

From the Pastor's Pen

"But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him,
and when he saw him he felt anguish in his gut."

– Luke 10:33 –

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We've mostly had a beautiful fall thus far, nonetheless, these days the weather is a little too cool for a t-shirt. That means it will probably be six months, or so before I can wear my favorite shirt again. Maybe you've seen me in this shirt which says, "empathy is my favorite sin" and wondered, "What does that even mean?" That's the response I most often get. Others will say, "Love your shirt!" as they walk by. When Zoe and I were in Omaha for a concert in August, one person even asked to have their picture taken with me! This shirt certainly gets people's attention. So, what's it all about?

A few years ago, a theologian named Dr. Joe Rigney, who recently resigned as president of Bethlehem College and Seminary, wrote an article titled, "The Enticing Sin of Empathy" for an online publication. In this article, Rigney argues that to empathize with someone who is suffering is sinful, while I believe twisting what it means to empathize altogether. The implication of Rigney's argument is that to love and care for those who are hurting is to go against God's will for our lives. This sparked a huge debate on social media, which led to someone creating this amazing shirt, and I just couldn't help myself!

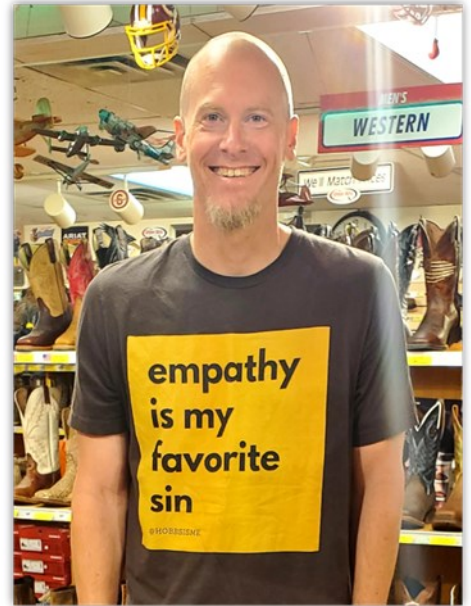
To have empathy for someone is to see things from their perspective, to understand what they're going through, and, to some extent, feel what they feel. Not only do I not believe that empathy is a sin, but I believe it could be the highest form of what it looks like to love our neighbor, as Jesus taught and demonstrated throughout his life. In the story of the feeding of the 5000 in Matthew's gospel, when Jesus saw the great crowd of people who were sick, hurting, and lost, he empathized with them. Jesus healed them and fed them. Then, in the Gospel of Luke, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells us that the priest and the Levite ignored the man who had been robbed and beaten, walking past him on the opposite side of the road. But, when the Samaritan saw the man, he had empathy for him. The Samari-

tan went to the man, bandaged him up, got him a place to stay, and cared for him. Finally, in John, after Lazarus' death, when Jesus saw Martha, Mary, and those who were with them, suffering great despair, he empathized with them. Jesus was deeply moved ... and he wept.

Jesus summarized all of the commandments in this one line, "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, your mind, your soul, and your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus saw the pain and despair of the people. He didn't ignore that pain. He didn't avoid it. He entered into it. To fulfill the law is to love and to love is to give yourself away - to "lay down your life for another." To follow Jesus is to see those around us who are suffering and to respond with empathy. That's why I love this shirt and why empathy will always be my favorite sin!

God's Peace.

Pastor Steve



Mission Plan Work Session

The Church Council is hosting a work session for the development of Trinity Lutheran Church's 2024 Mission Plan on Saturday, December 9th. This event will be from 9 am to 12 pm in the fellowship hall and is open to all Trinity mission partners who would like to increase their awareness of the mission plan, provide input, or ask questions.

Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 2023
7:00 p.m.

President Wade Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:15 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 Rudh, Eric Anderson

Board of Parish Education: Dani Ruhd, Alicia Koch

Board of Deacons: Patti Weber, Jim Iverson, Becky Brown, Virginia Lemme

President Wade Briggs welcomed Jim Iverson to the Council as a member of the Board of Deacons.

Vice-President Tom Farrell led the devotion on the power of laughter and challenged members to express joy in laughter.

Pastor Steve gave an opening prayer.

Motion by Virginia Lemme, seconded by Tom Farrell, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Patti Weber, to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 31, 2023:

General Fund Offering	\$249,981.72
Expenses	\$370,041.66
Expenses over Offering.	(\$120,059.94)

Giving in October was highest in past four years and 3% over October 2022.

The transfer of \$30,000 from the Corner Stone Fund was completed. \$20,000 of the transfer has been used.

Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Becky Brown, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Pastor Steve submitted a written report. He emphasized the need for communication between the council and the staff. He announced that he is planning a Council retreat February 9 and 10, 2024 at Living Waters on Lake Poinsett.

Deacon Koren submitted a written report. There will be no pie auction this weekend. Kathy McHenry will be speaking between services.

President Wade Briggs reported that the worship surveys have been reviewed. The results will be presented to the congregation at a potluck dinner following services on December 10.

The congregation will also be invited to participate in creating the 2024 mission plan at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9.

Vice-president Tom Farrell's report will be included in BUSINESS.

Board of Trustees—

Eric Anderson reported that the new air handling unit has been installed.

Marie Millage reported that the Hunter family would like to purchase and install a statue in memory of Andy. The courtyard is a possible location.

Dana Hoff will contact Amert Construction about the ceiling tiles in the balcony.

Pastor Steve reported that Scotty has patched an area under the south window that he thinks will take care of the leak in the narthex.

Board of Parish Education—

The Hanging of the Greens service will be December 3. There will be one service followed by brunch.

Board of Deacons—

Becky Brown reported that \$5,396 has been raised for the purchase of a new piano for the Fellowship Hall. A family has expressed interest in purchasing the old piano for \$150 and will move it.

The worship schedule for 2024 will be ready in December.

The return of Jingle Change was a success.

There will be no coffee hour on December 24 or 31.

Home communion was provided to four members in October.

Brianna Routier will assist with publicizing the proposed Christmas schedule.

Proposed Christmas schedule:

Christmas Eve	9:30 a.m. (traditional service)
	5:00 p.m. (candlelight service)
	10:00 p.m. (candlelight service)

Christmas Day no service

December 31 9:30 a.m. (celebration service)

Motion by Jim Iverson, seconded by Patti Weber, to approve the proposed schedule. Motion carried with one dissenting vote.

Pastor Steve provided a team building exercise with random questions for members to answer.

Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes

BUSINESS

Vice-president Tom Farrell reported that the synod constitution reviewer recommended that Trinity's revised constitution be approved by the Synod Assembly. The Synod Assembly did approve the revised constitution at their meeting on November 3, 2023. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Becky Brown, to approve the constitution as approved by the Synod Assembly. Motion carried. This action puts the congregation on track to approve the revised document at the annual meeting in January with the potential for ratification of the document in May. Jim Iverson expressed thanks to Pastor Bob Hansen for pushing for the review and revision.

Vice-president Tom Farrell presented the following resolution of thanks to Sid Gulbranson:

WHEREAS Trinity Lutheran Church had not replaced the air handling units for the offices and preschool in 20-plus years and these units were failing on a regular basis.

WHEREAS Sid Gulbranson graciously gave of his time, talent and tools to lead and complete the installation of new air handling units for the Trinity offices and preschool.

WHEREAS Sid Gulbranson used his machinery and gave of his time to remove the old air handling units from the property of Trinity.

THEREFORE let be known by spreading this proclamation upon the minutes of the November 2023 meeting of the Trinity Lutheran council that the council and membership of Trinity Lutheran Church are abundantly grateful for the installation of the new air handling units by Sid Gulbranson.

Signed this 14th day of November: Motion by Wade Briggs, seconded by Tom Farrell, to approve the resolution as presented. Motion carried.

The letter of engagement for Katie Nelson's services has been received. There is no change from the agreement signed last year. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Becky Brown, to accept the letter of engagement. Motion carried.

Jim Iverson, chair of the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee has candidates for 5 of the 10 open council positions. The committee's goal is to have candidates for all offices by the December council meeting.

Vice-president Tom Farrell gave the report of the Foundation Commission. He reminded the council that the commission was supporting Kathy McHenry to present an educational program on November 19.

The Foundation met on November 7 and awarded 8 grants totaling \$14,669.

The Foundation passed the following motion: "According to Ed Hanneman Missionary Endowment Fund distribution policy, per donor directive, after 25 years the remaining balance of the fund would be transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church for any other use it deemed appropriate." Motion passed and the funds will be available to the church council after January 1, 2024. \$7,702 of the Hanneman Endowment will be sent to support ELCA foreign missionaries for the current year.

The Foundation awarded a Seminary Scholarship in the amount of \$1,363 to Wanda Biel for continued studies at Wartburg Seminary. Wanda is currently serving churches in Oldham and Ramona.

Minus current expenditures, the Foundation account has a balance of \$859,579.87

Motion by Wade Briggs, seconded by Virginia Lemme, to set the date and time for the annual meeting for Sunday January 21, 2024, following the second service with January 28 as the alternate date. Motion carried.

President Wade Briggs reported that work continues on the 2024 mission plan. The requests from the Boards are being compiled, and Katie Nelson is forwarding additional information. The information will be available for the meeting on Saturday, December 9, 2023.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Sabbe, secretary

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.

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
<p>Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays</p> <p>Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday</p>		
<p>03 <i>Advent I</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–10:30AM Hanging of the Greens Worship • 10:30AM–11:30AM Brunch : Fellowship Hall • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 6:30PM–7:30PM AR Membership Committee Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	<p>04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM–8:00PM BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall ; Advent Book Study : Fireside Room 	<p>05</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 5:00PM–6:00PM Stewardship Committee Meeting : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18
<p>10 <i>Advent II</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ; Potluck & Worship Survey Forum : Fellowship Hall • No Men's Group 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7:00PM–8:00PM Advent Book Study : Fireside Room ; BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Zoom • 1:00PM–4:00PM 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
<p>17 <i>Advent III</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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/Kids' Christmas Worship : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Preschool–Winter Break • 1:00PM–3:30PM Piano Tuning : Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM BSA Troop 5 Meeting : Fellowship Hall ; Advent Book Study : Fireside Room 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Preschool–Winter Break • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18 • 7:00PM–8:00PM Martha/Naomi Circle : Fellowship Hall
<p>24 <i>Advent IV/Christmas Eve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–10:30AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • No Coffee Hour • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM • 5:00PM–6:00PM Christmas Eve Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00PM–11:00PM Christmas Eve Worship : Sanctuary 	<p>25 <i>Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Preschool–Winter Break; Office Closed 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Preschool–Winter Break; Office Closed • 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 5:30PM–6:30PM LSS MRT Group : Room 18
<p>31 <i>New Year's Eve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30AM–10:30AM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • No Coffee Hour • 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM 		

2023

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	02 • 9:00AM–10:00AM Hanging of the Greens Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–11:00AM Celebration Team Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall • 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall
06 • 5:15PM–6:00PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room	07 • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room ; Webelo & Bear Den Meetings : Fellowship Hall	08 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	09 • 9:00AM–12:00PM Mission Plan Work Session : Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
13 • 5:15PM–6:00PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room	14 • 11:00AM–11:30AM Preschool TR A.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 2:30PM–3:00PM Preschool TR P.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:30PM Scouts Pack Meeting : Fellowship Hall	15 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 11:00AM–11:30AM Preschool MWF A.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 2:30PM–3:00PM Preschool MWF P.M. Christmas Program : Sanctuary	16
20 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 5:15PM–6:00PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Grade Confirmation : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellowship Hall • 7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room	21 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room	22 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	23
27 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 5:15PM–6:00PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 6:30PM–7:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal : Fellowship Hall	28 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–7:30PM Den 2 Meeting : Youth Room	29 • No Preschool–Winter Break • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study	30

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



Official Written Notice: This is written notice that the annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church of Madison, SD will be

held on Sunday, 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.



Financial Response as of 10/31/2023

Your General Fund Offering	\$249,981.72
Expenses	\$370,041.66
Expenses over Offering	\$120,059.95*

*Due to your increased generosity in October the Expenses Over Offering deficit was reduced by \$1,893.04 from September 30. Thank you!

LAKE COUNTY FOOD PANTRY

CHRISTMAS TURKEY AND ANGEL TREE PROJECTS: The Food Pantry has provided food to over 500 people so far this year and is continuing its regular distribution of emergency food supplies. As the holiday season approaches, the Food Pantry is preparing for the 41st annual Christmas Projects.

CHRISTMAS TURKEY: In 2022, 144 families consisting of 503 people received Christmas food boxes, valued at \$75 each. Eligibility for receiving food boxes is determined by ICAP, the Community Health Nurse, the local Social Services office, and the Madison Ministerial Association. If you know of anyone in need of a Christmas food box, please contact one of these agencies.

ANGEL TREE: The Angel Tree Project is in its 39th year. Three 'angel' trees have been set up, one each in the community window of Gary's Bakery, the Madison Public Library and at Montgomery's Furniture. On each tree are 'Angels' which identify deserving children and suggested gift(s). In 2022, 291 children received over 650 gifts through this program. Most children will be in 8th grade or younger. We encourage any interested person or group to 'adopt' Angels and purchase that child's gift. Money donations are also welcome and can be deposited in the Food Pantry's account at First Bank and Trust or sent to PO Box, 61, Madison, SD 57042.

Gifts should be delivered to the Downtown City Armory (198 Van Eps Ave N., Madison) beginning Saturday, December 9th through Wednesday, December 13, 11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily except Sunday. The food and gifts will be delivered on Saturday, December 16, 2023.

We are again asking for your support of the Food Pantry Christmas Programs. Your past support has meant a merrier Christmas for many Lake County families. All donations to the Food Pantry are tax deductible. Thank you for your help.

Food Pantry Board of Directors

**Merry
Christmas**

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recent Memorials

November 11, 2023

In Memory of Sandy Cole
Mary and Jerry Hutchinson

In Memory of Margaret Kuhl
Marlys Schmidt

In Memory of Myron Downs
Joyce Richter
Dan and Belinda Fritz
Lana Johnson
Doug and Sandy Bordewyk
Fenton and Clareen Ludens
Susan and Martin Connor
Renee Leffers
Jim and Cheryl Iverson

Worship Conversation

Wondering what has been done with the information collected from Trinity's fall worship survey? Have more questions about our worship traditions and practices? On Sunday, December 10th, our Trinity family will gather for a worship conversation. Everyone is welcome to join us immediately following the Celebration Service for a potluck lunch. Enjoy a good meal and great conversation with other Trinity mission partners. Then, at 1:00 pm, we'll have the opportunity to hear the results of the fall worship survey, what changes have been made in response to this information, and why those changes were made. You will also have a chance to ask worship-related questions that might be on your mind. We hope to see you there!



Advent Book Study

Remember that the Advent book study has been moved to Mondays at 7 p.m., 11/27–12/18.



Your Trinity Lutheran Church stewardship committee would like to thank the mission partners who have taken time to complete the Time and Talents survey either online or on the paper copy. The committee has compiled your information and this information is being used to assist us with offering opportunities for you to get more involved in our shared ministry at Trinity.

If you have not yet filled out a Time and Talents survey, paper copies are available in the office and here is a link to the online version. <https://tinyurl.com/3adk2mwp> We continue to welcome input of those who have not yet completed the survey.

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.



Men's Group will not meet in December but will start back up in January.



Thank you to Jim Iverson, Ron & Bobbie Janke, and Susan Williams for delivering home communion on November 19. Serving in this capacity is much appreciated.

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 (www.tlcmadison.com) 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 December Mission of the Month is Family Connection, Sioux Falls. Opened in 1996 to support the families of the South Dakota Penitentiary. Provides two sites that offer both shelter and meals.

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 December is peanut butter. Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

Congregational Information

Deaths: none

Baptisms: Coy Himley on November 12

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