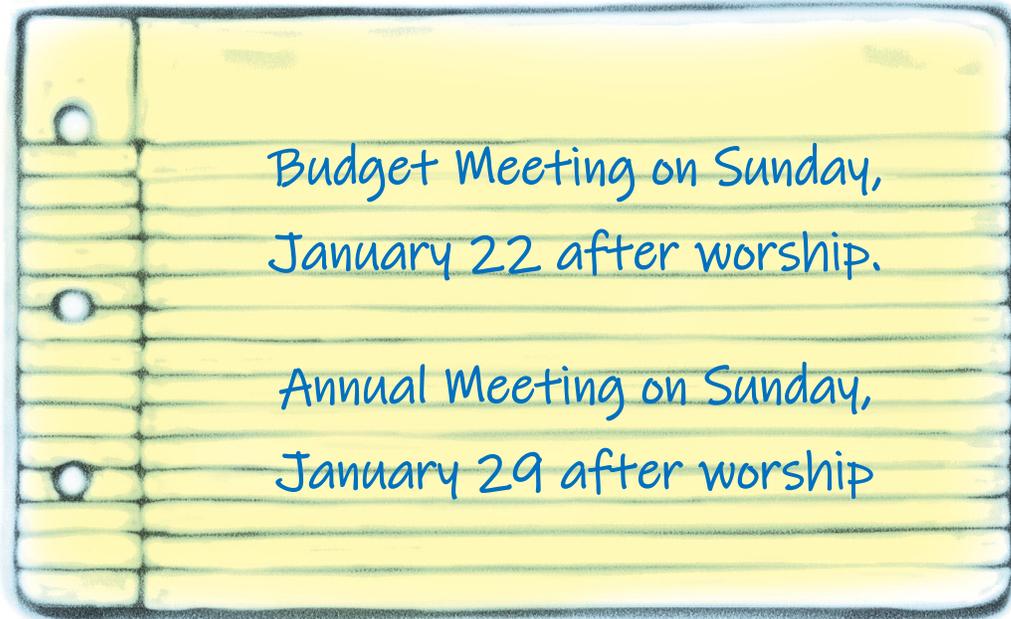


Trinity Tidings

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
709 W BECKERT RD
NEW LONDON, WI 54961
WWW.TRINITYNEWLONDON.COM
TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM
920-982-5833

January 19, 2023 News

PASTOR CHUCK THOMPSON 920-273-5105;
PASTOR.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM
SECRETARY: AMY VAN DREEL TRINITY.NEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM
CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR: MADALYN SIMONIS
FAMILYFAITH.TRINITYNEWLONDON@GMAIL.COM



January 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday, January 22

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Budget Meeting 10:15 AM

Monday, January 23

Tuesday, January 24

- Community Meals packing 5 PM
- Just Mercy Book Study 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 25

- Community Meals Distribution 5 PM
- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 26

- Bible Study 9 AM
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6:00 PM
- Dartball at Scandinavia

Friday, January 27

Saturday, January 28

Sunday, January 29

- Adult Sunday School 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- *No Sunday School*
- Annual Meeting 10:15 AM

Click [here](#) for the most current calendar.
Click [here](#) for worship.

Our 2023 Council will be installed on Sunday, January 29. Their terms begin February 1, 2023. Please lift them up in prayer.

Dawn Hess - President
Becca Jagla - Vice-President + Support & Service
Karen Acker - Secretary + Worship & Music
Kirk Van Dreel - Treasurer + Financial Resources

Building & Grounds - Terry Lathrop
Stewardship - Jean Smith
Community Meals - Kelly Lehl
Media Outreach - Sarah Flohr
Education & Youth - Jen Monty
Youth Rep -



PRAISES & Prayers



Email or call
With your request.

Healing:

- Steve Gohman - nephew of Terry & Lois Wegner; cousin of Dan and Kat
- Daniel Bodway
- Family of Azim
- Ruth Kuehl -sister-in-law of Amy Kuehl, health issues
- Sue Holtz - friend of Amy Kuehl, medical issues
- Rick Roesler - son-in-law of June Steinberg, upcoming surgeries
- Patti Natzke - recovering from surgery
- Carrie Doughty - illness
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Carole Ebert - cancer
- Larry Leatz - friend of Tom & Sue Luba, cancer
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Bonnie Wegner - cancer
- Tina Bartelt - cancer
- Kathy Feeney Rueckert - friend of Sue Luba, medical issues
- Helen Massey - health concerns
- Jackie Janke - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer
- Ginger Massey - relative of Helen Massey
- Sam Ives - health issues

Those in the military:

- Shane Borree
- SSGT Zachary Abel

Constitution Review Folders

Folders are available on the table in the library for review of ELCA Churchwide Model Constitution vs. Trinity's current Constitution.

Green pages are the existing Trinity Constitution. White pages are the up to date Model Constitution from ELCA Churchwide. These pages have just the "*" portions of the constitution.

Take out the green and white constitutions and compare for change, remembering that these "*" portions are not available for edit from model constitution verbiage.

These sections are the only ones we will be approving to amend at the Annual Meeting to bring our Constitution up to date.

Updates to sections that outline Trinity's ministry will be brought to the congregation in working meetings during Feb and March, with a final vote on the entire updated and synod approved Constitution in April, 2023.

CHANGE IN MEAL ENTRÉE

On January 25 from 5-6 pm, Trinity is serving a FREE Community Meal comprised of:

- ⇒ **Grilled hot dog or cheddar hot dog**
- ⇒ **Fresh fruit**
- ⇒ **Fruit cup or applesauce**
- ⇒ **2 snacks**
- ⇒ **Dessert**
- ⇒ **Milk or water**

We are now serving cheddar hotdogs in place of brats this month. A big 'thank you' to Tyson Foods for providing cheddar hotdogs, along with other meats for future meals.

If you know of someone who could benefit from this meal, please direct them to go to Trinity's parking lot on January 25. If the person does not have

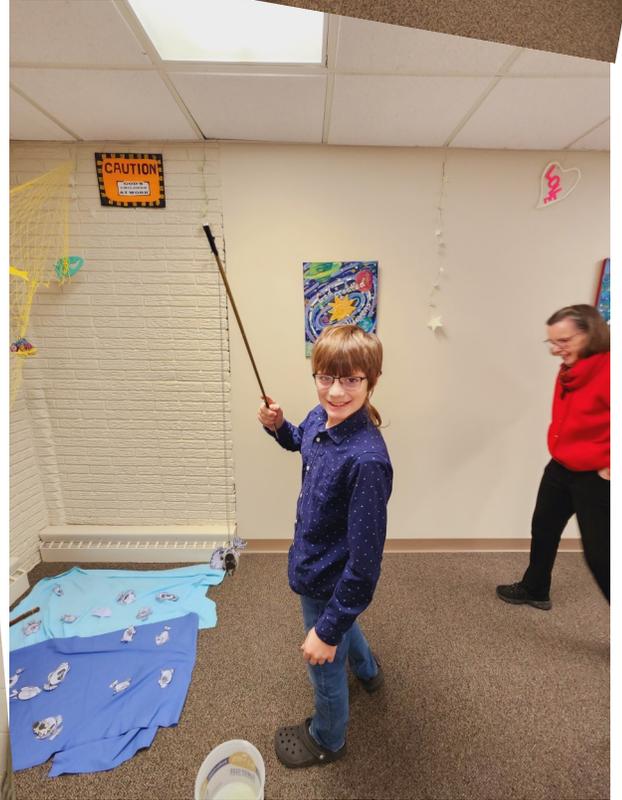
transportation to pick up the meal, please consider waiting in the line and delivering the meal to them.



We are still looking for volunteers to pack the community meals, along with food and car servers and a meal team for the distribution of the meals. If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board sheet outside of the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Kerri Kohls or Sandy Krueger.

No Sunday School

Sunday School is canceled for January 29 so families and teachers can attend the annual meeting.



Trinity's Dartball team plays Thursday evenings at Trinity as well as other churches in the area. If you are interested in joining the team or subbing, contact Bryan Willner or the church office.



THURSDAY



Comfort Crafts meet Thursday evenings at 5:30. If you don't knit or crochet but want to join in for the social part, come at 6:00. For more information, contact the church office.



Third Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.

⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."

Your face, O LORD, I will seek.

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

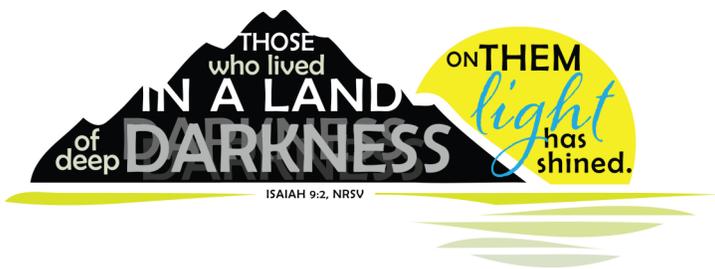
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God's salvation.

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

¹¹For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.)

¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent



wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

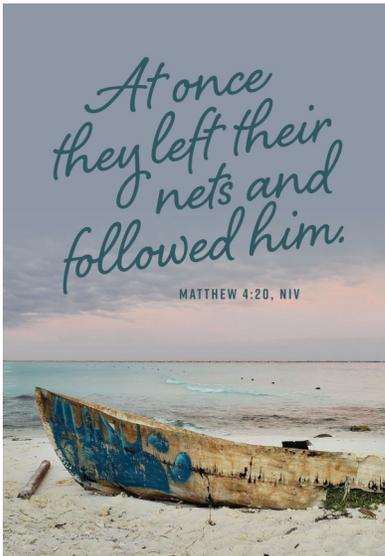
¹⁵"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned."

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

¹⁸As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." ²⁰Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²²Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

²³Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.



3rd Sunday After Epiphany

One of the all-time greats in baseball was Babe Ruth. His bat had the power of a cannon, and his record of 714 home runs remained unbroken until Hank Aaron came along. The Babe was the idol of sports fans, but in time age took its toll, and his popularity began to wane. Finally, the Yankees traded him to the Braves. In one of his last games in Cincinnati, Babe Ruth began to falter. He struck out and made several misplays that allowed the Reds to score five runs in one inning. As the Babe walked toward the dugout, chin down and dejected, there rose from the stands an enormous storm of boos and cat-calls. Some fans actually shook their fists. Then a wonderful thing happened. A little boy jumped over the railing, and with tears streaming down his cheeks he ran out to the great athlete. Unashamedly, he flung his arms around the Babe's legs and held on tightly. Babe Ruth scooped him up, hugged him, and set him down again. Patting him gently on the head, he took his hand and the two of them walked off the field together.

Talk about grace. When everyone else was down on Babe Ruth, one boy stuck by him. When we are down, who can we count on? Paul's answer is clear: Jesus and only Jesus. In his letter to the Corinthians he is writing to a divided community. One of the things they were divided on was on who were their favorite leaders.

"I belong to Paul. I belong to Apollos, Cephas etc."

People took pride in who baptized them. Paul's problem is not with Apollos or any other teacher of the faith. Paul's problem is with the divisiveness that came when the Corinthians' allegiance was to their favorite teacher and preacher, and not to Christ alone.

They were making idols over fallible people and competing with one another, beating each other up, putting each other down. Human beings are all fallible. Sometimes we can idolize people to find out they are only human. Idolizing anyone is dangerous. My Old Testament professor was forced to be in the Hitler youth as a young boy. He said every time he said, "Heil Hitler!" he was a traitor to his Lord Jesus. We all know who Hitler really was. Many idolized him and many other dictators who have come and gone. Other people who have been idolized, such as Babe Ruth, eventually show their weaknesses and can be quickly abandoned. No one deserves to be idolized. We let each other down. Can any of you think of someone you admired who let you down? I can. Have we let someone down who trusted us? We cannot count on our teachers, preachers, congregations, or ourselves to be completely faithful. Allegiance to human authorities or structures distracts us from the faithfulness of God. The faithfulness of God is perfect, and extends to the least of us. God is God and we are not. We also run into problems when we idolize ourselves: think we have all the answers, and criticize others.

Many of you may be familiar with the Serenity Prayer, which is used commonly in 12 step programs:

"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference."

I recently came across this:

A New Serenity Prayer

By Fr. James Martin, a Roman Catholic Jesuit priest:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the people I cannot change, which is pretty much everyone, since I'm clearly not you, God.

At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God, please give me the courage

to change what I need to change about myself, which is frankly a lot, since, once again, I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.

It's better for me to focus on changing myself than to worry about changing other people, who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,

can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter than everyone else in the room, that no one knows what they're talking about except me,

or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,

grant me the wisdom to remember that I'm not you.

Amen." Jesus is who we can count on, not ourselves or anyone else.

It is in trusting in Jesus and what he has done for us that we can live in the power of God's love.

As Paul puts it:

"For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

When we trust in Jesus we can live in unity as people of love.

As with the little boy who reached out to Babe Ruth, God in Christ has reached out to embrace us.

We need not idolize one another, or criticize one another, but love each other.

Cut each other some slack.

Give each other some grace.

Recognize that all of us are equal before the cross of Jesus.

In the message of the cross is real power: that God is trustworthy when none of us are.

We are fallible, but Jesus is not.

Amen.

Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Reese Yerkey, Mark Moser

Lector

Grace Yerkey

Communion Assistant

Carol Cleveland

Slides

David & Kelly Newton

Livestream

Ron Flohr

Altar Guild

