



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



It's been a long time...

It's been a long time since we've gathered together for meals in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday nights before our Holden Evening Prayer services during Advent. It's been a long time since we've gathered indoors on a Saturday morning for our annual St. Lucia Tea. It's been a long time since we've had choirs and bands play for our annual Christmas Concert. It's been a long time since we've "done the things we do" during

the Advent/Christmas holiday season. But the time has come to return to our many traditions. Of course, they might not be exactly as you remember them, and we might do them in a slightly different way. But that's how traditions work, right? The traditions are not set in stone forever, but adjust, flex, and shift through the years.

This year, we will once again celebrate the birth of Jesus in our midst. As we gather with our families, friends, and church community, none of us will be gathering with exactly the same people we gathered with last year. This year there will be new faces to welcome, through births, baptisms, weddings, and new friendships. There will also be faces that we will miss, through death, divorce, and people simply moving on. Just like the many traditions we have, we will have to adjust, flex, and shift. But one thing is for sure: the foundation of our faith and the cornerstone of our lives will be as constant as ever. Our faith in God will sustain us once again as we celebrate the birth of Jesus in our midst. Merry Christmas!

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

DECEMBER 2022

INSIDE:

Advent Midweek Worship
Christmas at Trinity
December Events
Children's Ministry Update
Adopt-A-Family Gifts
Council Meeting Highlights

Worship
Sunday 9:00 am
Wednesdays 7:00 pm
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Hannah Rosholt
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
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What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



Midweek Advent Worship

Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21

Light Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Worship at 7:00 pm ~ Onsite & Online

Advent is a time of anticipation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Join us each Wednesday evening in Advent for a light meal served by the Trinity youth in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a "Holden Evening Prayer" worship service.



Saint Lucia Tea Open House

Saturday, December 10

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

All are welcome to enjoy traditional Scandinavian refreshments and a festive holiday atmosphere at Trinity's Saint Lucia Tea, a Swedish festival of light. This year, we are holding the Saint Lucia Tea indoors in the Fellowship Hall. **Volunteers Needed!** We are looking for volunteers for baking, decorating, serving at the event and more! Please complete a volunteer sign up sheet at the Trinity Welcome Center or sign up to volunteer online at www.trin.org/lucia.



Christmas Celebration Service

Sunday, December 11 | 9:00 am

Trinity will be having a "Christmas Celebration" at our 9:00 am worship service on December 11. We will be featuring many of our wonderful Trinity musicians who will be sharing their musical gifts as we prepare for the birth of our Lord!

Children's Christmas Service

Sunday, December 18 | 9:00 am

Our Sunday School children will be leading worship in story and song on December 18. Join with the whole congregation as we sing Christmas carols both old and new to welcome the Christ child into our midst once again!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

TWO Services at 2:00 & 4:00 pm

This year we will be having two services on Christmas Eve. At both services we will be singing familiar Christmas carols, listening to special anthems, and lighting Christmas candles. Please join us at worship on this most holy day!

Christmas Day & New Year's Day Worship

This year, both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Sunday morning. Here is our worship schedule for these Sundays.

Christmas Day

9:00 am Worship, **ONSITE & ONLINE**

New Year's Day

9:00 am Worship, **ONLINE ONLY**



A Night of Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 4 | 4:00 pm

You're invited to go Christmas Caroling with Trinity – a heartwarming holiday experience for those visited and for those doing the caroling! We will meet in the Trinity Fellowship Hall, organize into groups, and head out into our community to share our Christmas songs and greetings. All ages of carolers are welcome!

Golden Agers / OWLS Advent Brunch

Sunday, December 11 | 10:30 am

Trinity's Golden Agers (members 70+) and OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) and a guest are invited to enjoy brunch in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, December 11. Join us for food and fellowship to celebrate the Christmas season together.

**Friends for
Life** 

Watertown Area Food Shelf

Supporting Our Community Food Shelf

This Christmas season, you are invited to donate non-perishable food items or financial donations to support the holiday food baskets the food shelf will provide to those in need. Donated items can be dropped off at Trinity's Donation Station at the main parking lot entrance and financial donations can be given to the church office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sunday Fellowship Hour

During Advent, we'll be serving coffee downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday mornings. Join us for coffee and conversation.

Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry Update

This month in Sunday School, it's all about preparing for the birth of Jesus! We'll be singing our Christmas songs and reviewing the Christmas story. Our Sunday School theme, City of Angels, reminds us: Jesus calms our fears, Jesus makes everything new, and God's love is for everyone.

December at a Glance:

- Dec. 4** 10:00-10:45 am Sunday School
(Christmas Service Practice)
- Dec. 11** 10:00-10:45 am Sunday School
(Christmas Service Practice)
- Dec. 18** 9:00 am - Children's Christmas Service
(No Sunday School after worship)
- Dec. 25** Christmas Day! *(No Sunday School)*



Christmas Blessings Adopt-a-Family

Each year, Trinity partners with the Watertown-Mayer Elementary School to help make Christmas a little brighter for local families in need. This year, we will be sharing gift request information via an email to the congregation. Please watch for that email coming soon. The deadline to return gifts to the church will be Sunday, December 11. Thank you for your generosity.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

BAPTISMS

Zoi Judith Chouinard
daughter of Aaron Chouinard
& Samantha Peterson
Baptized on November 20, 2022

THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEAR-END GIFTS

Thank you for all the ways you have been sharing your financial gifts with Trinity, especially your gifts given electronically with online giving. As 2022 comes to a close, we'd like to say a special thank you for your YEAR END GIFTS during this holiday season!

LOOKING AHEAD

Trinity's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023. Watch for more meeting details to come.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

November 14, 2022

FINANCIAL REPORT

- Mary Jech presented update on 2022 spending account with a 2023 preliminary spending plan. Motion made to approve preliminary spending account.

M/S/C Ken Tufte / Corky Ibeling / carried

General Fund summary October 2022

Beginning balance 10/1/2022:

	-\$ 19,947.19
Operating Fund income:	\$ 26,600.91
Operating Fund exps:	\$ 31,072.56
Net balance (October):	-\$ 4,471.65

General Fund balance as of 10/31/2022: **-\$ 24,418.84**

Year-to date general fund EXPENSES exceed INCOME by \$37,451.51.

Building Fund expenses:

Loan interest payment:	\$ 517.77
Loan principal payment:	\$ 1,819.23
Add'l principal payment:	\$ 2,663.00

Mortgage loan balance: **\$ 159,022.45**

Cash Summary:

Bremer:	\$ 43,285.02
<i>(includes \$1,738.28 for Oct. federal withholding and \$11,270.78 in hail damage receipts)</i>	

Citizen's Building Fund: \$ 146,929.677

Comments:

- Property tax on parsonage in the amount of \$1,332.00 was paid
- Mortgage payments of \$5,000.00 continue to be paid
- We started the year \$13,000.00 in the black in the operating fund. We are currently \$24,400.00 + in the red. Hoping for a good November and December.

- Several large bills will be coming in November and December: \$2,800.00 for tree removal at parsonage; \$9,991.66 for roof repair (to be paid from hail damage receipts); New dishwasher (memorial money); Electrical upgrade.

M/S/C Nancy Pickering / Ken Tufte / carried

OLD BUSINESS

- There is a committee being formed to discuss feasibility of adding Wednesday night services.
- A pew in the very back of the sanctuary has been taken out to make room for wheelchairs.
- Steeple has been taken down, floor under bell tower is rebuilt. LED lighting to be done in February.

NEW BUSINESS

- Kevin Holmes gave a presentation regarding audio/visual upgrades and enhancements for the church and budget road map for planning. Further discussion will follow.
- Mary Jech presented a Government COVID program called Employee Retention Credit for small businesses. A motion was made that we submit to the IRS the required amended 947 tax forms prepared by Congregation Consulting Services in order to claim the Employee Retention Credit.

M/S/C Ken Tufte / Nancy Pickering / carried

A second motion was made that we pay Congregation Consulting Services for preparing the amended tax forms an amount not to exceed 7% of the amount received for the Employee Retention Credit.

M/S/C Ken Tufte / Nick Neaton / carried

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p> Monday, December 26 Christmas Observed ~ Office Closed December 27-30 ~ 9:00 am - Noon Monday, January 2 New Years Day Observed ~ Office Closed </p>				1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel Empting Adam Rowan	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Daniel Venske Gordon Wandersee	3 Dean Hendricks Memorial Service 11 am
4 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Caroling 4 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cody Hilgers Shiree Hirsch	5 Book Club 6:30 pm AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Josh Gallus	6 Quilters 9 am	7 Advent Meal 5:30 pm Worship 7 pm (Onsite & Online) Worship Choir 7:45 pm Praise Band 8:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carroll Lambrecht	8 Housekeepers 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Colleen Alvig	9 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adam Hembroff Brinlee Loehrs	10 Saint Lucia Tea 10 am - 12 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kurt Becker Lydia Haller Elliot Maas
11 Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Faith Forum 10 am Sunday School 10 am Golden Agers/OWLS Brunch 10:30 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Josh Hoover Richard Volkenant	12 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 12 pm AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Danielson Monica Fritzsche	13 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nicole Gersema Christine Huber Dorine Vanderlinde	14 Advent Meal 5:30 pm Worship 7 pm (Onsite & Online) Worship Choir 7:45 pm Praise Band 8:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nancy Brown Sarah Geyen Stan Hill	15 Finance Committee 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Caden Horsman	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kelly Graff Leah Kohls	17 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carole Pierson
18 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) Fellowship 10 am Dig Deeper 10 am <i>No Sunday School</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Laramie Paradise	19 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Natalie Whitehead	20 Quilters 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Carli Graff Alyssa Paschke Chuck Sandquist Susan Westermann	21 Advent Meal 5:30 pm Worship 7 pm (Onsite & Online) Worship Choir 7:45 pm Praise Band 8:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Destini Bergstrom	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cassel Danielson Leon Fritzsche	23 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jodi Boylan Jenny Haller	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 12 Noon (Online) Worship 2 pm (Onsite) Worship 4 pm (Onsite) <i>Happy Birthday</i> Theresa Thompson
25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 9 am (Onsite & Online) <i>No Sunday School</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Dan Blakstad Christopher Fautsch	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i> AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jodi Maas Roger Nelson	27 Quilters 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Johnson	28 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Katelyn Haller Elsa Impola Richard Murray Olivia Salonek	29 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Steve Venske	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Shirley Domjahn Liz Hirsch Laurie Mann	31 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Randy Nichols



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

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WATERTOWN MN
55388
PERMIT NO. 22



Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24
Candlelight Services
2:00 & 4:00 pm

CONNECT WITH US



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Follow us on
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Making way for the new steeple



Trinity's Music Ministry continues to shine!



Last Month in Pictures



Trinity's Youth Group lending a hand

