



# Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

December 2023

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**Baptized believers *sent* into God’s world  
to *share* God’s love and grace.**

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**This Month at TLC**

- Dec 3—New Member Welcome During Worship
- Dec 10—Council Meeting 10:00am
- Dec 17—KidZone Christmas Program  
Breakfast Hosted by the Men’s Group
- Dec 24—Worship (no communion) 9:00am  
Candlelight Service 5:00pm

**Wednesdays:**

- 3:30-5:00 KidZone
- 6:00-7:00 Confirmation
- 7:00 Midweek Advent Service  
December 6-20

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**Hymn of the Month:**  
#1067 ACS

We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth. We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth. Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth. Can you feel it rising in you?

**We Pray ....**

For those battling cancer: Doug Dahlke-continuing treatment; Brad Pautsch-cancer has returned.

We pray for Kelly Anderson; Steven Benedix- losing weight but not sure why; Diane Riediger; Presley Johnston; Ed Kunkel (Barb’s son)-still dealing with problems; Kelly Martin; those in addictions/recovery; all who are grieving; victims of COVID-19, extreme weather and natural disasters, violence and domestic abuse.

## From the Pastor...

I must admit that this is my very favorite time of the year. It marks the beginning of Advent – the season of the church year when we look toward celebrating the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. It is also the season of light. I find that I crave times when the sun shines and the snow glistens. When the Christmas lights are turned on and the night no longer seems so long and lonely. I always knew I liked the Christmas season – for a variety of reasons – but as I got older I began to realize that it was the lights that drew my attention. As I have grown in my relationship with Jesus I recognize that it is the light of the love of Jesus that pulls me closer in my walk with him.

Don't get me wrong – I still love Advent and the preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth that is part of the excitement. It's not about the presents (although I still appreciate receiving gifts). I find more enjoyment in planning what I am giving than trying to figure out what I may be receiving. I think it's part of being an adult and getting satisfaction in seeing someone's reaction when they are opening a gift – it's the experience of being able to put Jesus' words "it is more blessed to give than to receive" in action. I also believe that it is in looking to the light that Jesus Christ brings to the world that Christmas becomes more than a commercial event. It is in knowing that the light of Jesus' love brings light to the darkness that can overwhelm us. To remember that Jesus is truly **THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD** is to keep that message in our hearts throughout the year. The love that we are given through his life, death, and resurrection is truly the best gift we can receive. Thanks be to God that it is not a gift we can exchange because what would we exchange it for? There is no better gift than to know that we are loved and have received salvation – not because we were "good boys and girls" (in other words we did nothing to deserve the gift) but because God loves us. God's love is not dependent on whether we deserve it – it is in spite of what we deserve – it's totally dependent on God's gift.

You know the verse from John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." I invite you to repeat that verse and substitute the words "the world" for your name. Imagine personalizing God's gift – "For God so loved Pastor Jane that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life."

May each of you know God's love for you and may you share that love with others.

Pastor Jane

# We Celebrate!

## December Birthdays:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1—Samantha Craig<br>Calan Lloyd  | 28—Gavin Cross  |
| 3—Cade Alfredson<br>Kellen Alfredson                                   | 30—Joe Bremer<br>Pastor Jane Johnston<br>Jasper Rogers<br>Jan Stroman |
| 4—Caleb Corbin   | 31—Rebekah Healy  |
| 6—Kylie Thomas   |   |
| 7—Ann Hopp   |   |
| 8—Jade Davidson<br>Janet Jansen  |   |
| 10—Kyler Christiansen<br>Payton Latimer<br>Kim Steffen<br>Ryan Gilbert |   |
| 11—David Brosamle<br>Brylee Koehler<br>Rebecca Thomas                  |   |
| 12—Leann Henschen  |   |
| 14—Norma Thies   |   |
| 16—Janna Brandt<br>Ashley Craig<br>Lindsey DeWitt Hilts                |   |
| 17—Misti Hayes<br>Deb Wilcke   |   |
| 18—Leah Cross  |   |
| 19—Steve Rippke<br>Emily Sampson<br>Jacey Bowman (Stratton)            |   |
| 26—Denny Bain  |   |
| 27—Steve Gray  |   |

## December Anniversaries

- 3—Paul & Laura Huth
- 12—Chase & Chris Koehler
- 13—Jason & Gina Jepsen
- 17—Steve & Cindy Ploen
- 18—Bryan & Annette Alfredson
- 23—Rich & Tonya Flaugh
- 29—Pastor Jane Johnston & Presley Johnston



# We Appreciate and Thank You!!

Our thanks to:

- All November worship assistants.
- Ruth Chartier & Jacob Martin for sharing their talents on the organ with us
- All who help with KidZone
- Jared Schramm's shop class for helping clean up after the vandalism

# We Serve TLC in December

- Organist: Ruth Chartier & Jacob Martin
- Altar Guild: Roger & Susan Christiansen
- Scripture Reader: Denny Bain
- Offertory Accountants: Dave & Patti Christiansen
- Tech Assistants: Casey & Jill Stratton



## Midweek Advent Services

The church will be holding midweek Advent services at 7:00 on Wednesday December 6, 13, and 20. We would love to see you there in this time of waiting!

## Giving Tree 2023

The Giving Tree is up with names from Community Action Agency and Lutheran Services in Iowa.

If you would like to purchase a gift, select a name tag then record your name next to the tag's number and name in the notebook. Please return the purchased gifts by Sunday, December 10. Direct any questions to Gloria Healy. Thank you.



## Serving in the New Year

The following Council positions are open for the 2024 year. If you are interested in any, have an idea of someone who might like to hold the position, or have any questions you can contact the office of Blake Stratton.

Vice President

Financial Secretary

Deacon

Trustee

Board of Education

Trust Fund & Memorial Fund

Audit Committee

Nominating Committee x3

# TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2023

## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes—October

**Date:** Sunday, October 8, 2023

**Present:** Blake Stratton, Jill Stratton, Lynn Morgan, Gail Ploen, Susan Christiansen, Denny Bain, Gloria Healy, Peggy Hopp, Roger Christiansen, Pastor Jane Johnston

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:34 AM by President Blake Stratton

### **Pastor's Report**

#### **Announce:**

- Call committee update - In conversation with possible candidate
- Synod / ELCA updates
- Companion Synod Sunday - Special Offering brought in \$524.77+

#### **Discuss/Follow-Up:**

- Church building / Parsonage Items
- Insurance on Roof. No luck.
- Parsonage List - Roger, Nick and Owen worked on the deck
- Bell wiring
- Stained glass repairs are finished. \$1,027.70 left; remaining cost will be covered by the memorial fund.
- Panel Drive Update - 250 letters sent out
- Constitution - no update this month.
- Membership List Update
- Church Inventory
- CD Rates - Extra money from Checking account and Roof money
  - Lynn found 5% money market through Edward Jones
- Snow Removal - as of now, volunteers from TLC
- Update Veterans Plaque - need to add Ava Hayes & Christopher Schmidt
- Nominating Committee - Blake will check on which positions will be open
- Confirmation Sunday Peggy will do cake & coffee, Lynn will do gluten free cake for a reception following worship.
- All Saints Sunday - November 5th - Bishop Halaas preaching
  - Soup & Pie Luncheon 11-1; free will donation towards purchase of new sound system
- Quilting Committee would like a new rotary cutter and quilting rulers
- Gloria reported that roughly 40 personal kits, 40 school kits, 20 fabric kits, and 2 quilts were put together after God's Work Our Hands. She also has names for the giving tree; 50 from the Community Action Agency and 10 from LSI.

#### **Decide:**

- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Denny Bain, to put insurance money, panel drive money, and excess money from checking account into a Money Market. The motion passed unanimously.

- Motion made by Susan Christiansen, seconded by Denny Bain, to designate \$150 for the sewing group to purchase rotary cutter and quilting rulers. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Gail Ploen, seconded by Roger Christiansen, to approve September Council Meeting Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve September Treasurer's Report with +30 correction in income. The motion passed unanimously.
- November Council Meeting set for Sunday, November 12, following worship.

**Adjourn** - Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Susan Christiansen to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:39AM.

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Stratton, Secretary