



Trinity Lutheran Church
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TRINITY CONNECTION

DECEMBER 29, 2023

those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. -Isaiah 40:31

Many of us have trouble waiting, partly because we have fallen out of practice. When I order something online, the package is usually at my doorstep in two or three days. If more than two people are in front of me in the checkout lane at the grocery store, the clerk will often call for workers to open more lanes. Even if I get grumpy because traffic is moving too slowly, I still will arrive where I'm going only a few minutes later than I had planned.

I wonder sometimes if it would be helpful if we had more practice at insignificant waiting to prepare us for the more serious waiting that all of us will have to endure at times. When serious illness unexpectedly hits, sometimes the diagnosis takes much longer than we expect. When valued relationships become estranged, healing can take years. Recovery from personal financial crises can only be resolved by years of hard work and waiting.

This Sunday we will hear the story of Mary and Joseph bringing the baby Jesus into the temple to be blessed. While there the family encounters two elderly prophets, a man named Simeon and a woman named Anna. Each has been waiting many years to celebrate the arrival of the promised messiah. Their joy is great when the Holy Spirit reveals to them that the savior of world has arrived in the person of Jesus.

In scripture the discomfort of waiting is often accompanied by prayers for endurance and assurance that the Lord will act. Isaiah answers the reality of doubt and discouragement that often accompanies waiting with the promise that we will be carried as if on the wings of an eagle. At the moments of our deepest weariness and faintheartedness, we will be given endurance not from our own will but by God's presence.

I'm certain that Simeon and Anna at times were wearied by their long waits. Yet they endured and experienced joy. My prayer today is for those witnesses who have reminded us how to wait and for those waiting right now.

Peace and best wishes,
Pastor Tom Opoien

Church Calendar

Tuesday, January 2

Due to the holiday, no Men's Breakfast
7:00 pm: Executive Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 3

8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)
9:00 am: Quilters Group
5:45 pm: Band Rehearsal
6:30 pm: Worship
7:15 pm: KFC - 5th & 6th Grade, Confirmation,
High School Youth

Thursday, January 4

8:30 am: Preschool (3 & 4 yr olds)
11:15 am: Meals on Wheels Delivery
5:30 pm: TOPS

Friday, January 5

8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)

Sunday, January 7

8:00 am: Worship
9:15 am: Coffee and Cookies; Kindergarten
Milestone; Sunday School; Adult Bible Study
10:30 am: Worship (online and in person)

Monday, January 8

8:30 am: Preschool (Pre-K)

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm: Men's Breakfast
8:30 am: Preschool (3 & 4 yr olds)

Upcoming Important Dates

Jan. 14: Budget Information Meeting
Jan. 14: Financial Peace University
Jan. 15: Office is closed due to the holiday
Jan. 28: Trinity's Annual Meeting

Attendance

Wednesday, Dec. 20. 6:30 pm: 51	Sunday, Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 3:00 pm: 381
Sunday, Dec. 24 4th Sunday of Advent 9:00 am: 115	5:00 pm 319 6:30 pm: 80

Church Finances

Week of December 24, 2023

Total Operating Cost: \$13,205

Actual Total Giving: \$24,487

Difference of: \$11,282

Outstanding Expenses: \$ 0

December Globe Offering \$ 699

Total operating cost represents all expenses including staff costs, benevolences, supplies, outreach, and our mortgage payment. If you have questions regarding the budget, please contact Margaret Larsen at 605-351-8561.

Ways to Give

Envelopes: In-person or Mail to the church

Online Giving: www.teatrinity.org/donate

Venmo: teatrinity

January Globe Offering

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS

Prayer Requests

- Sharon Nelson ▪ Stan Oltmanns
- Bonnie Wolthuis ▪ Sonia Ensz ▪ Ken Kahl
- Greg Myrmoe ▪ Ray Kelly
- Melva Hilmoe's brother & Sarah Hilmoe's uncle Fred Tidemann
- Gordon & Dorothy Fritz's son Carl
- Delores Wells' brother-in-law, Jerry Boellaard
- Amy Kuhnert's family member, Jeremy Josephson
- Melva Hilmoe's friend, Fred Carpenter
- Doug Mette sister and brother-in-law, Gene and June Neises
- Dawn Arp's mother, Darlene Sheeler
- Rex & Clem Boyd's sister-in-law, Dodie
- Sympathy to Melva Hilmoe for the passing of her niece's husband, Michael Crowley

Quilters Group

Wednesday, Jan. 3
9:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall



Join us as we continue to work on putting together more quilts together. No sewing or quilting experience is necessary. All are welcome.

Financial Peace University

Starting January 14, 2024
6:30-8:30 pm
9 week course
in the Fellowship Hall

The Board of Stewardship is happy to offer ten full scholarships to members of Trinity for the Financial Peace University seminar. The class will meet for nine Sundays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. beginning on January 14 in the Fellowship Hall. At the first session, digital codes for the scholarships will be distributed. Call the church office to register or if you have questions at 605-498-2343.

Here is the description of the seminar from the Financial Peace University website:

When debt isn't holding you back, nothing can stop you from living the life of your dreams (yeah, that one you're thinking about right now). And here's the good news: You can get there. You just need a plan that works.

That's what you'll learn in Financial Peace University. FPU is the nine-week class that teaches you step by step how to pay off debt fast and build wealth for your future.

Stuffy financial class? Not here. FPU is full of energy, easy-to-understand lessons, and real-life examples of people just like you who have taken control of their money. And the best part? You'll experience the class with a group of people who will encourage you and hold you accountable every step of the way. That's what makes FPU so life-changing! In fact, the average FPU graduate is debt-free in two years or less!

Dave Ramsey's been teaching commonsense, biblical money principles for almost 30 years. And they work. Just ask the nearly 10 million people who've taken FPU and never have to worry about money again.

You're next. Ready?

In Financial Peace University, you'll learn how to:

- Take control of your money
- Attack debt with a vengeance and pay it off fast
- Save for emergencies
- Choose the right insurance plans
- Invest wisely and build wealth
- Give generously (the best part)

If you have questions, contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343.

Milestone Ministry

Kindergarten Milestone—Learning to Pray

Sunday, Jan. 7, 9:15 am - Lesson #1 | Sunday, Jan. 21, 9:15 am - Lesson #2

Celebration: Sunday, Jan. 28 at 8:00 or 10:30 am or Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 6:30 pm

Join Deacon Christie and learn about how prayer is essential for a faith life. Come learn how to pray for our own needs and the needs of others!

Mission Endowment Fund to Update Bylaws

We are fortunate to have various avenues at Trinity for financial gifts to be directed toward ministry. One of those ways is through our Mission Endowment Fund. The interest earned from gifts to this fund goes toward ministry projects at Trinity as well as in the Tea area communities and beyond.

At the congregation's annual meeting to be held on January 28, 2024, updated bylaws for the Mission Endowment Fund will be presented for consideration. Thank you to Kathy McHenry from Lutheran Planned Generosity in South Dakota, members of the Mission Endowment Committee, and members of the church council for input in this revision process. If you would like to view the proposed bylaws, you can pick up a copy at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering space.

If you have questions, contact the church office by calling 605-498-2343.



Trinity Lutheran Preschool registration now open!

3 & 4 year olds
Tuesday/Thursday
8:30 - 11:00 am

4 & 5 year olds (Pre-K)
Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:30 - 11:30 am

Trinity Lutheran Preschool 2024-2025 registration is now available. We are a Christ-centered preschool with play based learning program. Our themed lessons and virtue focus will enrich the whole child by incorporating all learning styles and senses. Learning outcomes will enhance a child's spiritual, social-emotional, physical and intellectual development.

Call the church office for more information or to register.

Budget Information Meeting & Annual Meeting

Budget Information Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 14
9:15 am
in the Fellowship Hall

Trinity's Annual Meeting
Sunday, Jan. 28
11:30 am
in the Sanctuary



\$25,000 Matching Challenge Met!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the \$25,000 matching gift challenge that began in November. On Sunday, December 16, we went over the \$25,000 in designated matching donations needed to receive the entire challenge gift.

Because of this successful matching challenge and other generous gifts to the general/operating fund over the last several weeks, we have been able to pay off the \$20,000 bank loan that was taken out earlier this year and will finish the year with our general/operating fund in the black.

Thank you for your generosity!

Winter gear is available and accepting donations!

Items most in need:

- Adult coats (sizes XL, XXL, XXXL)
- Kids boots (all sizes)
- Kids coats and snow pants (all sizes)



Board of Outreach is collecting new and gently used cold weather gear in the east entrance of the church and is available to the public. We are currently collecting coats, jackets, snow pants, hats, gloves, and boots that will be made available to our neighbors in the community. Used items are accepted, but please launder before you drop them off. We accept new items as well. Simply drop off the items in the bin in the Gathering Space. If you have questions, contact the church office at 605-498-2343

January Food Pantry Donation: Cake Mix and Frosting

With the raising cost of food the Food Pantry has seen an increase in clients. Feel free to pick up an extra item or two when shopping to help those in need! In the month of January we will be collecting cake mix and frosting. Donations can be dropped off in the Gathering Space. If you have questions or would like to make a monetary donation, please contact the church office or call Ruth at 605-321-7325.

Flash Back Friday: Check out how Trinity gives back to those in need! Trinity served at Banquet West and confirmation youth packed meals at Kids Against Hunger.

