

THE MESSENGER

A PUBLICATION OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

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



Dear Family and Friends at Trinity,

I was trying to think of something fun and exciting to do on New Year's Eve this year. I don't know why I thought this New Year's Eve would be any different

from most of the New Year's Eves I've spent. Fun and exciting hardly describe any of them. I remembered the first New Year's Eve I was married (that did not turn out as planned either but is a story for a different time!) I had suggested that perhaps we could go out and do something fun, or even go to, or host a party. I have no idea why I thought any of those ideas would 'fly'; we weren't exactly party people!

There it was New Year's Eve and we were home, alone, playing the most boring game of 'Strategy', while I also did a load or two of laundry when it wasn't my turn, which was much of the time. I remembered my mom's story about a New Year's Eve she spent with my father. They were still dating; he had come to Truman to spend the evening with her and her mom and at 15 minutes before midnight he decided to leave! When my mom challenged his decision, insisting he could stay at least 15 more minutes and see the new year in, his response was, "Well I'm coming back for dinner tomorrow; it will be the new year, and I'll see you then" and he left. It was a decision he would regret for the rest of his life because the story was retold every new years eve for the next 46 years they spent together.

Expectations. Hopes. Plans. We make them for New Year's Eve. We make them for the new year. We make them for life. Some of them, if we are honest, were doomed from the start. They were unrealistic. Some of them struggled on for a while and then crashed in around us, for many different reasons. Others thrived and even went beyond our wildest dreams, also for many different reasons.

I began to think of my own life. MY plan was simple: live in Martin Co. and work for social services. I have

lived in 5 states, some for short term projects. My life in ministry has had me serving churches in 6 denominations and in non-denominational work as a chaplain in hospitals, HOSPICE, a college, and an addiction rehab center. I have travelled in at least 29 states and 18 foreign countries, some of those several times. I have escorted youth and adults on education or work mission projects to Indian reservations in SD, Jamaica, Washington DC, New York City, and Russia. My home has been a refuge for college women dealing with eating disorders, a high school girl abandoned by her parents, literal refugees from a war-torn African nation, and foreign exchange students. I have met high-powered people and those with no power at all, and have celebrated with persons in their most joyous occasions and mourned with those in times of deepest grief and despair. I have seen some of the most beautiful places on earth and met hundreds of fascinating people. Of course I have battled a broken heart, disappointment betrayal, cancer-3 times, and grief but I survived!

These have been the most powerful, exciting, challenging, sometimes frightening, stimulating, joyful, and rewarding experiences of my life, and NONE of them were on MY original "to-do" list! They happened when I said, "Here I am Lord. What is YOUR plan for me?" I am not telling you any of this to 'brag' about my life; it is not a job resume as I move on down the road. I am simply suggesting that in this season of planning for the new year and of making resolutions, our wisest resolution might be simply this: "I hereby resolve to open my life to God's plan for me, letting go of some of my own." You might be amazed at what could happen; I was!.

Psalm 32:8 The Lord said, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life." Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understandings. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take. Happy New Year!

Pastor Penny

COUNCIL MINUTES

COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Yvonne Noorlun
Vice President: N/A
Secretary: Kathy Wilkening
Treasurer: N/A
Christian Ed: Nikki Smith
Ch Properties: Dallas Wegner
Stewardship: Rhonda Bonk
Lay Ministry: Eloise Miller
Worship: Jan Ringeisen
Youth: Teresa Zaharia



**Trinity Lutheran Church
 Council Meeting 7:00
 Wed- December 8, 2021**

Members Present: Kathy Wilkening Yvonne Noorlun Nikki Smith Eloise Miller Dan Klasson Dallas Wegner Jan Ringeisen Teresa Zaharia

Pastors Report-Penny Ritter Called on home bound member, and an informal chat with another member. Made home calls/communion to 2 members. Took them bulletins and took one of the All-Saints Remembrance bulletins to a member so he could see that we had lighted candle for his wife. I stopped at Nursing home room (but she was quarantined for 14 days with Covid)

Secretary-Kathy Wilkening Teresa Zaharia had a correction of the wording for the P.P.P.E..loan, not P.P.E. loan.

Treasures Report- Teresa Zaharia said the treasures balance is \$20,000 for the year is more than budgeted.

BOARD REPORTS:

Stewardship-Rhonda Bonk Pony Express was discussed. Total amount of pledges have increased to \$91,470 an increase of \$5510 from 2021. Total amount of letters and Pony Express was sent to 99 families of which 61 replied. Average pledge was \$1500. Time and Talent Sheets returned was 43.
Lay Ministry/Evangelism-Eloise Miller Thank you to all who donated Christmas cards.
Church Properties-Dallas Wegner Put up new LED lights in Brenda's office and East side of the church stained glass windows.

Christian Education-Nikki Smith Each GIFT child was given \$5.00 to purchase a gift for Ronald McDonald house in Rochester. The gifts were put in bags and will be delivered. The children preformed the Christmas story program.
Youth-Teresa Zaharia The kids are selling Kwik Trip car wash cards to raise money for trip to Youth convention this summer. Cost is \$36 for 5 car washes.

Worship-Jan Ringeisen Planned the Advent and Christmas Eve services. Changed the time for Christmas Eve candlelight service, which will be 6:00 pm instead of the 5:00 pm service.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Call Committee met with a new candidate for pastor. Will call her for a second interview.

Building Relationships and Trust is her interest.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nikki motioned that Josh Tonkin is an at-large council member. Rhonda second. Teresa motioned that Brenda Hansen receive a raise of .50 per hour and Dan second.

Submitted by Secretary
 Kathy Wilkening

Dear family & Friends of Trinity,
 Thank you so much for the gift from the congregation. Most of you know I love books so a gift certificate to the Good News Bookstore is very appropriate. Also, thank you for individual gifts and cards and for the cookies! I wish you all God's peace and joy in the coming year. ~Penny~ (Pam says "thanks for the cookies" too!)



Treasurer's Summary Report As of November 30, 2021

Checking Account Bal.	\$28,689
Savings Account Bal.	\$53,248
OCTOBER:	
General Fund Income	\$ 6,541
General Fund Expenses	\$ 4,930
Net long	\$ 1,611
DECEMBER:	
Cash Available	\$ 28,689
Bills to pay	\$ 8,240
Cash long	\$20,449

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

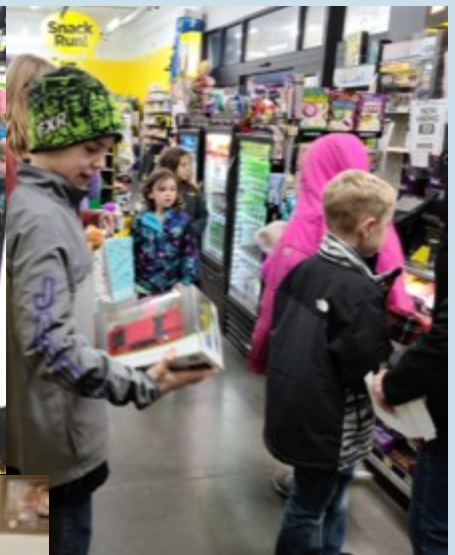
SCRIPTURE READINGS

DATE/ CALENDAR YEAR	FIRST READING	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
Jan 2-Second Christmas	Jer 31:7-14	Eph 1:3-14	John 1 1-18
Jan 9-Baptism of the Lord	Isa 43:1-7	Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan 16- 2nd Epiphany	Isa 62:1-5	1 Cor 12:1-11	John 2:1-11
Jan 23-3rd Epiphany	Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	1 Co 12:12-31a	Luke 4:14-21
Jan 30-4th Epiphany	Jer 1:4-10	1 Cor 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30

GIFT SCHOOL celebrated the nativity

They also went to the dollar store to buy gifts for kids in the Ronald McDonald House

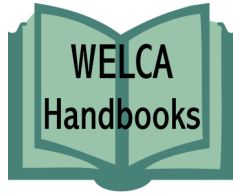
Thank you to all those who have donated to the GIFT Program!





WELCA News

Hopefully, all of you who have a “prayer child” remembered to send a Christmas greeting.



When you receive your WELCA handbook for 2022, you will notice there are less pages in it. The biggest change is that you will not see the lists of working divisions. When we established these groups there were many more jobs to do than now, but policies have changed over the years.. Formerly, we did showers for anyone from the congregation that was getting married. We served wedding receptions. We had potlucks. When we served for funerals, we baked cakes and made salads. Now the funeral food is catered. There were probably other events, too. Some years each division had three or four things to do.

Recently about the only task has been to serve lunches for funerals. Even with about twenty some names on the list it was hard for the chairman to find enough workers. A few years ago we added a funeral committee to help out if the division needed extra workers. Our plan now is to have the funeral committee do all the funerals. They will, of course, gladly include other volunteers to help out. We made this decision at a special WELCA meeting.

I did take the liberty to name the committee the serving committee.

Another change is the elimination of the Martha Circle, the last of our four original circles to go away.

We also decided that we do not need to have lunch after our WELCA meetings! Some of the policies will be changed when we have our next WELCA meeting the third Monday in February. Our Bible study group will continue to meet at nine the first Thursday of each month. We meet at the church.

Bakeless Bake Sale



Next month there will be a report on the Bakeless Bake Sale and also a list of the organizations that were recipients of our monetary gifts.

Barb Shoen

A BIG Thank you to those persons who read and lighted the Advent Candles-the Dan Klassen Family, Don & Sandy Meyer, the Zaharia family and Brenda Hansen.

UPDATE ON THE GROCERY RECEIPTS:



Fareway-\$69,510.96

Hy-Vee-\$90,898.25

Keep those receipts coming!!

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

NEWS FROM OUR PARISH



Congratulations to Johanna Kelley & Dylan Christian on the baptism of their daughter, Sofia Marie Christian who was baptized at

Trinity on December 19, 2021. She was born June 27, 2021 at Fairmont MCHS. Sofia's sponsors are Haley Smid and Trevor Logan. Sofia's grandparents from Trinity are Ron & Kaela Kelley.



Trinity's President Report



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Special thanks to all who helped make our Advent and Christmas season so meaningful. The Volunteers for the Advent Wreath, Acolytes, Special Music, Beautiful Decorating, Banners for the Season and all the Baptisms, Children's Tree and Gifts for the Ronald McDonald House, Mitten and Hat Tree, Poinsettias, Help opening and closing church, just to mention a few. Remember, your time and talents are a gift.

God's Blessings to All



Our Heartfelt sympathy to the Yvonne Noorlun, Brad Nickerson & Brian Nickerson families at

the death of their brother, Wayne. He passed away on Thursday, December 16 in Wisconsin. A Memorial service will be held in Truman at the beginning of January.

Our sympathy to the Chris (Kent) Hyndman family at the death of her father, Jerry Anderson who passed away on November 28, 2021 in Aurelia, IA.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Would you like to have a text if church is cancelled? Let the church office know if you haven't received any in the past.

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

Prayers **Ardene Miller, Larry Miller, Rosalie Heckman, Doris Fedder, Linnea Huss, Jason and Nick (sons of Sandy Fisk) Families of Wayne Nickerson and the Chris Hyndman family.**

Be present with your Spirit, Lord, and lead us to be your presence to all. Amen.



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	 Ron & Kaela Kelley (7 yrs on Jan 3rd)					
2	3 Marlene Breitbarth Heather Maloney Brady Selnes	4 Emilee Mosloski Kathy Wilkening	5	6 	7	8
9 Jesus' Baptism 	10	11 Austin Maloney Brad Nickerson Brian Nickerson Gracie Zaharia Johnnie Zaharia	12 Peyton Franzen Ardene Miller (80 years) 	13 Kaden Moon	14 Gerald & Ardene Miller (61 years) 	15 Caitlyn Carlson
16 Marlene Ratike (89 years)	17  Honoring MLK	18	19	20	21	22 Denise Janssen Duane & Rosalie Heckman (66 years)
23	24	25 Peyton Brudelie	26 Doug & Vicky Schwanz (48 years)	27	28 Cordae Moon	29
30	31 Art Stough (85 years)					

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THE MESSENGER

January 2022




Hope in God;
For I shall again
Praise him,
My help and
My God.

Psalm 42:11

Trinity Lutheran Church

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 [Pastor Penny Ritter—507-776-6576](tel:507-776-6576)

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