

## From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Trinity Family,

Over the years, I have grown to regard Mary, the mother of Jesus, as our first and maybe even our greatest example of discipleship – what it looks like to follow Jesus. We can learn so much and draw tremendous inspiration from Mary's story. Mary was a teenage girl living in the small town of Nazareth. There was nothing distinctive about Mary. She wasn't someone you would've picked out of a crowd. Like many other girls her age, Mary was pledged to be married. And then one day, as Mary sat alone, God sent an angel named Gabriel to her and he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Mary was troubled by the angel's greeting, and there was a struggle within her. Why would God choose to send an angel to this typical, anonymous girl from Nazareth? How is it that she is "favored" by the Lord? The angel comforts her saying, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God." But then, Gabriel continues, proceeding to tell Mary that she will become pregnant with a son. He tells her that this child will be anything but typical or anonymous. The Lord God will make him a king, from the line of David, and his kingdom will have no end. And Mary was understandably shocked by this news. She was a virgin and was not set to be married to Joseph for some time yet. Also, if she *were* to become pregnant prior to marriage, she could be subject to great public disgrace and humiliation, and legally she could be stoned to death.

After hearing this distressing news from the angel, Mary replies, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" And Gabriel responds by telling her that it is by the Holy Spirit that this will all come to be. Gabriel assures Mary that **nothing is impossible with God**. And Mary's faithful response to all of this is, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Mary trusted God enough to risk everything ... to risk losing the security of her pending marriage ... to risk being publicly shamed ... to risk losing her very life ... because she faithfully, courageously trusted that God's Word is true and firm. This is what Jesus means when he says, "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose

their life for my sake will find it." This is what it looks like to follow him.

So, why would God choose to come to us as a baby, born to an unassuming couple, in a small town; arriving quietly, in the middle of the night, in a manger? God could've come to us in any way he chose. What is it that would make him choose to enter our world in this way? I believe that God chose this path because our God is a relational God. God's very being is relational; the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, eternally bonded in love ... inseparable.

The relationship between a mother and her child is about as intimate as there is for us. God chose to come to us as an actual human being. God didn't just make himself *look* like a human being. This wasn't some kind of act of deception. God became a flesh and blood human being, and in this he experienced everything it means to be a baby - growing in Mary's womb, playfully kicking at her hand, as she places it on her belly, being held in her arms, nursing from her, sleeping next to her, being totally reliant on her. Reflect on that, for a moment. In this bond with Mary ... in the dependency, in the emotions, in the physicality, in the indescribable love, Jesus is a human being *and* Jesus is God. This is the kind of intimacy God desires with each of us.

Yes, God is calling Mary to serve him, to consent to a dramatic change in direction for her life, and to take a huge risk. But in the midst of all of this, the central piece is that God is calling Mary into a profound relationship with Jesus. Obviously, because of the particular way in which God calls Mary, it is impossible for her to accept the call without entering into this kind of relationship with Jesus. God's call to Mary, into relationship, and God's call to Mary, to serve, go hand-in-hand. They can *not* be separated. I believe this to be true for all of us.

As I've dwelled in this text over the years, I've really fallen in love with Mary's story. God chooses a relative nobody to be the mother of the savior of the world. God calls Mary to serve him. God calls her to

(Continued on page 6)

# Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, December 10, 2024  
7:00 p.m.

President Tom Farrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., and led the Council in reciting Trinity’s mission statement.

Present: Pastor Steve Lindley, Deacon Koren Lindley, President Tom Farrell, Vice-president Kurt Christiansen, Secretary Nancy Sabbe, Virginia Lemme, Lucas Muller, Patti Weber, Karen Giles, Walker Ruhd, Marie Millage, Darrel Presuhn, Dani Ruhd, Shelly Balogh

Absent and excused: Eric Anderson, Alicia Koch, Melody Hansen, Stacy Thomsen

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with prayer.

President Tom Farrell explained that the disposition of two CDs would be handled as part of the Financial Report. Motion by Vice-president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Dani Ruhd, seconded by Walker Ruhd, to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024, meeting. Motion carried.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

As of November 30, 2024:

General Fund Offering	\$292,570.31
Expenses	\$358,596.60
Expenses over Offering	\$66,026.29

Motion by Vice-president Kurt Christiansen, seconded by Virginia Lemme, to acknowledge the Financial Report. Motion carried.

CD #6270122335 designated to the Parsonage Fund will come due on December 31, 2024. Motion by President Tom Farrell, seconded by Vice-president Kurt Christiansen, to reinvest the principle of \$10,000 in a CD and transfer the proceeds earned to a Money Market account. Motion carried.

There is an outstanding balance of \$6,716.25 on the I Am In loan from the Parsonage Fund. Motion by President Tom Farrell, seconded by Dani Ruhd, to leave the outstanding balance on the books and to

calculate interest on the outstanding balance. The interest will be paid to the Parsonage Fund. Motion carried.

President Tom Farrell provided an update of the Hannemann Gift. The 2024 mission plan anticipated using \$96,915.79 to offset expenses. As of the end of November, \$62,669.46 has been used.

## REPORTS

Pastor Steve Lindley reported

- He has been busy with preparations for advent and Christmas services and activities, and preparing for the annual meeting.
- There continue to be issues with internet connection in the office. They are working with Infotech and Midcontinent to resolve the problem.
- The Hanging of the Greens service was great.
- The confirmation students are completing a study of Luther’s Small Catechism and will be moving into a discussion of how they can live out their faith.
- Men’s group meets regularly.

Deacon Koren Lindley submitted a written report. She highlighted the first graders project making Christmas cards for the residents of the Bethel Home.

President Tom Farrell

- Thanked the Boards for providing their information for the 2025 mission plan.
- Annual reports will be due in the office soon.
- Read a thank you message from Pastor Steve and Deacon Koren Lindley.
- He has spoken to Sharol Bargmann about a donation. The gift will be designated to replacing windows in the education unit.
- The Foundation Commission is planning a piano concert in February with proceeds going toward replacing windows in the education unit.

Vice-president Kurt Christiansen

- Thanked Dani Ruhd for speaking about the tithe of the Hannemann Gift on Sunday.

Board of Trustees—Darrel Presuhn reporting

- They haven’t found a firm that will repair the window above the Narthex. Darrel Presuhn will contact Amert Construction for the name of the company that did the work on the windows during the

# Unapproved December Council Meeting Minutes

I Am In project.

- Marie Millage will contact Infotech about the internet issues.
- Midwest Glass will be contacted about replacing the window in the Fellowship Hall.

Board of Parish Education—Dani Ruhd reporting

- The Board has met to evaluate past events and plan upcoming events and projects.
- Alicia Koch is heading the Gather 25 Madison Area project.
- The Lebahn Train was a great fundraiser for the Preschool. 800 people rode the train Sunday afternoon.
- Deacon Koren Lindley is a candidate for the Synod Council.
- Plans are in the works for Bingo Bash. The potential date is February 2.

Board of Deacons—Virginia Lemme reporting

- Virginia Lemme will be seeking cantors for the traditional service.
- There will be a service at 9:30 on Christmas morning. It is being developed by Mary and Jon Hunter, Alex Eykamp, and Nancy Sabbe.
- The pastor will be gone on Sunday, December 29. There will be one service of readings and music led by the Celebration Team. Nancy Moose will bring the message. There will be no communion.
- DSU contacted the Board about feeding the basketball team on December 31. It was decided that it will not be possible to provide a meal on that date.
- The Christmas Eve service will be broadcast on KJAM.
- The Board asked that \$500 be added to their Mission Plan request to cover expenses for the Gathering and feeding DSU athletes.

Nominating Committee—Vice-president Kurt Christiansen reporting

- Another meeting has been scheduled.

## TEAM BUILDING

Council members submitted photos inspired by the word “connection.” Photos varied from family pictures to a photo of water, the substance that connects us all through baptism.

## OLD BUSINESS

President Tom Farrell presented the proposed mission plan for 2025. Among the items discussed was an increase to the anticipated general offering and leaving the donation to the South Dakota synod at \$18,000. The Board of Trustees requested that line 6320.10 Minor Repairs be renamed Repairs and Improvements. A line for mileage was added, and \$1,500 was included in the account for pulpit supply. Motion to approve the proposed mission plan with suggested changes and revisions by Dani Ruhd. Seconded by Kurt Christiansen. Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS

Pastor Steve Lindley announced that the Council Retreat will be a half-day gathering on Saturday, February 8, 2025, location to be determined.

The report of the Membership Committee meeting was tabled.

President Tom Farrell announced that Wade Briggs and Rob Thuringer have agreed to serve on the Auditing Committee. Motion by Tom Farrell, seconded by Darrel Presuhn, to approve the appointment of Wade Briggs and Rob Thuringer to the Auditing Committee. Motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Council praying the Lord’s Prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Dani Ruhd, seconded by Lucas Muller.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Sabbe, secretary

## Membership Information

### *Is your info. up-to-date?*

Have you moved? Did you disconnect your landline? 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.

# January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Holy Communion on the 1st & 3rd Sundays Home Communion on the 3rd Sunday		
<b>05 Christmas 2</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>	<b>06 Epiphany of Our Lord</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool Resumes : Sonshine Preschool Room</li> <li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	<b>07</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li> <li>• 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM Pack 5 Committee Meeting : Fireside Room</li> </ul>
<b>12 Baptism of Our Lord</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:00AM–2:00PM Troop 5 Pancake Feed : Fellowship Hall, Kitchen</li> <li>• Jingle Change</li> <li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li> <li>• No Coffee Hour</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>• 6:00PM–7:30PM Men's Group : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	<b>13</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preschool Registration Opens to Trinity Members</li> <li>• 7:00PM–8:00PM Scouts Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	<b>14</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• 6:00PM–6:45PM Board of Deacons Meeting : Fireside Room</li> <li>• 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>
<b>19</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary</li> <li>• 10:00AM–10:50AM Sunday School : Sunday School Rooms</li> <li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Coffee Hour : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>• 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary</li> <li>• 12:00PM–1:00PM Worship Broadcast on KJAM 1390 AM</li> <li>• 12:05PM–1:00PM Annual Meeting : Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<b>20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Preschool–MLK, Jr. Day</li> <li>• 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	<b>21</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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> </ul>
<b>26</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• 12:05PM–1:00PM Annual Meeting Snow Date : Sanctuary</li> </ul>	<b>27</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7:30PM–9:00PM Women's Bible Study : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>	<b>28</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10:00AM–11:00AM Staff Meeting : Church Office</li> <li>• 1:00PM–3:30PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>

**2025**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>01 <i>New Year's Day</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>02</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room</li> <li>6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>03</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>04</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00PM–6:00PM Fellowship Potluck Meal : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:00PM–7:00PM Saturday Worship w/Holy Communion : Fellowship Hall</li> </ul>
<p>08</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li> <li>5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>09</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:15PM Webelo Den Meeting : Fireside Room</li> <li>6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>11</p>
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li> <li>5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room</li> <li>6:30PM–7:15PM Webelo Den Meeting : Fireside Room</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>18</p>
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li> <li>5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5:00PM–5:45PM Epiphany Bells Rehearsal : Sanctuary</li> <li>5:30PM–6:30PM 6th–8th Confirmation : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:00PM Adult Choir Rehearsal : Fireside Room</li> <li>7:00PM–8:00PM High School Youth Group : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00PM–3:00PM Coffee Time on Thursdays : Fellowship Hall</li> <li>6:30PM–7:15PM Webelo Den Meeting : Fireside Room</li> <li>6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Meeting : Youth Room</li> </ul>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</li> </ul>	



Thank you to Susan Williams, Wade & Jennifer Briggs, Jon & Mary Hunter, Karen Kalvig, Karen Giles, and Ron & Bobbi Janke for serving Home Communion in December.

### 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

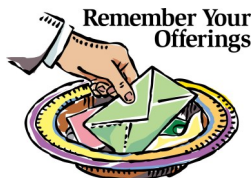
Recent Memorials  
December 2024

**Carol Verhey**  
Family of Carol Verhey  
Mary and Jerry Hutchinson  
Dennis and Nancy Rook  
Marv and Sandy Rhode

**Pastor Jim Christopherson**  
Daryl and Wilma Feige

**Lisa Van Dame**  
Dennis and Nancy Rook

**Adelyne Stearns**  
Doug and Joan Merager



### Financial Response as of 11/30/2024

The year-to-date statistics are:

Your General Fund Offering	\$292,570.31
Expenses	<u>\$358,596.60</u>
Expenses over Offering	(\$ 66,026.29)

### Pastor’s Article Continued

(Continued from page 1)

take risks ... to a dramatically different life. And God calls her into a relationship of profound intimacy with Jesus. And Mary goes through a period of deep pondering, of internal dialogue, wrestling with what this means. The angel assures Mary that it is by the Holy Spirit that these things will happen. Then the Spirit patiently waits for Mary’s consent. And finally, Mary answers God’s call saying, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be with me according to your word.”

I think the thing I most love about Mary’s story is that as followers of Jesus this is our story too! While it may not come with a grand visitation from an angel, God is calling our Trinity family to serve him – to listen, discern, and respond. God is calling us to take risks, challenging us to do things that seem impossible. God is calling us to a dramatically different life, with a completely different set of priorities from what our world and this culture tells us is important. And most importantly, God is calling us into deep, profound, intimate relationship with Jesus. God desperately yearns for each of us to join in the communion between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to dwell in the love that bonds them together. The Spirit is calling us, patiently waiting for us to consent ... waiting to hear us say, “Here are we, the servants of the Lord. Let it be with us according to your word.”

God’s Peace.

*Pastor Steve*

### January Coffee Hour

The January Coffee Hour will be hosted by the Family of Peace. Family Group Leaders, Karen Kalvig and Scott & Beth Delzer, will be contacting you. Your help is always appreciated – Thank you!

FYI – February Coffee Hours will be hosted by the Family of Patience.

### Bethel Lutheran Home Annual Meeting

January 27, 2024 at 7 p.m.  
St. John Lutheran in Madison  
Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

*Happy New Year!*



Trinity Family,  
Wow! 300 GO (Gospel Opportunity) boxes were shipped to Mexico and Hard-to-Reach countries December 12–15 because of your generous donations and the confirmation classes' hard work. Volunteers were plentiful the night we packed and JOY overflowed.

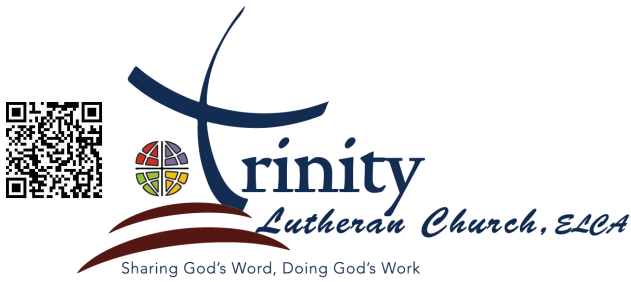
Shipping for all the boxes was covered by Thrivent grants from Doug & Joan Merager and Marv & Sandy Rhode, as well as the generous gift from Nancy Sabbe.

Special thanks also to Brittany Waldman at The Floral Shop for displaying/selling the Giving Trees for donations to the OCC/GO Boxes.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus to spread His Love and gift of salvation.

Thank you,  
Bill & Diane Bruns





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](http://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 January Mission of the Month is undetermined at this time. *Gifts may be designated on offering envelopes/checks to Mission of the Month Fund. The Jingle Change collection on January 12 also supports the Mission of the Month.*

### Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for January is boxed meals (“Helpers” and macaroni & cheese). Diapers and baby wipes are also requested.

### Congregational Information

**Deaths:** Carol Verhey on November 27

**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