



Joyful Noise

DECEMBER 2022

A Message from Your Pastor...

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Christmas is the time we celebrate God's gift of His Son Jesus, born in a stable in Bethlehem a little more than 2,000 years ago. It was a gift God first promised to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden when sin broke into the world. It was a promise that God's people looked forward to with anticipation as they waited for the Messiah to come. Throughout the Old Testament, and even in the Gospels, Scripture records people watching and waiting for their savior. Until, as Luke 2:6-7 records:

"The time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

At the right time, God sent Jesus to be born. Jesus is God's gift of a savior for the world – for us! Celebrations of Christmas today often include the exchanging of gifts: gifts given and received between family members, friends, co-workers, and even between complete strangers (think Toy Drives and Mitten Trees). Yes, at Christmas many gifts are exchanged for many reasons. As Christians, exchanging gifts can provide an opportunity to give witness to the best gift of all, God's Son Jesus.

This Christmas, I would encourage you to think of another gift God has given you, the gift of faith. It is faith that clings to the promise that the baby named Jesus, born in Bethlehem, who lived a perfect life and died and rose again, is your Savior. It is a faith that has been fed with God's Word, as taught and shared with you by many people. One of those people is Pastor Rinderknecht.

Over his 19 years of service at Trinity, Pastor Rinderknecht has preached, taught, counseled, and comforted God's people with God's Word. And, as we know, the time is coming when Pastor will retire from full-time pastoral ministry and enter a new chapter of life in retirement. Many families (yours included) have been blessed and influenced by Pastor's service, as he pointed you to trust in and follow Jesus. Indeed, Pastor has been a gift from God for Trinity Lutheran Church and School.

Although Pastor's retirement will be an adjustment and time of change for Trinity, we can be confident in the gifts God provides. God will continue to feed us with His means of grace in Word and Sacrament. God will continue to strengthen us by His Holy Spirit. And God will also provide us another senior pastor – in His time and according to His will.

As we wait for that time to come, we get to celebrate the gifts God gives. First, we get to celebrate Christmas, the gift of God's Son Jesus being born among us. I would invite you to join us for worship during Advent on Wednesday nights beginning Nov. 30th at 6:30 (dinner is served at 5). Then join us for Christmas Eve services on Saturday, December 24th, at 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm. And Christmas Day, with one service on Sunday, December 25th, at 10:00am.

Then, let us also celebrate the gift of God's servant Pastor Rinderknecht. The details are still being worked out, but we will have a celebration for Pastor Rinderknecht and his wife Cathy on February 19th at 12:30pm in the school gym. Please add that date and time to your calendar. It will be a time of thanksgiving and celebration of God's gift of faithful service and ministry through the Rinderknechts. But you certainly don't have to wait until then. Christmas is a time of giving gifts. Maybe you can give a gift to Pastor Rinderknecht – a card, a phone call, a cup of coffee – a gift of conversation that says thank you for his faithful service in pointing us back to the best gift of all, God's Son, Jesus.

Have a blessed Christmas celebrating God's gifts,

Pastor Keinath



Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

School NEWS



Richard Thomas
Principal of Trinity
Lutheran School

HIS LIGHT SHINES

Greetings from school. In today's world, a person can question, "What's next?" Recently, our eighth grade class led chapel for 250 people. The Lord's light was shining brightly as these young adults shared their gifts in leading the others in worship. Many shared their talents in music by playing the piano, playing guitars, or singing a solo. They all were vocal in sharing their faith. Our goal for our graduating class is that they have a strong backbone for their Lord. It is a true blessing to focus on such positive traits in His children. May the Lord continue to bless all of us with the desire to serve Him through His people.

Youth NEWS



Cameron Heiliger
Director of Youth and
Parish Education

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS INVOLVEMENT TO BLESS 30 FAMILIES THROUGH OUR THANKSGIVING BASKET DRIVE!



DECEMBER YOUTH EVENT DATES:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

6:00-9:00pm

Fire Christmas Party at TYM Square

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

2:30-4:30pm

Flicker (5th-6th) at TYM Square
Ugly Sweaters and White Elephant
Gift Exchange!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

6:30-8:30pm

Flame (7th-8th) at TYM Square
Ugly Sweaters and White Elephant
Gift Exchange!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31,

FROM 8:00pm, UNTIL

JANUARY 1 AT 8:00am

New Year's Lock-In for
8th grade and up!





*Oh Come,
Let Us Adore Him!*

Christmas Worship at Trinity

Advent Worship Services

Wednesdays (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14)

Dinner at 5pm and Worship at 6:30pm

Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 14

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Saturday, December 24, @ 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Services

2pm service live-streamed at www.trinitybillings.org

Christmas Day Worship & Communion

Sunday, December 25, @ 10am

New Year's Eve Worship & Communion

Saturday, December 31, @ 5pm

No regular weekly Saturday Worship on Dec. 31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ALTAR DUTY: Shared Duty						
ELDERS: Saturday: Neal Wagenman Sun. 8:00: Derek Vetch Sun. 10:30: Ted Loomans	ACOLYTES: Saturday: Grace Keller Sun. 8:00: Kody Koeppel Sun. 10:30: Elliot Stricker					
	CHURCH: 245-3984 SCHOOL: 656-1021 WEBSITE: www.trinitybillings.org					
Trinity Worship Services on Community 7 8am Sundays & 5pm Tuesdays						
4 <i>Psalms 97</i> MITE BOX SUNDAY 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	5 <i>Luke 10</i> 11am-1pm Youth Lunch at TYM Square with CLDI 7pm Adult Class	6 <i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i> 9am Quilting 6:30pm Properties Mtg. 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zagel	7 <i>Romans 15:4-13</i> 1pm Kitchen Guild Mtg. 2:15pm Chapel at TLS 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	8 <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 <i>Luke 11</i>	10 <i>Proverbs 19</i> 5pm Worship
11 <i>Psalms 98</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship w/ Communion 9:30am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	12 <i>Luke 12</i> 11am-1pm Youth Lunch at TYM Square with CLDI 6:30pm Fellowship Mtg. 7pm Adult Class	13 <i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i> 9am Quilting 6:30pm Cradle Roll Mtg. 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zagel 6:15pm Early Childhood Program @ TLS	14 <i>James 5:7-11</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS 5pm Advent Dinner 6:30pm Advent Worship SS Children's Program 7:15pm FIRE Youth Group	15 <i>Matthew 11:2-15</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Band & Bells Concert at TLS	16 <i>Luke 13</i> 6pm Fire Youth Group Christmas Party	17 <i>Proverbs 20</i> 2:30pm Flicker 5pm Worship with Communion 6:30pm Flame
18 <i>Psalms 99</i> 8 & 10:30am Worship 9:30am Sunday School, Toddler SS, & Adult Bible Class	19 <i>Luke 14</i> 11am-1pm Youth Lunch at TYM Square with CLDI 7pm Adult Class 1:30pm TLS Christmas Program Matinee	20 <i>Isaiah 7:10-17</i> 9am Quilting 6:30pm TLS Christmas Program 7pm Bible Study led by Rev. Zagel	21 <i>Romans 1:1-7</i> 8:30am Chapel at TLS 1pm Wrinkled Righteous Game Day 6:30pm Fire Youth Group TLS School Dismisses at Noon	22 <i>Matthew 1:18-25</i> 10:30am Bible Study 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 <i>Luke 15</i>	24 <i>Proverbs 21</i> 2pm, 4pm, & 6pm Christmas Eve Worship Services
				No School at TLS – Christmas Break		
25 <i>Psalms 100</i> 10am Christmas Day Worship Service with Communion	26 <i>Luke 16</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Hebrews 1:1-12</i> 6:30pm Fire Youth Group	29 <i>John 1:1-18</i> 10:30am Bible Study	30 <i>Luke 17</i>	31 <i>Proverbs 22</i> 5pm New Year's Eve Worship with Communion 8pm New Year's Look-In for 8th grade and up
No School - Christmas Break at Trinity Lutheran School - December 22 – January 2						

Financial REPORT

October 2022 Finances		
Income		146,928
Expenses		220,127
Net Margin		-73,200
2022-2023 Finances		
	Actual	Target
Offerings	268,184	282,674
Total Income	853,491	801,547
Total Expenses	804,713	794,881
Net Margin	48,778	6,666

In October we completed a major upgrade to our church boiler system. This included removing the original boiler from the church office and tying our office system to our main church boilers. We also updated our HVAC controls, allowing us to schedule heating to happen only when the church is in use and creating efficiencies in our energy consumption. This was a planned project and the total cost to complete it was more than \$25K. However, updating this system will save us money over time and eliminates one of our greatest potential liabilities by removing our reliance on heat from a 70-year-old boiler.

BAPTISMS

Finley Joy Munsterman was born on September 25, 2022, to Ray & Kendra Munsterman and baptized on November 5 by Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht.

Benjamin Mark Pust was born on September 19, 2022, to Noah & Mary Pust and baptized on November 6 by Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht.

MEMORIALS

The memorial service for **Darlene (Wohler) Larson** was held on November 21, with Rev. Daniel Keinath presiding.



LWML NEWS

Meeting on December 19 | 6:00 pm

Opening Devotion: Executive Board Members

Program: Potluck Dinner

Meeting Hostesses: Executive Board Members

Church Service Greeters for December: Executive Board Members

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

HELP US DECORATE THE ALTAR for the Christmas season by ordering your poinsettias now! The cost of each poinsettia is \$11.00, and order forms are available in the narthex. Please complete the order form, place in the envelope provided (along with your cash or check **payable to Trinity**), and drop in the box that is also located in the narthex. Please also note on the envelope if you are purchasing your poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone. This will be listed in the bulletin the weekend of December 24th & 25th. We will accept orders through December 18th. You may pick up your poinsettias following the Christmas Day worship service. *Thank you for helping us decorate the altar during this special season!* ~Trinity's Altar Guild



USHERING HELP FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Saturday, December 24, we have multiple Christmas Eve services (2:00, 4:00, & 6:00 p.m.) for which we need additional ushers. We are asking all ushers to please consider signing up to help with one of these special services. **A signup sheet is in the usher alcove in the back of the church.** By signing up, we can assure that we will have enough ushers at the service so that Elders will not have to be trying to find ushers. Thank you for your help in getting these services covered. The special services for Christmas Day and New Year's Eve have ushers scheduled for them as part of regular schedules.

TRANSFER/ADDRESS CHANGE

Chris and June Kazarian transferred their membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Miles City, MT. Their new address is 501 S. Stacy Ave, Miles City, MT 59301.

Special Events

WEDNESDAYS (NOV 30, DEC 7, & DEC 14)

Advent Dinner @ 5pm

Advent Worship Service @ 6:30 pm

Sunday School Christmas Program on Dec. 14

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 6:15PM

Early Childhood Program at TLS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 6:30PM

Band & Bells Concert at TLS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1:30PM

Christmas Program Matinee at TLS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 6:30PM

Christmas Program at TLS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1PM

Wrinkled Righteous Game Day

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at
2pm, 4pm, and 6pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 10AM

Christmas Day Worship & Communion

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 5PM

New Year's Eve Worship & Communion



News

VOTERS' MEETING RECAP

On Sunday, November 20, Trinity's Voters came together to discuss our upcoming senior pastor vacancy and how this impacts our long-range planning process. It was our prayer that the Lord would give us clear direction on how to proceed with the planning process, and He certainly did. Those present voiced strong support for immediately moving forward with our long-range planning. A planning committee will be formed and we will prayerfully consider the ministry to which the Lord is calling us in the next 5-10 years. We will also look at what is needed to pursue our mission, including specific activities, staffing, and facilities. There will be several opportunities for our members to provide input and feedback along the way. Also, the Board of Elders is currently forming a call committee to address our upcoming pastoral vacancy. In January, President Forke will facilitate a meeting with our congregation to discuss the call process. We encourage your prayers and participation in these discussions during the coming months!

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known