Trinity7idings

(605) 256-2771 www.tlcmadison.com

Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 N. Harth Ave., Madison, SD 57042

January 2024

Deacon's Discourse What (or Who) is Knocking at your Window?

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Isaiah 43:19

It was just after Thanksgiving when I heard a "tap tap" then a "bang" on the sunroom window. I was enjoying a last day in this room before we closed it up for the winter, and I was doing some journaling. I looked up to see a male cardinal literally throwing himself into the window I was sitting beside. I had heard that male birds will do this when they see their reflection because they think they are being threatened by another bird. I shook my head at the bird, and I went on about my day.

Well, as I write this, it's been a month since this first encounter with my cardinal friend. He now throws himself at the sunroom window when we are upstairs and also the basement window when we are downstairs. Yes, it appears he is following us, going to whatever window we are closest to. He has now been able to catch the attention of all the people in my house, as well as the dogs. His visits and behavior, while dismissive at first, have become so frequent and curious, that I can't help but wonder if there is something important he's trying to tell me.

I have learned over the years that when something or someone shows up in my life in various ways over and over, it is often something I need to pay attention to and not dismiss. Sometimes it is a name that pops up in conversations with different people. Sometimes it is an idea that I get and think will never work or no one will be interested in, only to run into someone looking for that exact thing that doesn't exist.

These experiences and others have taught me to be curious and to listen for God and, in many cases, to "do a new thing." Am I fearful of how things will turn out? Sometimes, yes. Do I worry I'm not able to be successful at this new thing? Oftentimes, yes. Have I failed miserably? Sometimes, yes. Have I found great joy in trying something new and learning in the process? Always, yes. Have I had to do this alone? Never.

"I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." God has been with me through it all...the good, the bad, the successful, the failures. God has laid a path before me where I didn't see one



existing before. God has brought the perfect people into my life as the missing puzzle pieces to whatever it is God has planned for me. All I have to do is be aware and open and trust that God has it all figured out. I simply need to show up as me, a child of God, who is not even close to perfect, but who has faith in a perfect God.

As I continue to ponder the message my cardinal friend may be trying to deliver to me, I invite you to take a look around this new year. What or who is knocking on your window? What might God have in store for you? Are you open to the possibilities or is there some fear keeping you from taking that first step or acknowledging that something new might be on the horizon? The new year can be an exciting time, filled with hope and new beginnings. I pray that as you venture forth into 2024, you keep your eyes and ears open to the many interesting ways God catches our attention.

Deacon Koren

Annual Meeting Scheduled for January 21

Reminder of the annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church of Madison, SD. The meeting will be held on January 21, 2024 at 12:05 p.m. in the sanctuary of the church. Items to be considered will be business brought before the congregation for purposes of the annual meeting and also approval of the revision to the constitution and bylaws of Trinity Lutheran Church. The snow date will be on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 12:05 p.m.

The proposed constitution and a summary of changes can be found on the church website at this <u>link</u>. Printed copies are available in the office.

Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Tuesday, December 12, 2023 7:00 p.m.

President Wade Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Wade Briggs, Vice-president Tom Farrell, Secretary Nancy Sabbe

Board of Trustees—Marie Millage, Walker Ruhd Board of Deacons—Becky Brown, Jim Iverson, Patti Weber, Virginia Lemme

Board of Parish Education—Jennifer Briggs, Dani Ruhd, Alicia Koch, Melody Hanson

Absent and excused: Eric Anderson, Dana Hoff Members recited Trinity's mission statement.

The devotion emphasizing that we have everything in Jesus was given by vice-president Tom Farrell.

Pastor Steven Lindley led the Council in prayer.

Motion by Jennifer Briggs, seconded by Tom Farrell, to approve the agenda as distributed. Motion carried.

The minutes of November 14 were corrected as follows: in the first paragraph under business, correct all mentions of Synod Assembly to read Synod Council. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Walker Ruhd, to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Vice-president Tom Farrell presented the following year-to-date financial report:

General Offering \$275,891.44 Expenses \$409,576.12 Expenses over Offering (\$133,684.68)

In November, expenses exceeded income by \$13,624.73. The option of not paying any benevolences in December was considered. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Patti Weber, to issue no benevolence checks in December. Motion failed.

Motion to accept the Financial Report by Jennifer Briggs. Seconded by Becky Brown. Motion carried. REPORTS

Pastor Steve submitted a written report. He reminded Council members of the Council Retreat in February and reported that there continue to be communication issues between the Council and the staff.

Deacon Koren submitted a written report.

President Wade Briggs expressed his gratitude to the Boards for their work in preparing the 2024 mission plan. He thanked everyone who attended the mission plan work day and the review of the worship survey.

Vice-president Tom Farrell reported

- that the required notices for the annual meeting and constitution review have been posted. A concern was raised regarding surplus materials. Jim Iverson suggested that a resolution be adopted empowering the Council to dispose of appraised surplus or unused assets valued at less than a specified amount.
- the revised constitution and a summary of the changes will be available electronically. Five copies will be printed and available in the church office. More copies will be printed as needed.

Board of Deacons—Becky Brown reported

- that the Hanging of the Greens service was a success.
- the letters to the January service group have been sent.
- Jim Iverson will preach on December 31, and Becky Brown will be the worship leader and give the children's sermon.
- the missions of the month have been changed to include some of the benevolence items. The schedule of Missions of the Month for 2024 is January—Union Gospel Mission

February—Madison Area Ministerial Association

March—Caring Fund

April—Church on the Street

May-Bethel Lutheran Home

June—World Hunger

July-St. Dysmas

August—Lutherans Outdoors

September—Kids Backpack Program

October—Domestic Violence Network

November—Lake County Food Pantry

December—Family Connections

 Brianna Routier has sent the schedule for Christmas worship services to the Madison Daily Leader.

Board of Trustees—Walker Ruhd reported

- Pierce Construction will look at the ceiling in the balcony and send an estimate to the Executive Committee.
- the Stewardship Committee will select a stewardship plan at their next meeting.

Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

- that according to Infotech, the firewall is at end-oflife. An update will cost \$125/month for a two-year commitment. Marie Millage has requested a copy of Trinity's contract with Infotech to learn what is actually covered.
- Joel Brick has contacted Daktronics about the digital sign. They will charge \$1,500 to look at the sign. Joel suggested that Barger Electric be engaged to take the sign down, and that he will examine the sign and diagnose the problem.
- that the annual expense for cleaning supplies from Hillyard is around \$1,800. Hillyard will continue to be a source for cleaning supplies.

Board of Parish Education—Jennifer Briggs reported

- that the Children's Worship will be on Sunday, December 17 at the 11:00 a.m. service.
- the confirmation Christmas party will be on December 20.
- also on December 20, the high school youth will tie blankets. Abby Morse received a Foundation grant for the supplies. Kris Morse will supply hot chocolate and cookies for the youth.
- a lock-in for high school youth is being planned for January 5-6. A notice will be posted in the e-news asking for adult volunteers to assist with this event.

BUSINESS

Vice-president Tom Farrell reported

- that he, Pastor Steve, and Dana Hoff comprise the committee assigned to hire either a full time Custodian and Maintenance Supervisor or a part time custodian and a part time maintenance person. The job descriptions have been sent to the Department of Labor and will be placed on the Chamber of Commerce's list of job openings in Madison.
- motion by Jennifer Briggs, seconded by Wade Briggs, to authorize the Executive Committee to contract for cleaning and snow removal services as needed until the position/s is filled. Motion carried. The question of whether applicants must be bonded was discussed. No action was taken.

Jennifer Briggs gave the report of the Membership Committee.

 Jennifer Briggs, Wade Briggs, Lisa Gale, Lora Ersland, and Jim Iverson serve on the Membership Committee. Their report follows:

The committee recommends moving 272 individuals from the inactive list to the responsibility list and that

157 individuals be moved from active to inactive. Trinity currently has 730 active members. Motion by Jennifer Briggs, seconded by Tom Farrell, to approve the report and authorize the specified actions. Motion carried.

Jim Iverson gave the Nominating Committee report.

 The committee is still seeking candidates for the Board of Deacons—Sacraments and Services; the Board of Trustees—Development and Planning; and Vice-president.

President Wade Briggs announced that an Auditing Committee of three members will be appointed at the January Council meeting. The committee will be charged with auditing the 2023 financial records.

Vice-president Tom Farrell reported on the investment of I Am In campaign funds.

There are currently 4 (\$10,000) CDs that have matured.

There is a liquid CD (\$5,000) earning 3.59%.

There are additional I Am In donations of \$30,143.47.

Currently available for investment = \$75,143.47.

Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Becky Brown, to authorize the investment in 6 CDs at \$10,000 for 12 months and 1 liquid CE at \$15,143,47 for 12 months through First Bank and Trust. Motion carried.

Vice-president Tom Farrell reported on the Edwin Hanneman Endowment. Distributions for missions were made from this fund for 25 years after which any remaining balance of the Endowment is to be transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church for any other use it deemed appropriate. The balance of the Endowment which will be transferred to the general fund will be approximately \$188,000. Pastor Steve suggested that we tithe a portion of this gift before using it for other purposes.

President Wade Briggs presented two options for the 2024 mission plan. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Jennifer Briggs to approve the proposed mission plan with no salary increase for staff and a \$5,000 reduction to the payment to the South Dakota Synod. Following discussion, Tom Farrell amended his motion to include a provision for potentially using up to \$103,389.28 from the Hanneman Endowment. Jennifer Briggs concurred. Motion carried with 2 dissenting votes.

Meeting adjourned with prayer. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Sabbe, secretary

January

		- Garidai y
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays	1 New Year's Day/Name of Jesus	02
Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday	 Office Closed No Preschool 	 No Preschool 10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting: Church Office No Quilting 5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group: Room 18
07 Baptism of Our Lord	08	09
8:45AM-9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary 10:00AM-11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM-10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM-12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	• 7:00PM-8:00PM BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall ; Women's Book Study : Fireside Room	10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 12:00PM-1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom 1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 5:00PM-6:00PM Precouncil Executives' Meeting : Fellowship Hall 5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18 6:00PM-6:45PM Trustees' Board Meeting : Fellowship Hall; Deacons' Board Meeting : Fireside Room; Parish Education Board Meeting : Church Office 7:00PM-9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall
14	15 MLK, Jr. Day	16
 Jingle Change 8:45AM-9:45AM Traditional Worship: Sanctuary 10:00AM-11:00AM Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall 10:00AM-10:50AM Sunday School: Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM-12:00PM Celebration Worship w/Sutten Johnson Baptism: Sanctuary 12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 6:00PM-7:30PM Men's Group: Fireside Room 	Office Closed No Preschool 7:00PM-8:00PM Women's Book Study: Fireside Room; BSA Troop 5 Meeting: Fellowship Hall	 9:30AM-11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18 7:00PM-8:00PM Martha/Naomi Circle : Fellowship Hall
21	22	23
8:45AM-9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary 10:00AM-11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM-10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM-12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM-1:00PM Annual Meeting : Sanctuary ; Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	• 4:00PM-9:00PM Bethel Annual Meeting : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM-8:00PM Women's Book Study : Fireside Room ; BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Youth Room	 10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18
28	29	30
8:45AM-9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary 10:00AM-11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall 10:00AM-10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms 11:00AM-12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary 12:00PM-1:00PM Annual Meeting Snow Date : Sanctuary ; Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM	• 7:00PM-8:00PM BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall ; Women's Book Study : Fireside Room	 10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office 1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall 5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18

2024

/ednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	04	05	06 Epiphany of Our Lord
Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside	 5:00PM-7:00PM DSU Basketball Team Meal : Fellowship Hall 6:30PM-7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room; Webelo & Bear Den 	• 6:30AM-7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 5:00PM-11:59PM High School Lock-in	12:00AM-12:00PM High School Lock-in 5:00PM-6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall 6:00PM-7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
	11	10	13
6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow-	 1:00PM-3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays: Fellowship Hall 6:30PM-7:30PM Den 2 Meeting: Youth Room; Webelo & Bear Den 	• 6:30AM-7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	
	18	19	20
6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow-	Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room ; Webelo & Bear Den	• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	• 9:00AM-10:30AM Music Committee Meeting : Fireside Room
		26	27
6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow-	Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room ; Webelo & Bear Den	• 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	
Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside High School Youth Group : Youth			
	Rehearsal 6th-8th Grade Confirmation: Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Fellow- Adult Choir Rehearsal: Fireside High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Sanc- 6th-8th Grade Confirmation: Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal: Fellow- High School Youth Group: Youth	Adult Choir Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 11 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 11 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 11 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 25 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 25 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth 25 Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellow- High School Youth Group : Youth Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Sanc- Chancel Choi	O4 1:00PM-3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall 5:00PM-7:30PM D5U Basketball Team Maal : Fellowship Hall 5:00PM-7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Fireside Pour Bible Study 5:00PM-7:30PM School Lock-in Sch

Music Ministry Contacts

Sunday School Choir (Grades 1–5) Stacey Riedel 605-270-1233

Cherub Choir Ages (Preschool & Kindergarten) Tami Christiansen 605-480-0727

Epiphany Bell Choir (high school & adults) Diane Plack 605-270-0691

Chancel Choir (Grades 5–8) Tami Christiansen 605-480-0727 Jennifer Briggs 605-480-1870

Adult Choir Lorri May 605-270-9307

Deacon for Worship & Music/Celebration Team Virginia Lemme 605-270-1845

Membership Information

Is your info. up-to-date?

Have you moved? Did you disconnect your land-line? Did you change your e-mail address? Did you get married? Did you have a baby? Did you get a divorce? Do you wonder why the church has not been connecting with you? Please notify the church office when you have an address change, e-mail change, marital status change, etc. or update the information on your Realm account.



Financial Response as of 11/30/2023

Your General Fund Offering Expenses Expenses over Offering \$275,891.44 \$409,576.12 (\$133,684.68)

Missionary Update

Dear prayer partners,

We wish you all a merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

It was good seeing many of you while we were home in September.

After coming back, it seems things were busier.

Our work continues to move on. In the past months in addition to 1 Kings we have proofed through all of the minor prophets (Daniel through Malachi). A lot of terms continue to come up that we continue to check consistency on. Sometimes we have to really think and pray these through. Recently an editor was reacting to the word we picked for "faithfulness" when talking about God. He was reacting to a verse in the context of "God being faithful to us." This editor was saying this would imply that God was lower than us in a "subservient" role - as if He was "our servant." We wouldn't like that meaning to come out, but we have to be careful. The concept of a "faithful" God is new to many coming from their background. We do hit issues where the content is different from what they are used to. I remember when working on the initial drafts Eph. 2:8 where my helper (not yet a believer) was saying we had translated it very wrong. He thought it should have read "For it is by grace you have been saved, through works..." Of course, "salvation by grace and not by works" is something that will be new to first time readers. That is not what they learn from their religion. (This helper did later become a believer!) It can be also that a "faithful God" would a new concept to readers as well. Of course, this doesn't mean God is a faithful servant, but rather a faithful God. He is always faithful to His promises and to His righteous character in all His dealings with us. This image of god could be new to any of our future readers!

God has certainly been faithful to us over the years. One of the major challenges over the years on this project has been finding native speakers who could write and edit well. Right now as we review things again stylistically, our main editor is the probably the strongest in working with style that we have ever had! We feel that since we have this opportunity, we want to take full advantage of it. Do pray our stylist will also come to know the Lord in a personal way!

Since returning in Oct from the States, Rose has had more opportunities to use her training in Transformation Prayer Ministry. In a traditional counseling situation a counsellor listens to a counselee, and then gives instruction and advice how to solve what-

Missionary Update Continued

ever issue. In Transformation Prayer Ministry a person acts as a mentor to the one receiving ministry. They talk about whatever the issue is and together they look to find the false beliefs which are behind the problems and then the they present those beliefs in prayer before the Lord. The Lord answers! In one case referred to her by the local church here, there was a person who was suffering from rejection. She had experienced a lot of rejection in the past. As they talked and then brought up things before the Lord, she saw the Lord on the cross. Then she sensed the Lord was showing her that He was also rejected by everyone but He did not reject them. This really spoke to her. Her feelings of anger and disappointment were changed with a desire now to reach out and embrace those who had been rejecting her. It was a big change.

We rejoice knowing that God is active transforming lives here and in every place where His Word is being read.

Continue to pray with us:

- that believers will be able to meet without government interference.
- as we continue to proof read and do style reviews on the historical books.
- Pray for Rose as she continues to meet to pray with people on a one to one basis.
- We had a loyal editor who was a believer back in the main country. We have not been in direct contact for several years. But we have heard that she is struggling with discouragement. We no longer have a way to be in touch with her. It is hard for her to find fellowship. Please lift her up to the Lord.

Thanks again for all our prayers and support! In His service,

Mark and Rose



After taking a month off in December, the Men's Group will start back up in January.

Worship Assistant Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to take care of the various aspects of worship. To volunteer, please contact the church office at 605-256-2771 or officemanager@tlcmadison.com. You may also use the sign-up sheet located in the narthex. Thank you.



From the Bishop's Desk

Dear SD Synod,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Holy Trinity!

I would like to begin by extending a heartfelt 'thank you' to you. Your generosity has allowed a group of five individuals to be guests in our companion synod in Cameroon. The EELC celebrated its centennial this year. What began as the "Sudan Mission" a hundred years ago are now two church bodies, one in Cameroon and one in the Central African Republic.

Please, know that the group would be delighted if your congregation would like to hear about the rich ministry that happens in the EELC as well as how we can partner and learn from each other. Feel free to reach out to Rev. Dr. Aaron Matson in the synod office to schedule any one of the group members to share in conversation with your context.

One of the many treasured memories I bring home with me is the deep and abiding joyful almost child-like faith I came to experience in the church in Cameroon. The untamed dancing and singing from memory were contagious, even for an introvert like me. Throughout my entire time in Cameroon, I was reminded that when we entertain and welcome the stranger, we might just as well entertain angels and God's provision is written all over our lives, if we open our eyes and hearts to the possibilities.

Finally, please, know that I recognize that times for many faith communities are challenging, but hear the affirmation that in the midst of our challenges are opportunities for God to shine and work among us in mighty ways. I invite you to trust the first line of the Apostle's Creed that "I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." No matter how hard times will get, God will not forsake or forget us. That's a promise we can respond to with great joy.

Journeying in Christ with you, Rev. Constanze Hagmaier Bishop of the SD Synod

Come to Church this Sunday



203 N. Harth Ave. Madison, SD 57042

Return Service Requested

Financial Giving Options

- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Credit cards can be processed in the church office.
- The church website (<u>www.tlcmadison.com</u>) allows for one-time or recurring donations using a checking/ savings account or a credit/debit card.
- The Electronic Giving option through Vanco can also be initialized by filling out an application form in the church office.
- If you should have questions with any of these options or would like to discuss which one is the best option for you, please call Alex at the church office at 605-256-2771.

Mission of the Month

The January Mission of the Month is the Union Gospel Mission in Sioux Falls. They provide three meals each day in two sites, housing for men, women and children, and a medical clinic. Beginning this year, our Mission of the Month program will be funded totally from the JINGLE CHANGE on the 2nd Sunday, and the designated offerings received in the month.

Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes to Mission of the Month Fund.

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for January is boxed meals, such as "Helpers" and macaroni & cheese. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

Congregational Information

Deaths: none **Baptisms:** none **Weddings:** none

Pastoral Care

If you are in need of pastoral care or know someone who is, please contact Pastor Steve or the church office.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH