



# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 507.331.6579

Address: 530 4th Street NW Faribault, MN 55021

## NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 12

December 2023

### OUR GOD OF HOPE

Near the end of a long bout with cancer, Washington Post columnist Michael Gerson realized that hope for recovery wasn't credible. The year before he died, he wrote a Christmas message from "the antiseptic wonderland of the holiday hospital ward," asking, "What sustains hope when there is scant reason for it?"

The answer, Gerson said, is found in our "God of hope," who became vulnerable, "cloaked in blood and bone and destined for human suffering." Rather than fulfill our deepest earthly wishes, God offers eternal security: "He promises a transformation of the heart in which we release the burden of our desires, and live in expectation of God's unfolding purposes, until all His mercies stand revealed."

may the God of  
**hope**  
fill you with all  
**JOY**  
and  
**Peace**  
as you trust in him.  
Romans 15:13, niv

That hope-filled message echoes Gerson's 2012 Christmas column, written in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook shooting. "The point of Christmas is not a sentimental optimism about the human condition or even a teaching about the will of God," he wrote. "It is an assertion that God came to our rescue, and holds our hand, and becomes, at the worst moments, our brokenhearted brother. It is preposterous, unless it is true. And then it would be everything."

*The NEWSLETTER Newsletter,  
December 2023*



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**For after hour  
emergencies, please  
contact:**

Rev. Hal Rex Longshore

James Boldt  
(LLB Chair)

**SERVING TRINITY & FLS**

- Rev. Hal Rex Longshore,  
Visitation Pastor
- Rev. Gatluk, Reat,  
Sudanese Evang. Lutheran  
Mission Church
- Bill Kirkpatrick,  
Finance Manager
- Nancy Simonson,  
Family Ministry
- Jennifer Kingland,  
Office Manager
- Bill & Mary Jewison,  
Custodians
- Chrysteena Saehler,  
FLS Administrator/Principal
- Jessica Lewis,  
FLS Administrative  
Secretary

**Wednesday, December 6**

5:30 PM - Advent Service  
followed by Hot Dish Supper

**Saturday, December 9**

5:30 PM - Sunday School Christmas Service  
"To Us a Child Is Born"

**Wednesday, December 13**

5:30 PM - Advent Service  
followed by Soup Supper

**Monday, December 18**

9:00 AM - FLS Christmas Service Rehearsal

**Tuesday, December 19**

6:00 PM - FLS Christmas Service

**Wednesday, December 20**

5:30 PM - Advent Service  
followed by Soup Supper

**Saturday, December 23**

5:30 - Lessons & Carols Service

**Sunday, Christmas Eve, December 24**

8:00 AM - Lessons & Carols Service

NO 10:30 SERVICE

4:30 PM - Christmas Eve Family Service

10:00 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Monday, Christmas Day, December 25**

9:00 AM - Christmas Day service with Holy Communion

**Regular Services on December 30 & 31, 2023**

5:30 PM - Saturday Worship

8:00 & 10:30 AM - Regular Sunday Worship Services

**NO NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE**

*Midweek Advent, Christmas Eve Family & Christmas Day services will be broadcast on KDHL  
(920 AM) and live streamed.*

## MONTHLY POTLUCKS

**W**e had a wonderful turnout for the potluck after the 5:30 service on November 11. It was great to honor our veterans.

There will be no potluck in December, but you are welcome to attend "In Bethlehem Inn" performance on Dec. 1 and Dec. 2 at 6:00 p.m. (Tickets must be purchased in advance.)

Potlucks will resume in January to honor another special group of people.



**Pot  
Luck  
Dinner**



**E**very year during Advent, we generally see a sign reading "Merry Xmas!" Some Christians have been offended by the word Xmas. They say the letter X should not be substituted for Christ as though it were a modern insult to our Lord.

However, it really isn't. Xmas has ancient origins. The letter X in Greek — the original language of the New Testament — is the first letter of the word Xristos, which translated into English is the word Christ.

So X is simply an abbreviation for the word Christ. And the letters mas are an abbreviation of the word mass. Therefore, Xmas really means Christ mass or Christ worship.

*The NEWSLETTER Newsletter  
December 2005*

## Daily Bible Readings: December 2023

December 1 – Romans 5, 6, 7, 8

December 2 – Romans 9, 10, 11, 12

December 3 – Romans 13, 14, 15, 16

December 4 – Ephesians 1, 2, 3, 4

December 5 – Ephesians 5, 6; Psalm 119:1-80

December 6 – Philippians 1, 2, 3, 4

December 7 – Colossians 1, 2, 3, 4

December 8 – I Timothy 1, 2, 3, 4

December 9 – I Timothy 5, 6; Titus 1, 2, 3

December 10 – II Timothy 1, 2, 3, 4

December 11 – Philemon; Hebrews 1, 2, 3, 4

December 12 – Hebrews 5, 6, 7, 8

December 13 – Hebrews 9, 10, 11

December 14 – Hebrews 12, 13; Jude

December 15 – James 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

December 16 – I Peter 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

December 17 – II Peter 1, 2, 3; John 1

December 18 – John 2, 3, 4

December 19 – John 5, 6

December 20 – John 7, 8

December 21 – John 9, 10, 11

December 22 – John 12, 13, 14

December 23 – John 15, 16, 17, 18

December 24 – John 19, 20, 21

December 25 – I John 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

December 26 – Psalms 117; 119:81-176;  
II John; III John

December 27 – Revelation 1, 2, 3, 4

December 28 – Revelation 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

December 29 – Revelation 10, 12, 13, 14

December 30 – Revelation 15, 16, 17, 18

December 31 – Revelation 19, 20, 21, 22



## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

**O**n November 5, Sunday School students and their families packed 30 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Thanks to generous donations from the congregation, the cost for shipping and the addition of discipleship materials were covered. When families finished packing, they also received our Advent Family Devotion To Go boxes.

**There will be NO Sunday School on either December 24 or December 31. Sunday school resumes on January 7.**

**The Sunday school students have started** their rehearsals for the Christmas service. The Sunday school Christmas service is December 9 at 5:30 p.m. The service is entitled "To Us a Child is Born" and focuses on Isaiah 9, the promise the Father fulfilled through the birth of His Son that we may become the children of God.



## GRANDPARENTING

**O**n November 13, we viewed Part 2 of "So They Won't Forget," encouraging grandparents to share their stories of faith with their children and grandchildren. We will not be meeting in person during the month of December. We will continue our monthly meetings in January.

*Grandparents  
Are a Gift*



You can watch weekly episodes at [legacycoalition.org](http://legacycoalition.org).

Upcoming sessions include:

### DECEMBER 4, 2023

Teaching Grandkids Christian Finance -  
There's a First Time for Everything  
Darren Key, CFP, CEO, Christian Financial Resources

### DECEMBER 11, 2023

May Those Who Come Behind Us Find Us Faithful  
David Michael, Co-founder and Executive Director of Truth 78

**If you are looking for Christmas activities** to do with your grandchildren, check out the loaning library near the nursery. There are some books with ideas and activities you can try.

## FAMILY MINISTRY NEWS

**T**here are extra Advent To Go boxes to share with families. Pick one up on the information center or contact Nancy Simonson.



**A**re you and your adult child estranged with a stranded relationship? Focus on the Family is offering a video series on reconnecting with your adult children. In this free, 7-part series, "Healing Parent and Adult Child Relationships," viewers unpack the often messy reality of the relationships between parents and their grown children.

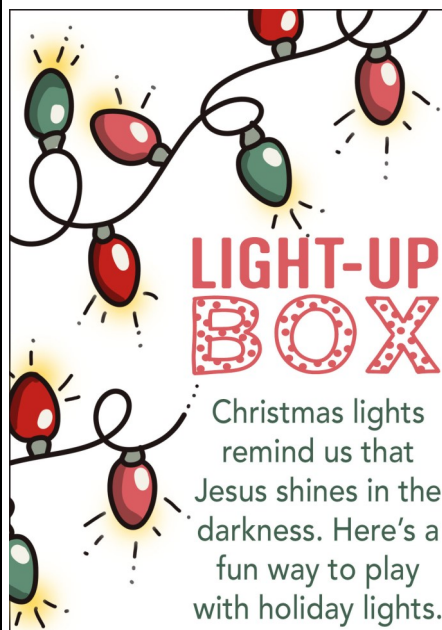
The series will help you ...



1. Understand and overcome barriers and estrangement
2. Set realistic and healthy adult-parenting goals
3. Take the steps needed to find forgiveness

Contact Nancy Simonson for a link.




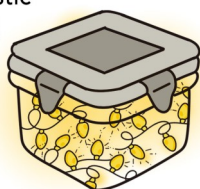


# LIGHT-UP BOX

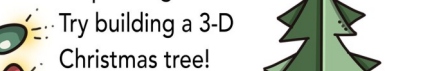
Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

### What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
  - A large clear plastic container and lid
  - Green tissue paper
  - Colorful beads
- 



### What you do:

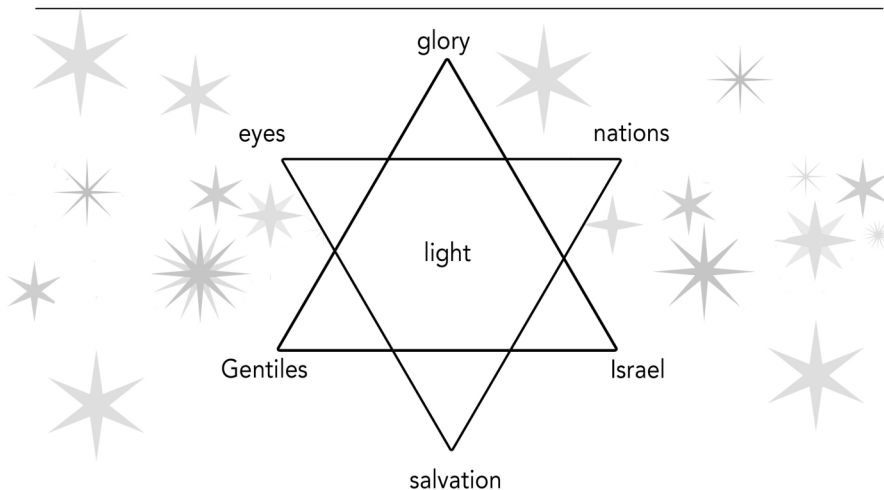
1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
  2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
  3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
    - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
    - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
    - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!
- 
- A green Christmas tree with a yellow star on top, and a yellow star with rays of light, are positioned at the bottom of the page.



# SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

*Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.*



"For my \_\_\_\_\_ have seen your \_\_\_\_\_, which you have prepared  
in the sight of all \_\_\_\_\_: a \_\_\_\_\_ for revelation to the  
\_\_\_\_\_, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of your people \_\_\_\_\_."

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

Answers: eyes, salvation, nations, light, Gentiles, glory, Israel



**Phone: 507-334-7982**

**526 Fourth Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021**

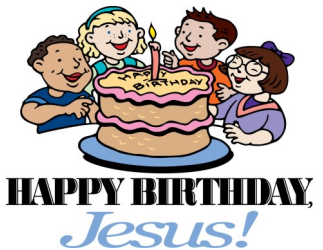
**administrator@flsweb.org**

**Theme 2023-2024:**  
**"CONNECTED"**  
 John 15:1-5



**C**hristmas. This one word holds so much meaning to some and to others it is just another holiday. It is so interesting to sit back and look at how others view Christmas. For example, when you ask a kid what they are looking forward to the most for Christmas many times they will say getting presents. If you ask an adult what they are looking forward to the most, some might say family time or seeing the joy on their kids' faces. And others may have what I refer to as the Grinch spirit, that they couldn't care less if the holiday existed. However, very rarely do you hear people say what they are looking forward to the most is celebrating the birth of Christ.

Christmas is so much more than getting the newest toy, or the hippest clothing, and even spending time with family and friends (again all important), but the most important part of Christmas is celebrating the birth of Christ. My friends and I started a thing in high school that on Christmas we say "Happy Birthday, Jesus." And, since doing that, my mindset for Christmas has changed. If it wasn't for God sending His Son, Christmas would not hold as much meaning.



I have said it many times before, but I absolutely love being at Faribault Lutheran School because we get to teach our students about Christ and the love that He has for all of us. We get to share our faith in what we say and what we do. It is such a gift to be able to be in a place that we can share the true meaning of Christmas.

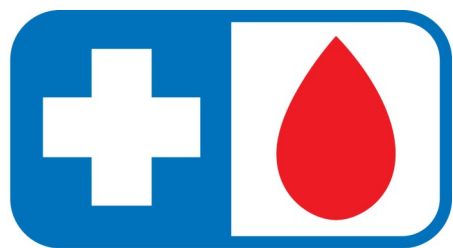
Every five years Faribault Lutheran School goes through an Accreditation process by the NLSA. We had our on-site visit, and I am happy to say that FLS will be receiving our accreditation. The team that visited had many positive points to share with their visit. Our score was a 2.7 out of 3. This is an amazing accomplishment, and it took many people to make it possible. Thank you to all who prayed for this endeavor and helped throughout the process.

December is a month of fun and celebration. FLS has a few things happening this month, please see below:

1. On Friday, December 1, all FLS families will receive Advent Devotions to do with their families at home.
2. Monday, December 4, FLS will be going to the movie theater to see the new musical based on the Nativity story. The movie is called "Journey to Bethlehem." We will get an entire theater to ourselves!
3. Tuesday, December 5, kicks off our 12 Days of Christmas Spirit dress up days to count us down to break.
4. PTO Christmas Extravaganza is going to be on Friday, December 8.
5. Monday, December 18, will be the dress rehearsal of the FLS Christmas service. It will be at 9AM at Trinity. We are encouraging members to come to the dress rehearsal due to the service being crowded on Tuesday evening.
6. Tuesday, December 19, FLS will have their annual Christmas service at Trinity at 6:00PM. This year the students will be remembering Christ's love for us.

Once again, thank you for all of your support for our students, families, and faculty of FLS. We are truly blessed with amazing congregations.

In Christ,  
 Chrysteena Sachler  
 FLS Administrator



**GIVE**  
**Blood**

## GIVE BLOOD—SAVE LIVES

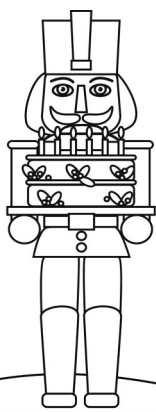
Trinity will host a Blood Drive  
for the American Red Cross on

**Friday, January 5, 2023**  
**11:00am - 5:00pm**

To schedule your appointment call, 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767)

or visit [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: TrinityFaribault.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



**DECEMBER**  
**BIRTHDAYS**

## Happy December Birthday!

**W**e thank God for all of our church family.  
You are invited to remember the birthdays of our Octogenarian and Nonagenarian congregation members. Say a kind word, offer a prayer or send a card!

Joan Moriarity (12/20),  
Mary Ann Sanders (12/30), Ray Sanders (12/30),  
(Ray & Mary Ann - 17701 Glacier Way Apt. 316, Lakeville, MN 55044)  
Marge Wilkowske (12/30)

*Please note that addresses are listed for those members who have moved since the 2020 Picture Directory.*

## NEW MEMBERS OF TRINITY

**N**ew members who were received in 2023 will be welcomed during the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, **December 10**. Please plan to welcome them to Trinity and get to know them at a reception following the service in the Fellowship Hall.

Please note that there will be NO Adult Bible Study on Sunday, December 10.

**May Ann Fulton**  
643 Maple Lawn Ave.  
Faribault, MN 55021

**Roger & Sandra Malm**  
835 Vardon Crt.  
Faribault, MN 55021

**Patrick McGannon**  
621 North Street  
Kenyon, MN 55946



## J.O.Y. (JUST OLDER YOUTH)

♪ I've got the J.O.Y....down in my heart ♪

With Christmastime approaching, to celebrate Jesus' birth,  
With JOY we plan merriment, cheerfulness, and mirth.

**Christmas gathering** in the **Fellowship Hall**,

Again, we're sure to have a ball.

**Tuesday, December 12, at noon**, did you reserve a seat?

**Potluck's** a change for us this year, but **we'll provide the meat**.

**Plates/utensils/etc.**, there is **NO NEED TO BRING**,

But once again we'll set out a plate for a **FREE WILL OFFERING**.

An added feature to give more zest,

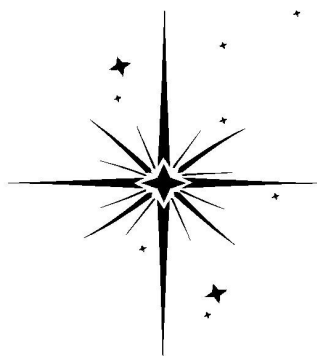
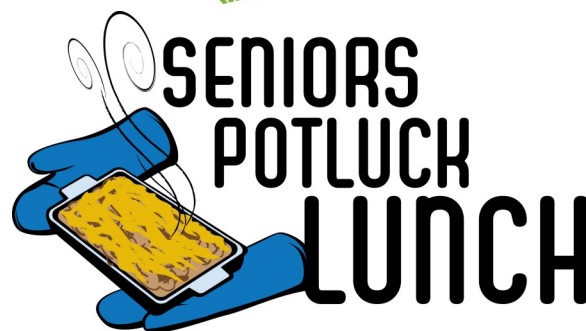
We'll be hosting an ugly sweater contest!!!

Those crazy planners what's more in store?

Bingo, music, prizes; who knows what else for sure?

The **sign up sheet's** on the **Welcome Center**;

Your name on it will allow you to enter.



## PERFECT AS IS

**W**ho can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.

—Corrie ten Boom

## DINNER THEATRE PRODUCTION OF "IN BETHLEHEM INN"



**O**n Friday, December 1, and Saturday, December 2, at 6:00 p.m., the Fellowship Hall will be transformed into the Bethlehem Inn. As a guest at the busy Bethlehem Inn, you are invited by the innkeeper and his family to join them for dinner. Many interruptions take place during the meal, and guests become first-hand observers of the events that occurred on the night Christ was born more than 2,000 years ago. Be prepared for many unusual happenings and to laugh and cry as the characters recreate the night Mary and Joseph were turned away from the Inn. A special surprise concludes the evening, and the miracle of Christmas is experienced by all.

Tickets are \$15 and are available through the church office.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study 6:00 Bethlehem Inn Dinner Theatre	<b>2</b> 8:00 Hanging of the Greens 4:30 Worship 6:00 Bethlehem Inn Dinner Theatre
<b>3</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Parents' Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School - Christmas Rehearsal (Music Room) 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c  <u>First Sunday in Advent</u>	<b>4</b> 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6-7:15 Basketball Practice	<b>5</b> 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 2-2:50 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin Lessons (Music R) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 5-8:00 FLS Uses School Kitchen	<b>6</b> 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 2:30 New Perspective -c 4:00 Pleasant View Estates -c 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service 6:30 Supper 7:00 Choir 7:00 Connection	<b>7</b> 10:30 Women In Mission Christmas Party (Family Restaurant) 11:30 Prayer Group 5:45-7:30 AHG Troop Mtg.	<b>8</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	<b>9</b> 11-3:00 Family Christmas Party (Fellowship H) 5:30 Sunday School Christmas Service
<b>10</b> 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Reception for New Members 9:15 Parents' Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School - 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6-7:15 Basketball Practice 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg. 6:30 Congregational Forum (Sanctuary) 7:00 Trumps' Bible Study (off site)	<b>12</b> 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 12-3:00 JOY Group (Fellowship Hall) 2:45-4:30 Violin Lessons (Music R) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 LLB Mtg.	<b>13</b> 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Mill City -c 4:00 Emeralds -c 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service 6:30 Supper 6:30 Handbells 7:00 Choir 7:00 Connection	<b>14</b> 11:30 Prayer Group 2:00 Human Care 5:45-7:30 AHG Christmas Party 6:30 FLS Brd. Mtg. (Peace)	<b>15</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	<b>16</b> 12-6:00 Sudanese Event (Gym) 5:30 Worship 7-9:00 Youth Christmas Party (Fellowship H, Church Kitchen, Youth Room)
<b>17</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Parents' Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c	<b>18</b> 9:00 FLS Christmas Service Rehearsal 6-7:15 Basketball Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV	<b>19</b> 8:30 Staff Mtg. 9:00 Bible Study 2-2:50 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin Lessons (Music R) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:00 FLS Christmas Service 6:30 Elders' Mtg.	<b>20</b> 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Milestone -c 3:30 Faribault Senior Living -c 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Advent Service 6:30 Supper 7:00 Choir 7:00 Connection  <u>FLS Noon Dismissal</u>	<b>21</b> 11:30 Prayer Group	<b>22</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study  <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	<b>23</b> 5:30 Lessons & Carols   Lessons and Carols
<b>24</b> 8:00 Lessons & Carols 4:30 Christmas Eve Family Service 10:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	<b>25</b> 9:00 Christmas Day Service -c  CHRISTMAS DAY <u>Church Office Closed</u>	<b>26</b> 8:30 Staff Mtg. 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 Property Mtg.	<b>27</b> 6:00 Connection 7:00 Choir	<b>28</b> 11:30 Prayer Group	<b>29</b> 8:00 Men's Bible Study	<b>30</b> 5:30 Worship -c
<b>31</b> 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Parents' Bible Study 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Worship -c	<div>2023</div>					

## LAY LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - NOVEMBER 2023

**Trinity Lutheran Church  
Lay Leadership Board Minutes  
6:30 PM, Thursday, November 16, 2023**

Attendance: Jim Boldt (Chairman), Mitch Miller, Penny Reichert, Deb Malmanger, Barb Beatty, Jeff Blume  
Guest: Pastor Wismar (Executive Assistant to the District President), Steve Denninger, Curt Becher, Wayne Meyer, Brad Twedt, (Elders) and Bill Kirkpatrick (Finance Manager)

Opening prayer led by Pastor Wismar

1. Meeting with Pastor Wismar and Trinity Elders

- a. Jim provided background of the current Pastor vacancy and continued challenges of scheduling guest Pastors
- b. Pastor Wismar provided information regarding the roles of Vacancy Pastor and Intentional Interim Pastor
- c. Various questions were addressed regarding how an Intentional Interim Pastor might best serve Trinity
- d. Pastor Wismar offered to visit the congregation for a forum

2. Regular monthly LLB meeting resumed

- a. Deb motioned to proceed to interview interim candidates, motion was seconded by Barb
- b. This will stop the call process for approximately 18 months.
- c. Jim will work to confirm the forum for Monday, Dec. 11

3. Deb motioned to accept the slate for 2024 nominations, seconded by Jeff, slate as follows passed

- a. Second term for Penny Reichert, Mitch Miller, Barb Beatty
- b. Carol Vikla Second Century Trust
- c. FLS second term Angie Swanson, Anna Meyer

4. LLB Member Steve Mullenex has stepped down from the LLB due to his work schedule, LLB working to appoint replacement

5. 2024 Budget – Bill K.

- a. Mitch motioned to pass the proposed 2024 budget of \$720,160, seconded by Barb, motion carried

6. Calendar items

- a. Annual voter's meeting Nov. 27 at 6:30pm
- b. Forum Dec. 11 at 6:30pm
- c. LLB meeting Dec. 12 at 6:30pm

7. Meeting adjourned by Deb

8. Closing prayer led by Jim

Respectfully submitted,  
Penny Reichert  
LLB Secretary



## **UPDATE ON INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING TRINITY, PEACE, FLS & PEACE PRESCHOOL**

The following resolution was passed by both Trinity and Peace congregations in June. Following that meeting a committee was formed of leaders from both congregations to create mission and vision statements. Those statements were also approved by both congregations



at October and November meetings. Copies of those statements and interview summaries are available at the information center in the Narthex.

The next step will be, over the coming months, to form committees to look at logistics of such a merger.

### **To Officially Begin to Investigate Becoming One Congregation with One School and One Licensed Childcare Center in Faribault Minnesota.**

1. *Whereas*, The call of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19-20 is to go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and
2. *Whereas*, There was a time when two congregations in the community of Faribault were needed to best carryout the call of Jesus to make disciples; and
3. *Whereas*, Peace and Trinity made the decision to join their schools together and operate an association school for the sake of maintaining an effective school ministry; and
4. *Whereas*, The financial cost and human effort to maintain our current institutions of Peace, Trinity, FLS and Peace childcare center has not decreased at the same rate as the amount of people that are being served by these institutions, and
5. *Whereas*, It was considered wise in the past to separate for the sake of the mission of making disciples, it is also wise to consider joining back together into one congregation, one school and one child care center for the sake of the mission of Christ of making disciples; and
6. *Whereas*, On May 1, 2023 at the joint meeting of the two congregations in an unofficial and nonbinding poll of the group who was present answered 115 yes, 11 maybe or undecided, and 6 no to the question of considering joining the two congregations, school and child care center into one entity, and
7. *Whereas*, Leaders from both congregations who are named here, James Boldt, Barb Beatty, Jeffrey Blume, Deb Malmanger, Mitch Miller, Steve Mullenex, Penny Reichert, Edward Westad, Scott Arendt, Matthew Drevlow, Robert Jasmer, Dean Wegner, Jeremy Banks have met together and agreed that it is a wise plan to investigate moving forward with combining Peace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church and Faribault Lutheran School and Peace Lutheran Child Care center into one church and school and one licensed child care center, therefore be it

*Continued on reverse side (pg. 12)...*

1. *Resolved*, That the congregations of Peace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church officially begin to investigate options of becoming one church and school and one licensed childcare center; and be it further
2. *Resolved*, That a committee made up of both Peace and Trinity members along with all called pastors of both congregations, FLS administrator, Peace Lutheran child care center director join together to formulate a purposed mission and vision statement for the purposed single congregation and school and licensed child care center; and be it further
3. *Resolved*, That this mission and vision statement is presented to both Peace and Trinity voter assemblies by no later than November 13, 2023 to be voted on as an agreed upon mission and vision for the future purposed single congregation, school, and childcare center; and be it further
4. *Resolved*, That upon passage of the mission and vision statement of the proposed single ministry of one congregation, school and licensed child care center, that a committee made up of both Peace and Trinity members along with all called pastors of both congregations, FLS administrator, Peace Lutheran child care center director would investigate and formulate a plan of action on becoming one congregation and school and one license child care center in order to carry out the mission and vision which had been previous approved by both congregations; and be it further
5. *Resolved*, That the proposed plan is presented to the congregations in a joint meeting no later than 18 months after the mission and vision had been approved by both Peace and Trinity Lutheran churches; and be it
6. *Resolved*, That both congregations in congregational voter assembly meetings are presented with the plan that seeks to carry out the agreed upon mission and vision of a new single congregation, school and child care center to be voted upon Peace and Trinity, and be it finally
7. *Resolved*, upon passage of the proposed plan the congregations would begin to take the appropriate steps to begin to implement the plan.

**Mission Statement**

Receiving Christ in Word and Sacrament to walk together to teach and share all that Christ has commanded as we love and serve our neighbors.

**Vision Statement**

To be a Christ preaching and teaching body in our community for lifelong Christian education to equip people to love, serve, and connect other people to Jesus.



## OCTOBER PASTORS' REPORT

Each month a Pastoral Report is prepared in the Church Office. Classes, meetings, appointments, worship services, visitations and communions are tracked and reported by each pastor. In each month's newsletter we will be including the most recent form on file (October 2023).

	Home Visits	Hospital or Jail	Office Visits	Pro-spect Calls	Shut Ins/ Others Com-muned Privately	Shut Ins/ Others Visited- No Communion	NH Worship Attended	NH Worship Com-muned	Worship Services	Classes Taught	Mtgs. Attend
Vacancy/ Guest Pastors	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	16/1*	10	0
Lay Members	0	0	0	0	9	0	48	35	6	3	~

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Confirmed: 0

Released/Removed: Lee Engquist

Transfers Out: Kevin & Sheila Kreger

Transfer In: 0

Profession of Faith/Affirmation of Baptism: 0

Deaths/Funerals: 0

**Notes:** Pastors - 14 weekend worship services, Reformation service, & William Schultz' memorial service, \*Wrote Sermon for nursing homes  
Pastors - 5 Sunday morning Bible Studies, Lane - 3 Confirmation Classes

Klein - 2 Adult New member classes; Jim Boldt and Curt Becher - 6 nursing home services,  
Becher - 3 Confirmation classes

### Official Acts:



### **Rev. Gatluk Reat October Report:**

*Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran*

*Mission Church*

### **Worship Attendance**

Week 1 – 30; Week 2 – 20; Week 3 - 30;  
Week 4 - 18

Worship Services conducted in  
Nuer & English in person and online.

## A PRAYER

**W**ith eagerness we approach You, O God. We join with all who love and serve You. We offer ourselves to be Your people, ready to let Your light shine upon us and through us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

*Special thanks to our Elders and to Jim Boldt for visiting our sick and shut-ins and for leading the monthly Nursing Home services.  
Your dedication and kindness are very much appreciated!*



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING



Join us for the Hanging of the Greens  
on Saturday, December 2,  
beginning at 8:00 a.m.!

*Many hands make light work! Join the decorating party  
and prepare the church for the Christmas season.*

**Stewardship . . . Stewardship . . . Stewardship . . . Stewardship . . .**

**From Your Financial Manager . . .**

**YOU CAN SUPPLEMENT YOUR GIVING THIS YEAR THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

**W**e may be able to make it in the black financially this year (see my recent article in the newsletter), but we are kind of on the edge.

One way you may be able to help with this, if you have a Thrivent account, is to make sure you are up-to-date on donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Trinity. Last year in 2022, we received \$3,068 in Thrivent funds. So far this year, we have only received about \$2,098, substantially less than the 2022 amount. Thrivent Dollars are a significant part of our annual income. Please consider helping us in this area if you can.

In order for us to get the maximum Choice Dollars before the end of the year, you will have to do the transfer right away in the next two weeks. Then, in order to count all of the last available 2023 dollars, you will have to do a transfer again before March 31 which cleans up the balance of the 2023 dollars and sends them in 2024. A lot of messing around? Yes, but it's worth it for you and for Trinity.

The way you do this is easy. It can be done either through the Thrivent web page at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or by phone:

**By Website:**

- 1.) Go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com); Log In using your User Name and Password
- 2.) Click on Membership Overview
- 3.) Click on Choice Dollars; then Direct Choice Dollars
- 4.) Confirm amount and charity you want it to go

**By Phone**

- 1.) Just call Thrivent Financial at 1-800-THRIVEN (1-800-847-4836)
- 2.) When the automated voice comes on, just say the words "Choice Dollars."
- 3.) It will then ask for your phone number associated with your account and will then send you to an actual live person who can help you.
- 4.) That person will look up your account and will tell you the total number of Choice Dollars you can distribute.
- 5.) You can then just specify that your Choice Dollars should go to Trinity Lutheran Church of Faribault and/or any other qualified organizations you may want to support.

Call your Thrivent representative or Bill Kirkpatrick if you need any help.

*Bill Kirkpatrick*



**WORDS OF WISDOM**

"The happiest people don't have the best of everything, they just make the best of everything."

—Unknown

**MEMORIALS**

*Each gift has been recorded in the Trinity Lutheran Church Memorial Book located in the Church Office. We invite you to stop by the office and note the special donations given in love and remembrance. All gifts to Trinity Radio Club are recorded, then acknowledged by the Radio Club during their Sunday broadcasts.*

\$7,500.00 to Trinity Lutheran Church

Given To the Glory of God on the occasion of this Thanksgiving Day,  
and in loving memory of Betty Gudknecht, by Duane Gudknecht and family.

## THE MEASURE OF OUR GENEROSITY

If you open up the Small Catechism, you'll find a shortened version of the Third Commandment: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." But if you look up the list of the Ten Commandments in Exodus, you'll find the full version:

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.  
(Ex. 20:8–11)

Why did Luther shorten this commandment for the Small Catechism? Was it so that the kids wouldn't have so much to memorize? No, it was because Luther knew that all the details of the Third Commandment were part of the "shadow" of the Old Testament (Col. 2:16). Or as St. Paul puts it, there is "letter" in the Old Testament law and "spirit" (2 Cor. 3:6). The details of not working on Saturday were fulfilled by Christ. That part of the Sabbath regulation no longer applies. But the spirit of the law does remain: We need to dedicate sufficient time each week to hearing God's Word and giving it honor and respect. Or as Luther sums it up in the Small Catechism's explanation to the Third Commandment: "We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

The same sort of analysis applies to our giving. In the Old Testament, God commanded the Israelites to give a tenth of their income to the Levites so that those men could dedicate their lives to serving in God's house, teaching the people, conducting worship, etc.

In the New Testament, there is a rigid requirement listed about handing in your tax forms to church to make sure you've given enough. But the mandate to have a full-time ministry, which is the spirit of that law concerning tithing to the Levites, is right there in 1 Corinthians 9:14: "The Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living from the Gospel."

The New Testament church's job is significantly larger than the job of Old Testament Israel. We are commanded to preach the Gospel to all nations. There was only the temple to maintain in the Old Testament, but we have churches, schools, universities and seminaries, plus missionaries everywhere. So you tell me: Can we really undertake the work of the ministry if our giving doesn't even measure up to Old Testament levels of generosity?

*The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
LCMS Stewardship Ministry — [lcms.org/stewardship](http://lcms.org/stewardship)  
Newsletter Article — December 2023  
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## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



530 4th Street NW  
Faribault, MN 55021  
Phone: 507-331-6579  
Fax: 507-331-0986  
School: 507-334-7982  
[www.trinityfaribault.org](http://www.trinityfaribault.org)

Weekly Service Schedule - Saturday, 5:30pm  
Sunday, 8:00am and 10:30am  
Radio Broadcast: KDHL (AM 920)- Sunday, 8:00am  
Consolidated Communications TV channel 10  
& Charter/Spectrum channel 181,  
Monday &/or Tuesday, 3:30pm

### WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.TRINITYFARIBAULT.ORG](http://WWW.TRINITYFARIBAULT.ORG)  
8:00 & 10:30am services live streamed

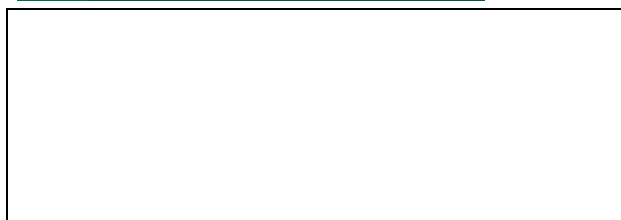
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APPS FOR APPLE / ANDROID AVAILABLE

- OUR MISSION -  
CONNECT, GROW, GO

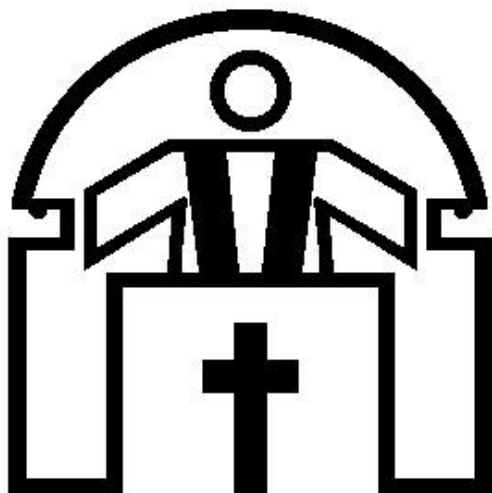


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## CALL PROCESS UPDATE



**O**n November 16 the Lay Leadership Board and Elders met with a representative from the Minnesota South District to discuss various Call options that may best serve Trinity. After further discussion and consideration, the LLB voted unanimously to move forward by calling an Intentional Interim Pastor.

The Call Committee will meet within the next few weeks to review and interview candidates. This will stop the Call process for approximately 18 months.

The representative from the District graciously offered to visit with the congregation for a forum scheduled for Monday, December 11, at 6:30 p.m.