# Trinity7idings

(605) 256-2771 www.tlcmadison.com

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

December 2024

## **Deacon's Discourse**

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever has always been one of my favorite children's chapter books, and the 2024 movie remake of this classic book did not disappoint! The characters were well cast, and the message of the true meaning of Christmas was still strong. While the movie took me back in time to Christmas as a naive elementary school girl in pigtails experiencing the book, I did not expect how I would connect to the same storyline as an adult now well aware of the world and all its distractions and uncertainty.

I found myself connecting with the mom, and lastminute pageant director, Grace. Grace found herself in a position of "saving" the local Christmas pageant when the long-time director was unable. Grace faced numerous challenges with this task, from figuring out how to pull off "the best Christmas pageant ever" to managing the high expectations of church members, the community, and beyond. But the biggest challenge came in the form of the six unchurched Herdman children who were a constant source of trouble around town and who had spontaneously put themselves in the lead roles of what they called a "bible play." As the weeks before Christmas unfolded and each rehearsal came and went, there were many concerns about how the pageant would unfold. As Grace and her daughter discussed the situation on their front porch, Grace said, "I don't know what is going to happen. Mary and Joseph weren't so sure either."

As we step into this season of Advent and prepare our hearts for Christmas, uncertainty might be a familiar companion. We encounter distractions, face challenges, and grapple with all kinds of uncertainty, often feeling as though the future is shrouded in the unknown. In these moments, it's comforting to remember that even Mary and Joseph—called by God for an extraordinary purpose—didn't have all the answers. They had no roadmap—only faith to guide them. Yet, in their weariness and uncertainty, God continually showed up. Not in the grand halls of kings or a perfectly executed Christmas pageant, but in the humble manger of Bethlehem and the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Like Mary and Joseph, we might not know what lies ahead. The world around us can be filled with distractions and noise that pull us in many directions, often leaving us feeling lost or weary. But in the midst of this uncertainty, one truth remains: God always shows up.

Instead of allowing the world's distractions to steer us off course, we are invited to focus on our faith—a steady compass that always points to Jesus. When we feel unsure, overwhelmed, or distracted, we can remember to center our hearts on Jesus. God's presence brings peace, God's Word provides direction, and God's love offers the strength we need.

This Advent season, choose to follow the light of Christ, trusting that God will show up and guide us through every uncertainty and despite every distraction. Just as God led Mary and Joseph, God will lead us too. As the youngest Herdman and head angel, Gladys, said (boldly and with lots of enthusiasm), "Hey! Unto you a child is born! Go see the baby!"

May your journey through Advent to the birth of Jesus at Christmas be full of Christ's light, love, and peace!

Deacon Koren



# **Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes**

Trinity Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting Tuesday, November 12, 2024 7:00 p.m.

President Tom Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council members recited Trinity's mission statement.

Present: Pastor Steven Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Tom Farrell, Vice-president Kurt Christiansen, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Dani Ruhd, Alicia Koch, Lucas Muller, Patti Weber, Darrel Presuhn, Walker Ruhd, Marie Millage

Absent and excused: Eric Anderson, Virginia Lemme, Jean Mitchell, Karen Giles, Stacy Thomsen, Melody Hansen, Shelly Balogh

Vice-president Kurt Christiansen shared a devotion on gratitude, and Pastor Steve Lindley prayed an opening prayer.

President Tom Farrell added two items to the proposed agenda: a discussion of the KJAM broadcast and the resignation of Jean Mitchell. Motion by Darrel Presuhn, seconded by Lucas Muller, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Dani Ruhd, seconded by Patti Weber, to accept the minutes of the October 15 meeting as printed. The minutes were corrected to include Deacon Koren Lindley as present at the meeting. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Patti Weber, to accept the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

As of October 31, 2024

General Fund Offering \$264,084.51 Expenses \$316,125.17 Expenses over Offering \$52,040.66

The 2024 mission plan projected total general offerings of \$350,000.

Thank you notes were received from staff and residents of Bethel Home for the efforts of Trinity members participating in God's Work, Our Hands. Lutheran Outdoors also thanked Trinity for the mission of the month gift.

Annual reports are due by December 15, 2024.

Motion by Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Walker Ruhd, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

#### **REPORTS**

Pastor Steve Lindley submitted a written report.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report and highlighted the following points:

- The bulletin board in the Narthex will be the Trinity Thank You Board. The fourth grade Sunday School students will kick this activity off on Sunday, November 17.
- Deacon Koren and Pastor Rebecca Breddin from St. John Lutheran "tabled" in the Trojan Center to reach out to DSU students. They had cards for the students to write home, postage included. The international students, especially, were thrilled. The next outreach will be Wednesday, November 13, which is World Kindness Day.
- All the Bibles have been distributed to Sunday School and confirmation students.
- Deacon Koren received a monetary gift to purchase a book for the preschool, junior kindergarten, and kindergarten children. Each family with students in kindergarten, junior kindergarten, and/or preschool received a copy of God Is Here.

President Tom Farrell had nothing additional to report.

Vice-president Kurt Christiansen reported that the Nominating Committee has met and is looking for candidates.

Board of Parish Education: Dani Ruhd reporting

- High school youth will participate in a service project and go bowling on November 13.
- Deacon Koren Lindley is working on the Kids' Christmas Worship which is scheduled for the 11:00 a.m. service on December 22.
- The adult Bible study will begin an Advent study on November 18.

Board of Deacons: Patti Weber reporting

- Hanging of the Greens service—the bulletin is at the printers.
- There will be two services on Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Both will be candlelight services and communion will be served. On Christmas morning, a carols and coffee gathering is planned.
- Jean Mitchell reported on the distribution of jingle change and designated mission of the month offerings.
- Jean Mitchell resigned from the Board of Deacons immediately for health reasons.
- Patti Weber reported that Jennifer Briggs and Amy Winrow and Lana Johnson and Nancy Rook have agreed to lead service groups.
- The coffee letters are out, and arrangements for soup suppers are beginning.

# **Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes**

- Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl will conduct the services on November 17.
- Lucas Muller is working on the videos for volunteers.
- The Stewardship brochure is ready.
- Whether or not to continue the KJAM broadcast was discussed.

Board of Trustees: Walker Ruhd reporting

- They are seeking an additional quote for replacing the window in the Fellowship Hall.
- No decision has been made regarding repair of the Narthex window.
- A decision regarding the service contract for the library printer was tabled.
- Refurbished AEDs will be purchased when reliable ones are found.
- They have received quotes for snow removal.
- Some internet issues persist. Midco has installed a new update on the modem and will return to install a box on the outside of the building.

#### **TEAM BUILDING**

Pastor Steve Lindley asked the Council members to respond to a question or statement and find something in their response that they are grateful for.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

President Tom Farrell presented a summary of significant changes he projects in the 2025 mission plan not including the items from the Boards. Pastor Steve Lindley suggested that there be no reduction in the amount allocated for the South Dakota Synod and that the amount of the anticipated general offering remain at \$350,000. A possible discrepancy in the numbers received from Portico was noticed and will be checked. The President plans to have a draft of the 2025 mission plan available to the Council by the first part of December.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

The KJAM broadcast of the Sunday traditional service was discussed. The annual cost is \$2,600. There have been issues. The service has not always been broadcast. There is no way to track the number of listeners. Further consideration is warranted.

Motion by President Tom Farrell, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to approve the letter of engagement with Katie Nelson. Motion carried.

President Tom Farrell appointed Walker Ruhd, Dani Ruhd, and Vice-president Kurt Christiansen to a committee charged with communicating the plans for tithing the Hannemann Endowment to the congregation. Pastor Steve Lindley will assist as needed.

The date and location of the 2025 Council Retreat will be determined later.

Motion by Patti Weber, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to accept with regret and understanding the resignation of Jean Mitchell. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Kurt Christiansen and seconded by Dani Ruhd. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Council members praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Sabbe, secretary

> We find so many ways to say it, but the old familiar words are somehow always best: so from every member of the staff we pray that you will have a very blessed and Christ-centered Christmas season and for God's richest and choicest blessings for you and yours both now, as we pause with the world to remember the birth of our Lord, and throughout every

> > day in
> > 2
> > 0
> > 2
> > 5
> > Christmas Greetings
> > to our
> > Members
> > and
> > Friends

# **December**

|   | December   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday  |  |  |
| 01 Advent 1   | 02   | 03   |  |  |
| <ul> <li>9:30AM-10:30AM Hanging of the Greens Worship:</li> <li>No Sunday School</li> <li>10:30AM-11:30AM Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390</li> </ul>  | • 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study :<br>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 Pack 5 Committee Meeting : Fireside Room  |  |  |
| 08 Advent 2   | 09   | 10   |  |  |
| <ul> <li>Jingle Change</li> <li>8:45AM-9:45AM Traditional Worship: Sanctuary</li> <li>10:00AM-11:00AM Coffee Hour: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>10:00AM-10:50AM Sunday School: Sunday School Rooms</li> <li>11:00AM-12:00PM Celebration Worship: Sanctuary</li> <li>12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM</li> <li>5:00PM-7:30PM Preschool Christmas Train Fundraiser: Fellowship Hall, Narthex</li> <li>6:00PM-7:30PM Men's Group: Fireside Room</li> </ul> |  | <ul> <li>10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting: Church Office</li> <li>12:00PM-1:00PM Finance Meeting: Zoom</li> <li>1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group: Room 18</li> <li>6:00PM-6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting: Fireside Room</li> <li>7:00PM-9:00PM Council Meeting: Fellowship Hall</li> </ul> |  |  |
| 15 Advent 3   | 16   | 17   |  |  |
| 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/Cooper Fritz     Baptism : Sanctuary     12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390     AM   | • 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study :<br>Fellowship Hall | <ul> <li>9:30AM-11:00AM Mary Circle: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting: Church Office</li> <li>1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group: Room 18</li> </ul>   |  |  |
| 22 Advent 4   | 23   | 24 Christmas Eve   |  |  |
| 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   |  | No Preschool-Winter Break     10:00AM-11:00AM  |  |  |
| 29 Christmas 1  | 30   | 31 New Year's Eve  |  |  |
| <ul> <li>9:30AM-10:30AM Worship : Sanctuary</li> <li>10:30AM-11:30AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>12:00PM-1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390</li> </ul>  | • 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study :                    | <ul> <li>No Preschool-Winter Break</li> <li>10:00AM-11:00AM Staff Meeting: Church Office</li> <li>1:00PM-3:30PM Quilting: Fellowship Hall</li> <li>5:30PM-6:30PM LSS MRT Group: Room 18</li> </ul>   |  |  |

# 2024

| W   | /ednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| 04  |  | 05  | 06  | 07  |
| • 5:00PM-5:45PM<br>tuary<br>• 5:30PM-6:30PM<br>Hall<br>• 7:00PM-8:00PM<br>Room  | Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc-<br>6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship<br>High School Youth Group : Youth | Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Advent Discussion Group : Youth Room  | Group Bible Study   | • 5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship<br>Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall<br>• 6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday<br>Worship w/Holy Communion :<br>Fellowship Hall |
| 11  |  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| • 5:00PM-5:45PM<br>tuary<br>• 5:30PM-6:30PM<br>Hall<br>• 7:00PM-8:00PM<br>Room  | Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc-<br>6th-8th Confirmation : Fellowship<br>High School Youth Group : Youth | sion Group : Fellowship Hall<br>• 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on<br>Thursdays : Fellowship Hall   | • 6:30AM-7:30AM Men's<br>Group Bible Study  |   |
| 18  |  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| • 5:00PM-5:45PM<br>tuary<br>• 5:30PM-6:30PM<br>Hall<br>• 7:00PM-8:00PM<br>Room  | Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc-<br>6th-8th Confirmation : Fellowship<br>High School Youth Group : Youth | school Christmas Program : Sanctuary • 12:00PM–1:00PM Advent Discussion Group : Fellowship Hall • 1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall • 3:00PM–3:30PM TR P.M. Pre- | 6:30AM-7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study     10:30AM-11:00AM MWF A.M. Preschool Christmas Program: Sanctuary     3:00PM-3:30PM MWF P.M. Preschool Christmas Program: Sanctuary |   |
| 25 Nativity of Our Lo   | rd/Christmas Day   | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| <ul> <li>Office Closed</li> <li>No Preschool-Wint</li> <li>9:30AM-10:30AM</li> <li>Fellowship Hall</li> <li>5:00PM-5:45PM</li> <li>tuary</li> <li>5:30PM-6:30PM</li> <li>Hall</li> <li>7:00PM-8:00PM</li> <li>Room</li> </ul> | Christmas Carols & Coffee :  Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanc-  | <ul> <li>No Preschool–Winter Break</li> </ul>   | No Preschool–Winter Break     6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study   |   |
|   |  |   |   | Holy Communion on the 1st &<br>3rd Sundays<br>Home Communion on the 3rd<br>Sunday   |



Thank you to Ron & Roberta Janke, Jon & Mary Hunter, Karen Kalvig, and Wade & Jennifer Briggs for serving Home Communion in November.

# **Annual Meeting Notice**

The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 12 p.m. in the church sanctuary. In addition to the regular business, the agenda will include the following items:

- 1. Ratification of the Trinity Constitution
- 2. Tithing of the Hannemann Funds

## **News from the Foundation**

Recent Memorials November 16, 2024

#### In Memory of Charles Lundholm

Dan and Sharon Carlson Todd and Susan Williams Doug and Joan Merager Peggy Hoff

#### In Memory of Adelyne Stearns

Peggy Hoff Clara Downs

#### In Memory of Lynette Taylor

Dan and Sharon Carlson Todd and Susan Williams Doug and Joan Merager Peggy Hoff

## In Memory of Homer Stensrud

Dan and Sharon Carlson



Financial Response as of 10/31/2024

The year-to-date statistics are: Your General Fund Offering Expenses Expenses over Offering

\$264,084.51 \$316,125.17 (\$ 52,040.66)

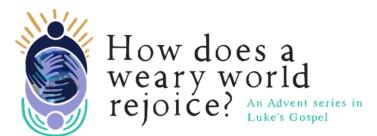
## **December Coffee Hour**

The December Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Joy. Family Group Leaders, Jennifer Briggs and Amy Winrow, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated – Thank you!

FYI – January Coffee Hours will be hosted by the Family of Peace.

| Fruit of the Spirit – Group Leaders |              |  |                              |  |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 11/6/2024                           |              |  |                              |  |  |  |
| Group                               | Group        | Name                                     | Phone                        |  |  |  |
| 1                                   | Love         | Patti Weber                              | 605-480-3231                 |  |  |  |
| 2                                   | Joy          | Jennifer Briggs                          | 605-480-1870                 |  |  |  |
|                                     | ооу          | Amy Winrow                               | 605-480-4843                 |  |  |  |
| 3                                   | Peace        | Scott & Beth<br>Delzer<br>Karen Kalvig   | 605-270-2389<br>605-480-1991 |  |  |  |
|                                     |              | Raien Raivig                             | 003-460-1991                 |  |  |  |
| 4                                   | Patience     | Lana Johnson                             | 605-480-1800                 |  |  |  |
|                                     |              | Nancy Rook                               | 605-291-9033                 |  |  |  |
| 5                                   | Kindness     | Diane Plack                              | 605-270-0691                 |  |  |  |
|                                     |              | Cheryl Iverson                           | 605-480-4323                 |  |  |  |
| 6                                   | Goodness     | Carol Andersen<br>Tom & Joyce<br>Farrell | 605-480-1120<br>605-480-2897 |  |  |  |
|                                     |              |  |                              |  |  |  |
| 7                                   | Faithfulness | Tonia Meadows                            | 605-270-4080                 |  |  |  |
|                                     |              | Gayle Maberry                            | 605-270-9134                 |  |  |  |
| 8                                   | Gentleness   | Linda Nighbert                           | 605-270-3727                 |  |  |  |
| 9                                   | Self-Control | Mary Hutchinson                          | 605-270-2057                 |  |  |  |





These days, many of us are experiencing weariness. We are worn down by the weight of the world ... burned out by the busyness of life ... anguished by the pain and suffering we see around us and feel within us. During this Advent season, in the midst of our collective weariness, our Trinity family will ponder together the question, "How does a weary world rejoice?" From the opening chapters of Luke's Gospel, we have found a few answers: we acknowledge our weariness, we find joy in connection, we allow ourselves to be amazed, we sing stories of hope, we make room, we root ourselves in ritual, and most importantly, we trust our belovedness. In the parallel birth stories of Jesus and John, joy arrives—despite trepidation, fear, or grief. In these stories, we find rhythms for rejoicing. As we move through this Advent series, we hope to create space for acknowledging the weariness of our world while celebrating God's closeness with great joy. And so, this Advent, we will hold space for our weariness and our joy. We will seek a "thrill of hope" in our hurting world. We will welcome joy-even if, like the prophet Isaiah, we cry out for comfort (Isaiah 40:1). In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice.

There are a number of ways to participate with your Trinity family:

**Worship:** We will ponder this theme each Sunday in worship and in the message.

**Devotional:** Pick up a copy of the devotional in the Narthex. The devotional includes poems, songs, art, and scripture for your reflection. You can do this on your own, or join us on Thursdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall for group discussion.

Advent Calendar: We will also have two different Advent calendars, one for young kids and another for everyone else, available in the Narthex. These calendars have daily prompts and activities to practice joy throughout the Advent season.

# **Hanging of the Greens**

"And on Earth, Peace:
How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"
9:30 a.m., Sunday, December 1
Please join us as we begin the Advent season and stay for refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

# A Note from the Council

The council is both humbled and excited to share with you an important decision regarding the use of a portion of the Edwin Hanneman Endowment Fund.

In 1999, Trinity Lutheran Church received a gift from the Edwin Hanneman Estate. Mr. Hanneman left a portion of his estate to be used to support a missionary work in a foreign field. Distributions for this purpose were to be made for a 25-year period. At the end of that period, the remaining fund balance would be transferred to Trinity Lutheran Church for any other use deemed appropriate.

Since the endowment allowed the council to choose where the remaining funds could be best used after 25 years, it has been an important point of discussion since the beginning of this year. The total amount of the endowment after the 25 years was \$202,568. With much intention, prayer, and thankfulness for this gift, the council decided to use some of the money to balance the budget this year as our expenses were greater than our income. To date, \$48,887.06 has been used.

God blessed our faith community with this amazing and unexpected gift at just the right time, enabling us to continue to do all of the ministry to which God has called us. In response, Pastor Steve encouraged the council to consider how we can give back a portion of this gift to be a blessing to others, just as it has been a blessing to Trinity this year. The council was tasked with carefully considering how and where to tithe 10% of the remaining balance which was \$20,256. The individual boards and the council researched and discussed how we could share this gift with others. Many months of reflection, collaboration, and prayer brought the council to the following ministries and amounts: \$4,000 to Trinity Preschool for the purchase and installation of playground equipment; \$4,000 to the Trinity Foundation to re-establish the missionary fund; the remainder, \$12,256.00, to the Bethel Foundation.

The council would like to formally notify you of this proposal as we are asking you, the congregation, to vote on this decision at the annual meeting. The council requests that you devote some time to pray and reflect on this proposal and to join us at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 19, 2025 to vote on this action.

Through Edwin Hanneman's generosity years ago, God has given us a wonderful gift that has been a true blessing to Trinity this year. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21. With humbled and grateful hearts, we hope we can use this opportunity to be a blessing to those around us.



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 December Mission of the Month is The Family Connection, Sioux Falls. Opened in 1996 to support the families of the inmates who are in the penitentiary in Sioux Falls. Provides two sites that offer both shelter and meals. Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on December 8 also supports the Mission of the Month.

# **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:** 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