



Trinity Lutheran Newsletter

March 2024

MISSION STATEMENT:

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

Trinity Lutheran Church

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This Month at TLC

March 10	10:00am	Council Meeting
March 24	9:00am	Palm Sunday
March 28	7:00pm	Maundy Thursday
March 29	7:00pm	Good Friday
March 31	7:00am	Sunrise Easter Service
	8:00-9:30	Breakfast Hosted by the Men's Group
	9:30am	Easter Service

Wednesdays:

9:30	Bible Study
3:30-5:00	KidZone
6:00-7:00	Confirmation Class
7:00	Midweek Lenten Services

Hymn of the Month:

#920 ACS

All things of dust to dust return on earth and in the sky. The hottest, brightest suns that burn in time grow dim and die. The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the newborn young that play, the leaves that fill the forest floor revert to dust and clay.

We Pray ...

For those battling cancer: Doug Dahlke-continuing treatment.

We pray for Kelly Anderson; 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...

“You Are There,” a popular program in the early days of television, asked its viewers to stretch their credulity by imagining that they had gone back in time to some historic event in the past which they were now about to see. Even more fantastic, they were asked to imagine what it would have been like if television had been there to record that event. Reporters introduced themselves to the likes of George Washington and Julius Caesar and asked them to “say a few words to the camera,” explaining what was going on. The format was a successful one; viewers accepted the premise and were treated to some very educational viewing.

Later, *Time* magazine used the same sort of approach in its bicentennial edition, which carried historic datelines like “July 4, 1776” and was written the way that a weekly newsmagazine might have been if it were in existence two centuries ago. Apparently, readers found this anachronistic format helpful also, for copies were eagerly snatched up from newsstands.

The dramas in this Lenten series employ a similar format. The title of this series is Jerusalem at Passover, and the early part of each service will take that title quite literally. Each week we will be led by a typical travel agency “tour guide” on an imaginary visit to the Holy City in the year A.D.30. The “tour guide” will actually see them.

It may help you get “in the mood” right now by seeing the ITENERARY for this tour, written as it might have been by a travel agency at Passover time, A.D. 30. As you can see, a lot of imagination has already been built into this ITENERARY.

But it should also be obvious to the twenty-first century Christian that this particular guided tour will offer a number of significant items not listed on the ITENERARY or planned by the travel agency. In fact, step by step we shall “accidentally” be confronted with the events of our Lord’s Passion as they occur.

Voices from unseen characters will dramatically enact these events as we confront them.

But the important thing is that we will confront them, almost as unexpectedly and as dramatically as actual visitors to the Holy City might have done twenty centuries ago during that fateful week.

But we shall have one advantage. Even though the events will be played out as if we “just happen upon them,” we already know that this was indeed a “fateful week” – and why – that the events we confront were predicted, prepared, and directed by God himself – “for us and for our salvation” – with far more meticulous care and precision than any travel agency could ever achieve.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jane

We Celebrate!

March Birthdays

- 2 – Kennedy Krieg
Jacob Webb
Brian Benedix
- 4 – Ashley Malm
Alyssa Zellmer
Austin Zellmer
Burgundy Zellmer
Katlyn (Zellmer) Lees
- 6 – Julie Davis
Ray DeWitt
Courtney (Kennedy) Goble
- 7 – Pat Kizzier
- 8 – Mike Ploen
- 9 – Wade Mitchell
- 12 – Brodie Nelson
- 13 – Jon Wilcke
Stacy Latimer
- 17 – Rylen Willer
- 18 – Cindy Ploen
- 20 – LeRoy Boggs
Ava Hayes
- 22 – Jon Kleemeir
- 24 – Maddie Bain
- 25 – Mary Alfredson
- 26 – Trevor Alfredson
Cory Malm
Kelly Martin
- 27—Brackett Locke
Mark Cross
- 29 – Ellie Gilles

March Anniversaries

- 28—Bruce & Laurie Schmidt
- 30—Dave & Staci Schweder

We Appreciate and Thank You!!

Our thanks to:

- All February worship assistants.
- Ruth Chartier sharing her talents on the organ with us.
- All members of KidZone for getting all the kids back in the KidZone routine!
- Confirmation students for participating in worship.

We Serve TLC in March

Organist: Ruth Chartier

Altar Guild: Cindy & Gail Ploen

Scripture Reader: Ann Hopp

Offertory Accountants: Denny Bain & Irv Martin

Tech Assistants: Kari Collins

Lenten Breakfast Schedule

Wed. Mar 6	7:30 AM	United Methodist Church
Wed. Mar 13	7:30 AM	Community Center, hosted by New Hope

Dear Disciples of a Giving Jesus,

2024 is off to a great start, and there are many positive things taking place at Trinity Lutheran Church and beyond. The generosity of this congregation in its time and talents, in its leadership and in its giving, is what gives us the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in our church, in our community, and in the world.

The gifts that Trinity receives through your generosity allow us to be who we are called to be. Obviously, there are bills that have to be paid and repairs that need to be done, but your giving goes well beyond these walls. A few examples include, but are not limited to, our Companion Lutheran Congregation in the Southern Diocese of Tanzania, N'ganda Lutheran, to our local Community Basket in Merville, continually battling hunger in our local communities, to the Warning Shelter in Sioux City, assisting those who struggle with homelessness, and a portion of your gift goes to the churchwide ELCA, where it is used as "Mission Support" and used for groups such as Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Lutheran World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, and numerous other organization working to love and care for all of God's people.

With that, I wanted to take a chance to remind and inform our members that there are several different ways that you can give to the church!

1. Place your check or cash in an envelope with your name on it in the offering plate on Sunday morning!
2. Mail a check or cash to the church at PO Box 239, Merville, IA 51039
3. On our website, trinitylutheranmerville.org, you will find a link to Tithe.ly. You will be able to enter an amount, enter what you would like the offering designated for, and then you can either use your debit or credit card, or your bank account! This can be a one time gift, or you can set it to come out weekly, monthly, or however often you would like! This is a great, modern, option!
4. You can have it directly deposited from your bank account! Again, you are able to designate how often you would like your gift to come out of your account. If this is something you are interested in, Please talk to Lynn Morgan!
5. Give stocks directly! Donating appreciated stocks can be beneficial to both the stockholder and the gift recipient. Talk to your financial advisor to see if this option is appropriate for you!
6. Giving through a Retirement Account - if you are 70.5 years old, you are eligible to make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA, which can provide a tax benefit to you, and of course, also benefit God's ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church. Please talk to your financial advisor about this option as well.

Reminder, that any gift you give to the church is recorded all year, and is tax deductible! You will be provided with a statement at the end of the year for your tax purposes!

I am so thankful for each and every one of you and your continued financial support of this congregation! You make it possible for all of us to be who God calls us to be!

Blessings!

Blake Stratton

TLC COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes—December

Date: Sunday, January 14, 2024

Present: Blake Stratton, Roger Christiansen, Nick Wahlberg, Casey Stratton, Jill Stratton, Rebecca Brockhaus, Denny Bain, Lynn Morgan, Gail Ploen, Gloria Healy, Peggy Hopp

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by President Blake Stratton

Pastor's Report: via email due to weather - beginning a Bible study, confirmation curriculum, and 1st communion class in early spring.

Announce:

- Call committee update - Met with Bishop Lorna Halaas on Thursday, 1/10
- Synod / ELCA updates - Synod Assembly is in Council Bluffs this spring
- Additional announcements
 - Annual Meeting Postcards mailed out
 - Annual Meeting is the 28th - Discussion the 21st

Discuss/Follow-Up:

- Church building / Parsonage Items List on next page
- Bell wiring - wait until new sound system is installed
- Panel Drive Update - over half way there
- Sound System Update - Review Quotes - Recommend one for Annual Meeting - There is \$13,000 designated for sound system and the quote from Pflanz is less than that. See motion in Decide
- Parsonage Rental - table until we have more information on sharing a pastor who would use the parsonage.
- Treasurer - software or laptop update
- Constitution - Review New Updates
- Membership List Update - Drafting Letters
- Church Inventory - keeping it on the radar
- Money Market Account Update
- Nominating Committee Update - we need 2 more people for slate to be complete
- Safety Deposit Box Update - No luck finding abstracts
- Insurance Update - Still working on refund from Brotherhood
- CD of \$70,000 matured on 12/18 at UBI
- Thrivent CD - Add Blake, Lynn, and Patti
- Church Policy Review
- Confirmation Camp - Early Bird Registration by February 29th
- Temporary Key for Kathi Backus for ISU Nutrition Class Feb 6 - March 26 - See motion in Decide
- Additional discussion items - February 4th we pack the month's bags for the Backpack Program.

Decide:

- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Gail Ploen, to recommend Pflanz to update our sound system for up to \$13,000 designated to the project. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Gloria Healy, to add Blake Stratton, Lynn Morgan, and Patti Christiansen to the Thrivent CD. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Nick Wahlberg, seconded by Rebecca Brockhaus, to approve changes to church policies and take to annual meeting for congregation approval. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Denny Bain, seconded by Roger Christiansen, to issue a key to Kathi Backus for ISU Nutrition Class from February 6-March 26th. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Rebecca Brockhaus, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve December Council Meeting Minutes. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Gail Ploen, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve Special Meeting Minutes from 12/31/2023. Motion passed unanimously.
- Motion made by Roger Christiansen, seconded by Denny Bain, to approve December Treasurer's Report. Motion passed unanimously.
- February Council Meeting and planning time is set for Sunday, February 11 following worship.
- Additional decision items - The 2024 budget will be emailed out for approval to go to the annual meeting.

Adjourn: Motion made by Casey Stratton, seconded by Roger Christiansen, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:29AM.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Stratton, Secretary