

Trinity Lutheran Church and School

300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952

Church Phone: (920) 722-2662 / **School Phone:** (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Worship Services:

Saturday – 5:00 pm; Sunday – 9:00 am; Wednesday – 6:30 pm

Education Hour: Sunday - 10:30 am

In Person & Online Worship Service and Education Hour

Trinity's website: www.trinitymenasha.com

Services will continue to be available for live streaming on Trinity's Facebook page, and for later viewing on YouTube. Check the church website for more details.

Midweek Advent Services

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, & 15

10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Communion will be served.

Important Dates:

December 2: 7:00 PM Gallery Choir Practice

December 4: 9:00 AM Food Pantry

December 7: 6:30 PM Board Meetings

December 8: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM 1st-4th Grade Christmas Program

December 9: 7:00 PM Gallery Choir Practice

December 13: 6:00 PM 3PS-K5 Christmas Program

December 14: Board of Directors Meeting

December 15: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM 5th-8th Grade Christmas Program

December 16: 7:00 PM Gallery Choir Practice

December 18: 9:00 AM Food Pantry

December 20-31: School's Christmas Vacation

December 23: 7:00 PM Gallery Choir Practice

December 24: 4:00 PM, 6:30 PM & 11:00 PM Christmas Eve

December 25: 10:00 AM & 5:00 PM Christmas Day

December 31: 6:30 PM New Year's Eve

Thank You from Pastor Billings and Pastor GeRue

As your Pastors we would like to thank everyone for all the beautiful notes, cards, and appreciations you have given us for Pastor Appreciation Month. You are such an amazing congregation, and it is such a blessing to be your pastors. We are continually blessed by your compassion, generosity, and willingness to serve. We can only hope that we have inspired all of you as much as you have inspired both of us.



Holy Communion

We are once again offering the choice of Common Cup or Individual Cup.

Our Mission Statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Menasha, is a fellowship of Lutheran Christians being empowered by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God and His Sacraments to encourage, refresh, and strengthen both adults and children in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, while sharing His love with those who do not yet know their Lord and Savior.



Senior Pastor:

✠ Rev. Steven S. Billings

Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

✠ Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Director of Music:




Mr. Tim Reuning

Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

December 2021

May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|--|---|
| | |  | Advent Services 1 10:30AM & 6:30PM With Communion 5 PM Catechism | 6 AM Men's BS 2 4:45 PM Basketball St John's Berlin @ Home 7 PM Choir Practice | 3 | 4 9 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Worship |
| SECOND SUNDAY 5 IN ADVENT 9 AM Worship In- Person & Online 10:30 AM Bible Study In-Person & Online | 6 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 7 6:30 AM Ladies BS 3:45 PM Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Board Mtgs | Advent Services: 8 1st-4th Grade Christmas Program 10:30AM & 6:30PM With Communion 5 PM Catechism | 9 6 AM Men's BS 3:45 PM Basketball Practice 7 PM Choir Practice | 10 | 11 5 PM Worship |
| THIRD SUNDAY 12 IN ADVENT 9 AM Worship In- Person & Online 10:30 AM Bible Study In-Person & Online | 13 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6 PM Christmas Service: 3PS-K5 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 14 6:30 AM Ladies BS 9 AM-12 PM Circuit Pastors @ Peace, Neenah 3:45 PM Basketball Practice 6:30 PM Board of Dir. | Advent Services: 15 5th-8th Grade Christmas Program 10:30AM & 6:30PM With Communion | 16 6 AM Men's BS 3:45 PM Basketball Practice 7 PM Choir Practice | 17 School Noon Dismissal | 18 9 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Worship |
| FOURTH SUNDAY 19 IN ADVENT 9 AM Worship In- Person & Online 10:30 AM Bible Study In-Person & Online | NO SCHOOL 20 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | NO SCHOOL 21 6:30 AM Ladies BS | NO SCHOOL 22 | NO SCHOOL 23 6 AM Men's BS Office Closed PM 7 PM Choir Practice | NO SCHOOL 24 CHRISTMAS EVE Offices Closed Worship Services: 4 PM, 6:30 & 11 PM | CHRISTMAS 25 Offices Closed 10 AM Worship 5 PM Worship  |
| 26 9 AM Worship In- Person & Online 10:30 AM Bible Study In-Person & Online | NO SCHOOL 27 Pastor's Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:30 PM Women's BS | NO SCHOOL 28 6:30 AM Ladies BS | NO SCHOOL 29 | NO SCHOOL 30 6 AM Men's BS | NO SCHOOL 31 Office Closed 6:30 PM Worship |  |



Merry
Christmas

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES - DECEMBER

12/05 BIELEFELD, Harvey & Patricia
 12/06 MEIER, Rev. Ronald & JoAnn
 12/09 BILLINGS, Rev. Steven & Liz
 12/15 VOIGT, William & Jennifer Cachel
 12/17 SIEGEL, Scott & Amy
 12/18 MARKO, Judith & Leonard
 12/27 BOUCHARD, Jeremy & Dana
 12/28 WUSSOW, Craig & Sandy



BIRTHDAYS - DECEMBER

12/01 DEHNE, Jim
 12/02 COLLINGWOOD, Joel
 12/02 MEIER, JoAnn
 12/02 MLODIK, Sarah
 12/04 REUNING, Abigail
 12/05 HURST, Brandon
 12/08 GAST, Sydney
 12/09 FROST, Sue
 12/10 RISKE, Karen
 12/11 PUES, Dane
 12/12 REINKE, Steve
 12/13 HIBBARD, Brenda
 12/13 KESTER, Thomas
 12/13 MEYER, Scott
 12/14 HEID, Jonathon



12/15 BORGEN, Breanna
 12/15 BORGEN, Gina
 12/15 VITEK, Barbara
 12/16 BECKER, Jean
 12/16 HAANEN, Carrie
 12/16 WEBBER, Noelle
 12/16 WILLIAMS, Nancy
 12/18 PUES, Ella
 12/19 MIES, Donna
 12/19 SIEGEL, Scott
 12/20 HEYN, Carrie
 12/20 MANTEUFEL, Rebekah
 12/28 BOUCHARD, Justin
 12/29 HENRICKSON, John
 12/31 BOLEN, Sally
 12/31 HEID, Joshua

✠ *Trinity Membership Update* ✠



New Members/Transfers In: Michael Bekx & Todd Henrickson

Released/Transfers Out:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed:

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26



Serving Our Lord with Gladness - December 2021

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Associate Pastor/Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue



| Worship Date/Time | Acolyte Serving | Elder on Duty | Usher Captain | Greeter | Altar Guild |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|--|
| Dec. 1 10:30 am 6:30 pm | | | Reinke/Diesch | | Zeinert, Jean |
| Dec. 4 5:00 pm Dec. 5 9:00 am Dec. 8 10:30 am 6:30 pm | N/A | Manteufel, Alan Nielsen, Bart | Harrmann, Tom Weinig, Lee | Kamprath, Liz | Conradt, Phil&Mary Evensen, Carol |
| Dec. 11 5:00 pm Dec. 12 9:00 am Dec. 15 10:30 am 6:30 pm | N/A | Manteufel, Alan Nielsen, Bart | Maynard, Jerry Sexmith, Steve | Kester, Barb Nielsen, Jane | Reichert, Paula Burrows, Gail Zeinert, Jean |
| Dec. 18 5:00 pm Dec. 19 9:00 am | N/A | Manteufel, Alan Nielsen, Bart | Colby, Lee Collingwood, Dave | Zeinert, Jean Nielsen, Jane | Zeinert, Jean |
| Dec. 24 4:00 pm 6:30 pm 11:00 pm Dec. 25 10:00 am 5:00 pm Dec. 26 9:00 am Dec. 31 6:30 pm | N/A | Manteufel, Alan Nielsen, Bart | Wittmann, Jim Reinke/Diesch Volunteers | | Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean Zeinert, Jean |

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday - 8am-3pm

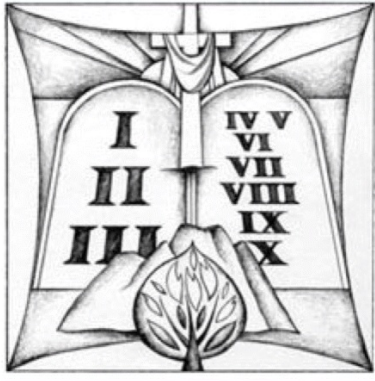
Jean Zeinert & Mary Conradt, Church Administrative Assistants

Phone: (920) 722-2662 ext. 201

email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

News From David Pfeifer – Missionary

I'm very thankful for your prayers, encouragement and those who helped financially over the past 13 years as the Lord led us to serve Him in different countries. I say us because you were a big part of this ministry. I now feel that the Lord wants me here and will show me what He has for me to do. Beginning of October, I developed a blood clot in my left leg and after taking some tests discovered that I have Factor 5 Leiden. I feel good and still take my walk or I ride the exercise bike they have here. Once again thank you for your partnership. David Pfeifer



Catechetical Comments

A Series

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This month we continue our look at The Close of the Commandments:

What does God say about all these commandments? He says, “I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love Me and keep My commandments.” [Ex. 20: 5–6]

What does this mean? God threatens to punish all who break these commandments. Therefore, we should fear His wrath and not do anything against them. But He promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore, we should also love and trust in Him and gladly do what He commands.

Question 82. *What has original sin done to human nature?*

Original sin

B. has left everyone without true fear and love of God, that is, spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God

The *Catechism 1991* has posed the question: “What has original sin done to human nature?” And it continues its answer by saying that original sin “has left everyone without true fear and love of God, that is, spiritually blind, dead, and enemies of God.”

In support of this it sets forth the following Scripture passages:

Gen. 8:21 – The intention of man's heart is evil from his youth.

1 Cor. 2:14 – The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

Eph. 2:1 – You were dead in the trespasses and sins.

Rom. 8:7 – The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot.

Not only has *Original* sin left mankind in a state of guilt and condemnation, it has also created a situation where, in our natural sinful condition, we're okay with that.

What difference does it make to me if someone I couldn't care less about criticizes me? If I don't care about them, I'm certainly not going to give a second thought to how they feel about me or the things I do.

And this is not mere speculation on my part. There are voices in secular society that I simply don't listen to. I couldn't tell you the last time I listened to the network news, for instance. I just don't care what they say. I'm not listening.

Many people do this with God. They just don't want to hear what He has to say, so they're not listening.

On the other hand, if I do care for the person speaking, if I have a personal relationship with them, what they say matters to me.

This is why Luther says that original sin has cut us to our very core, severing our connection to God and cutting off our ability truly to fear, love, and trust in Him.

It would be easy, of course, to presume that this has obliterated any relationship we could

have with God. But it hasn't. Our relationship with God certainly still exists, but it's not a good one. Boxers in a ring have a relationship with one another, but it's not a good one. It's a relationship built on a common desire to punch one another's lights out.

Now, if these two combatants were fairly matched, that would be one thing. But, when it comes to our relationship of animosity with God, that would be like me getting into a boxing ring with the current heavyweight champion (Oleksandr Usyk or Tyson Fury). The fight wouldn't last long, and I'd be blessed even to come out alive!

But, if I weren't paying attention, I wouldn't know how dangerous that would be. I'd be virtually blind to the fact that my very life would be on the line. I may as well be dead, because I would not be heeding my own body's warning about how great a threat that would be to me. And Oleksandr would have every reason to flatten me because my disrespect and disregard of him would make us enemies. (Insult me, if you wish, but, by all means, do *not* ignore me!)

We have no idea of the threatening situation

we're putting ourselves in by disrespecting and disregarding God. What kind of an enemy do we think we're fooling with here? This is God! He could blow us out of existence with a single puff of His nostrils. But, in our sinful state, we don't know that because we're also blind. We're standing toe-to-toe with Almighty God and we can't even see what we're up against.

The fact that God doesn't box the life out of us is a great example of His mercy and compassion. He could squash us like bugs, but He chose instead to love us and to take the squashing we deserve and inflict it on His own Son.

The mercy of God is what reaches across the ring and switches the lights on, enabling us to see how great a God He really is. When He awakens our faith through His Means of Grace He helps us not only see what a threat He could be, but also what a loving, gracious God He is. And that's what changes everything.

More on the effects of *original* sin next month. ✝

Humbly in His service,
Rev. Steven S. Billings
Senior Pastor

From the Principal

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

In today's' day and time,
It's easy to lose sight,
Of the true meaning of Christmas
And one special night.

When we go shopping,
We say 'How much will it cost? '
Then the true meaning of
Christmas,
Somehow becomes lost.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter
And ribbons of gold,
We forget about the child,
Born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa
In his big, red sleigh
Never thinking of the child
Whose bed was made of hay?



In reality,
When we look into the night sky,
We don't see a sleigh
But a star, burning bright and high.

A faithful reminder,
Of that night so long ago,
And of the child we call Jesus,
Whose love, the world would know.

By Brian K. Walters

MERRY CHRISTMAS

What's happening around The School in December

- Dec. 1 10:30 am Advent Chapel Service
- Dec. 2 4:45 pm Basketball Saint John, Berlin @ Home
- Dec. 3 MIDTERMS
- 2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives
- Popcorn Friday
- Dec. 6 Saint Nicholas Day
- Dec. 7 3:45 pm Basketball Practice
- Dec. 8 Advent Service 1st – 4th Grades 10:30 & 6:30pm
- Dec. 9 3:45 pm Basketball Practice
- Dec. 10 2:45 – 3:15 pm Electives
- Dec. 13 Christmas Service 3PS – K5 6:00pm
- Dec. 14 Christmas Lunch
- 3:45 pm Basketball Practice
- Dec. 15 Advent Service 5th-8th Grades 10:30 & 6:30pm
- Dec. 16 3:45 pm Basketball Practice
- Dec. 17 Noon Dismissal / Caroling / Popcorn Friday

THANKS FOR BEING A PART OF THE TRINITY FAMILY.

From Your Board of Stewardship

On November 12, your Board of Stewardship held its last Congregational mini meeting for the "Sharing God's Blessings, Proclaiming His Gospel campaign." It was rewarding to see the number of members that were available to attend one of the sessions. Many positive comments were made regarding the content of each meeting as well as how the meetings were conducted.

Thank you so much for being an important part of Trinity's Mission. Thank you for your commitment to share your God given time and talents with others here at Trinity and beyond. Thank you for your new two-year financial commitment that will be used to assist our Officers in determining numbers for future budgets.

We certainly acknowledge that some members were not available for the meeting dates that were set by our Board. We attempted to identify times and dates that would accommodate most members but knew that everyone has circumstances that arise. We have videotaped a complete session and would be willing to meet with members per their request to share the session and fill out the Time, and Talent form as well as the financial commitment form. We would like to wrap up any individual meetings prior to December 15 if possible.

The time, talent and financial forms already turned in have been blessed by our Pastors in a recent worship service. May our Lord continue to bless you as you seek to follow His guiding in your lives.



Ladies Aid 2021 Schedule of Meetings/Events

Ladies of Trinity Congregation,

You are welcome to join us for any meeting or event. Our motto is "Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2.

Our Ladies Aid mission statement is as follows: The Ladies Aid is a fellowship of women members of Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Menasha committed to serving our Lord, our congregation and our community while promoting and supporting relationships among women. The mission statement of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is to assist each woman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. Listed below are our scheduled plans for the remainder of 2021.

You may contact anyone of our officers with any questions.



December 8, 11, 12 & 15
Annual Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML Cookie Sale

Sewing Group

Sewing at Trinity happens most Mondays from 9 a.m. to approximately 12 noon. You need no sewing experience and your time with us is flexible. Call Elaine Weinig (920-470-9090) or Ilene Anderson (920-574-2477) with questions regarding the sewing group.

We ask for prayers for our Ladies Aid/LWML that God would bless our efforts in serving Him, our Trinity Congregation, and our community!

Ladies Aid/LWML Officers:

President: Dottie Kraus (920-991-2705)

Vice President: Barbara Kester (920-722-3228)

Treasurer: Jane Stier (920-284-2937)

Secretary: Carol Evensen (920-725-5576)



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT OCTOBER 2021

| | <u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u> | <u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u> | <u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u> | <u>ENDING BALANCE</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nicolet General Fund | \$18,757.86 | \$63,131.72 | (\$65,194.76) | \$16,694.82 |
| Nicolet Restricted Funds | \$142,620.49 | \$4,856.21 | (\$1,121.72) | \$146,354.98 |
| LCMS Endowment Fund | \$132,133.52 | \$471.10 | (\$1,861.74) | \$130,742.88 |
| LCEF Steward Fund | \$1,536.09 | \$7,017.47 | (\$7,414.10) | \$1,139.46 |
| Nicolet Money Market | \$73,214.06 | \$1.69 | (\$23,000.00) | \$50,215.75 |
| RBC Account | \$53,930.17 | \$3,189.53 | (\$140.00) | \$56,979.70 |
| Nicolet Memorial Fund | \$9,164.87 | \$300.70 | (\$2,186.00) | \$7,279.57 |
| Nicolet Office Acct | \$1,727.37 | \$0.01 | \$0.00 | \$1,727.38 |
| Nicolet Debts Repaid | \$5,389.24 | \$0.28 | (\$2,300.00) | \$3,089.52 |
| Nicolet Think Tank | \$3,182.71 | \$0.24 | \$0.00 | \$3,182.95 |
| Nicolet Scrip | \$803.88 | \$25,486.66 | (\$11,080.59) | \$15,209.95 |
| TOTAL | \$440,075.44 | \$104,455.61 | (\$114,298.91) | \$430,232.14 |
| LCEF Mortgage (BOTR) | \$1,017,720.55 | | (7,414.10) | \$1,013,804.86 |

\$ SCRIP News \$

SCRIP is sold in the Church/School Office, Monday - Friday from 8:00 AM-3:00 PM, and in the narthex before and after worship services.

How to Order Scrip? Call the office Monday– Friday from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at (920) 722-2662 or email your order to: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com. They will put it together for you.

Kwik Trip Scrip is back to a 10 percent rebate... limited time only!

Fleet Farm Scrip—get yours now at a special 8 percent discount!

Church Treasurer Needed

Kari Lindner has informed me that she will be stepping down as the Treasurer of Trinity effective January 1, 2022.

I thank Kari for her service as Treasurer, using her time and talents to God's glory.

Kari is willing to train a replacement and help out until a new treasurer is selected.

If you have skills in accounting and feel moved by the Lord to take on this position, please contact Blain Henkel at (920) 729-4445.



American
Heart
Association.

HEART ATTACK WARNING SIGNS

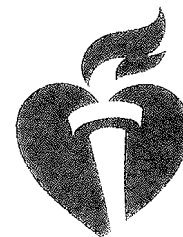
Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most of them start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.
- **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- **Shortness of breath.** This feeling often comes along with chest discomfort. But it can also occur without chest discomfort.
- **Other signs** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

If you or someone you're with has one or more of these signs, call 9-1-1 immediately.
Get to the hospital right away.

If you're the one having symptoms, and you can't access the emergency medical services (EMS), have someone drive you to the hospital right away. Don't drive yourself, unless you have absolutely no other option.

For more information, contact your nearest
American Heart Association office or call
1-800-AHA-USA1 (1-800-242-8721)
or online at www.heart.org.



American
Heart
Association.

Stroke is a medical emergency. Every second counts, because time lost is brain lost! Know these stroke warning signs and share them with others:

Sudden numbness or weakness of the face,
arm or leg, especially on one side of the body.

Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or
understanding.

Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.

Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of
balance or coordination.

• Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

If you or someone you has one or more of these signs, don't delay! Call 9-1-1 or the emergency medical services (EMS) number immediately so an ambulance — ideally with advanced life support — can come. Also, check the time so you'll know when the first symptoms appeared. It's important to take immediate action. If given within three hours of the start of symptoms, a clot-busting drug can reduce long-term disability for the most common type of stroke.

© 2021 American Heart Association - Also known as Heart Fund.



A-22-I-EDU



GET UP AND GO—BE HEALTHY!

Your family can benefit from physical activity

(Check with your healthcare provider before starting any new exercise routine.)

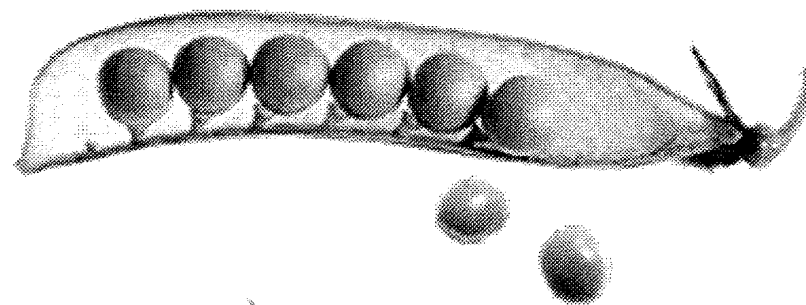
Older adults: No one is too old to enjoy the benefits of regular physical activity. Evidence indicates that muscle-strengthening exercises can reduce the risk of falling and breaking bones and can improve the ability to live alone.

Parents and children: Parents can help their children maintain a physically active lifestyle by providing positive feedback and opportunities for physical activity. Families can plan outings and events that allow and encourage everyone in the family to be active.

Teenagers: Regular physical activity improves strength, builds lean muscle and decreases body fat. Activity can build stronger bones to last a lifetime.

Staying active during winter with indoor activities:

- Dancing, (Greek, Hula, Flamenco, Middle Eastern and Swing)
- Riding a stationary bike
- Actively playing with children
- Taking Jazzercise
- Scrubbing the floor
- Playing basketball, shooting hoops
- Walking at a brisk pace (mall/around a track/treadmill)
- Doing water aerobics
- Jogging/walking combination (In a 30-minute period, you should be jogging for less than 10 minutes.)



Eat More Veggies!

Almost Everyone Needs to Eat More Fruits and Vegetables.

A growing body of research shows that fruits and vegetables are critical to promoting good health. To get the amount that's recommended, most people need to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables they currently eat every day.

Fruits and Vegetables Can Protect Your Health.

Fruits and vegetables contain essential vitamins, minerals and fiber that may help protect you from chronic diseases.

Compared with people who consume a diet with only small amounts of fruits and vegetables, those who eat more generous amounts as part of a healthful diet are likely to have reduced risk of chronic diseases, including stroke and perhaps other cardiovascular diseases, and certain cancers.

Whole Foods or Supplements?

Nutrients Should Come Primarily From Foods.

Foods such as fruits and vegetables contain not only the vitamins and minerals that are often found in supplements, but also other naturally occurring substances that may help protect you from chronic diseases.

For some people, fortified foods or supplements can be helpful in getting the nutrients their bodies need. A fortified food contains a nutrient in an amount greater than what is typically found in that food, for example calcium fortified orange juice.



THE SAMBURU PEOPLE

-The Samburu are a Nilotic people, related to the Masai.

-They are nomadic herders of goats, sheep and camels in the arid region of northern Kenya.

-Although there are Christian congregations in Samburu, the Gospel has become mixed with African Traditional Religions, hiding the truth about Jesus.

-“African Traditional Religions” are syncretistic —meaning they mix together the parts of religions that please them.

-Kelvin’s concern is that his people are being led astray by these people and their beliefs.

-The Samburu need to hear the truth of the Gospel of the free grace of God in Jesus Christ.



To be added to or removed from this mailing list, send an email to walter.Steele@lcms.org with the word ADD or REMOVE in the subject line.

A Conversation with Kelvin



Kelvin, a Pastoral Student at Matongi, from the Samburu Region of Kenya

I sat down with Kelvin Lenasayan to learn more about him, how he came to seminary, and about his people—the Samburu.

How did the Gospel first come to the Samburu People?

In 1948, missionaries arrived and established mission stations in the rural areas. Then, in 1982, Lutheran missionaries arrived, establishing two stations, one in my home of Ngilai and another further north.

How has the Gospel fared among the Samburu?

Beginning in 2000, “Pentecostals” began to proselytise. They confuse people by adding African Traditional Religions to the Gospel. So now, I can say, with that most Samburu have not heard the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. They still cling to their traditional beliefs and way of worship. That is a big problem.

Tell me about your father.

Yes, my father was called Kilaikon. He was a respected community elder. When the Lutheran missionaries came, he was already married to four wives. He was the first man to welcome them. He heard the Gospel and liked it so much. He requested they baptise him and his household. He was given his Baptismal name: Lazarus. He became a very active churchman. He even showed them where to build the church building. It is there to this day. He entered glory 2008.

So what was the motivation for you to come to seminary?

Actually, at first, I did not want to become a pastor. I wanted a white-collar job. The Church barely pays its pastors. But my people said that I should. So I came. After...

(Continued next page)

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- For Kelvin as he continues his studies, so that he can be a more effective pastor, bringing the Gospel to the Samburu people.
- For the Samburu people, that they hear the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and not be confused by those who mix in false religions with the Truth.
- For Robyn and I as we continue to serve in Kenya, that we remain healthy and strong.
- For additional regular supporters of the mission, so that we can continue the work we have been called to do.
- For the entire LCMS Africa Team, that the Lord guide us as we work with our partner Churches here on this vast continent.

(Continued from page 1)

... two months I left. But then I became convinced that this was the Lord's will. So I came back and finished the Certificate Program.

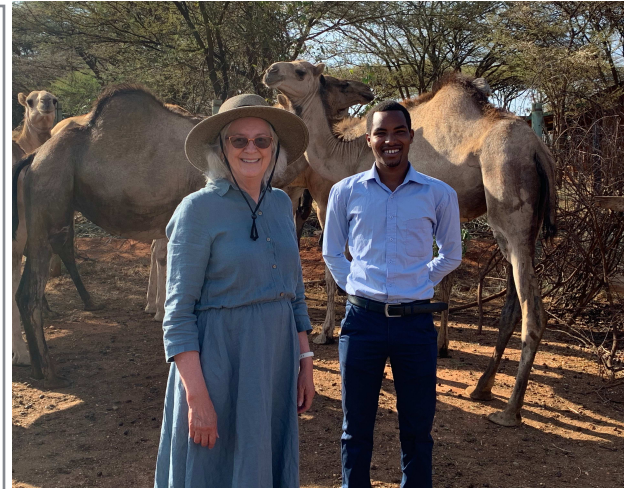
And now you are back for the Diploma!

Yes, my parish encouraged me to return for more training. So now I can study Greek and Hebrew and be a better pastor for my people. I will be much grounded in the Bible and Lutheran Theology.

When you finish your studies for the Diploma in Theology. Where do you see yourself serving?

I believe that I will be going back to serve in the rural parts of the Samburu. And I will have a big task, because I am the only trained man there. Samburu is a very big geographical area. So I believe I am going to be working there.

My heart is in the rural parts of the Samburu.



Robyn with Kelvin. The Samburu heard Camels

Remember, you can help us continue to teach faithful men like Kelvin by your prayers and financial support.

lcms.org/givenow/steele

Or at the **world-famous Mission Central**
MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034

Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya



Samburu Lutherans coming for the Divine Service

For more information on our work and our progress check out:

Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



There are many opportunities to serve as short-term or GEO missionaries. Check out the current list and download an application at lcms.org/service. Click on "Service Opportunities."

To support the LCMS through the work of Walter and Robyn Steele, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-6681

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Mark checks "Support of Steele/Kenya." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at lcms.org/steele.

YEAR 2, NOVEMBER 2021

CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

*The newsletter of Amanda Groshek
(teaching English, sharing Jesus)*



Elementary school chapel -- talking about needs vs wants

STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org

Blog:

[Called to Go](#)
(on Wordpress)

NEED OR WANT?

Elementary school chapel

In elementary school chapel, the students are talking about the miracles of Jesus; and I was asked if I would talk about Jesus turning water into wine.

"What is a miracle?" I asked the students. Hands shot up into the air. I called on one of them. One of the many nice things about dismissal is that I'm able to call on almost all of the students by name. "It's like a super power," the student answered. This answer made me smile. "And who has this super power?" I asked. Hands shot up again. I called on someone else. "Jesus," the student replied.

After telling the story of the first miracle -- Jesus turning water into wine -- I said, "Today I have with me -- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 -- five things." I held each object up as I counted. "Now, I'm going to need five special helpers to decide if these things are needs (gesturing to one side) or wants (gesturing to the other)." Hands shot up. For each thing, I asked my special helpers to explain why it was a need or a want. After the last object had placed in one of the two piles, I said, "Today's story reminds us that God provides for our needs, not always how we expect, but he always provides. "

And we closed with a prayer before classes headed back to their classroom.



Met a friend for coffee at a favourite cafe of mine that is connected with this monastery/church.



There's currently a big, lit up "I love Ukraine" sign in Maidan Square.

MAKING THE MOST OF EVERYDAY

Conversations during tutoring

This year I've had the opportunity to tutor -- more accurately to be an English conversation partner with -- two different adults. A friend of mine (from the Georgia trip in the summer) reached out to me at the end of the summer asking if I would consider tutoring a friend of hers who wanted to improve their spoken English, and then a couple of months ago this same friend asked if I had time in my schedule to set some aside each week so that she could practice her English as well.

Today my friend and I were talking. Each of us knew people who had rough weeks. Each of us has a lot on our plates right now.

How do we encourage our friends or even ourselves when we are struggling?

We both were talking about being thankful for all that we have, even in the midst of being busy or stressed. My friend said, "A friend of mine reached out to a priest asking what to do because he was struggling and the priest said, 'You can be thankful for what you have. You can live each day to the fullest.'" This is beautiful, gentle advice. It reminded me of Ecclesiastes 3:11-13, "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while they live. That each of them may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all their toil--this is the gift of God." These verses always remind me of being thankful for each day.



A friend/coworker and me taking advantage of the fall decorations in front of the school.

Prayer Requests:

- Thanksgiving for a fun and successful Drama Showcase that parents, staff, and students were all able to attend!
- Thanksgiving for all the ways that we are able to talk about how having God in our lives shapes our lives; and prayers that God will continue to work in the hearts and minds of students.
- Prayers for good health for everyone and for students as they continue to grow in their faith and as the semester continues

