

Trinity Tidings

January 11, 2024

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Our First FREE Community Meal of 2024

Sloppy Joes will be served to the New London community on **Wednesday, January 31, from 5 to 6 pm.**



Donations needed for the January meal are:

- ◇ Healthy snacks (e.g. apple sauce, raisins, craisins, fruit cups, granola/protein bars, jerky, etc.)
- ◇ Desserts (packaged or homemade)

PLEASE NO NUTS and NO ITEMS REQUIRING REFRIGERATION. Place donations in the bin outside of church.

We are also in need of donations of Sloppy Joes. There are freezer bags located in the Narthex outside of the church sanctuary. Please take one and return your Sloppy Joe to church during office hours or during Sunday services. Please place the Sloppy Joe in the upright freezer in the storage room in the Fellowship Hall or the freezer in the downstairs kitchen by Sunday, January 28.



January 28, 2024

Following Worship and prior to the annual meeting, stay for a Trinity-Get-Involved-Ministry Fair With Potluck

Come and see how the Spirit is working here at Trinity. This is a great opportunity to join in and bring your time, energy, ideas, and/or talents to what is going on behind the scenes at Trinity.

Sign up at the Info Center to bring a dish to pass. Join your church family and celebrate how God's Work, Our Hands is being accomplished here at Trinity.

January 2024

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 14

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM

Monday, January 15

Tuesday, January 16

- Council 6:30 PM

Wednesday, January 17

- Confirmation Class 6:30 PM

Thursday, January 18

- No Bible Study
- Quilting 10 AM
- Comfort Crafts 5:30 PM
- Carport Clutch 6 PM

Friday, January 19

Saturday, January 20

Sunday, January 21

- Adult Bible Study 8 AM
- Worship 9 AM
- Sunday School 10 AM
- Story Time 10 AM

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

Click [here](#) for worship.

Office Hours:
8 AM - 12 noon
Monday - Thursday
Other times by appointment

Annual Reports available
Sunday, January 14.

Budget Meeting on Sunday,
January 21 after worship.

Annual Meeting, Ministry Fair,
& Potluck on Sunday, January
28 after worship.

Email or call with your request.

Prayers & Praises

Healing:

- Millie Batzler - friend of Amy Kuehl, recovering from surgery
- Trista Jo Westphal - health concerns
- Brian Miller - health issues
- Ginny Halverson - friend of Lehl's, recovering from a stroke
- Peter H. - friend of Dyreson's, leukemia
- Patty Dyreson - recovering from surgery
- Julie Smith - daughter of Jean Smith, recovering from transplant surgery
- Mary Snyder - recovering from surgery
- Shelley Henke - sister of Woody Haag, recovering from surgery
- Leslie Larson - uncle of Marta Wesenick, cancer
- Mike Lopnow - cancer
- Beth Cochran - friend of Dan Wegner, health concerns
- Kaden Wegner - grandson of Michael Wegner, health concerns
- Pastor Dean Desilet - friend of Pastor Chuck, health concerns
- Steve Gohman - nephew of Terry & Lois Wegner; cousin of Dan and Kat
- Dixie Hill - health concerns
- Jill Maus - sister-in-law of Denise Knudsen, cancer
- Adam Lehmann - health concerns
- Dawn Haag - cancer

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Trinity has been very supportive of New London High School's music program and the students involved in the many offerings from band, choir, madrigal, and musical in the past. I am reaching out about another opportunity to help support them as we enter Show Choir season. Many of the students involved in Vision are familiar faces to the Trinity family-Morgan Monty, Mia and Ruby McCartney, Kendra Walter, and Jonah Stone, who has shared his musical talents during services recently. Tammy McCartney and I are the festival chairs for this event as well.

NLHS Vision Show Choir kicks off their 41st season this month and on **January 19th and 20th** will be hosting the 3rd annual Singstock Festival at the high school. This festival is a fundraiser to help offset the costs incurred throughout the year and helps keep participation fees to the students manageable for families. This event relies on volunteers and takes hundreds of man hours to ensure we are able to deliver a high quality festival for both competing groups and spectators and we were wondering if any members of Trinity would be interested in volunteering at the event? No experience is needed and there are many different opportunities- concessions, admissions, back stage crew, hall monitors, set up & clean up. **The shifts are typically in two hour blocks and anyone who volunteers for at least four hours receives free admission for the weekend.**

Volunteers are able to sign up via the Sign Up Genius link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BADAC2DA02-44552243-singstock>

Anyone interested can reach out to us directly as well, or with any questions.

Sheila- [920-585-8935](tel:920-585-8935) or walterfam_5@yahoo.com

Tammy- [920-250-2465](tel:920-250-2465) or tamelamccartney@yahoo.com

We greatly appreciate your consideration in sharing this opportunity with the Trinity family! If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Thank you,
Sheila Walter

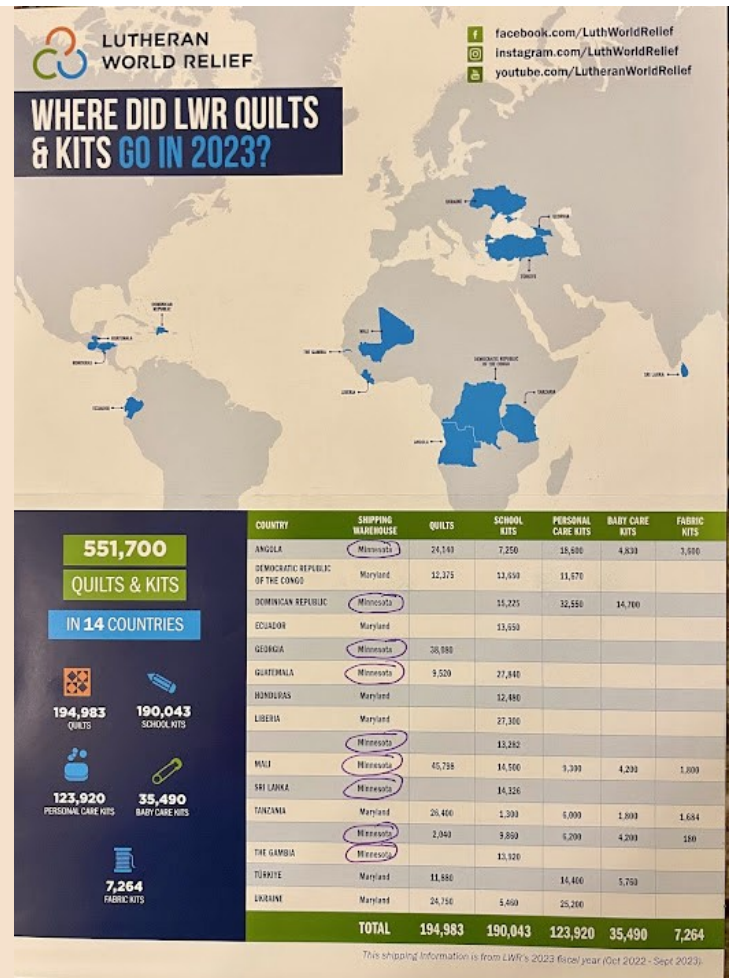


SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

Great Job Trinity!

Our work for LWR enables us to love our neighbors during the hardest time of their lives, when they are exhausted, homeless, grieving and terrified. What a gift we are given to be God's hands around the world!

The quilters meet from 10-12 noon in the church fellowship hall every Thursday. No sewing or quilting experience necessary to participate in this ministry, just a willing heart! Opportunities to take items home to work on if this time does not work for you.



Serving at worship on Sunday

Ushers

Reese Yerkey, Peter Kurth

Lector

Grace Yerkey

Communion Assistant

Jayne Murphy

Slides

Stella Dunday

Livestream

David Newton

Altar Guild

Dawn Haag, Dawn Hess

Comfort Craft creations offer comfort in two ways: a comfort to those who receive them, as well as to those who craft them.

If you don't knit or crochet but would like to learn, the crafters are happy to teach you! Bring whatever kind of craft you are working on to Trinity at 5:30 PM on Thursdays to join in the crafting, talking, and laughter.

Not into any kind of crafting, but want to chat? Come at 6:00 PM and join the crafters and others for a friendly social gathering.



Second Sunday after Epiphany

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

At a time when visions are rare and unexpected, the LORD comes to Samuel and calls him to speak the divine word. Though just a boy, Samuel responds to God obediently, as Eli the priest has taught him to respond. This marks the beginning of Samuel's prophetic ministry.

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

**"SPEAK,
for your
SERVANT
is listening."**

1 SAMUEL 3:10, NRSV

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." ¹¹Then the LORD said to Samuel, "See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. ¹²On that day I will fulfill against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. ¹³For I have told him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. ¹⁴Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering forever."

¹⁵Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. ¹⁶But Eli called Samuel and said, "Samuel, my son." He said, "Here I am." ¹⁷Eli said, "What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you." ¹⁸So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, "It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him."

¹⁹As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. ²⁰And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD.

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have searched me out; O LORD, you have known me.

²You know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, but you, O LORD, know it altogether.

⁵You encompass me, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

⁶Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain to it.

¹³For you yourself created my inmost parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

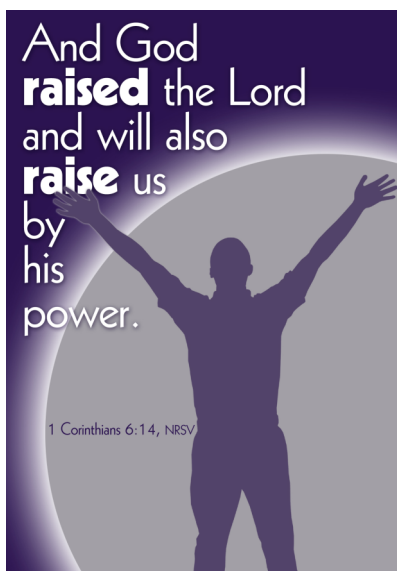
¹⁴I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well.

¹⁵My body was not hidden from you, while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.



¹⁶Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were written in your book; my days were fashioned before they came to be.
¹⁷How deep I find your thoughts, O God!
 How great is the sum of them!
¹⁸If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand;
 to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20



Paul helps the Corinthians understand that God has claimed the entirety of their lives through the death of Christ. Hence Christian relationships and conduct, including areas of human sexuality, are to reflect the reality that we belong to Christ and that the Holy Spirit lives within us.

¹²“All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are beneficial. “All things are lawful for me,” but I

will not be dominated by anything. ¹³“Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food,” and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. ¹⁴And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. ¹⁵Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! ¹⁶Do you not know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is said, “The two shall be one flesh.” ¹⁷But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. ¹⁸Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. ¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

Gospel: John 1:43-51

In John's gospel, Jesus' ministry begins with the call of disciples, who then bring others to Jesus. Philip's friend Nathanael moves from skepticism to faith when he accepts the invitation to “Come and see.”

⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and

Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.” ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, “Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!” ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, “Where did you get to know me?” Jesus answered, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.” ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!” ⁵⁰Jesus answered, “Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹And he said to him, “Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”



Message 1/14

“Can anything good come from Nazareth?”
 I have always found this to be an amusing passage. It was a really smart remark from Nathaniel. He had been told by Philip:
 “We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.”
 Philip was telling him that the messiah, the anointed one whom they all had been waiting for was here! But how could someone from Nazareth be the one? Nazareth was considered a hick town by many. Likely a small, conservative, religious Jewish community of skilled craftsmen.
 An obscure town that no one else cared about. We do not know much about Nathaniel. He's not ever listed amongst the 12 disciples.



He appears nowhere else in the New Testament, except in this episode and again after the resurrection, where we learn that his hometown is Cana and that Jesus appeared to him and several other disciples while they were fishing (John 21:2). Some speculate that there was a rivalry

between Cana and Nazareth that could explain his hostility.

Possibly a “Packers vs Bears” type rivalry.

Whatever the case Nathaniel is not willing to automatically jump at the idea that the messiah could come from Nazareth.

Philip does not argue with him.

He simply says, “Come and see.”

While Nathaniel looks a little like a jerk here, don’t we sometimes judge people by where they come from?

There are stereotypes of regions of our country: east coast snobs, west coast flakes, southerners aren’t very bright, Midwesterners are hicks.

I have learned from experience that you cannot judge a book by its cover.

My military experience helped me with this as I literally met people from all 50 states and we all had to learn to work together.

People of all races and cultures.

In basic training we were told that we were all equally worthless. haha.

What happened with Nathaniel? Jesus sees him and already knows him.

Nathaniel is amazed at this and realizes that he was dead wrong about this Nazarene.

He calls Jesus the Son of God and King of Israel.

Nathanael’s name in Hebrew means “God has given,” a fitting title. Jesus gives Nathanael a promise to see “greater things than these”—greater than his skepticism, greater than Jesus’ prescient knowledge,

greater even than the titles he has attached to Jesus.

Jesus is saying “You ain’t seen nothing yet!”

What if we claimed this promise of Jesus too?

What if we trusted that Jesus can open our eyes and get us beyond our prejudices and negative stereotypes of people?

Jesus promises Nathaniel and us a relationship with him that transcends all human barriers.

When he went to the cross he stretched out his arms to embrace ALL people.

We can live out this love as well.

We are not going to be buddies with everyone but we can get beyond our resentments and treat people as we want to be treated.

Here’s a good suggestion of how to treat people:



Along with Nathaniel Jesus invites us to “come and see,” to know him better.

Jesus offers us far more than our own preconceptions and prejudices can.

He calls us as a church to trust in him to show us new possibilities.

God is always up to something new.

Our crucified and risen Lord is always ahead of us!