



Joyful Noise

JANUARY 2021

A Message from Your Pastor...

Dear Friends of Trinity,

How many of us (if it were possible) would like to repeat the year 2020? Probably not many. In fact, someone shared with me that they saw a joke online. It said something to this effect: "This year I'm going to stay up and celebrate New Year's Eve. Not to welcome the New Year 2021, but to make sure 2020 comes to an end!"

Yes, the year 2020 was difficult. Closures. Restrictions. Mandates. Illnesses. Suffering. Uncertainty. The list could go on. I have heard many people say they are ready to put 2020 behind them. It's a statement spoken in hope and promise – in the hope and promise that the year 2021 will (somehow) be better.

But what would make it better? It depends on what is being hoped for. If we hope that the year 2021 will bring...a change or removal of restrictions and mandates... an end to the pandemic...life back to normal...we may be hoping for good things, but we may also be disappointed. What if 2021 doesn't bring those things? What if the New Year is similar to last year?

God's Word gives us some clarity and hope. In Jeremiah 29, God is speaking to His children Judah through His prophet Jeremiah. Judah has been taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon, under King Nebuchadnezzar. They are captives. The freedom and lives they enjoyed in Jerusalem are not the same in Babylon.

What does God tell his people who are struggling with a difficult situation? He says in verses 5-7: *"Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."*

God is directing them to live life. Yes, it may be different. Yes it may be difficult. But continue to live faithfully, with hope. God is calling His people to trust in Him, and His Word, and His Work, and His plan. In fact, God says that just a few verses later with the memorable verse *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (29:11 NIV)

Specifically, God is promising deliverance to His people. He is promising that their exile will come to an end, and He will restore them. That promise gives them hope to live life. Ultimately, isn't that our hope as well? God promises us today, that He will come to deliver and restore us. Perhaps that deliverance will be on earth, like it was for Judah, certainly God's deliverance will come for eternity. Either way, our hope for the New Year rests securely on God and His work. So go ahead, live life – faithfully. Make New Year's resolutions. Have hope for the New Year. Turn to the Lord in prayer, as He teaches His people in verse 7. And remember the promise of God, that He has plans for you, *"to give you hope and a future,"* through His Son Jesus.

In Him,
Pastor Keinath



Knowing Christ and Making Him Known

School and YOUTH NEWS



CHRISTMAS IS CHRIST

Greetings to the Season that gives us hope and joy. Our world is struggling and trying to get through this time of fear and distress. Our focus is to be rooted in what Christmas really means to us and our families. This is a time for us to look for the opportunities that are out there for us to let our lights shine. Our church and school are really taking these opportunities and bringing light to those who need that Gospel message. I encourage our families to look for their own ways to share this Season.

-Richard Thomas, *Principal of Trinity Lutheran School*



YOUTH NEWS

Blessed New Year to you! As I type those words, there's a strange sense of relief and foreboding at the beginning of 2021. We've trudged through 2020 in the midst of trial after trial. One friend posted the following picture on one of their social media pages which I think sums the past year up nicely:



If you're not familiar with the film Jumanji, it concerns a pair of children and a board game they find and begin playing. Unfortunately, the board game is more than just cardboard as whatever event that is listed on the card happens in the real world as well. The film was based on a beautifully illustrated book by Chris Van Allsburg and has spawned a group of sequels including Zathura

and two more recent versions involving video games and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

In order to finish the game, someone has to get to the end and call out "Jumanji!" Then, finally, everything will go back to normal. While the picture above is a funny representation of what we've experienced this year, the truth is there isn't a magic word that will set everything right in the world like we see in movies, books, and video games. In fact, Jesus promises as much when he says in John 16:33, "In the world you will have tribulation."

Thankfully, there is so much more to that verse... [Jesus said], "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

There is no magic word or formula that will set things right in THIS world. And in 2021, we know that we will continue to experience the trials and tribulations of a creation fallen away from its creator. BUT, take heart, and be at peace in the coming year. Know that God has overcome this world through His Son, Jesus!

And so, I'll say again, **Blessed New Year to you!**

-Cameron Heiliger,
Director of Youth & Parish Education

YOUTH EVENT DATES:

LET'S GO SLEDDING!
Saturday, January 23
(Weather Permitting)

FLICKER

10:00 AM-Noon
(Meet at TYM)

FLAME

12:30-2:30 PM
(Meet at TYM)

FIRE

3:00-5:00 PM
(Meet at TYM)

Bounteous Blessings

FALLFESTivities

Because of the pandemic, we were unable to have our annual FallFest event, which is Trinity School's largest fundraiser. However, COVID could not stop your generosity! In place of a large in-person gathering, we put together a Share-A-Scare(crow) program and online fundraiser. Because of your generosity, we surpassed our ambitious goal and raised nearly \$25,000 for the school! These funds will be used to pay for our teacher aide program, purchase new playground equipment and signage, and make significant repairs to our school walk-in refrigerator. Thank you!



BASKETS OF BLESSINGS!

At Thanksgiving we were able to provide 20 families with baskets of blessings, filled with everything they needed for a wonderful Thanksgiving meal (and much more!) Thank you for generously supporting the Thanksgiving Basket drive again this year - it results in baskets of blessings!

OPERATION: BLESS OUR NURSING HOMES

Those in nursing homes have been among the hardest hit this past year. Our goal was to remind them that Jesus loves them, and so do we. We asked our school families to donate items that we could give as gifts. Lots and lots of things came in! Mr. Thomas then gave our church members a "homework assignment" and asked them to also bring in items. Even more things came in! In the end, students were able to put together nearly 300 gift bags, filled with wonderful items and care cards that they hand-created! These bags were then given to residents at our local nursing homes. In addition, Trinity students also sent personalized Christmas cards to nearly 200 Trinity members who do not receive our regular communication. We know that God has used your generosity, and the efforts of these students, to remind many people of His love!



LAY MINISTERS:

Financial REPORT

November Finances		
Income		171,084
Expenses		176,322
Net Margin		-5,238
2020-2021 Finances		
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Target</i>
Offerings	321,734	371,510
Total Income	805,225	838,372
Total Expenses	825,630	838,372
Net Margin	-20,405	0
Phase I Completion Drive (Goal of \$325,000 to Pay Off Loan)		
Gifts and Pledges (through Nov.)		\$300,676
Remaining Needed to Complete		\$ 24,324

You may have noticed that our general fund offerings are running about \$50,000 (15%) behind our giving goal through November. A number of members have already generously responded in December with special gifts to help address this shortfall, and for that we say, "Thank you!" We are utilizing our operating reserve and are able to stay current on our financial obligations, but we greatly appreciate your prayerful response to help us get back on track as we head into the second half of our fiscal year. You may want to consider signing up for Simply Giving, or giving a special year-end IRA gift.

If you have been impacted financially by the pandemic and are in need, please let us know. The Lord has given our congregation an abundance of resource to care for one another during these challenging times. Please know that you are not alone!



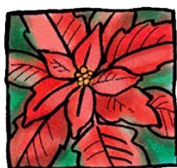
**Lutheran
Women
in Mission**

LWML NEWS

Installation of all LWML officers will be held on Sunday, January 10, at both services. There will not be a general meeting held in January.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The new offering envelopes are ready for pickup in the Preschool classroom by the Sanctuary. If your envelopes are not there, please call the church office at 245-3984. Thank you!



2021 FLOWER CHART

The flower chart for 2021 is up and ready. The cost of flowers will be \$20, just as it has been in the past. To help us with our bookkeeping, we ask that you pay for your flowers when you sign up. Please make your checks payable to Gainans. For your convenience there are envelopes to fill out specifying any special occasion or reason for the flowers. *Thank you from the Altar Guild!*

FUNERALS

Jack Otis Patton passed away on November 24th. A memorial service was held at Trinity Lutheran Church with Rev. Daniel Rinderknecht presiding on December 19th.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Carolyn Rukavina
1400 West 21st Ave.
Mitchell, SD 57301

Fred & Jean Pierce
1008 Poly Dr. #A1
Billings, MT 59102

John & Mary Wiedmeier
3140 Sweetwater Ave, Unit 110
Billings, MT 59102

*Happy
New Year!*

Special Events

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 pm

New Year's Eve Worship Service

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

Mite Box Sunday

MONDAY, JANUARY 4

Classes resume
at Trinity School

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6

6:30 pm

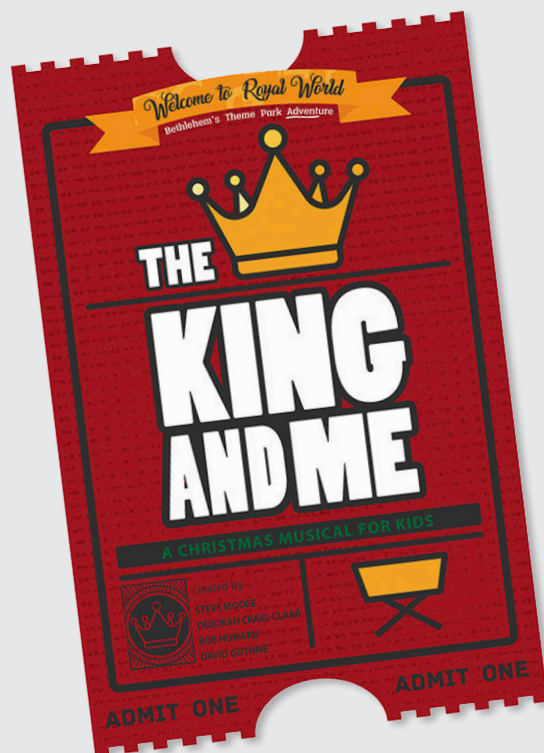
First-Year Confirmation Begins

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

LWML Installation of Officers
(both services)



News



WATCH TRINITY SCHOOL PERFORM, *THE KING AND ME!*

This year Trinity School performed *The King and Me* for their Christmas program. Because of the pandemic, the program was recorded in parts and put together in a video format, which is available to watch online until March 15. We encourage you to grab a bag of popcorn and enjoy the show at <https://youtu.be/sdZECKd-Gsg>.

Knowing Christ and Making Him Known