



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Phone: 507.331.6579

Address: 530 4th Street NW Faribault, MN 55021

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25, ISSUE 2

February 2025

FEBRUARY PASTOR'S CORNER...

The month of February is soon upon us. It is the middle of winter here in Minnesota. How will you spend your time this month? Many people will watch the weather to decide if it is worth going outdoors. Others will watch the weather to make sure they are adequately dressed to enjoy the outdoors. Each person who lives here cherishes the winter months for what they bring to life, or they focus on the added burdens winter makes them endure.

The only time I could sit in the house growing up was if we were in a blizzard. Otherwise, my mom would send us out to the city park to go skating, sliding, fort building, or having a snowball fight to burn off energy. We didn't have a snowblower, so anytime it snowed we cleared the driveway as a family while dad cleared the heavy stuff from the plow. I have great memories, as I hope you do.

In high school I joined the cross-country ski team. Sure, I remember those cold practice days skiing with the team endlessly around the football practice field until dark. I also remember riding the school bus to competitions with other schools. It was good to be outdoors and enjoying what Minnesota life had to offer.

My wife tends a bird feeder in our yard. One of my favorite visitors is the chickadee, a charming little bird, perfect for representing February because it thrives in winter. These birds don't flee Minnesota like other birds



to warmer places. Chickadees keep busy searching for food and holding down their home turf, reminding us that life keeps on going even when the weather outside isn't that inviting.

But what makes chickadees even more fascinating is their social nature. They're super friendly, sticking together in groups to make it through winter. Their cheerful chirps and quick movements give us a boost, making us think of spring and fresh starts even in the depths of winter. Across different cultures, the chickadee and other birds are symbols of hope and hanging in there.¹

Christ calls us to hang in there too. Each day that we live in this world is one day closer to our final victory in Christ. How will you sing the praises of God? For, He has provided all that you need for body and soul.

Let us be like the lowly chickadee inviting others to the bird feeder feast. The song of a chickadee is so easy to mimic, even a child can recognize the familiar Dee, Dee, Dee or Fee Bee, across the yard. We have an even greater feast to proclaim. Christ has risen and brings new life to all who

believe on His name. Let us continue to proclaim this message to all that we meet. Look past what the world looks like today for greater days are ahead in Christ.

Pastor Gueldner

¹<https://www.farmersalmanac.com/>
Retrieved on January 27, 2025 at 5:55 am.

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SERVING TRINITY & FLS

- Rev. Peter Gueldner,
Intentional Interim
Pastor
- 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
- Alexia Cates,
FLS Administrative
Secretary

FROM YOUR LLB CHAIR...

I was elected chair of the Lay Leadership Board for 2025. As chairman, I will be writing a short note for the newsletter each month to provide more information to the congregation about different topics or issues discussed at the monthly board meeting.

This month, I would like to address the rental properties. There was some discussion about the rental rates and occupancy at the last voters' meeting. The Property Board recently painted the houses, installed several new windows and a new furnace.

After the updates, the LLB requested the Property Board evaluate the rental rates for each house. The Property Board meeting is scheduled for late January. I am expecting the rates to be far below the rate for

similar properties in Faribault.

Once the recommendation is made to the LLB, the board will incrementally raise the rate each January until it is at market rate. The additional income will be used to maintain the properties and support the general fund of the church.

If you have a topic for me to write about or a comment, please contact the church office.

Mitch, LLB Chair



Bible in a Year—February

- Feb. 1 – Read Exodus 30, 31, 32; Acts 8
- Feb. 2 – Exodus 33, 34; Psalm 16; Acts 9
- Feb. 3 – Exodus 35, 36; Acts 10
- Feb. 4 – Exodus 37, 38; Palm 19; Acts 11
- Feb. 5 – Exodus 39, 40; Psalm 15; Acts 12
- Feb. 6 – Lev. 1, 2, 3; Acts 13
- Feb. 7 – Lev. 4, 5, 6; Acts 14
- Feb. 8 – Lev. 7, 8, 9; Acts 15
- Feb. 9 – Lev. 10, 11, 12; Acts 16
- Feb. 10 – Lev. 13, 14; Acts 17
- Feb. 11 – Lev. 15, 16, 17; Acts 18
- Feb. 12 – Lev. 18, 19; Psalm 13; Acts 19
- Feb. 13 – Lev. 20, 21, 22; Acts 20
- Feb. 14 – Lev. 23, 24; Psalm 24; Acts 21
- Feb. 15 – Lev. 25; Psalm 25, 26; Acts 22
- Feb. 16 – Lev. 26, 27; Acts 23
- Feb. 17 – Num. 1, 2; Acts 24

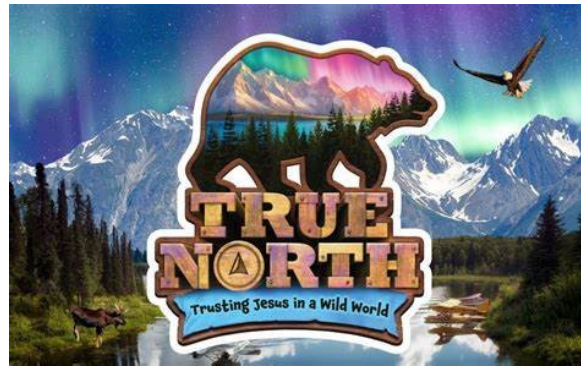
- Feb. 18 – Num. 3, 4; Acts 25
- Feb. 19 – Num. 5, 6; Psalm 22, Acts 26
- Feb. 20 – Num. 7; Psalm 23; Acts 27
- Feb. 21 – Num. 8, 9, 10; Acts 28
- Feb. 22 – Num. 11, 12; Psalm 27; Mark 1
- Feb. 23 – Num. 13, 14; Psalm 90; Mark 2
- Feb. 24 – Num. 15, 16, 17; Mark 3
- Feb. 25 – Num. 18, 19; Psalm 29; Mark 4
- Feb. 26 – Num. 20; 21; Psalm 28; Mark 5
- Feb. 27 – Num. 22, 23, 24; Mark 6
- Feb. 28 – Num. 25, 26; Mark 7



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School children have decided to send support to the wildfires in California, and purchase bed nets and supplies for health care for people overseas.

The students will be singing in the 10:30 service on February 9.



2025 VBS, True North, is being tentatively planned for August 3-7. Preparations are beginning for this exciting event!

Contact Nancy Simonson if you are interested in helping with the planning stage.

FAMILY MINISTRY

NerfTime



A NerfTime is scheduled for February 23 with younger children enjoying Nerf activities from 2:00-3:30 p.m. and youth participating in games from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Family Date Night

A special date night is being planned for Saturday, February 8. Couples/ Parents can enjoy a date without kids! We will babysit your kids (ages 3 and up) any time between 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the gym while you enjoy some time together. Please let Nancy Simonson know if you are planning to drop off your children.



Valentine Family Event



On February 9 during the Sunday school hour, parents and children are invited for a special Valentine event. Families will be making placemats for the Senior Center and Valentines to be delivered to nursing homes, etc. Other games and activities are being planned.

GRANDPARENTING

The Grandparenting meeting for January was canceled due to the cold. Our next meeting will be on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the music room.

Grand Mondays are continuing on Zoom each Monday night at 7 p.m. through the Legacycoalition.com. Various speakers talk about the special role grandparents have in encouraging the growth of their grandchildren's faith. Here are the topics in February:



FEBRUARY 3, 2025

Bridge the Generations - Leaving a Legacy Through Your Testimony

MaryAnn Mariani, Coach, Author

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

So God Made a Grandma - Celebrating an Enduring Legacy of Faith, Love, and Family

Leslie Means, Founder & Owner of Her View From Home

FAITH LEGACY

On February 23 at 9:30-10:15 in the nursery, families of two-year-olds are invited to learn how to start "God Talk" in their homes. Picture Bibles will be given to families to read with their children. A blessing event will be held in a church service for the parents to present the Picture Bible to their child and bless them. An invitation will be sent. Contact Nancy Simonson for more information.



Phone: 507-334-7982
 526 Fourth Street NW, Faribault, MN 55021
 administrator@flsweb.org

Theme 2024-2025:
“ENDURE”
 Hebrews 12:1-3

February, while a short month, can sometimes feel like the longest month of the year! We just finished up National Lutheran Schools’ Week and our big Souper Bowl event, and have another fun month ahead. While not many activities are happening in February, we are spending our time preparing for the numerous amount of activities and programs that are coming up in the spring.

Our biggest thing to look forward to in the month of February is Pre-K Night and our Open House. That will take place on February 11, from 5:00-6:30 p.m. This is also the same night that registration opens up for the 2025-2026 school year. All of our registration is fully online so that our current families can easily register from the comfort of their home.



If you know of an incoming Kindergartener or a family that is wanting to switch schools, please direct them to FLS on this night. I would love to talk to potential new families and show them the wonderful things that are happening at FLS.

Along with registration night, PTO will be hosting their annual GLOW Dance on Friday, February 21. This is one of the most well-attended PTO activities. Students K-8 will be able to walk into the gym to not only dance, but buy glow items, and even get their faces painted!

As we look forward to the spring activities, it is only a matter of time until we blink and the summer vacation will be here.

In Christ,

Chrysteena Saehler
 FLS Principal



Calendar Change:

FLS Chapel Service will be held on THURSDAY, February 6 (not Wednesday the 5th) at 8:30 a.m.

 a lovely
aroma

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.



What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)



What you do:

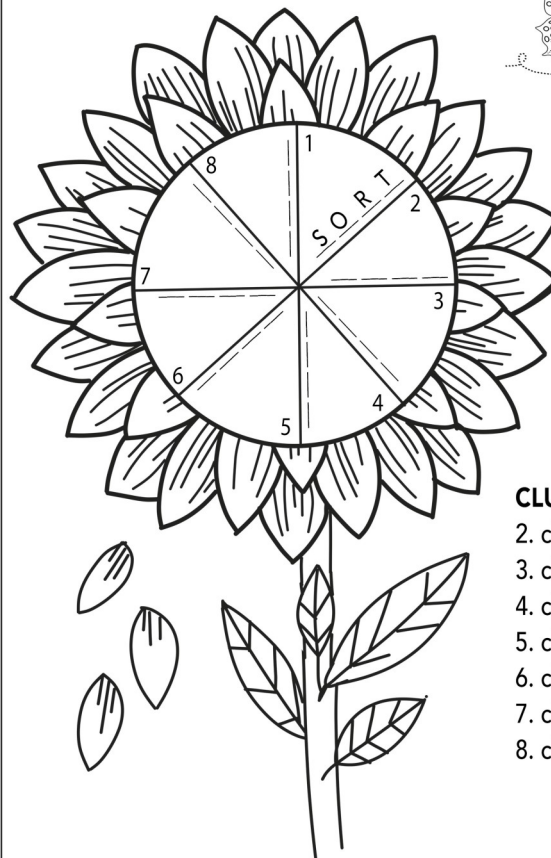
1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.



THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.



We _____
because [God] first
_____d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, gold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

BLOOD DRIVE

Trinity Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, March 11, 2025
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

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

or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org and enter:
TrinityFaribault.




Women of Trinity Church are invited to an LWML prayer service Tuesday, February 18, 1:30 p.m., at Peace Lutheran Church.

**YOU CAN SAVE LIVES BY DONATING BLOOD.
PLEASE SIGN UP TODAY!**

JUST OLDER YOUTH (J.O.Y.)

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

It's been a while since we've been out to eat,

So to **Faribault Family Restaurant** we will meet.

Tuesday @ 11, February 18, that's the date,

Delectable food will pass over our palate.

Meet at their location, it's easier that way,

Off Hwy. 21, the Speedway gas building, by the freeway.

Sign up at the Welcome Center so your place is secure;

It's helpful for them to know how many, for sure.

So come one and all, support this Faribault spot,

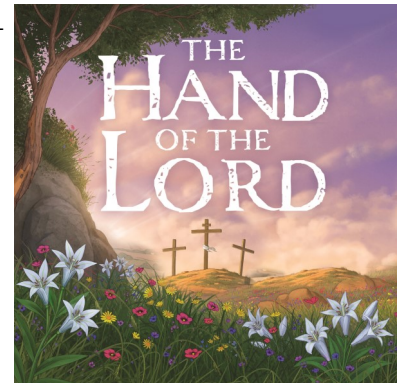
Who knows what fun we'll have (I'm guessing quite a lot).

A special invitation from the Board of Elders for our Trinity Family to take part in this year's Lenten Services.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 5, Pastor Gueldner will begin a sermon series entitled "The Hand of the Lord." Learn how His Hands were here from creation until His hands were nailed to the cross when He died for our sins.

Please join us for the suppers at the end of each service during the Lenten Season. Please come and let us all put "our Hands" together in worship and praise.

Thank you, the Elders



NEWSLETTER ASSEMBLERS NEEDED!

Newsletter Assemblers are needed on Friday, February 21, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Please come help us assemble, fold, and tape newsletters.

Your help is essential!

Special Note: The deadline for March Newsletter articles is one week early—deadline is **Friday, February 14!** Please submit your articles promptly. Thank you



February 21
1:00 p.m.
(Fellowship Hall)

February 14
(Early deadline!)



SUPPORT THE WILDFIRE RESPONSE WITH YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The prophet Isaiah writes: “But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob, He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior’” (Isaiah 43:1–3a).

Even in the midst of disaster, the Lord remains with His people.

The wildfires in Los Angeles County, California, continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding our Synod’s response. I am in regular contact with PSD President Rev. Mike Gibson. LCMS Disaster Response Director Rev. Dr. Ross Johnson has been on the ground in Los Angeles, and the PSD and the congregations there are providing aid for critical needs. Many LCMS people have lost their homes, including long-time elderly residents.

As long as it takes, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations in this response. Our shared response includes the entire Synod’s prayers, along with spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations. In addition, we are here to offer practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice and material support in the form of supplies, recovery grants and volunteer coordination.

If you are able financially to support the church’s response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:



The LCMS Disaster Response—Strategic Use fund. Visit lcms.org/give/disaster or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206).” This fund allows our Synod to continue its care and support, as the demands warrant, of those still suffering in North Carolina and other parts of the Southeast as well as those affected by the wildfires in California.

The LCMS Wildfire Relief (only) fund. Your gift will only be utilized to help those impacted by wildfires. Visit lcms.org/disaster and select the “Disaster Response — Wildfires” option in the “Giving opportunities” or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write “Wildfire Relief Only.”

For answers to questions or help with other donation options, please contact LCMS Mission Advancement by calling [800-930-4438](tel:800-930-4438) or emailing mission.advancement@lcms.org.

Special note: The LCMS encourages individuals, groups and congregations located within California, including the Pacific Southwest District and the California-Nevada-Hawaii District, to donate through the PSD website or district office to help your closest neighbors.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

P.S. In this fallen world, as the whole creation groans for the day of our Lord’s return (Rom. 8:22), disasters are inevitable. But the Holy One of Israel, our Savior, is with us in the fire and the flood. As I’m sure you have been, continue to pray for all who suffer in the ashes and all who endeavor to help.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 9-3:30 AHG Faith Retreat (Gym, MR, Library) 10:30 Funeral & Lunch 5:30 Worship
2 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c 11:30-1:30 Potluck (Gym) 11:30 New Mbr. Class 12:00 Sudanese Service & Meal 1:30 Bible Bowl <u>Scout Sunday</u>	3 3-5:30 FLS Basketball Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study	4 8:30 Staff Mtg. 1:00 Worship Planning Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin (MR) 3-5:30 FLS Basketball Practice 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 4:30-5:15 LEGO Club (Fellowship H) 6:30 LLB Mtg.	5 9:00 Quilting 2:30 New Perspective -c 4:00 Pleasant View Estates -c 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Handbells 6:00 Connection (Schafer's) 7:00 Choir	6 8:30 FLS Chapel 10:00 Prayer Gr. (Marilyn Steele's) 3-4:10 FLS Choir (MR) 3:30-8:00 FLS Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:45-7:30 AHG Troop (FH, N, Gym) 7:00 Dartball (Good Shepherd, Owatonna) <u>Pastor Out of Office</u>	7 8:00-12:00 FLS Parent-Teacher Conferences 8:00 Men's Bible Study <u>FLS No School</u>	8 8-12:00 FLS Basketball (Gym) 12-5:00 Birthday Party (Fellowship Hall) 5:30 Worship -c 5:30-8 Date Night (Gym)
9 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Family Valentine Event 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection Service—Sunday School Sings 11:30 New Mbr. Class 1:30 Bible Bowl	10 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Trumps' Bible Study (<i>off site</i>)	11 8:30 Staff Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 5-6:30 FLS Pre-K/ Open House/ Kindergarten Roundup (Gym) Best Practices (Phoenix, AZ)	12 8:30 FLS Chapel 9:00 Quilting 1:00 Mill City -c 4:00 Emeralds -c 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Connection 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	13 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 2:00 Human Care 3-4:10 FLS Choir (MR) 6:00 FLS Brd. Mtg. (Trinity) 6:30 AHG Leaders' Mtg. <u>WINKEL (Good Shepherd, Owatonna)</u>	14 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:50-10:20 Tone  <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	15 8-12:00 FLS Mini Cheer (Gym) 5:30 Worship Service 6:30 Game Night (Fellowship Hall)
16 8:00 Worship 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection -c 11:30 New Mbr. Class 1:00 Consolidation Mtg. (Trinity) 1:30 Bible Bowl 4-9:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved for Lively #5 Neighborhood Group	17 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Grandparenting Night (Music Room) <u>FLS—No School</u> <u>President's Day</u>	18 8:30 Staff Mtg. 1:30 LWML Prayer Service (Peace) 11:00 JOY (<i>off site</i>) 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin (MR) 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 4:30-5:15 LEGO Club (Fellowship H) 6:30 Elders' Mtg.	19 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Quilting 10:00 Milestone -c 3:30 Faribault Senior Living -c 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Connection (Schafer's) 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	20 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 3-4:10 FLS Choir (MR) 5:45-7:30 AHG Troop (FH, N, Gym)	21 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:50-10:20 Tone Chimes 1:00 Newsletters Assembled (Fellowship Hall) <u>FLS PTO Glow Dance (Gym)</u>	22 5:30 Worship Service -c
23 8:00 Worship -c 9:15 Adult Bible Study 9:15 Sunday School 9:15 Faith Legacy Class 9:20 Youth Bible Study 10:30 Connection 11:30 New Mbr. Class 1:30 Bible Bowl 2-5:00 Nerf Party (Gym)	24 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 6:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Trumps' Bible Study (<i>off site</i>)	25 8:30 Staff Mtg. 2-2:45 FLS (FH) 2:45-4:30 Violin (MR) 3:30 Sunday Worship on TV 4:15 Community Cathedral Café 6:30 Property Brd	26 8:30 Chapel 9:00 Quilting 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 Connection 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Choir	27 10:00 Prayer Group (Marilyn Steele's) 3-4:10 FLS Choir (MR)	28 8:00 Men's Bible Study 9:50-10:20 Tone Chimes	

DECEMBER 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 (December 2024).

	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
Interim Pastor	0	0	~	0	0	0	45	37	23	4	13
Guest/Visitation Pastors	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	~
Lay Members	0	0	0	0	17	0	~	~	7	0	~

Baptisms: 1 Theodore

Confirmed: 0 Weddings: 0

Released/Removed: 0

Transfer In: 0

Transfers Out: 2 George & Rachel

Profession of Faith/Affirmation of Baptism: 0

Deaths/Funerals: 0

Notes:

Lay leaders assisted at 4 nursing home services; Lay leaders led the 3 Lessons & Carols services on December 28 & 29; Pastor Lane taught 3 Confirmation Classes; Pastor Longshore visited 3 shut-ins

Official Acts:



Rev. Gatluk Reat December Report:

Sudanese Evangelical Lutheran Mission Church

Worship Attendance

Week 1 – 25, Week 2 – 45, Week 3 – 38, Week 4 – 350 (Christmas Day Service)

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

Happy January Birthday!

Special Greetings to Trinity's Octogenarian and Nonagenarian members with January birthdays. We ask that you remember our fellow members in your prayers and help brighten their day with a card or visit.

Omitted from web version for privacy reasons. Please contact Jennie in the church office or pick up a printed copy of the newsletter for a list of this month's birthdays.

"Time"

Time is
too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice.
But for those who love,
time is eternity.

—Henry Van Dyke

ChurchArt Online Feb 2025



FEBRUARY
birthdays

LAY LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES - JANUARY 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lay Leadership Board Minutes
6:30 PM, Tuesday January 14, 2025

Attendance: Pastor Gueldner, Mitch, Barb, Deb,
Penny, Carl and Dan. Brian was absent.

Opening prayer led by Pastor Gueldner.

Faribault Lutheran School Report:

Enrollment for 2024-25 school year is at 140. National Lutheran Schools Week will be January 26-31st. The students will sing at the joint worship service at Trinity at 10:30 on Sunday, January 26. Also that day at 9:30 there will be special activities to honor our first Responders. Tuesday, January 28th from 4-8 pm there will be a fundraiser at Basillios. The annual souper bowl will be held on Friday, January 31st.

FOC report:

December contributions were great. We ended the year with a general fund balance of \$112,000. There has been some interest in the Finance Manager position. We need to get an application and resume from each person and then we will begin to interview. Deb, Penny, and Carl will be involved in the process. There will be a retirement party for Bill, held between services. Date to be determined when his position is filled.

Sudanese Ministry/Rev Reat

Attendance is increasing. The Christmas service attendance was 350 people. Still no financial support from the Sudanese congregations.

Pastor report:

Pastor reported that he has been talking with a couple of men in our congregation who are interested in the ministry.

Consolidation Discussion Update:

There will be four upcoming joint congregational meetings to discuss different aspects of the merger. The first one will be at Trinity on February 16th at 1:00pm. The next will be at Peace in March. The dates will be announced as they are determined.

Rental Properties:

The properties committee is looking into the market value of our two homes to reset rent at a more compatible rate. That information will be discussed at our next meeting.

Calendar items:

Next LLB meeting: Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30.
Joint congregational forum: February 16th at 1:00.

Meeting adjourned by Mitch.

The Lord's Prayer was said by the LLB board.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb-LLB secretary

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM OUR “PENPAL” SEMINARY STUDENT

A year ago, our Trinity Missionary Committee decided take part in the ongoing Adopt-A-Student program at one of our seminaries. The student we adopted is Max Johnston and his wife Haley, attending the seminary in St. Louis. 2025 will be our second year of support for them.

Below is another letter from the Johnston's, describing the training and everyday life they are going through there.

The number of seminary students at both St. Louis and Fort Wayne has been increasing lately, and we believe this is

partly because it's being realized how important their personal monetary support is. In the past, there have been students who have had to drop out due to lack of money. We know how important the supply of pastors is to LCMS' future so it is indeed great for us to be a part of this.

Their letter, below, tells us how difficult the training is, but yet how important it all is, this year now being a special ear-mark year and exciting for them since they are expecting their first child this February. Read their letter and get a picture of what their life is like in St. Louis. *~Bill Kirkpatrick*

Dear sponsors, family, and friends,

Thank you for your generous and continued support of my Seminary education both financially and with prayer. Summer Hebrew wrapped up a few weeks ago and I was able to have a week off from school before the fall semester started. I spent my week break getting my wisdom teeth removed. I sure hope this sudden and drastic loss of wisdom will not affect my academic performance this fall.

The second year of seminary has begun in recent weeks. This semester is noted as the hardest semester in seminary regard to the workload of readings and assignments. I have been extremely busy with my studies and the weeks have been flying by. I am taking Old Testament courses covering the Torah and Prophets, worship theology and practice, systematics course, and a course on how to teach the Christian faith. I am enjoying these classes and learning a ton.

This semester I have begun to be more involved at the Residential Field Education Church I serve at here in St. Louis. I have had the opportunity to give children's message, teach confirmation classes, lead the liturgy, and sit in on call committee interviews for their Senior Pastor search. It has been a blessing to serve in more ways and has been a point of challenge and growth for me. I will hopefully get more experience at my church in the coming months as I anticipate my vicarage internship placement come this April.

My wife Haley is enjoying her second-year teaching first grade at St. Paul Des Peres. She has been a trooper and working hard even when she does not feel her best.... or feels sick in the morning.... Haley is not only teaching but also carrying our first child due in February!

Thank you again for continued support of us this year. Please keep our family in your prayers.

Sincerely,

Max, Haley, and Baby Johnston
9 Founders Way Unit D
Clayton, MO 63105



Note: This is the October 2024 letter from the Johnstons.

MISSION COMMITTEE 2024 OUTWARD DONATIONS

Each year, the Trinity Mission Committee donates a total of \$6,500 to various missions or charity groups. Sometimes it's to individual worldwide missionaries, sometimes to local neighborhood support groups, and sometimes to worldwide charities. It changes every year. In 2024, we decided to send it to the following organizations, all having to do with seminary support:

Adopt-A-Student program at St. Louis seminary. (\$250 over four quarters)	\$1,000.00
Fort Wayne Theological Seminary - Student Advancement - Fort Wayne, IN	\$2,750.00
Concordia Seminary - Seminary Advancement - St Louis, MO	\$2,750.00
Total for 2024	<u>\$6,500.00</u>

Concordia Seminary
A Seminary of
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Founded 1839



801 Seminary Place
St. Louis, MO 63105
800-822-5287
www.csl.edu

August 30, 2024

CONCORDIA SEMINARY

Trinity Lutheran Church
530 4th St. N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021-5033

Dear Trinity Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your commitment to serve as an Adopt-A-Student sponsor during Concordia Seminary's 2024-2025 academic year. Your support is a wonderful blessing – Affording the cost of their education is often mentioned by students as the greatest obstacle to coming to the Seminary and because your Adopt-A-Student gifts go directly into your seminarian's account, you are tangibly demonstrating that you stand with your student in prayer and financial support.

Also, as an Adopt-A-Student sponsor, you can expect to hear from your student frequently. You also are invited to be in touch with your student, who will love hearing from you! Here is contact information for your seminarian(s) for this academic year:

Mr. Max Johnston
Campus Post Office Box
801 Seminary Pl.
Clayton, MO 63105-3196

Please know that we have provided your contact information to your student(s).

Thank you again for your support of our students and for your partnership in Concordia Seminary's mission. You are making a wonderful difference in the life of your seminarian(s) today and you are making an eternal difference in the kingdom of God as, upon graduation, the Lord blesses the ministry of your student(s) for years to come.

If you have questions or if we may assist you in any way, please contact us at 800-822-5287 or adoptastudent@csl.edu

God's richest blessings!

Vicki Biggs
Senior Vice President, Seminary Advancement
Chief Communications Officer

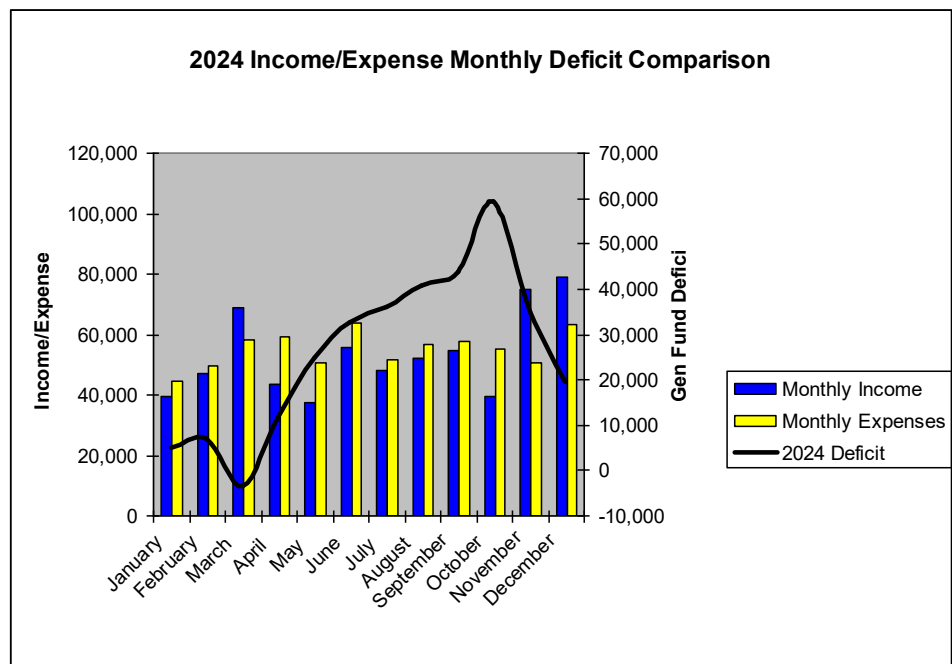
From Your Finance Manager...

FINAL 2024 FINANCIAL NUMBERS

For those of you who did not see the financial figures in the last *Trinity Weekly* a week ago Sunday, here is how we came out for the year. Even though we didn't come out in the black for the year, I was pleasantly surprised by how well we did come out in the end.

As a separate issue, I have been hearing that the financial graphs I've been printing each month have been confusing for some. I want all financial information to be crystal clear for all, so I'm going to change the graph slightly to hopefully make it more clear. The confusion, I think, lies in the direction of the bold black deficit line. The change is minor, but the old way might have seemed weird to some. The deficit is now shown as going up as the deficit increases, plus the numbers on the right side are positive, not negative, as before. So the higher the bold line, the worse the deficit is and the numbers on the right show a worse deficit as they go more positive. Please let me know if this helps make things more clear. If it doesn't help, I'll find other ways to clarify the information.

I was worried during most of the year by how our deficit was growing steeply through most of the year. At the rate we were going, I thought we could wind up with an \$80k to \$100k deficit which could have depleted our entire General Fund balance and left us broke by the end of the year. Things looked the worst around October. But then in the final two months, due to a large individual donation plus excellent December contributions from the whole congregation, our deficit was reduced by \$40k, which was a decrease of 66%, a huge amount.



A large amount of that turnaround is almost certainly due to Pastor Gueldner's stewardship messages during the fall months. He made us realize how important it is to return to God what we can to thank Him for all the good things He does for us each and every day.

Then to add to that good news, our total expenses for the year were lower than expected by 10%. The 10% savings were largely from an easy 2024 winter, saving us gas costs and snow plowing expenses and Pr. Gueldner having an eleven month year beginning in February, saving a month in salary/benefits. Those savings in expense covered the \$20k deficit we had left, leaving us in good shape at year's end. I believe the lower expenses, especially the easier winter, is an example of God being with us and watching over us during the year.

Now we are beginning a new year and our 2025 contributions are just as import as this last year. Please continue with your good stewardship beginning in January of this new year. I was worried last year that concerns over the possible consolidation was having an effect on our stewardship, but now it appears that was not the case; we found that God will always be with us no matter what His ultimate plan for us may be.

~Bill Kirkpatrick

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



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Faribault, MN 55021
Phone: 507-331-6579
Fax: 507-331-0986
School: 507-334-7982
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
8:00 & 10:30am services live streamed

WWW.TRINITYRADIOANDVIDEO.ORG
APPS FOR APPLE / ANDROID AVAILABLE

- OUR MISSION -
CONNECT, GROW, GO



2025

Place
Postage Here
Post Office will not
deliver without
Postage

Address Service Requested



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Please plan to attend the special joint congregational Consolidation meetings in February and March.

- Sunday, February 16, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity
- Sunday, March 2, 1:00 p.m. at Peace
- Sunday, March 16, 1:00 p.m. at Trinity
- Sunday, March 30, 1:00 p.m. at Peace