



Trinity Lutheran Church Parish Caller

**“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given....And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
(Isaiah 9:6 NIV 1984)**

The calendar year is quickly coming to an end. How quickly the year passes! Yet the end of the year brings some of our most loved worship services, when we adore Christ for coming into the world to save us. These truths from God’s Word fill us anew with joy and peace.

As a preview of what awaits us in our December worship life, I share the following comments by Martin Luther on the names of Jesus from Isaiah 9. (You can find more in *Luther’s Works*, volume 16.)

“And His name will be called Wonderful The kingdom of Christ is beyond grasp, reason, and experience. Here the flesh must be put to death with all its wisdom and judgment, and it must be grasped only by faith. We must believe that Christ’s righteousness is ours. Reason wants to lean only on its own righteousness, not on someone else’s.

...Counselor Lest we come short in the matter of faith He gives us counsel, that is, the Word, so that we may abide in so wonderful a government of His kingdom. This is truly not a simple word, but it is a word that is able to save in dangers.

...God That is, strong, power. Here it is not the Person or nature of this king that is depicted but only His wonderful government of the kingdom. Therefore He has counsel. He has full power. He can come to the aid of the weary and those spent by trials.

...Mighty That is, powerful. He gives the strength to triumph through the Word and the Holy Spirit. It also signifies the strength and substance by which we support ourselves. It is an active and working force whereby we withstand the enemies and proceed against them and put them to flight through the Word. So Christ both preserves His own and overthrows the enemies, even though the opposite may seem to be the case.

...Everlasting Father This, then, indicates the work and business of this King, not His Person. This name fits no one else. He always increases His reign. He always begets children and rules over them. He always remains the Father. He does not assume the role of tyrant. His children are always His beloved. This is beyond question the most delightful kingdom.

...Prince of Peace In the kingdom of Christ there is grace, comfort, forgiveness of sins, joy, peace. He does not deal with the transgressor in sternness, but as a father. The forgiveness of sins is justification, and peace follows justification.”

I pray that the Holy Spirit blesses each of us as we hear his Word in the month ahead!

Serving Jesus and you,

Pastor Brett Brauer

(P.S. The New Testament Bible reading plan is included again in this newsletter. You may still begin this plan. You may start at the beginning, or pick up at any point.)

December 2017

604 S Fifth Street
Watertown WI 53094
920-261-3511

www.trinitywatertown.net

Secretary's Hours:
Monday-Wednesday,
Friday
9-1

manager
@trinitywatertown.net

Women in Service

Trinity Women In Service met in the Conference Room on Thursday, November 9, 2017, for their regular business meeting. 9 ladies were present plus Pastor Yahnke. We enjoyed welcoming Sharon Makovec to our group and pray she'll continue to join us. Hostess was Ann Marcks. Pastor Yahnke opened the meeting with a prayer of thanksgiving for all our blessings.

The business meeting was opened by President Ann Marcks. The minutes for October were in the November newsletter and were approved as printed. The treasurer's report for October was approved with a Women In Service balance of \$1,131.70 plus a Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) balance of \$42.00. The basket collection today was for the general treasury.

Correspondence: None. Available was a letter from the Lutheran Homes Association.

Old Business: Phyllis reported that a new basket was sent for the leaking coffee urn. It didn't help. So Nancy Zastrow will take care of getting the new replacement coffee urn from West Bend. (We also briefly talked about getting another 55 cup urn. No action was taken.)

Clare Schmidt reported that the Circuit LWMS Fall Rally was held in Brodhead, Wisconsin, on Saturday, October 14. Only two women from Trinity attended. We would like to see more women attend these informative and enjoyable rallies. All women of Trinity are automatically members of the LWMS. We would like to see more active interest in the work that our missionaries do in our place. Letters and information from the three assigned missionaries for Trinity can be found on the bulletin board outside of the office. Show your interest – even just writing a thank-you note can be very encouraging to the missionaries.

(Clare also sent around information regarding the "Send A Sister" program for financial aid in sending a first-woman attendee to the National LWMS Convention.)

Along these same lines, the Trinity door collection for LWMS was \$207.00. The motion was made seconded and carried to send each of our assigned missionaries \$75.00 as Christmas gifts.

Trinity hosted 50 members of the OWLS on October 17. We ordered 100 doughnuts, so the leftovers will be used for bakery after church services. Kathy Strucely set up the coffee and cleaned up. We thank her for doing this.

We continued discussion about having more women join us in our meetings. Ann had a list of some possible prospects, but we decided not to do anything during the coming holidays. This will be tabled until January.

Discussion was had regarding the wreaths on the pillars for Christmas.

We talked about new wreaths or ribbons for them. It was decided that the present ones are still OK. (If anyone notices that they are not in good shape they should contact a member of the Women In Service.)

The Watertown WELS Live Nativity will be held in St. Luke's parking lot on December 1 and 2. Cookies, actors, and help dressing the actors will be needed again. The sign-up sheet can be found in the Fireside Room. (We were reminded to put up our yard signs for this project.)

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. The next regular W.I.S. meeting will be held on Thursday, December 14, at 1:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Hostess will be Clare Schmidt.

The ladies then enjoyed five presentations by members of Mrs. Cheryl Holzhueter's forensics group. It's always a pleasure to hear these Christian young people and their presentations.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Kaesermann, Secretary



Pebbles from the ROC

"He (Jesus) said to them, 'Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his store-room new treasures as well as old.'" (Matthew 13:52) At THE ROC we hold true and tight to the doctrines of God's Word, faithfully teaching them, but we also invite new ways to share those truths. We recently had an "ice cream challenge" where teens were given different ingredients on their ice cream. They were surprised when they were asked to eat pizza sauce, hot spice and molasses along with the strawberries, and whipped cream. The ice cream reminded us of the original perfection of man, the unexpected ingredients reminded us of different aspects

of sin and the strawberries and whipped cream reminded us of Christ's blood and righteousness covering and removing our sin. This object lesson was part of our "Afterschool Activity Program".

The Rummage Sale Committee (Pam Erdman, Edrie Pagel, Ruth Uttech, Tim Uttech, Joyce Zweig) is **in great need** of someone to be on the committee to handle and organize volunteers for the moving of heavier items for the ROC Rummage Sale. Please call Pastor Mueller (920-206-9581) or Ruth Uttech (920-261-6772) to volunteer. Thanks so much.



Rock River Area Owls

The Christmas meeting of our area OWLS chapter will be on the third Tuesday, December 19th beginning 12:00 NOON at St Luke's Lutheran Church in Watertown. Yes, we start at 12:00 NOON with a potluck meal. Just as at the summer picnic, along with some food to share, please bring your own tableware and beverage. We'll eat in the fellowship room before going upstairs (elevator) for the program. Our speaker will be Mrs. Ione Ibeling, a 1969 DMLC graduate who taught for 28 years at Holy Cross in Madison and retired four years ago to St John's in Waterloo. She will present "Origins of our Christmas Carols" with a sing-along accompanied by Professor William Birsching on the grand piano. St Luke's has over 1,400 baptized members, and is currently served by Pastors Anthony Schultz and Lance Hoff. Together with Trinity, it operates an elementary school enrolling over 160 pupils. The Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) provides meaningful activity for those who are retired and/or 50 years and older. Enjoy spiritual growth and the fellowship of neighboring WELS and ELS members. St Luke's is located on Watertown's south side at 301 Clark Street. Come and bring a singing friend with you.

Advent Services

We are beginning the new church year and starting the Advent season. Advent services will be held on Wednesday, December 6, December 13 and December 20 at 3:30 and 7:00 pm. The theme for the services will be "Prophetic Pictures of the Coming Savior." A light supper will be served between services.

Financial Status

Thanks be to God for the gifts given for the work of the church!



In order to give a clearer picture of our financial status we will be reporting the weekly and monthly totals of offerings for the unified budget.

Weekly offering needed to support the ministry plan: \$14,031

Monthly offering needed to support the ministry plan: \$60,801

Offerings received the week of October 1	\$11,650
Offerings received the week of October 8	\$10,303
Offerings received the week of October 15	\$11,004
Offerings received the week of October 22	\$10,389
Offerings received the week of October 29	\$18,724
(\$7700 from Trusts and Estates)	
Offerings received through electronic giving for October	<u>\$ 3,701</u>

Total Offerings received in the month of July for support of the ministry plan **\$65,771**

Year to date 100th Anniversary debt reduction—\$83,904

Treasurer's Report

As of the end of October, total operating income was \$197,383 or 27% of the annual budget. Total expenses are \$224,116 or 31% of the annual budget. Revenue and expenses are both expected to be at 33% after three months. The income is behind for the year of \$26,783 for the amount of expenditures.

As of the end of October, current assets totaled \$93,843, comprised of \$42,873 in checking, \$50,970 in the money market account. The Thrivent mortgage balance decreased to \$373,439, while member loans are at \$365,859.

Teens' Corner

Trinity Teens enjoyed a fellowship outing to Laser Tag Adventures in Waukesha at the end of November. Seventeen teens spent a fun evening together. The Trinity Teens have also been challenging themselves in growing in God's Word. They began a study of Revelation. They are currently on chapter 7, and are looking forward to more. Soon the teens will put out information about the luminaries for this Christmas, and toward the end of December we will have our annual Teen Christmas Party and assemble those luminary orders. Just a reminder, Teen Bible Study and fellowship events are open to all Trinity teens, 7th grade to 12th grade.



Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program is resuming. Trinity is up for delivery the week of December 4—8. The Senior Center will be organizing and monitoring the program while the meals are being prepared by Feil's Restaurant. We will be picking up the meals from the Senior Center at 10:30. The reason for the early pick up time is that the Senior Center is already serving some meals at 11:30 from the center kitchen. The early pick up time is to avoid congestion at the center. We hope that many of you can accommodate the new pick up time. The sign up sheets are in the Fireside Room. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call Lefty Zuleger (253-8263).

First Love at Christmas

Plans continue for this year's First Love at Christmas. This is a project that Trinity runs to help those in need by giving them gifts and/or food for their Christmas celebrations. The project attempts to provide gifts for the whole family and food that not only can be used for a Christmas dinner but a little extra for additional meals as well as household supplies.

These are the things that are needed. Hopefully you can help with one or more of the items:

Names of those who you feel could use a little help at Christmas time with some Christian love, food and gifts. If you know someone or could use help yourself, please contact one of our pastors.

People who would like to take the names of some of people we are giving to and purchase gifts for them. It can be children and/or adults. Please complete the part of the pamphlet included in the bulletin or contact Michele Maas at 920-206-1710 or mmaas1710@gmail.com.

Gifts of money to help with the purchase of food and gifts for those in need. Please put the money in an envelope and mark it with "First Love at Christmas" and put it in the offering basket or drop it off in the office.

Being a part of this worthwhile project helps us remember the true meaning of Christmas – a celebration of Jesus' birth, who came to give His life for us. So please consider how you can help with this meaningful project. The green 3-part pamphlet can be found in the Fireside room at church.

Cheer Bags for Our Shut-In Members

Pat Cowen, Sandy Braun and Ann Marks are coordinating the collection and distribution of the Cheer Bags to our shut-ins. We are looking for donations of homemade cookies or candy. Items such as the bags, fruit and other goodies will be purchased. If you would like to give a money donation to defray the cost of the purchased items, the money can be given to Pat, Sandy or Ann. Items can be left in the kitchen on the day of delivery (Monday, December 11 at 1:00 pm).

Women in Service Anniversary Notes

[from Pastor Stern's personal notebook]

"Trinity Ladies Aid

Thurs. Dec. 13 -- 1917

After several ladies of the congregation had approached me about a Ladies Aid in Trinity Ch. & after a informal meeting of several of Trinity ladies (Mesms. Gorder, Frank, Vick, Sauer, Guenterberg, Kirchhoff) at home of Mrs. Gorder, I decided to let them start a Ladies Aid in Trinity Ch. Above mentioned ladies were to inform the ladies in congr. & general meeting was to take place the second Thurs. In Dec., Dec. 13, in old St. Mark's Church, Young People's room. I got to old church at appointed day at 3 PM, but there was only 1 other lady there besides the minister's wife & I left again to make a call. Got back at 3:30 & found about 10 ladies present.

At 3:45 I called the gathering to order & opened in praying in unison the Creed. I made a few opening remarks, spoke of purpose of the meeting, dues, purpose of Ladies Aid. Suggested that pastor is to be pres., have no organized body, no stipulated fees, & be an active body.

After these introductory remarks the ladies decided about the name. The name Trinity Ladies Aid was unanimously adopted. Mrs. H. A. Frank was elected as sec. by ballot. Mrs. W. Gorder as treas. by ballot. Time of meeting: once a month, second Thurs. in month, from 3-5, if possible in Y.P.S. rooms. Coffee & coffee cake is to be served hereafter for luncheon, coffee to cost 5 cts. a cup. Dues are to be voluntary. Each gives as much as he wishes. A committee of (3) is always to serve the lunch. The Mesms. Archie, Frank, Gorder chosen for next lunch.

Adjourned 4:45 with Lords Pr. in unison.

Present Mrss. R. Guenterberg, E. Reuteler, C. Schoppe, J. Archie, M. Grant, H. Frank, F. E. Stern, Wm. Gorder, F. Schlueter, the pastor, Mrs. Winkenwerder, visitor."

"Minutes of The First Meeting

Watertown, Wis. Dec. 13--1917

The Ladies of Trinity Church had their first meeting in the old church building of St. Mark's Church. The Pastor opened the meeting with the reading of a scripture lesson & prayer.

Those present were Mrs. F. E. Stern, Mrs. Wm. Gorder, Mrs. Geo. Vick, Mrs. James Archie, Mrs. Edward Rather, Mrs. Max Grant, Mrs. August Schoppe, Mrs. Otto Winkenwerder, Mrs. R. W. Guenterberg, Mrs. Frank Schlueter, & Mrs. H. A. Frank.

All the ladies of Trinity Church are voting members, however, each member may bring guests to the meeting.

The following officers were elected by ballot: Mrs. Wm. Gorder, treasurer, Mrs. H. A. Frank, secretary.

In the matter [of dues] it was decided to be left to the members individually to decide how much to contribute monthly, however it was stated that the minimum ought to be 10 cents.

It was resolved that at each meeting three (3) ladies chosen alphabetically, were to furnish and serve refreshments; coffee to be paid for at the rate of 5 cents a cup.

The meetings are to take place on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 3 o'clock sharp.

The name of the society is to be Trinity Ladies Aid.

All officers are to be elected at the first meeting in January and for a year.

Mrs. H. A. Frank, Sec."

Voters' Meetings

We have scheduled voters' meetings for the first two Sundays in December (after the second service). The topics to be discussed and decided are as follows:

- ⇒ December 3 – Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for TSL
- ⇒ December 10 – Expanding the TSL preschool program and starting to compensate teachers with a housing allowance; electing lay leaders to positions of service.

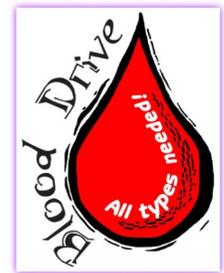
All members are invited to attend. Eligible voters will cast their votes.



Save the Date

The annual Advent by Candlelight, open to all women and girls 14 and older, will be held on Sunday, December 3 at 6 pm. For more information contact Lyn Quinn at 920-285-3474.

Trinity Blood Drive



Thank you to all donors who attended our blood drive at Trinity on Nov. 16. Thirty-one whole units, three dual red units and two single red units were collected. Each unit has the potential of saving three lives. There are instances of one patient needing 100 or more units of blood! Every time Trinity has a blood drive there is an opportunity to have our neighbors come through our doors. This time of the forty-three people who signed in, approximately two thirds of them were not members.

Thank you also to the volunteers who gave of their time. Trinity would not be able to participate in these drives without our volunteers.

During December the number of donations to the Blood Center of Wisconsin typically decreases, although the need increases. If you were not able to donate at our drive please contact the BCW or Becky Knauth (920-262-0647) to find another drive in the Watertown area.

Trinity drives in 2018 are: March 23, July 26 and November 15.

Caroling

Members are invited to join in singing Christmas carols to some of our members who are elderly and/or homebound. The date is Saturday, December 9. Meet at church at 1:00.



Advent, Christmas and New Year's Worship

Advent Worship

We will have three midweek services (December 6, 13 and 20). The theme will be "Prophetic Pictures of the Coming Savior." Tutor Joshua Jensen from LPS will join with the two Trinity pastors in preaching for these midweek Advent services.

Please note: Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 24) – one service at 9:00

Christmas Worship

Christmas Eve – 4:00; 6:00 (children's service); 9:00 (candlelight)

Christmas Day – 9:00

First Sunday after Christmas (December 31) – 8:00 / 10:30 (no Bible classes)

New Year's Worship

New Year's Eve – 7:00

New Year's Day – 9:00 (same service as New Year's Eve)

Trinity/St. Luke's School News

Advent Preparations

The end of the church year is approaching. Soon we will be starting a new church year and the Advent season. The term "advent" comes from a Latin word meaning "come." During the Advent season we ponder and celebrate the coming of Jesus into this world.

Over the years it seems the focus of the Advent season has changed, and the world and its ideas have taken over. What used to be a season to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Savior at Christmas has now been merged into one long Christmas season that starts at midnight on Thanksgiving Day (or even earlier) and ends with the football bowl games of the new year.

At TSL the teachers will be using several activities in their classrooms to remind the children of Advent and its meaning for us as redeemed children of Christ Jesus:

- A number of the classrooms will use Advent wreaths. In their daily devotions another candle will be lit and the meaning of the candles explained.
- The morning and afternoon devotions will have an Advent theme and flavor. Perhaps the devotions will talk about the prophecies of the coming Savior; some will apply Gospel in preparing our hearts for what Christmas really means to the Christian. Law and Gospel will be shared – our need for a Savior and the Good News of the Gospel that God sent his son to be that Savior.
- The children will be preparing songs to sing for some of the Advent services. Grades 5-8 will sing on December 6 in the evening services and the children of kindergarten through grade four will sing on December 13 for the afternoon services.

The children will begin learning songs and recitations for the Christmas Eve service, an important part of which is reviewing the Old Testament prophecies of the Savior to come.

At home the Advent season can become hectic with any number of Christmas preparations that need to take place and be completed. We would encourage our families – both those in school and those in the congregations – to take time to attend our congregations' weekly Advent services and to participate in the services on the Sundays of Advent. At the evening supper table or before bedtime take time to have a family Advent devotion (the teachers have materials and suggestions that are usable at all levels.) If you have an Advent wreath or a Jesse tree at your home, bring it out and use their symbols as lessons in preparing your family's hearts for Christmas. Involve the children with a Bible reading or singing a simple Advent or Christmas hymn.

May God bless your Advent preparations!

A “Sola” Christmas

The children’s Christmas Eve services will be held at 6:00 PM at Trinity and at 4:30 PM and 6:30 PM at St. Luke’s on Christmas Eve – December 24. This year’s service is entitled A “Sola” Christmas. As we conclude the year that had the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as a major part of it, the children will remind us of these phases: *Sola Scriptura* (by Scripture alone), *Sola Fide* (by faith alone), *Solus Christus* (through Christ alone), *Soli Deo Gloria* (to God’s glory alone), and *Sola Gratia* (by grace alone.) We are saved by God’s grace in His sending Jesus to be our Savior from sin.

While the children’s Christmas Eve service is a long-standing tradition in the Lutheran Church, it is an important worship service - not a program. It is at this service the children proclaim the Gospel that the Savior has come. The children become the preachers of sin and grace – what it was that caused all people to be sinful and the promise of God that He would send the Savior from sin.

We look forward to seeing you at this worship service and pray the Holy Spirit uses the Gospel proclamation to strengthen and increase faith.

Christmas Band Concert

The annual TSL Christmas Band Concert will be held on Thursday evening, December 7, beginning at 7:00 PM in the gymnasium at the Clark Street campus. Mr. Brett Duwe, our TSL band director, has prepared the band students to present some old and new instrumental pieces for small groups and the entire band to celebrate Christmas. Mrs. Moeller will be directing the third grade rhythm band and the fourth grade recorders. A free will offering will be gathered to help with band expenses. We would invite all of our TSL families and friends to attend for an hour of Christmas music.

Basketball Season

With the coming of the end of the autumn season comes the start of the basketball season. This year a number of teams under the supervision of Mr. Torgerson, our TSL Athletic Director, have begun their practices and are looking forward to the first games of the season.

A program this size takes the assistance of many parents. We are thankful for a number of parents who are acting as coaches or are assisting with coaching. Without the donation of their time and talents the program could not operate as it does. Add to this parents who operate and help with concessions, run the score clock, keep stats, and help with supervision and cleanup. You can see it takes many people to provide this activity for our students. Thank you to all who help!



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Trinity Lutheran Church
604 S Fifth Street
Watertown WI 53094

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office—920-261-3511
trinitymanager@charter.net

www.trinitywatertown.net

Sunday Worship Services

8 & 10:30 am

Bible Activity Hour & Bible Class

9:15 am

Wednesday Worship Service

6:30 pm

Pastor Brett Brauer
trinitypastor@charter.net
CELL: 920-915-9070
HOME: 920-261-1599

Pastor Dustin Yahnke
pastoryahnke@hotmail.com
CELL: 414-614-0077