



TRINITY TIDINGS

612 North Water Street - Sparta, Wisconsin 54656 Tel. 608-269-5081 Website: www.tlcsparta.org

God's Love-Our Hearts-God's Work-Our Hands

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

AMENDMENTS TO THE *MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS* APPROVED BY THE 2022 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY [WITH RATIONALES]

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
August 2022

Following are amendments to the *Model Constitution for Congregations* that were approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. Additions are underlined; deletions are ~~struck through~~.

Provisions within the *Model Constitution for Congregations* are of two types:

- **Those provisions marked with an asterisk are required when a congregation amends its governing documents.** They must be used without alteration or amendment of the text in any manner (i.e., neither additions nor deletions are permissible). Such provisions go into effect immediately upon approval by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation, provided that they have been presented to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- **Provisions not marked with an asterisk are non-required provisions.** These provisions represent wording recommended by the Churchwide Assembly. If the congregation chooses to incorporate them into the congregation's constitution exactly as presented here, these provisions require a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation, provided that they have been presented to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

If the wording of non-required provisions is altered or amended from the text presented here, the provisions must be approved at one congregation meeting by a majority vote and then must be ratified *without change* by a two-thirds vote at the next regular meeting of the congregation. (See *Model Constitution for Congregations*, *C16.04. for more detail.)

For convenience, the rationale that was presented to the Churchwide Assembly for each amendment is provided in italics following the amendment. These rationales are *not* part of the amendments with which they are associated, they are *not* part of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*, and they are *not* intended to be incorporated into the constitutions of congregations. They are here only to give context for the amendments.

The Office of the Secretary would like to express gratitude for your faithful attention to your congregation's constitution!

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

Chapter 4: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

- *C4.02. To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:
[...]
- d. Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity, and justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations, and standing in solidarity with the poor and powerless oppressed and committing itself to their needs.

Rationale: [This amendment was proposed on the assembly floor during the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; consequently, no rationale was provided prior to the assembly.]

Chapter 6: CHURCH AFFILIATION

- *C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
- a. A resolution indicating the intent to terminate its relationship must be adopted at two legally called and conducted special meetings of this congregation by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present at each meeting. The first such meeting may be held no sooner than 30 days after written notice of the meeting is received by the bishop of the synod, during which time this congregation shall consult with the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any. The times and manner of the consultation shall be determined by the bishop in consultation with the Congregation Council. Unless he or she is the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are a voting members of this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, they shall have voice but not vote at the first meeting.
[...]
- d. If this congregation, after such consultation, is still considering termination of its relationship with this church, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present. Notice of the second meeting shall be sent to all voting members and to the bishop at least 10 days in advance of the meeting. Unless he or she is the bishop and/or the bishop's designees are a voting members of this congregation, the bishop and the bishop's designees, if any, they shall have voice but not vote at the second meeting.

Rationale: Inclusive language.

Chapter 9: ROSTERED MINISTER

- *C9.03. Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
- a. Every minister of Word and Sacrament shall:
[...]
- 8) speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world-advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations.

Rationale: [This amendment was proposed on the assembly floor during the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; consequently, no rationale was provided prior to the assembly.]

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

- *C9.05.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Sacrament and this congregation shall be as follows:
- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a pastor, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the pastor's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:
 - [...]
 - 4) inability to conduct the pastoral office effectively in view of physical disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the pastor;
 - [...]
 - b. When allegations of ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity of the pastor under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the pastoral office under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,
 - 1) the bishop, in his or her who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or
 - [...]
 - c. In case of alleged ~~physical~~ disability or ~~mental~~ incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the pastor's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the pastorate vacant. When the pastorate is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the pastor on the roster of Ministers of Word and Sacrament with disability status. Upon removal resumption of the ~~disability and the restoration of the pastor to health, ability to conduct the office effectively~~ the bishop shall take steps to enable the pastor to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

Rationale: These changes parallel changes being made elsewhere in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. Language related to disability has been changed to reflect current understandings and to clarify that inability and incapacity to conduct the pastoral office effectively are the standard to be considered. In addition, the words "any of" have been inserted for precision, and references to the synod bishop have been made inclusive.

- *C9.12.** The pastor of this congregation:
- a. shall keep accurate parochial records of all baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communicants, members received, members dismissed, or members excluded from this congregation;

Rationale: The deletion of "parochial" is for consistency of usage.

- *C9.13.** The pastor(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Rationale: Inclusive language

- *C9.14.** The parochial records of this congregation shall be maintained by the pastor and shall remain the property of this congregation. The secretary of this congregation shall attest in writing to the bishop of this synod that such records have been placed in his or her the secretary's hands in good order by a departing pastor before the installation of that pastor in another call or approval of a request for change in roster status.

Rationale: These changes parallel changes being made elsewhere in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. The deletion of "parochial" is for consistency of usage. The second change is for inclusive language.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

- *C9.23.** Consistent with the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, every minister of Word and Service shall:

[...]

- c. Speak publicly to the world in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, calling for justice and proclaiming God's love for the world, witnessing to the realm of God in the community, the nation, and abroad advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, caring for the marginalized, and embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations;

Rationale: [This amendment was proposed on the assembly floor during the 2019 Churchwide Assembly; consequently, no rationale was provided prior to the assembly.]

- *C9.25.** The provisions for termination of the mutual relationship between a minister of Word and Service and this congregation shall be as follows:

- a. The call of this congregation, when accepted by a deacon, shall constitute a continuing mutual relationship and commitment, which shall be terminated only by the deacon's death or, following consultation with the synod bishop, for any of the following reasons:

[...]

- 4) inability to conduct the office effectively in view of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon;

[...]

- b. When allegations of physical disability or mental incapacity of the deacon under paragraph a.4) above, or ineffective conduct of the office of minister of Word and Service under paragraph a.3) above, have come to the attention of the bishop of this synod,

- 1) the bishop, in his or her who has sole discretion, may investigate such conditions personally together with a committee of two rostered ministers and one layperson, or

[...]

- c. In case of alleged physical disability or mental incapacity under paragraph a.4) above, the bishop's committee shall obtain and document competent medical opinion concerning the deacon's condition. When a disability or incapacity is evident to the committee, the bishop of this synod may declare the position vacant. When the position is declared vacant, the Synod Council shall list the deacon on the roster of Ministers of Word and Service with disability status. Upon removal resumption of the disability and the restoration of the deacon to health ability to conduct the office effectively, the bishop shall take steps to enable the deacon to resume the ministry, either in the congregation last served or in another appropriate call.

Rationale: These changes parallel changes being made elsewhere in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. Language related to disability has been changed to reflect current understandings and to clarify that inability and incapacity to conduct the pastoral office effectively are the standard to be considered. In addition, the words "any of" have been inserted for precision, and references to the synod bishop have been made inclusive.

- *C9.31.** The deacon(s) shall submit a report of his or her ministry to the bishop of the synod at least 90 days prior to each regular meeting of the Synod Assembly.

Rationale: Inclusive language

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

Chapter 15: DISCIPLINE OF MEMBERS AND ADJUDICATION

- *C15.02.** The process for discipline of a member of this congregation shall be governed as prescribed by the chapter on discipline in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*. If the counseling, censure, and admonitions pursuant to *C15.01. do not result in repentance and amendment of life, charges against the accused member(s) that are specific and in writing may be prepared by the Congregation Council, signed, and submitted to the vice president of the synod. The vice president shall select from the synod's Consultation Committee a panel of five members (three laypersons and two **rostered** ministers **of Word and Sacrament**). A copy of the written charges shall be provided to the consultation panel and the accused member(s). The consultation panel, after requesting a written reply to the charges from the accused member(s), shall consider the matter and seek a resolution by means of investigation, consultation, mediation, or whatever other means may seem appropriate. The panel's efforts to reach a mutually agreeable resolution shall continue for no more than 45 days after the matter is submitted to it.

Rationale: Change for inclusion of both rosters.

- *C15.11.** When there is disagreement between or among factions within this congregation on a substantive issue which cannot be resolved by the parties, members of this congregation may petition the synod bishop for consultation after informing the president **[vice president]** of this congregation of their intent to do so. The synod bishop shall seek a timely resolution of the dispute. If the issue relates directly to the pastor, the bishop may begin the process in †S14.18.d. In all other matters, if the bishop's consultation fails to resolve the issue, the bishop shall refer the matter to the Consultation Committee of the synod, which shall undertake efforts to find an appropriate solution. If the Consultation Committee's efforts fail to resolve the dispute, the entire matter shall be referred to the Synod Council for adjudication by whatever process the Council deems necessary. The Synod Council's decision shall be final.

Rationale: This change allows congregation members in situations in which the pastor is also president of the congregation to inform the vice president of their intent to petition the synod bishop for consultation.

Chapter 16: AMENDMENTS

- *C16.02.** An amendment to this constitution, proposed under *C16.01., shall:
- be approved at any legally called meeting of this congregation by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting; **and**
 - be ratified without change at the next regular meeting of this congregation **held pursuant to C10.01.** by a two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting; **and**
 - have the effective date included in the resolution² and noted in the constitution.**

[Footnote also deleted]

² Such an effective date must be stated in relation to the requirements of *C16.03. to allow time for the synod's review of the amendment.

Rationale: "Regular meeting" has already been defined elsewhere in the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA. In addition, C10.01 is not a required provision, so it is not advisable to make reference in a required provision to a non-required provision.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MODEL CONSTITUTION FOR CONGREGATIONS

- *C16.04.** This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America* as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of this congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of this congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to this congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of this congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following the congregation's a vote of approval.

Rationale: Change for precision. This has often been incorrectly interpreted to mean that the synod must vote to approve amendments that are designed to bring the congregation's constitution into alignment with the Model Constitution. In fact, amendments to bring any section or sections, either required or not required, into conformity with the Model Constitution go into effect immediately upon the congregation's vote to amend.

PROPOSED TRINITY CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The following changes to Trinity's Constitution were approved at a special congregational meeting held on October 8, 2023 and must be ratified at Trinity's annual meeting to be held on January 28, 2024:

C10.09 "Ex officio" as used herein means membership with full rights of voice and vote unless otherwise expressly limited.

C13.01 The officers of this congregation and the pastor shall constitute the Executive Committee.

C13.10 The pastor of this congregation shall be ex officio member of all committees of this congregation and as an advisory member of the Nominating Committee. The president of this congregation shall be ex officio a member of all committees of this congregation except the Nominating Committee. In the absence of the president, the vice president may assume this role.

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOSH

Grace and peace,

I must start this month with an apology. I am currently home with Covid and struggling to write.

Half a year down and it still seems like I just moved to town. But, alas, the cold weather, lights, and Christmas and new years being right around the corner tells me otherwise.

I pray that you are having a blessed holiday season, filled with joy and wonder. It has been my distinct pleasure to serve with you these past 6 months.

I am excited for all that we will accomplish in the coming year. As 2024 rapidly approaches, I am excited for new ministries, worship, serving, and having fun together.

May you have a blessed Christmas and a happy new year.

Blessings,
~PJ

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND

Estate planning may include leaving a portion of your estate to family and another portion to charitable causes including the church. When planning a gift to Trinity's Endowment Fund, one easy way is for members to consider giving a qualified charitable deduction from your IRA. Only the dividends and interest are spent, so this Endowment Fund is a perpetual fund.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee wants to thank everyone for their help and willingness to serve. The vote will take place at the January 28th Annual Meeting.

Council Secretary:	Jo Ellen Siver
Church Council:	Julee Hopkins (one-year term)
	Missy Erickson (three-year term)
	Abby Scholze (three-year term)
Youth Council Member:	Ashley Jaeger (one-year term)
Other Elections: Personnel Committee:	Todd Page
Mission Endowment Board:	Jeremiah Erickson and Pauline Haug
Male Synod Assembly Reps:	Matt Michalski
	Blaine Markuson
Female Synod Assembly Reps:	Brittany Michalski
	Carol Glaman
Youth Synod Assembly Rep:	Ashley Jaeger
Alternate Synod Assembly Reps:	Steve & Judy Bennett
Sugar Creek Reps:	Ken Becker
	Wendy Sporie
Alternate Sugar Creek Rep:	Chuck Hogan

Nominations Committee: Gary Haskins-Barb Moorhead-Pauline Haug

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

Did you know...The La Crosse Area Synod forwards 46% of the Mission Support funds received to ELCA Churchwide ministries. Some of the important ministries included are: ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), and worship, discipleship, stewardship, and prayer resource development. We also support 7 ELCA Seminaries, 26 ELCA colleges and universities, and Fund for Leaders scholarships.



ALL ARE WELCOME MEALS

ALL ARE WELCOME at the table! JOIN US ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!!!

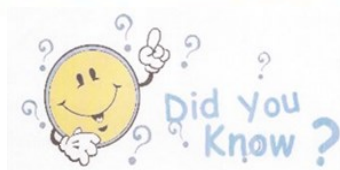
AAW (All Are Welcome) meals will resume on Wednesday, 1/3/24. We are still looking for groups to help prepare, serve, or clean up. Funding is available to help offset the costs of the meals. Here is our menu/schedule through 2/7:

Wednesday, 1/3: BBQ (hosted by Larson-Hermann-Moorhead families)
 Wednesday, 1/10: Taco Boats (hosted by our young people & families)
 Wednesday, 1/17: Chicken Alfredo
 Wednesday, 1/24: NO meal
 Wednesday, 1/31: Baked Potato Bar
 Wednesday, 2/7: Hot Dogs/Mac & Cheese



Please reach out to Pastor Josh or Michelle if you are willing & able to serve in any of the above ways to keep these weekly meals going for our Trinity family. Let us know if you have any additional questions about this vital ministry as we come together to gather in fellowship & feed people the way Jesus did! ⁸

MISSION MOMENT NEWS



ELCA Mission Moment

Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network

The ELCA ministers with and among people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through its affiliation with organizations like Lutheran Services in America-(LSA) Disability Network. LSA is an alliance of the ELCA, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and their affiliated and recognized social ministry organizations. Together, the social ministry organizations of LSA serve more than 6 million people each year and help one out of every 50 people in the United States and the Caribbean.

The Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network harnesses the collective power and wisdom of its nationwide group of Lutheran social ministry organizations for advocacy and to champion services and supports that enable individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to realize their dreams, achieve their potential and lead their best lives. In Western Wisconsin, APTIV is a partner agency affiliated with the LSA Disability Network.

<http://lutheranservices.org/lsa-dn>

Aptiv, established in 1977 as Riverfront Inc., is a non-profit with over 40 years of experience working alongside children and adults with disabilities to provide programs and services so they may live more independent lives. Aptiv serves more than 1,700 individuals and their families in each community we serve. We provide support when and where needed, at home, at school, in the community or at one of 8 service locations. <https://www.aptiv.org>

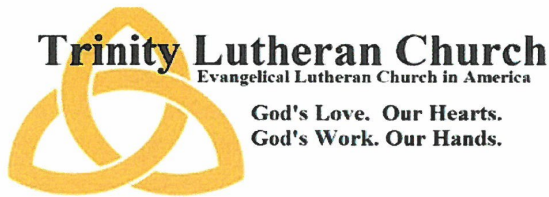
There are a wide variety of meaningful opportunities to get involved as a volunteer. Contact Aptiv at info@aptiv.org with any questions about volunteering or donating. For more information about supporting Lutheran Services in America <https://lutheranservices.org/>



Lutheran
Services
in America

stationerytree.com

NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



Trinity 2024 Appeal Reminder January, 2024

"150 Years and Still Counting Our Blessings"

Dear Trinity Members,
Consecration Sunday was this past November 12th. We were all invited forward to present our intentions for the coming year during a special worship service. On that Sunday 53 Trinity families made commitments to use their resources, gifts, and talents for the benefit of our congregation, community, and the world beyond. Since that Sunday an additional 52 families have responded to our 2024 stewardship campaign. Thank you to all who have responded.

Will you join us?

Beginning in January, Stewardship Committee members and volunteer Council Members will be contacting members who have not returned their Intent Cards and/or Time and Talent forms. This will be a gentle reminder. We will send you another Intent Card and/or Time and Talent form if requested. We hope you will respond positively to our 2024 Appeal. It is not necessary to indicate an amount---just a comment that you plan to give is very meaningful.

We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can support Trinity, its ministries, and each other through your time, talent, and financial resources. You may return your Time and Talent form and Intent Card in the following ways: drop them in the church office; mail them to the church office (612 Water St. Sparta, WI 54656); drop them in the secure drop box near the front door; or take a picture of them and email to office@TLCSparta.org.

We are profoundly grateful for God's many gifts. Thank you for sharing your blessings and supporting the ministries of Trinity.

In Christ's Love,

Josh Buzbee
Pastor

Blaine Markuson
Council President

Counting Our
BLESSINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church

Report of the Treasurer 11/30/2023

Average giving per week this month: \$7,446.45

Annual Budget: \$414711; needed each week to meet budgeted expenses: \$7975.21

General fund:	
Balance 10/31/2023	\$5,654.64
November Giving	\$29,785.78
November Disbursements	(\$28,909.41)
Misc entries	\$0.00
Balance 11/30/2023	\$6,531.01

Total Giving:	BUDGET	Non-budget
November	\$29,785.78	\$2,556.61
Total	\$29,785.78	\$2,556.61

1st Community Credit Union:	
Loan balance 10/31/2023	\$13,286.46
November principal	(\$1,507.25)
November interest	\$47.50
New loan balance 11/30/2023	\$11,779.21

Designated Funds: Balances as of 11/30/2023:

Total Withholding	\$2,359.17
Total Pass-through Amounts	\$1,536.82
Prepaid pledges	\$819.99
General Fund	\$6,531.01
Money Market Savings Account	\$583.20
Helping Hands Fund	\$1,511.30
Building Capital Fund	\$6,611.00
Memorial	\$3,058.02
Endowment	\$195.00
Restricted Estate Fund Balance	\$26,650.45
Unrestricted Estate Fund Balance	\$49,474.46
Contingency Reserve Balance	\$20,000.00
Misc Undesignated Fund	\$1,546.86
Youth Checking	\$200.00
Worship & Music	\$4,947.17
Education Ministry	\$6,788.98
Fellowship & Outreach	\$3,419.01
Building General Expenses	\$6,453.48
Thrivent Choice Fund	\$5,834.96
Community Outreach	\$1,692.46
Sabbatical Fund	\$6,295.99
Total Fund balances	\$156,509.33

Tammy Barclay, Treasurer

Needed Weekly to Meet Budgeted Mission—\$7975.21

November 19, 2023

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$8336.57
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving,
is **\$308.86**

November 26, 2023

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$4248.87
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving,
is **\$881.50**

December 3, 2023

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is
\$8413.72
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving,
is **\$286.00**



**"Each of you must give as you have
made up your mind, not reluctantly or
under compulsion, for God loves a
cheerful giver."**

2 Corinthians 9:7

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

THANK YOU

to everyone who supported our “Trinity Cares” Giving Tree, Coins Because We Care, & our NOLA Bake Sale. We continue to be so blessed by your generosity, & our hearts are full from the outpouring of love & support! It honestly means more than we can even try to put into words! Simply put – Team Trinity, YOU ROCK!!

JANUARY 2024 FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 1/3	AAW Meal, 5:30-6:30 pm 7:00-8:15 pm
Sunday, 1/7	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00
Wednesday, 1/10	AAW Meal, 5:30-6:30 pm 7:00-8:15 pm
Sunday, 1/14	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00
Wednesday, 1/17	AAW Meal, 5:30-6:30 pm 7:00-8:15 pm
Sunday, 1/21	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00
Wednesday, 1/24	NO AAW MEAL NO FAITH FORMATION
Sunday, 1/28	Worship @ 9:00 4G @ 10:00
Wednesday, 1/31	AAW Meal, 5:30-6:30 pm 7:00-8:15 pm

K-LOVE ROCKS!! Positive, Encouraging

Tune in at 100.1, or get the app on your phone! I promise listening to it will make your day better! In our highs & lows, this Christian, positive & encouraging radio station is the BEST!! After you listen, please let Michelle know what has become one of your favorite songs. We'd like to start incorporating some of them into various happenings here at Trinity!

K-LOVE Challenges each week: **GO MAD Monday** – Go out and Make a Difference for Someone! How are you going to show kindness? **Feel Good Friday** – How has someone made you feel better? How can you make someone's life better?

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**HELP US
RAISE FUNDS
ONE BITE AT A TIME**

Join us at Arby's!



Location: Sparta - 918A S Black River St

Date: Sunday, Jan. 7th, 2024

Time: 5-8 PM

**10% of your order will be donated to
Trinity Lutheran Youth Group**

DRMARBYS.COM

TM & © 2023 Arby's® IP Holder, LLC.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Thank you to all who attended and watched virtually the Sunday School Christmas Program on December 17. The children did a beautiful job reading and their voices filled the church with Christmas spirit - this was all due to the fantastic Sunday School teachers and Christin Gasner, and led by Kevin Peterson, with Adell Morton on the piano. Thank you all for the extra time and effort that you have put into making this annual Christmas tradition so special!

The Loose Change offering that was collected during the program helped the Sunday Schoolers to reach their December goal of getting more than one piglet (\$30) and more than one goat (\$50)! The total amount collected was \$204.35. Thank you to the children for continuing to bring in their Weekly Offering, and to all who supported the Good Gifts by contributing to the Loose Change Offering. When we return in January, the 1st & 2nd graders will choose a new goal to work towards.

As we welcome in the new year, please know that it is never too late to get your child signed up for Sunday School. Please reach out to Christen Gasner to find out more. We have lots more planned for 2024 - join in the fun!

CIRCLES

MARY CIRCLE

Mary Circle will resume our book study of *Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren on January 15 at 6:30 in the Shalom Room. Please read Chapter 6. We will **not** meet Monday, January 1st. New people are always welcome to Mary Circle! Contact Barb Moorhead (487-3721) with questions.

SHALOM CIRCLE

Thursday, January 11th,
at 1:30 pm
at MaryCrest
Contact Adell Morton
with questions
(608-269-7039)

JOY CIRCLE

Thursday, January 11th
at 10:00 am
At Jean Hays Home
204 MaryCrest
Contact Julee Hopkins
with questions
(608-269-2808)



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...



January Worship Schedule

January 7
9:00 am worship with communion

January 14
9:00 am worship

January 21
9:00 am worship with communion
(communion for homebound)
(loose change offering)

January 28
9:00 am worship

stationerytree.com



Thank you for purchasing flowers for the altar in January:

January 7: Opportunity to purchase

January 14: Opportunity to purchase

January 21: Gerry & Sandra Osborne in memory of Sandra's parents, Esther & Earl Fox, and her brother, Allen Fox

January 28: Opportunity to purchase

The flower sign up sheet for 2024 is up and ready for you to sign up. It's located by the elevator by the church office.

The cost is only \$15.00.

stationerytree.com



We are still in need of servers. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. If you can help, sign up on a Sunday that works with your schedule.
Thank you.

Servers for the month of January are:

January 7—Opportunity to serve

January 14—Opportunity to serve

January 21—Kelly Funk & Cynthia Lockington

January 28—Opportunity to serve

stationerytree.com



PASSING INTO ETERNAL LIFE

November Funerals

Virginia "Ginny" Hagen

DOD: November 18, 2023

Funeral: November 22, 2023

January Funerals

Lois Robaczewski

DOD: December 7, 2023

Funeral: January 5, 2024 at 11:00 am
at Trinity

stationerytree.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...



The Decorating Team will be taking down Christmas decorations on Monday, January 8th at 10:00 a.m. If you can help, please show up on that day and time. If you have any questions, please call Marie Grewal at 608-269-6457.

stationerytree.com



If you have any prayer requests, please contact Jonelle Intihar, our prayer group coordinator at

Jonelle@theintihars.com

stationerytree.com



CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m.

TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE DATE

Articles for the February edition are due to Myrt by no later than **noon on Tuesday, January 23rd**. The Tidings Team will be in on Friday, January 26th, to assemble them.

The annual meeting will be on **Sunday, January 28, 2024.**

stationerytree.com



JANUARY QUILTING SCHEDULE

January 4th & 18th

8:30—Noon

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

stationerytree.com

MEMORIALS and RECOGNITIONS

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of [Virginia Hagen](#) from:

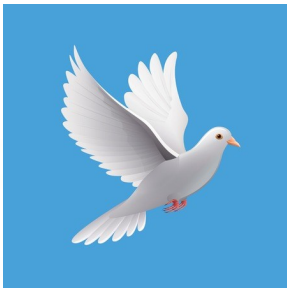
Al & Jan Jenkins—Endowment Fund
Dorothy Prell—General Fund
Alton Ask—Endowment Fund
Sharon Amundson—Building Fund
Karen Edwards—General Fund
Alice Olson—General Fund
Kevin & Vicki Strait—General Fund
Ron & Pauline Haug—Endowment Fund
Ralph & Judy Osborne—General Fund

In Loving Memory of [Adolph & Vernis Haugland](#) from:

Steve Haugland—Building Debt Retirement

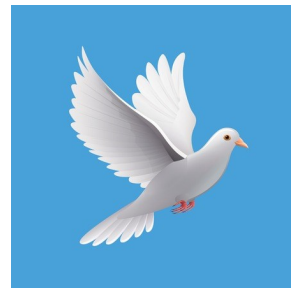
In Loving Memory of [Chuck Amundson Jr.](#) from:

Alton Ask—Endowment Fund
Alice Olson—Endowment Fund
Al & Jan Jenkins—Endowment Fund



*"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted."*

Matthew 5:4



RECOGNITION

In Recognition of Howard & Mary Slayton's
Wedding Anniversary (would have been 75th) - General Fund

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS*Birthday Blessings*

01/01	Dylan Baum, John Tempski
01/02	Paul Oswald
01/03	Ken Barclay
01/04	Mark Fortuna, Gretchen Grewal, Todd Warthan
01/05	Shirley Hagen
01/06	La Vern Breitenfield, Ralph Osborne
01/07	Everett Laufenberg
01/08	Edie Habegger, Diane Huber, Sarah Morrow, Joyce Oium
01/09	Sandy Hodgkins
01/10	Beverly Lisney, Shirley Vandervort
01/11	Layla Johnson, David Stigen
01/12	Wendy Grissell-Sporie
01/13	Walker Green
01/14	Heather Brandau, Jane Jones
01/15	David Fabry, Cheryl Nelson, Brailey Preston
01/16	Sherry McClain
01/17	Kelly Funk, Patricia Hogan, Brenda Lydon, Adell Morton, Nancy Oswald
01/20	Rylee Perry, Charles Tempski
01/21	Gabby Hyatt, Kevin Peterson
01/22	Andy Anderson, Jerry Ender, Wendy Schroeder, Cynthia Simpkinson
01/23	Edwin Knoll
01/24	Hayley Hernandez, Thomas Laufenberg, Mary Severson
01/25	Missy Erickson, Clark Wanlass
01/26	Nadia Laufenberg, Paul Robaczewski, Evelyn Rust, Gavin Weibel

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (cont...)

01/28	Leona Drew, Jeremiah Erickson
01/29	Dawson Riley
01/30	Bill Sporie
01/31	Marie Grewal, Marley Preston, Matt Schroeder

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES*Anniversary Blessings*

01/01	Scott & Connie Jerome
01/15	Greg & Holly Larson
01/16	Calvin & Joyce Oium
01/22	Roger & Cindy O'Neil
01/30	Keith & Bev Schultz

**Happy Birthday
&
Anniversary Wishes**

**Wishing you an amazing year
filled with love & joy!
God Bless you!**

If you do not see your name on the birthday/anniversary list, it means that your information is not inputted in our church software system. Please contact Myrt in the church office to add this information if your name is not listed and your birthday and/or anniversary is in the month of January. On the other hand, if you see someone on this list and it is not accurate, could you also contact Myrt and let her know so that she can make any necessary changes in our system. Thank you!

UPCOMING SERVING SCHEDULES

GREETERS

Jan. 7: Rita Bernette
 Jan. 14: Dennis & Carol Glaman
 Jan. 21: Cheryl Brown
 Jan. 28: Youth



PEW RESTOCKING

January—Steve & Judy Bernett
 February—Karen Edwards
 March—Heather Brandau



READERS

Jan. 7: Nancy Sikorsky
 Jan. 14: PJ Sikorsky
 Jan. 21: Sarah Tripp
 Jan. 28: Youth



MONEY COUNTING

January 2—Alton Ask-Audrey Zebell-PJ Sikorsky
 January 8—Carol Thorsen-Adell Morton-Brenda Degenhardt
 January 15—Jo Ellen Siver-Alice Olson-Pete Perkins
 January 22—Carol Glaman-Kelly Funk-Gary Peterson
 January 29—Rita Bernette-Bill McClain-Alton Ask



COMMUNION SERVERS

Jan. 7: Mary Herrman-Gary Haskins-Chuck Hogan
 Jan. 14: No communion
 Jan. 21: Al & Jan Jenkins-Connie Jerome
 Jan. 28: No communion



NURSING HOME BULLETIN DELIVERY

Date:	Morrow Home:	Rolling Hills:
Jan 5	Gary & Betty Peterson	Sharon Nelson
Jan 12	Ron & Pauline Haug	Doug Dengel
Jan 19	Cynthia Lockington	Karen Wall
Jan 26	Karen Edwards	Gary & Betty Peterson



MUSIC

Accompanist

Jan. 7: Adell Morton
 Jan. 14: Virginia Bolin
 Jan. 21: Bishop Felix
 Jan. 28: Adell Morton

Special Music:

Alleluia Choir



FOOD PANTRY

January 3—Jo Ellen Siver & Rita Bernette
 January 10—Karen Hernandez & Julie Erickson
 January 17—Dennis & Carol Glaman
 January 23—Brittany Michalski & Judy Bernett
 January 24—Alice Olson & Audrey Zebell
 January 31—Les & Linda Mull



ALTAR FLOWERS

January—Gary & Carol Haskins
 February—Dennis & Carol Glaman
 March—Gary & Betty Peterson

**Pick up every Friday at Sparta Floral anytime
 and deliver to the church
 before 1:30 p.m.**



January—Siri Donskey & Carol Glaman
 February—Pauline Haug & Siri Donskey
 March—Nila Larson & Diane Dammen



JANUARY, 2024

Trinity Lutheran Church

612 North Water Street
Sparta, WI 54656
Tel. (608) 269-5081
Office Email: office@tlcsparia.org
Website: www.tlcsparia.org

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 9:00 am-Ladies Breakfast at Don's Restaurant 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR 5:00 pm- Personnel Meeting	3 10:00 am-Food Pantry Volunteers 1:45 pm-Rolling Hills Worship 5:30 pm-AAW Meal 6:00 pm-Bell Choir-SR 7:00 pm-Faith Formation-FH 7-8 pm-Alleluia Choir	4 8:30 am-Quilting 5:00 pm-Ladies of Love Meal 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR 6:15 pm-Troop Meeting Adults and Parents 6:30 pm-Music & Worship	5 Lois Robaczewski funeral 10:00-11:00 am-visitation 11:00 am-Funeral	6 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR
7 9:00 am-Worship with communion 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am-4G-Youth Room	8 10:00 am-Decorating Team to take down Christmas decorations 5:30 pm-Education/Youth & Family Meeting-SR 6:00 pm-SACS Meeting-FH 7:00 pm-Stewardship Meeting-SR	9 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR 6-7 pm-Pack 67 Den-EW 6-8 pm-Troop 67-FH 6:30 pm-Church Council-SR	10 10:00 am-Food Pantry Volunteers 2:00 pm- Morrow Home Worship 5:30 pm-AAW Meal 6:00 pm-Bell Choir-SR 7:00 pm-Faith Formation-FH 7-8 pm-Alleluia Choir	11 9:00 am-Prayer Shawl-HR 10:00 am-150th Meeting-SR 10:00 am-Joy Circle at Jean Hays Home 1:30 pm-Shalom Circle at MaryCrest 5:00 pm-Ladies of Love Meal 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	12 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	13 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR
14 9:00 am-Worship 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am-4G 10:30-Fasting Group-SR	15 6:30 pm-Mary Circle-SR	16 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	17 10:00 am-Food Pantry Volunteers 5:30 pm-AAW Meal 6:00 pm-Bell Choir-SR 7:00 pm-Faith Formation-FH 7-8 pm-Alleluia Choir	18 8:30 am-Quilting 5:00 pm-Ladies of Love Meal 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	19 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	20 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR
21 9:00 am-Worship with communion (Communion for Homebound) (loose change offering) 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am-4G	22	23 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR 6-7 pm-Pack 67 Cub Scouts 6-8 pm-Troop 67-FH 6:30-Adult with Scouts Meeting TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE FOR THE FEB TIDINGS	24 10:00 am-Food Pantry Volunteers 6:00 pm-Bell Choir-SR 7-8 pm-Alleluia Choir	25 5:00 pm-Ladies of Love Meal 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	26 TIDINGS TEAM TO ASSEMBLE FEBURARY TIDINGS	27 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR
28 9:00 am-Worship 10:00 am-Sunday School 10:00 am-4G ANNUAL MEETING	29 Family Promise Week	30 5-6 pm-NA Meeting-HR	31 10:00 am-Food Pantry Volunteers 5:30 pm-AAW Meal 6:00 pm-Bell Choir-SR 7:00 pm-Faith Formation-FH 7-8 pm-Alleluia Choir	Family Promise Week	Family Promise Week	Family Promise Week