on January 17th in Fairmont MN. The funeral was held January 23rd at the Christian Church in Fairmont.

UPDATE ON THE GROCERY RECEIPTS:



Fareway-\$52,955.45

Hy-Vee-\$35,862.70

Keep those receipts coming!!

***Make sure the receipts are not getting cut off -- this makes them useless.*



March 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>WORSHIP SCHEDULE</p> <p>FB On-line streaming at 10:30 on Sunday's</p>	<p>1</p> <p><u>CHURCH OFFICE HOURS</u></p> <p>Mon-8:00-11:00</p> <p>Wed-8-11 & 1-4</p> <p>Fri-7:00-11:00</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 pm Council mtg</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <p>Transfiguration of the Lord</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Presidents Day</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Newsletter</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Service-FB on-line streaming</p> <p>Ash WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 5:30 PM</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>20</p>	
<p>21</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY in LENT</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>FB Online Streaming Lenten Service at 7 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <p>SECOND SUNDAY in LENT</p>						



Trinity member, Dan Klassen has a Caring Bridge site.

Go to: www.caringbridge.org/visit/danklassen

On October 4th Dan was diagnosed with Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma. It is a rare type of cancer that only 1,200 in 500,000 cancer patients get in a year in the US. This non-typical type of cancer travels along the nerves in the body.



Please pray for Dan and his family.

If you would like to help, donations can be done through Profinium Bank in Truman-call 507-776-2311 and request to donate to Dan Klassen benefit account.

Also a Go Fund me site has been started at:

TRINITY’S NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2021

**Denotes council representative, New leadership is in bold print*

PRESIDENT: **Yvonne Noorlun**

VICE-PRESIDENT: **Ron Kelley**

SECRETARY: **Kathy Wilkening**

TREASURER: *(We do not have a Treasurer yet. If you are able and/or willing to volunteer, please call the nominating committee, Grant Hartman is the chair)*

Christian Ed: Allison Klassen, *Nikki Smith and **Kim Hastad**
Lay Ministry: LeAnn Maloney, ***Eloise Miller, and Laurie Wille**

Worship: *Jan Ringeisen, Brenda Hansen, and **Marlene Breitbarth**

Youth: Julie Brudelie, *Teresa Zaharia, and **Caitlyn Carlson**

Stewardship: Arlene Peterson, ***Rhonda Bonk, and Margaret Durkee**

Church Properties: *Dallas Wegner, Darrel Drevlow, and **Mark Durkee**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2021: Chair- Heather Tonkin, Duane Heckman, Terresa Davis, Mike Wiederhoeft, Lori Anderson and David Sorenson

GREEN LAKE CAMP REP: Laurie Wille

LUTHER-LIVING WATERS HOME REP: Clayton Duncanson

Thank you to all who have stepped up and dedicated their time and talents for the betterment of our congregation.



Prayers

We remember in our prayers...all who face catastrophic illness, surgery, and bindings of all kinds as well as the homebound:

Ardene Miller, Larry Miller, Dan Klassen, Lowell Noorlun, Logan Anderson, and Tom Kneeland family. *Be present with your Spirit, Lord, and lead us to be your presence to all. Amen.*

FEBRUARY

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Fri

Sat

<p>Remember your OFFERINGS</p>	1	2 Roger Carlson	3 Emma Wiederhoeft	4 Joyce Jorgenson	5 	6
7 Amanda Babinski Patrick Wiederhoeft	8	9 Hailey Olson	10 Jim Hansen	11 Mark Durkee David Sorenson	12 Abby Butler	13
14 JESUS' Transfiguration <i>Happy Valentine's Day</i> 	15 	16	17 	18	19	20
21 Madelyn Mooney	22 Mariah Moloski	23	24	25	26 Sandy Fisk Lowell Noorlun	27 Dean Ehlert
28 Bryce Hansen						

Update to All

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE:

Those of you that would like to attend the live streaming of our Sunday Services need to be aware of a change. We will be taping Sunday AM at 10:30, weather permitting. All other rules still apply, (Masks, Hand Sanitizer, Social Distancing, and Registering). Please call the office to make your reservation. The above change begins Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021. As Easter approaches, we will notify you of upcoming schedules.

NOTE REGARDING THE ROOF FUND:

As was stated in the council minutes, we determined the most fiscally responsible action was to pay down the loan with available monies. We are currently paying interest on the loan and not making any money on the savings.

\$26,000	Current amount on Loan
\$1,800	Gift's and Memorials paid on loan
\$18,200	Saving's (includes pledges paid) paid on loan
\$6,000	Balance due on loan as of 1/28/21

After all bills paid and accounts balanced we will pay more down in a couple of weeks. Monies will be taken from the roof fund and/or building fund. We pray that you continue to honor your roof fund pledges so we may replenish those funds. Thanks to all for your continued support!

NOTE REGARDING CONFIRMATION:

Karen Koeder will be teaching confirmation for our two students, Addison Smith and Abby Hinton. They will meet starting Wednesday the 27th. This change will free Pastor Penny for Pastoral Care and Services. Please keep Pastor Penny and Karen in your prayers. We are Blessed to have their Pastoral Care and Support.

ANNUAL MEETING:

Thanks to all who voted. The Annual Report and Slate of Officers and Committee Member's was approved by a vote of 45 to 0.

We welcome feedback as we continue to try to meet the needs of all our parishioner's.

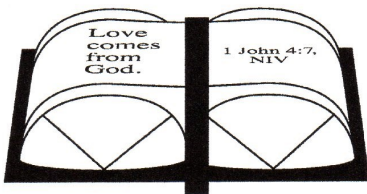
God's Blessing's,

Yvonne Noorlun, on behalf of the council.

FUN FOR ALL AGES

GOD'S SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.



What you need:

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

What you do:

1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!

PUZZLE

A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J O U O U B E O E E E

J E A A E E ' U N O J O U O U

B E O N C U A E J E A A

N C U A ' B E O A N U E N A W

J E A A E U F A

N U E N A W U N O

B E O O E E O

F A E E O R U T H 1:16, N I V

”

W	A	E	T
B	U	H	O
G	R	L	I
N	S	P	M

Answer: "Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV

Bible Quiz

What was the name of Moses' wife?

- A. Miriam
- B. Jochebed
- C. Zipporah
- D. Leah



Answer: C (See Exodus 2:21.)

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The MESSENGER

February 2021

Lent
create in me a clean heart,
O GOD,
and renew a right spirit within me

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Council Pres. - Yvonne Noorlun

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SOCIAL

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