



TRINITY TIDINGS

612 North Water Street - Sparta, Wisconsin 54656
Website: www.tlcsparta.org

Tel. 608-269-5081

Email: office@tlcsparta.org

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Nominating Committee wants to thank everyone for their help and willingness to serve. The council approved this **Trinity Lutheran 2023 Leadership Roster**. The vote will take place at the January 29th Annual Meeting.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Council President: | Blaine Markuson |
| Council Vice President: | Steve Bernett |
| Church Council: | <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Jo Ellen Siver2. Brittany Michalski3. Kelly Funk4. Joel Opprieht |
| Youth Council Rep.: | Isaac Larson |
| Endowment Board: | Tom Schauer Dennis Glaman |
| Personnel Committee: | Chuck Amundson |
| Male Synod Assembly Reps.: | Matt Michalski Tom Schauer |
| Female Synod Assembly Reps.: | Brittany Michalski Maureen Sullivan |
| Youth Synod Assembly Rep.: | Kira Markuson |
| Sugar Creek Reps.: | Rhonda Miller Wendy Sporie |

Trinity Lutheran's constitution states that the 2023 leadership candidates must be in attendance for the January 29th Annual Meeting. If you are not able to be present, contact nomination committee chairman, Nila Larson, at 608-797-2784 or nlars@centurytel.net.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Trinity Lutheran Church annual meeting will be held at 11 am on Sunday January 29, 2023 in the Sanctuary.

Zoom access will be available if you prefer to participate remotely:

If you are participating remotely, submit questions by E-mail to the office at office@tlcsparta.org, or drop them at the office before the annual meeting.

Council election ballots will be distributed by mail or by in-person pickup for remote attendees. In-person attendees will complete paper ballots at the meeting.

Les Stanley
President
Trinity Lutheran Church

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

God's Love – Our Hearts

God's Work – Our Hands

Trinity Church Council Actions of Note from Tuesday December 13, 2022 meeting:

- The ad hoc committee for worship scheduling has worked diligently to determine the congregation's preferences. Council approved the committee's recommendation to have one worship each Sunday at 9 am with Sunday School to follow at 10. The change will take effect on January 8, 2023.
- The Nominating Committee presented the slate of candidates for election at the annual meeting.
- The Council approved the hiring of Anthony Maldonado as the part time custodian for Trinity. He will begin after January 1.
- The Council reviewed the proposed 2023 budget and recommended approval by the congregation at the annual meeting.
- The council approved background checks for all persons who have contact with minors at Trinity.

We look ahead:

- The annual meeting will be held at 11 am on Sunday January 29th following Sunday School.
- The February council meeting will be held on the third Tuesday, the 21st. The reason for the change for this one meeting is to accommodate the likelihood of remotely cast ballots from the annual meeting, which take 2 weeks to go out and come back in the mail.

The January Council meeting will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday the 10th.

Les Stanley
President
Trinity Lutheran Church



CHANGE TO WORSHIP SCHEDULE

In the October monthly Trinity Tidings, Pastor Jim raised the question whether we should continue with two services or go to one. To address this question, the Church Council formed the Worship Scheduling Team which created a survey to solicit church members' preferences. This survey was included in the November 13th and 20th bulletins. It was also available in a Google Form for the convenience of members who wanted to respond electronically.

We requested that members provide one response per household. The surveys allowed for member comments. We received a total of 97 responses. Eighty-three (86%) were in favor of going to one 9:00 AM service, with Sunday School/4G to follow at 10:00 AM. Fourteen (14%) wanted to continue with the two services. We did receive some comments primarily concerning the impact of the change to 4G and Sunday School attendance. These concerns were addressed with the teachers and the support staff resulting in support for the one service at 9:00 AM followed by Sunday School/4G at 10:00 AM.

The Worship Scheduling Team also considered comments from a variety of individuals both for and against going to one service. Given the overwhelming response for one service, the Team felt it was in the best interest of the Trinity family to move to one service. However, if attendance grows to a level where one service is no longer practicable, the Council will revisit this decision.

In consultation with the teachers and support staff, the Team recommended to begin the one service on Sunday 8 Jan 2023. For continuity purposes, this date was selected because the prior two Sundays (Christmas and New Year's) have one 9:00 AM service.

Everyone's comments or concerns received during this process were prayerfully considered. We wish to thank everyone for being a part of this process and we hope that our Trinity Family continues to grow and prosper in God's name.

In summary, the Church Council has approved beginning on Sunday, 8 Jan we will have one worship service at 9:00 AM followed by Sunday School/4G at 10:00 AM.

TRINITY MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND NEWS

Please save the date – **Sunday, February 5, 2023 - After the church service**

Dynamic speaker **Cindy Halverson, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Endowment Fund** will be here to provide an **introduction to planned giving**. All who are interested in learning more about how they can give gifts to Trinity Mission Endowment Fund through their will, estate plan, or beneficiary designation are encouraged to attend. These gifts to Trinity Mission Endowment Fund continue beyond one's lifetime, as only the interest is used to provide funds for outreach and college scholarships.

Please consider this an opportunity to review your estate plan and to have your questions answered.

Ensure that your legacy gift uses the following language:

I hereby leave (percentage of estate/dollar amount/residue of my estate/percentage of residue) of my estate/trust to Trinity Lutheran Church Mission Endowment (612 N. Water St., Sparta, WI) to be used in such a manner as outlined in the Trinity Lutheran Church Endowment Bylaws.

For further information, contact Mark Baltz, Dennis Glaman, Pauline Haug, Nila Larson, or Tom Schauer.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



**Help make Trinity “A Place to Gather and Grow in Christ”.
Come back to Trinity and experience God’s Love.**

Trinity is blessed with members who live in abundance and share their Time, Talents and Treasures to make Trinity “**A Place to Gather and Grow in Christ.**” Yes, even in a times of inflation we live in abundance of Christ’s love.

Trinity needs members who have the heart **and** the ability to give more and increase their intentional giving. This includes those members **who have always contributed** to Trinity’s ministries. Due to inflation, some may not be able to give as they would desire. Also, future giving may need to be adjusted. For others, sharing more may be possible.

Trinity also needs our many members **who have not donated** to submit an ***Intent Card and Time & Talent form*** and begin to fund our ministries and share your talents. Will you consider beginning your financial support of Trinity’s ministry by making an offering intent of \$1.00 or more per day?

We must fund increased inflated costs and ensure our staff are fairly compensated and give both our Interim Pastor Scaife and our new Pastor the resources to be successful.

No matter the amount given, each member’s gifts are important as we witness “God’s Love” through our willingness to share what we have been given. Together, we will meet our congregational goal of increasing giving by \$40,000.

Please return your ***Time & Talent form and Intent Card*** in any of the following ways: 1) Mail them to the church office at 612 N. Water St. Sparta, WI 54656, 2) Drop them in the secure drop box near the front door, or 3) Take a picture of them and email to office@TLCSParta.org. Extra forms are available at church and on Trinity’s website – www.tlcsparta.org.

Your Time, Talents and Treasures are vital to fulfil our mission of
God’s Love, Our Hearts. God’s Work, Our Hands.
Thank You.

Trinity Stewardship Committee: Michael Bonello, Karen Edwards, Kelly Funk, Christin Gasner, Vanessa Gavilan, Bill Herrman, Kira Markuson, Les Stanley and Pastor Scaife.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR, JIM SCAIFE



Over the last few months these articles have focused on the “5 Guiding Lights. (See next page)”. In Christian Spirituality this is a common process for decision making whether it be for an individual or a Christian community. As Christians we all long to bring God into our decisions, but it is not always easy to find God’s direction. God seldom gives anyone a blinding flash that lays out an entire course of action.

However, according to this process, God “lights” the way through prayer, Scripture, circumstances, judgement and counsel. These five lights are all seen in Acts 15. Early church leaders used them to help them with a crucial decision for the infant church. They also fit well with the journey of the Wisemen who followed the light of the star but did not know their final destination.

We have already considered the lights of Scripture and prayer as guides to Christian decision making. This month the guiding light is circumstances. You remember the old adage; “when God closes a door, God opens a window. This is an expression of the guiding light of circumstances. Many times the tendency in decision making is to focus on the door that is closed rather than the window that God has opened. Sometimes we even prefer to beat our heads against the closed door rather than hop through the open window right next to it.

Seeing “the window” is not always easy. Reflection on Circumstances is an important exercise. It consists of questions that may seem, at first, silly or obvious. For example: why are we doing this? What do we hope to accomplish? What has led us to this point? What is not working? Who is involved? Who will be affected by the decision we make? These are questions of circumstances. As the answers to these sorts of questions clarify, we see God’s direction unfolding.

January 6 is the Day of Epiphany, According to western Church tradition this is the day the wisemen found the baby Jesus. They had been traveling at night, following the star for, perhaps as much as, two years. They first went to the palace to see if the king was there. This made perfect sense, but God closed this door. The king was not in the palace. There was, however, a window open. It led to the stable in Bethlehem and a king greater than any they could have imagined. Circumstances had opened up before them and they found the King of Kings, God’s Son, Jesus, lying in a manger.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERIM PASTOR, JIM SCAIFE

Seeking God's Direction The Five Guiding Lights Acts 15—The Council at Jerusalem

When all 5 lights point the same way...
Go that Direction!

Circumstances (vs. 1-2)

Where do we find ourselves at this moment?
What is different from the past?
What is likely to arise in the future?
What forces are moving us to change?

Counsel (vs 7, 12)

Who has wisdom and insight for us? To whom should we listen at this time of change?

Scripture (vs 14-18)

What Scriptures have shaped our faith?
What Scriptures call us to action and worship?
What Scriptures guide us at this particular moment?

Judgement (vs 19)

What wisdom from our education and experience has God given us to face the current situation?

Whispers of the Spirit (vs 28)

When we turn to God in prayer with open, listening hearts, what thoughts and insights come to us for our situation?



STEPHEN MINISTRY UPDATE

The following are the core values identified by the Stephen Leaders for Trinity's Stephen Ministry program.

1. A commitment to lay ministry. We believe strongly that the role of pastor, Stephen Leaders, and Stephen Ministers is to "prepare God's people for works of service." (Ephesians 4:12)
2. Refuge for the hurting. We want our church to be a place and congregation where hurting people can receive compassion, care, and Christ's healing love.
3. Every Christian a minister. All God's people have been blessed with spiritual gifts and God calls us all to active ministry.
4. Bear one another's burdens. God does not want any of us to suffer alone, but wants us to love, encourage, and care for one another.
5. The spread of the Gospel. Jesus commanded us to seek the salvation of all people through the spreading of the Good News. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19)
6. The power of prayer. We believe "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us." (1 John 5:14)
7. Fellowship with one another. We believe our faith is strengthened through fellowship with other believers. "That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. (Romans 1:12)
8. Spiritual renewal through Word and Sacrament. God shows His love and mercy for people through His Word and Sacraments and brings healing, forgiveness, wholeness, and restoration through His Son, Jesus Christ.
9. Being good stewards of God's gifts. Everything we are and have are gifts from God and should therefore be used to bring glory to God. We use our time and talents for serving our Lord and taking care of God's creation.

If these values are at the center of your faith, I encourage you to consider becoming a Stephen Leader. Without at least two new Stephen Leaders our Stephen Ministry program at Trinity will not be able to continue. New Stephen Leaders are trained through the Bridge Leader's Training Course which is done online. Skills are taught through a variety of teaching and learning methods – including presentation, group discussion, video, and skill practice activities – for an engaging, enjoyable, and productive training experience.

If interested in learning more about becoming a Stephen Leader, talk to Jan Jenkins or contact her at her email: jenkinsjan52@gmail.com or cell phone: (608) 633-0512.

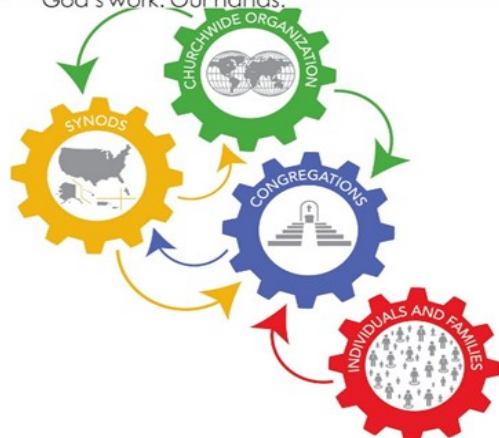


MISSION MOMENT UPDATE



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



Where Does My Offering Go?

ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national churchwide organization.

This unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God's work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the churchwide organization receives around 2.6 percent. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA churchwide organization's operating budget.

Your Mission Support helps fund the following churchwide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the United States

25%



357

Plant and support
357 new congregations.



Enable congregations to renew
their ministries and reach out to
their surrounding communities.



Work together with our African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino/Latina members to develop networks and resources for ministry.



Develop and
share resources
for faith, discipleship,
prayer and worship.

Grow the Lutheran church around the world

18%



As a member of
The Lutheran World Federation,
we're in communion with 145
member churches and directly
connected to 85 companion
churches in other countries.



Accompany new Lutheran churches,
expand ministries, and train leaders
and evangelists.



230

Send 230 missionaries to more than
48 countries, including more than
84 Young Adults in Global Mission
in 11 country programs.

Provide coordination and support for churchwide ministries

16%

1.1 million

Maintain constituent database,
including 1.1 million records of rostered and
lay leaders, members, donors and congregations.



Provide office space, equipment and
human resources for staff and operations.



Preserve and maintain
archives and historic
records of the ELCA and
its predecessor bodies.

Equip congregations
and synods with
resources to assist in
risk management and
legal matters.



Process
150,000 gifts
to ELCA ministries.

MISSION MOMENT UPDATE

Support and develop current and future **leaders** in the ELCA

15%



26

Support the work of seven ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges and universities.



9,900

Recruit, prepare and implement a system for the assignment of 9,900 rostered ministers.



Offer events and leadership opportunities for youth and young adults.



Identify, connect and provide ministry resources and opportunities for networking for lay leaders.

Invest in **technology** and **communications**

8%

Design and maintain communications tools to strengthen our Lutheran identity and grow awareness of our church and its mission and ministries.



Connect members with one another through new technology and systems.

Provide governance and leadership

5%

Organize lay and clergy leaders from across the church to serve on the governance boards and committees that provide guidance and oversight for ELCA ministries.

65



Coordinate meetings and support for 65 synodical bishops.

Grow and sustain financial resources

5%



Develop and promote efforts related to stewardship education, financial literacy, mission interpretation and growth in giving to all church ministries.

Address social issues and **work for justice**

4%



Engage in churchwide study and deliberation to create social statements and resources that address social, political, environmental and other public issues.

Equip members and leaders to advocate with lawmakers in order to support policies that promote justice and peace.



1 in 50

Support social ministry organizations, such as Lutheran Services in America, to impact the lives of 1 in 50 Americans.

Your designated gifts to ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response provide additional funds annually to address hunger, poverty and suffering around the world.

Engage in **research** and **strategic planning**

2%

Research and analyze trends that impact the ELCA and develop innovative strategies to improve mission and ministry in the 21st century.



Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith** relationships

2%

Facilitate dialogue and common action among communities of other faiths, including the development of resources and communications for ELCA congregations.



Seek unity in faith and life with all Lutherans and six full communion partners.

Trinity Lutheran Church - Report of the Treasurer 11/30/2022

Average giving per week this month: \$5,685.44

Annual Budget: \$394571; needed each week to meet budgeted expenses: \$7587.90

| | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| General fund: | |
| Balance 10/31/2022 | \$11,905.50 |
| November Giving | \$28,427.20 |
| November Disbursements | (\$30,434.98) |
| Balance 11/30/2022 | \$9,897.72 |

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| Total Giving: | BUDGET | Non-budget |
| November | \$28,427.20 | \$1,187.18 |
| Total | \$28,427.20 | \$1,187.18 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1st Community Credit Union: | |
| Loan balance 10/31/2022 | \$34,191.36 |
| November principal | (\$1,436.72) |
| November interest | \$118.03 |
| New loan balance 11/30/2022 | \$32,754.64 |

Designated Funds: Balances as of 11/30/2022:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Total Withholding | \$2,173.12 |
| Total Pass-through Amounts | \$1,991.82 |
| Prepaid pledges | \$450.00 |
| General Fund | \$9,897.72 |
| Money Market Savings Account | \$12,209.14 |
| Helping Hands Fund | \$1,311.30 |
| Building Capital Fund | \$5,735.00 |
| Memorial | \$8,749.98 |
| Endowment | \$3,420.91 |
| Contingency Reserve Balance | \$20,000.00 |
| Misc Undesignated Fund (Estate) | \$23,189.63 |
| Youth Checking | \$348.00 |
| Worship & Music | \$4,041.46 |
| Education Ministry | \$6,329.19 |
| Fellowship & Outreach | \$3,811.03 |
| Building General Expenses | \$5,080.14 |
| Thrivent Choice Fund | \$5,843.91 |
| Community Outreach | \$1,969.15 |
| Sabbatical Fund | \$6,295.99 |
| Total Fund balances | \$122,847.49 |

Tammy Barclay, Treasurer

Needed Weekly to Meet Budgeted Mission - \$7587.90

November 13, 2022

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$6033.27
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$928.25

November 20, 2022

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$7357.60
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$521.12

November 27, 2022

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$3960.12
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$154.00

December 4, 2022

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$10044.89
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$547.00

December 11, 2022

General fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$4842.62
Designated fund giving, including Simply Giving, is \$774.99



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...

Annual Report



It's that time again...our **Annual Meeting** is fast approaching and is set for **January 29, 2023**. If you haven't submitted your information for the Annual Report, please do so immediately so that Myrt has time to format the report and get it to the printer for printing. If you have questions, please feel free to call the church office.
Thank you!

January Worship Schedule

1 service at 9:00 a.m.

January 1st—Worship with communion (blessing of communion for homebound)

January 8th—Worship

January 15th—Worship (loose change offering)

January 22nd—Worship with communion

January 29th—Worship



In Loving Memory of Lenna Hanson from:

Paul & Reyne Larsen—General Fund



There is a new sign up sheet for 2023 located in the hallway of the Fellowship Hall. If you are willing to serve coffee, please sign up as you are able. Thank you!



We have a new 2023 flower chart posted by the elevator near the church office. Please sign up to purchase flowers to beautify our altar every Sunday in honor of or in memory of your loved ones. The cost is only \$15.00 per week. and you can either place this in the offering plate, bring it to the church office, or put it in the secure lockbox on the outside of the building. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Myrt in the church office at 608-269-5081.



CHURCH COUNCIL

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

TIDINGS ARTICLES DUE DATE

Articles for the February edition are due to Myrt by no later than Tuesday, January 24, 2023. The Tidings Team will be in on Friday, January 27th, to assemble them.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT TRINITY...



Mary Circle

Mary Circle will meet Monday, January 2nd (first Monday) and Monday, January 16th (third Monday) at 6:30 in the Shalom Room. We are using the book *Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs for our Bible study this year.

Contact Barb Moorhead (487-3721) with questions.

New people are always welcome to Mary Circle!

Joy Circle

GET READY FOR WINTER/SPRING BIBLE STUDY

Please join the Joy Circle as we study the 10 Commandments with a four-session study written by ELCA Pastor Christa Von Zychlin. She will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance.

The Joy Circle meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10:00 am in the Shalom Room.

Please join us on January 12th as we begin this study with commandments 1 & 2.

Copies of the lesson can be picked up in the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Julee Hopkins at 608-269-2808.

Shalom Circle

Shalom Circle will meet Thursday, January 12th, at 1:00 pm at Marycrest.

Contact Adell Morton with questions (608-269-7039)



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Following the Star

pause – When we choose to love we choose to move against fear - against alienation and separation. The choice to love is the choice to connect—to find ourselves in the other.

listen – Through Him we have received God's grace and our appointment to be his apostles. This was to bring all Gentiles to faithful obedience for His name's sake. You who are called by Jesus Christ are also included among these Gentiles. To those in Rome who are dearly loved by God and called to be God's people. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. – Romans 1: 5-7

think

I have heard the phrase “too much of a good thing” in a variety of contexts. A classic example: if you eat so many delicious Christmas treats that you get a stomachache – you might've had too much of a good thing. But when it comes to God's grace, we can't have too much. As we reflect on how God shows up in Jesus and the Spirit continues to move in and around us...Wow! God's grace is so good! Grace upon grace. We don't deserve it, but that is why it is so good! God loves all of us so deeply...even those we struggle to understand, let alone love. Because we've been given such abundant grace, there is plenty to share. Maybe you can encounter others this month with even an ounce of that kind of deep love God has for them. It could be a total stranger (friend-in-the-making), someone you see all the time, or someone you would rather not encounter. You don't need to talk...just make space for God's love to give you a new perspective.

pray

God, I am thankful for the grace and love you pour out on me. May I try harder to see others through the lens of this love and grace. Amen.

go

Take a breath, keep showing up with your whole self—this will allow others to do the same. May we all live into our holy whole selves!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

4G (God, Girls, & Guys R GR8T)

ALL students in grades 7 – 12 are invited to join us on Sunday, January 8, at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We'll enjoy breakfast, dig into God's Word, & enjoy conversation together! We'll also break into small groups to talk about what faith opportunities you would like specific for Middle School & High School programming. Please bring any ideas you may have to continue to build & strengthen our YOUth Ministry!!



FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

ALL high school students in grades 9 - 12 are invited to come be a part of FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) on Friday mornings before school at 7:00 a.m. If you are looking for a way to connect, meet new friends, serve others, & enjoy breakfast together (food is provided), THIS is the place for you! Come, check out FCA to see what it is all about! We meet in Mr. Buck Engel's room at 7:00 a.m. ALL ARE WELCOME! Please reach out to Thomas Laufenberg (608) 377-1264 to RSVP each Friday (for food planning) or if you have any questions. We thank God for working in & through us to bring Him the glory in all we do as we love & serve others!



Thank you to EVERYONE who supported our Bake Sale - from donating, to buying, to enjoying all of the delicious goodies! We are grateful for your generosity as almost \$800 was raised to support our Youth & Family Ministry!!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**Trinity Cares Giving Tree & Coins Because We CARE
God's Love—Our Hearts. God's Work—Our Hands.**



Thank you to EVERYONE who supported the above causes to help families have a brighter Christmas! The generosity from Trinity makes our hearts so full! There are not enough words to express our sincere thanks for the way that you bless others. It is such a humbling experience to deliver the gifts. I always feel God right there with me in the smiles, hugs, & joyful tears that are shared together. These precious families ARE our brothers & sisters in Christ. Thank you for loving them as God has called us to do following the example of His Son, Jesus. We are blessed beyond measure by all of you!

Coins Because We Care will support Brighter Tomorrows with the purchase of essential toiletry needs to help the clients they serve with loving hands & hearts. Thank you so much for your donated coins. Each one of them truly makes a difference!

January/February Faith Formation Schedule:

Wednesday, 1/4: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/11: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/18: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 1/25: NO Faith Formation

Wednesday, 2/1: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/8: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/15: 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/22: Ash Wednesday (meal & worship – no regular class)

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS

Our Youth & Family Ministry/Ed Ministry Teams will be sponsoring 2 upcoming fundraisers. The first one is a Mathew's Lunch on Wednesday, January 25. More details will be coming on that as to how you can get involved. The second one is going to be our First Annual Chili Cookoff to be held sometime in February!! Once a date is set, we will get the word out! Stay tuned for more information to come on this awesome for EVERYONE! We would love to have your help, so if you'd like to be on the planning team, please reach out to Michelle.

K-LOVE ROCKS!!

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!!

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 good? How can you make someone feel good!

EDUCATION MINISTRY UPDATE

Happy New Year from Education Ministry!

- A HUGE thank you to our Sunday Schoolers, Sunday School teachers, and Michelle & 4G for their performance of the Christmas Program. Thank you also to parents for sending your child(ren) to Sunday School to practice, and to Tony, Christin, and Kevin for organizing a fantastic retelling of the Christmas story during the 10:30 worship on December 18. Special thanks also to Anita & Audrey for assembling goody bags to all of the youth who attended the program!
- Sunday School will be held from 10am-11am beginning on Sunday, January 8. Worship will be beforehand at 9am.
- Thank you to Council and Thrivent donors for the Smart TVs and wall mounts, as well as Buildings & Grounds for their willingness to install them in the Sunday School rooms. We are so excited to use them to enhance curriculum, teach Christian songs, and show educational videos that will deepen the faith of our grade school children.
- Keep your eyes open for more information on the upcoming Chili Cook-Off Youth Fundraiser! Come taste some delicious chilis and cast your vote. There will be other activities going on during this event as well! Stay tuned!

2022 was a great year and we look forward to offering more opportunities for youth, families, and adults to engage in and grow their faith in the coming year!

Missy Erickson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES***Birthday Blessings**Anniversary Blessings*

| | |
|-------|---|
| 01/01 | Dylan Baum, Jorgan Lee-Juve, John Tempski |
| 01/02 | Becky Amundson, Paul Oswald |
| 01/03 | Ken Barclay |
| 01/04 | Gretchen Grewal, Todd Warthan |
| 01/05 | Shirley Hagen |
| 01/06 | LaVern Breitenfield, Ralph Osborne |
| 01/07 | Jeanne Button, Everett Laufenberg |
| 01/08 | Edie Habegger, Diane Huber, Sarah Morrow, Joyce Oium |
| 01/09 | Sandy Hodgkins |
| 01/10 | Beverly Lisney, Shirley Vandervort |
| 01/11 | Vance Bickford, David Stigen |
| 01/12 | Wendy Grissell-Sporie, Missy Herold |
| 01/13 | Walker Green, Julie Maphis |
| 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, Kris Van Kirk |
| 01/20 | Rylee Perry, Charles Tempski |
| 01/21 | Gabby Hyatt, Owen Opprieht, Kevin Peterson |
| 01/22 | Andy Anderson, Jerry Ender, Wendy Schroeder, Cynthia Simpkinson |
| 01/23 | Edwin Knoll |
| 01/24 | Hayley Hernandez, Thomas Laufenberg |
| 01/25 | Missy Erickson, Lauren Fahning, Clark Wanlass |
| 01/26 | Nadia Laufenberg, Paul Robaczewski, Evelyn Rust, Gavin Weibel |
| 01/28 | Leona Drew, Jeremiah Erickson, Whitney Page |
| 01/30 | Lois Robaczewski, Bill Sporie |
| 01/31 | Marie Grewal, Marley Preston, Matt Schroeder |

| | |
|-------|---------------------|
| 01/15 | Greg & Holly Larson |
| 01/16 | Calvin & Joyce Oium |
| 01/30 | Keith & Bev Schultz |

May the will of God
take you, where the
Grace of God
will keep you,
where the arms
of God will
support you,
where the
wisdom of God
will teach you,
and may the
power of God
protect you
today and all of your
tomorrows!

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 (9:00 am service)

January 1—Jim & Barb Moorhead
 January 8—Bob & Jenny Lydon
 January 15—Chris & Kim Milne
 January 22—Youth
 January 29—Gary & Sharon Nelson



PEW RESTOCKING

January—Phil & Diane Dammen
 February—Julee Hopkins
 March—Adell Morton



READERS (9:00 am service)

January 1—Joyce Putman
 January 8—Tom Schauer
 January 15—Jeremiah Erickson
 January 22—Youth
 January 29—Stacey Markuson



MONEY COUNTING

January 3 (**Tuesday**) - Rita Bernette—
 Donna Boland—Alton Ask
 January 9—Linda Winterton-Dave Olson-Diane
 Dammen
 January 17 (**Tuesday**) - Fred Olson-Nancy Oswald
 Gail Baltz
 January 23—Alton Ask-Audrey Zebell-Bill McClain
 January 30—Carol Thorsen-Adell Morton-Brenda
 Degenhardt



COMMUNION SERVERS (9:00 am service)

January 1—Dennis & Carol Glaman
 January 8—NO COMMUNION
 January 15—NO COMMUNION
 January 22—Alton Ask & Brenda Degenhardt
 January 29—NO COMMUNION



ALTAR TEAM

January—Siri & Taylor Donskey
 February—Pauline Haug & Sharon Nelson
 March—Mary Herrman & Siri & Taylor Donskey



MUSIC (9:00 am service)



Accompanist

Special Music

| | | |
|--------|--------------|----------------|
| Jan 1 | Tony Gasner | |
| Jan 8 | Adell Morton | |
| Jan 15 | Wyatt Tripp | |
| Jan 22 | Worship Team | |
| Jan 29 | Adell Morton | Alleluia Choir |

FOOD PANTRY

January 4—Jan Jenkins & Les Stanley
 January 11—Mary Herrman & Sheila Abbott
 January 18—Judy Bernett & Robbie Dockerty
 January 24—(Tues evening) - Diane Dammen
 & Jolene Breitenfield
 January 25—JoEllen Siver & Rita Bernette



ALTAR FLOWERS

January—Gary & Betty Peterson
 February—Alton Ask
 March—Gary & Carol Haskins



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

