



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



JANUARY 2024

INSIDE:

- Trinity Annual Meeting
- Children's Ministry Update
- OWLS Fellowship Event
- Council Meeting Highlights
- Pastoral Acts
- Calendar & Birthdays

Worship
Sundays 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

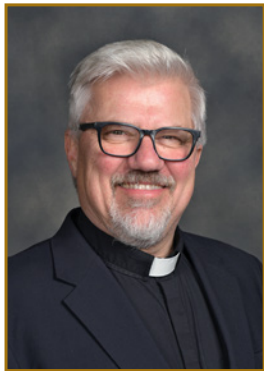
STAFF:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Pastor | Jeffrey M. Engholm |
| Children's Ministry | Hannah Rosholt |
| Children's Ministry | Chelsea Farniok |
| Office Manager | Robyn Behrens |
| Financial Secretary | Gail Cassidy |
| Financial Administrator | Mary Jech |

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 513 Madison St SE | PO Box 1177
 Watertown, MN 55388
 phone: 952-955-1891
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www.trin.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon



A New Year: A New Way

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. ~ Matthew 2:10-12

On the twelfth day after Christmas we'll be celebrating Epiphany, the day that the Wise Men from the East visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. This visit from distant foreigners makes it clear that Christ was born not just for a select few people, but for everyone all around the world! And did you catch the end of the story? After seeing Jesus, the Wise Men returned home by another way. This isn't just about avoiding King Herod – this story also makes it clear that an encounter with Jesus changes everything. We always go a different way after a visit with the Lord!

Today we stand at the beginning of 2024. We have just encountered Jesus in our Christmas celebrations, Christmas concerts, and Christmas services. And now we are all going on our way, but a different way than before. How are you going to do things differently in the coming year? What is the "new way" that God is calling you into in 2024? When you look ahead, what new thing do you think God will be doing in your life?

May God bless us all as we go about our way, truly God's way, in the days ahead.

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Annual Meeting Sunday, January 28, 2024 10:00 am ~ Onsite and via Zoom

Join us for a recap of 2023 at Trinity Lutheran Church as well as discussion and approval of the 2024 Spending Plan and election of new leaders onto Trinity's Church Council, Committees and Boards. Please make every effort to attend, either in person or via the Zoom link that will be emailed to members the week prior to the meeting.



2024 Spending Plan Review
On **Sunday, January 21**, Trinity Church Council members will present the 2024 Spending Plan following worship at 10:00 am. There will be time for questions and discussion.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

John 1:9

When Christmas is over and we move deeper into the darkness of winter, it's hard to find our way through the daily disappointments of life. And yet, we know that God's light continues to light our way.

How will you follow God's light in the New Year?



Sunday School in January

Happy New Year! In Sunday School, we'll spend the second half of the school year exploring the New Testament. In January, our Sunday School theme is "What Can I Do?" We will learn about Jesus starting out his ministry and how he invited his followers – and us – to listen to God's voice, trust Jesus knows us, trust God's plans for us, and include people who aren't like us.

Volunteer at Sunday School

We're always in need of volunteers to help with Sunday School, so if you or your High School-aged child is available, please let Hannah Rosholt or Chelsea Farniok know!

Children's Choir

Trinity Children's Choir starts back up at the end of this month. Contact Hannah at hrosholt@trin.org if your child (Grades 1-4) is interested in singing.



Thursday, January 18 | 10:00 am

Trinity's OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) Fellowship Group meets on the third Thursday of the month for a variety of activities and events to relax, socialize and enjoy Christian fellowship with one another. Join us in January for a Soup/Chili Cook-Off! We're looking for 3-4 people to bring a favorite soup or chili to share with the group. There will be prizes for the crowd favorite! Please contact Sandy Beckman at 952-955-1780 if you would like to sign up to bring soup, chili or a sidedish. All are welcome to come and decide on your favorite!



Saint Lucia

TEA & OPEN HOUSE

Trinity's Saint Lucia event is a traditional Scandinavian celebration of hope and peace for the Christmas season. Each year a member of our congregation is chosen as the Saint Lucia, the honored guest of the event.

2023 SAINT LUCIA

Marilyn Weiland

Marilyn was born in St. James, Minnesota. When she was in the fourth grade, her family moved to Watertown and joined Trinity Lutheran Church in 1951. Marilyn graduated from Watertown High School in 1960. She started work right away with Prudential Insurance Company in Golden Valley. Marilyn was united in marriage to Roger Weiland in 1967, here at Trinity. They were blessed with two children, Jeffrey and Jennifer, who were also both married at Trinity. The family moved to Lake Washington near Dassel and Darwin, and resided there for seven years. After her husband passed, Marilyn moved to Waconia where she was working as an Office Manager for Waconia Manufacturing. She retired after 35 years in that role. She continues to live in Waconia.

Since joining Trinity, Marilyn's involvement includes completing the confirmation program and being confirmed, teaching Sunday School, helping with youth after school programs, serving on the Altar Guild, assisting in the kitchen for funerals, and singing in the choir when Roland Ecklund was Trinity's choir director. One of her favorite memories is playing the timpani drums with the orchestra for a concert at church. Marilyn currently volunteers by preparing the monthly newsletter mailings.

Trinity is grateful to have Marilyn continue to be an active member of our congregation, and we are honored to have her serve as the 2023 Santa Lucia!



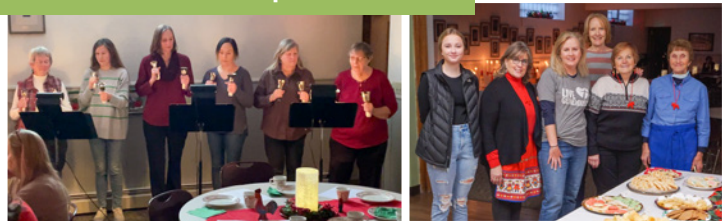
Advent Meals and Worship



Children's Christmas Service



Saint Lucia Tea Open House



Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISM

Lucy Lee Eztel

Daughter of
Samantha & Cody Etsel
Baptized on
December 10, 2023

FUNERAL

Gwen Dalchow

6/20/1926 - 11/18/2023
Memorial Service on
December 19, 2023

NEW MEMBERS

Wade & Kathy Baluski

Tom & Cindy Lindberg

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Delmer Malo

A/V upgrade ~ \$1,120

Gina Will

A/V upgrade ~ \$500

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

December 19, 2023

FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund summary November 2023

Beginning balance 11/1/2023:

-\$ 21,492.95

Operating Fund income: \$ 22,315.50

Operating Fund exps: \$ 32,781.66

Net balance (Nov.): **-\$ 10,466.16**

General Fund balance as of

11/30/2023: **-\$ 31,959.11**

Year-to date general fund EXPENSES exceed INCOME by **\$33,898.32.**

Building Fund expenses:

Internal Loan Payment: \$ 5,000.00

Loan Balance: \$ 75,000.00

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$ 63,711.48

(includes \$1,633.52 for Nov. federal withholding and \$14,321.96 in hail damage receipts)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$102,953.82

M/S/C Nick Neaton / Corky Ibeling / carried

Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area Synod amounted to \$1,332.54.
- Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$1,243.28 (up about \$485.00 from October).
- \$50,000.00 paid from the capital fund for the down payment on the AV update was reimbursed by the foundation.
- Roof repairs were paid to Mint Roofing in the amount of \$1,246.63.

PASTOR'S REPORT

The audio/Visual Committee continues to work with Dave Farber on the details regarding our move to update our sound system and livestreaming our services. They are starting to make some preliminary decisions before installation actually begins after the first of the year.

At the end of November, Trinity hosted the annual community Thanksgiving Eve Service. As usual, Trinity provided a great worship with great music and great hospitality, followed by great pie in the Fellowship Hall. Many thanks to all who helped out.

It's December, and we're celebrating all the familiar traditions: Wednesday Night Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer, Sunday School Christmas program, St. Lucia Tea, Christmas caroling, Golden Agers Lunch, and all the rest!

OLD BUSINESS

2024 Spending Plan was amended and approved.

M/S/C: Nancy Pickering / Diane Holmes / carried

NEW BUSINESS

The annual meeting will be held on January 28 and a financial forum will be held on January 21. Both meetings will be held in the sanctuary.

M/S/C: Corky Ibeling / Tammy Vsarpir / carried

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| | 1 NEW YEAR'S <i>Church Office Closed</i> AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Morgan Matson Joyce Nelson | 2 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Andy Nichols McKenna Quinlan Rosie Schroers | 3 Prayer 12:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Hunkins Diane Johnson | 4 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Riley Delaney James Forcier Carrie Herman Albin Neaton | 5 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Evelyn Becker Ansen Dulas Tami Kuntz Bill Singsank | 6 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Theodore Lohmann |
| 7 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> John McCain Elvina Nelson | 8 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 12 pm AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emmett Behrens | 9 Quilters 9 am | 10 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm | 11 Finance 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Beth Gilles Gerald Gruette Lisa Haarala Emma Ragner Tina Scanlon | 12 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ryan Otto | 13 |
| 14 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jake Salzsiedler Josh Scanlon | 15 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kaitlyn Hecksel Doug Hendricks Aliya Jorgensen Nina Kirkman Randy Ragner | 16 Quilters 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm | 17 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Ella Hunkins Jordyn Salzsiedler Kennedy Tufte | 18 OWLS 10:00 am | 19 | 20 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Van Oak Joshua Stenson |
| 21 Worship 9 am Finance Review 10 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dori Akins James Nelson | 22 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm | 23 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Gail Cassidy Trisha Ragner Jody Zellmann | 24 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Emma Hunkins Roxanne Lunderby | 25 Tidings 9:30 am | 26 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Frank Fritzsche Kristina Skahaug Emma Thonn | 27 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nora Delaney Jamie Isakson Natalie Johnson Hattie Neaton Jane Morrow |
| 28 ANNUAL MEETING Worship 9 am Annual Mtg. 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Matt Gohman Travis Markgraf | 29 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Autumn Guetzkow Alaina Thonn | 30 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jayce Blacketter Karla Brabec Ben Firth Tasha Hafften - Redel Jason Koets Michelle Sandquist Ken Tufte | 31 Prayer 12:30 pm 6-8 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Praise Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mary Ann Kamann | | | |

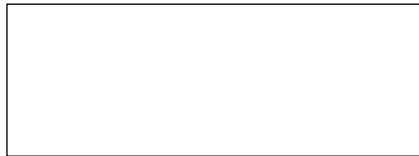


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If you have a new address or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the church office at 952-955-1891 or trinityoffice@trin.org.



Trinity Lutheran Church Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024
10:00 am ~ Onsite and via Zoom

Meeting details and a Zoom link will be provided by email to congregation members.

CONNECT WITH US



Facebook/Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) Watertown MN



Resolve To Go Micro

Most New Year's resolutions are so major they seem made to be broken. Maybe that's why "micro-resolution" is the latest January buzzword. Setting smaller goals is more realistic and helps ensure follow-through, according to experts. People who try setting micro-resolutions say that approach is more positive and leads to longer-lasting change. For example, instead of attempting to lose 30 pounds this year, make a micro-resolution to walk 10 minutes twice per day and to snack on fresh fruit at least once a day.

Micro-resolutions can also be helpful in matters of faith. If aiming to read the entire Bible in one year feels overwhelming, take five minutes each morning and evening to read a brief devotional or pray. If joining your church's missions committee isn't possible, try to talk to one new person each week about your faith or church. May God bless you as you take small steps that add up to big impact this year!