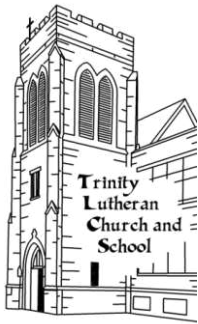


Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952



# December 2024 Newsletter





**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

**Website:** [www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

**Divine Services**

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

**Education Hour:** Sunday - 10:30 am

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



**IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER**

**First Week in Advent**

- December 1: 9:00 AM Divine Service
- December 3: Board Meetings
- December 4: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
5:15 PM Mid Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid Week Advent Worship

**Second Week in Advent**

- December 7: Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Divine Service
- December 8: 9:00 AM Divine Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie & Candy sale  
Church Hanging of the Greens
- December 10: Board of Directors meeting
- December 11: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale  
5:15 PM Mid-Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie & Candy sale
- December 12: 5:45 PM Caroling Gather Round Curtis  
Reed Square, Menasha

**Third Week in Advent**

- December 14: 5:00 PM Divine Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 15: 9:00 AM Divine Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale

**Third Week in Advent (Continued)**

- December 16: 9:00 AM PS3 – K5 Christmas Service  
6:00 PM PS3 – K5 Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 18: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>rd</sup> Grade Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale  
5:15 PM Mid Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
5<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>rd</sup> Grade Christmas Service



- December 19: Day School Children Christmas Caroling & **Noon Dismissal**
- December 20 - January 3 **No School-Christmas Break / School Office Closed**

**Fourth Week in Advent**

- December 21: Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Divine Service
- December 22: 9:00 AM Divine Service
- Christmas Eve** 4:00 PM Divine Service  
6:30 PM Divine Service  
11:00 PM Candlelight Service  
w/ communion

**Christmas Day**

- December 25: 9:00 AM Christmas Service
- December 28: 5:00 PM Divine Service
- December 29: 9:00 AM Divine Service
- December 31: 6:30 PM New Years Eve Service

**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

**Choir Director:**

Mrs. Connie Henkel






**Music Director/Organist:**

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
 Church Phone: (920) 722-2662  
 School Phone: (920) 725-1715

# December

Church Office Hours:  
 Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM  
 Email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

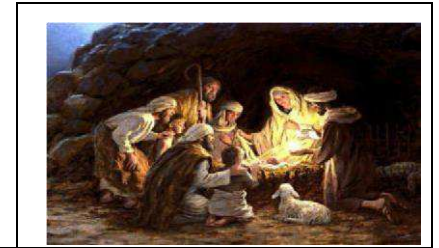
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 ADVENT 1	2	3	4 MID-WEEK 1	5	6	7 ADVENT 2
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study  6:30 PM Bd Meetings	9:00 AM Advent Service 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM Advent Service	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:00 PM Choir		9:30 AM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Divine Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 
8 ADVENT 2	9	10	11 MID-WEEK 2	12	13	14 ADVENT 3
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 11:30 AM Church Christmas Decorating	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 	6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Bd of Dir Mtg	9:00 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4th Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> - 4th Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:45 pm Caroling Gather Round Curtis Reed Square Menasha 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:00 PM Choir		5:00 PM Divine Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 
15 ADVENT 3	16	17	18 MID-WEEK 3	19	20	21 ADVENT 4
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale Caroling 2PM -5PM followed by potluck	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 Am PS3- K4 Christmas Service 6:00 PM PS3-K5 Christmas Service Cookie & Candy sale 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study	9:00 AM 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM 5 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study School Caroling 5:15 Handbell Choir 6:00 PM Choir <b>School, Noon Dismissal School Office Closed at Noon</b>	<b>No School/School Offices Closed</b>	9:30 Food Pantry 5:00 PM Divine Service
22 ADVENT 4	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00 AM Divine Service  	<i>Pastor Billings, Pastor GeRue, the faculty &amp; staff of Trinity Lutheran Church &amp; School wish you a very Blessed Christmas</i> <b>School Office Closed</b>	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> 4:00 PM Divine Service 6:30 PM Divine Service 11:00 PM Candlelight Service w/communion	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> 9:00 AM Christmas Service 	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> No Men's Bible Study	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b>	5:00 PM Divine Service
29	30	31				
9:00 AM Divine Service	<b>School Office Closed</b>	<b>School &amp; Church Offices Closed</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S EVE</b> 6:30 PM Divine Service				

**CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED, DECEMBER 24 & 25 AND NEW YEARS DAY. SCHOOL OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED BEGINNING AT NOON ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19 THROUGH JANUARY 3.**



## Serving Our Lord with Gladness – December 2024

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings  
 Associate Pastor/Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue



<b>Divine Service Date/Time</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Elder on Duty</b>	<b>Communion Assistant</b>	<b>Usher Captain</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b>
Dec 1: 9:00 AM Dec 4: 6:30 PM	Richie Sprouse Sydney Gast	Bart Nielsen Micheal Bekx	Dave Collingwood	Lee Weinig Harrmann/Weinig	Liz Kamprath Betty Allen	Philip & Mary Conradt No Communion
Dec 7: 5:00 PM Dec 8: 9:00 AM Dec 11: 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Payton Lenth Robbie Kohler	Allen Manteufel Bart Nielsen Robert Allen	Bruce Buksyk Steve Sexmith	Jerry Maynard Jim Wittman  Maynard/Wittman	Barbara Kester Connie Henkel	Philip & Mary Conradt Craig & Jill Thomas No Communion
Dec 14: 5:00 PM Dec 15: 9:00 AM Dec 16: 9:00 AM 6:00 PM Dec 18: 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Sydney Gast Simon Kroes	Allen Manteufel Bart Nielsen  Craig Thomas	Steve Reinke Ron Kraus	Gast/Corrente Dave Collingwood  G&C/Collingwood	Dan & Peggy Dahms Rosemary Collingwood	Shirley Fleischer Thomas/Fuchs No communion " No communion "
Dec 21: 5:00 PM Dec 22: 9:00 AM Dec 24: 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 11:00 PM Dec 25: 9:00 AM	Payton Lenth Robbie Kohler Payton Lenth Sydney Gast Simon Kroes Richie Sprouse	Allen Manteufel Bart Nielsen Bart Nielsen Micheal Bekx Thomas / Voigt Craig Thomas	Ian Thomas Scott Gutzman	Roger Voigt Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	JoAnn Schultz Connie Henkel	Shirley Fleischer Thomas/Fuchs No communion " Jean Zeinert Shirley Fleischer
Dec 28: 5:00 PM Dec 29: 9:00 AM Dec 31: 6:30 PM	Sydney Gast Simon Kroes Sydney Gast	Allen Manteufel Bart Nielsen David Little	Dan Siebert	Tom Harrmann Lee Weinig	Betty Allen Liz Kamprath	Shirley Fleischer Thomas/Fuchs Jean Zeinert

## Wedding Anniversaries – December 2024

12/09 BILLINGS, Rev. Steven & Liz  
12/15 VOIGT, William & Jennifer  
12/17 SIEGEL, Scott & Amy



12/20 KRAUSE, Darrell & Vera  
12/27 BOUCHARD, Jeremy & Dana  
12/28 WUSSOW, Craig & Sandy

## Birthdays – December 2024

12/01 DEHNE, Jim  
12/01 NOLAN, Madeleine  
12/02 COLLINGWOOD, Joel  
12/02 MLODIK, Sarah  
12/04 REUNING, Abigail  
12/05 HURST, Brandon  
12/08 GAST, Sydney  
12/09 FROST, Sue  
12/10 MIES, Kevin  
12/10 RISKE, Karen  
12/11 PUES, Dane  
12/12 REINKE, Steve  
12/13 KESTER, Thomas  
12/13 MEYER, Scott  
12/15 BORGEN, Breanna  
12/15 BORGEN, Gina  
12/15 VITEK, Barbara



12/16 BECKER, Jean  
12/16 FUCHS, Hannah  
12/16 HAANEN, Carrie  
12/16 WEBBER, Noelle  
12/18 ANDERSON, Megan  
12/18 EMERY, Matthew  
12/18 PUES, Ella  
12/19 SEIGEL, Scott  
12/20 Heyn, Carrie  
12/20 JAHSMAN, Vern  
12/20 MANTEUFEL, Rebekah  
12/20, VOIGT, Henry  
12/28 GRIPENTROG, Bonnie  
12/29 HENRICKSON, John  
12/31 BOLEN, Sally  
12/31 HEID, Joshua

### ✝ Trinity Membership Update ✝

#### New Members/Transfers In:

Released/Transfers Out: Matthew and Maria Catalano and family

#### Baptisms:

#### Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed: Barbara Schewe (November 28, 2024)



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



## *Advent 1*

Sunday, Dec, 1  
Wednesday, Dec 4

9:00 AM Divine Service  
9:00 AM Advent Service  
6:30 PM Advent Service

## *Advent 2*

Saturday, Dec 7  
Sunday, Dec 8  
Wednesday, Dec 11

5:00 PM Divine Service  
9:00 AM Divine Service  
9:00 AM 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christmas Service  
6:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christmas Service

## *Advent 3*

Saturday, Dec 14  
Sunday, Dec 15  
Monday, Dec 16  
  
Wednesday, Dec 18

5:00 PM Divine Service  
9:00 AM Divine Service  
9:00 AM PS3 - K5  
Christmas Service  
6:00 PM PS3 - K5  
Christmas Service  
9:00AM 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christmas Service  
6:30 PM 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Christmas Service

## *Advent 4*

Saturday Dec. 21  
Sunday Dec. 22  
Wednesday Dec. 24  
  
Wednesday Dec. 25

5:00 PM Divine Service  
9:00 PM Divine Service  
4:00 PM Divine Service  
6:30 PM Divine Service  
11:00 PM Candlelight  
Service w/ communion  
9:00 AM Christmas Service



# Catechetical Comments

A Series

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

This month we continue our consideration of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, with special focus on question 100.

*100. What else does the Bible tell us about angels?*

A. They are spirit beings who were created holy.

Martin Luther continues his explanation of the First Article of the Creed by asking the question:

*What else does the Bible tell us about angels?*

Last month we discussed the first three answers he gives for this question. Today we take up the fourth answer:

D. The evil angels are also many and powerful. They hate God and seek to destroy everything that is good, especially faith in Christ.

For scriptural support, he provides the following:

**Mark 5:9** – Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He replied, “My name is Legion, for we are many.”

**Ephesians 6:12** – For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

**Mark 4:15** – And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

**John 8:44** – You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and has nothing to do with the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

**1 Peter 5:8–9** – Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Contrary to what some people believe, the devil is not your friend, nor will you get to hang with your friends in hell. The devil wants to take his anger against God out on you by devouring you, eating you alive, as it were, tormenting you with him for all eternity in the burning lake of fire (1 Pet. 5:8).

And he has plenty of help to do this. He has many demons at his disposal (Mark 5:9); He has the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this present darkness (Mark 4:15); and he has the leaders of false religions, who mislead and misdirect those searching for the truth with smooth-sounding lies, which lead to destruction (John 8:44).

Only Christ can protect you from the soul-destroying schemes of the enemy. Turning in faith to Jesus is the only escape from the forces of evil. Turn to Christ, resist the devil, and stand firm with your fellow believers. ✠

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

## From the School December 2024

“In Her Heart, In Our Hearts, In God’s Heart”

Luke 2:1-20

***Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.***

What things? All these things. All that had happened over the past nine months. And that was quite a lot! Things that had changed this young woman’s life forever. For which *all generations would call her blessed* (Luke 1:48b).

It started when the angel Gabriel came to her and told her that she was going to be a mother. Good news of great joy, certainly! But . . . not after she was married, but before. And . . . not because of her unfaithfulness, but because of her faithfulness. And . . . she was not just going to have a son, but God’s Son, who would not just be her son, but her Savior. And the Savior of the world. That’s all something to ponder! That God would do that. And that God would choose her.

Then there was her time with her relative Elizabeth, who was also miraculously with child. She was part of the plan, too. Her son would prepare the way for Mary’s son. And so these two women and their two sons would be forever linked. And she pondered that . . . God’s plan and purpose, all coming together, in them.

After those three months with Elizabeth, she returned home only to find out that her betrothed, Joseph, was planning on divorcing her. Who could blame him? But what would become of her? Wedding dreams turned nightmare. Until the angel came to Joseph, too, and told him of the plan. He, too, was needed. He, too, was important. He would be the guardian of God’s Son, his own Savior. And so Joseph remained faithful to his pledge. He cared for Mary. He cared for her son as his own. And Mary pondered . . . God had planned for this, too.

Then came the news that Caesar Augustus decided a tax would be a good thing, and everyone would have to go to the city of their family’s origin to be enrolled and pay this tax. By this time, Mary was very pregnant. It would not be an easy trip. And they weren’t wealthy. But they had no choice. So off they went, to Bethlehem - a trip that would not soon leave her mind! That she would ponder again and again. At least there would be family there they could stay with . . . right?

Well, turns out, no. All the guest rooms were already filled. But there was a spot, with the animals. It wasn’t much, but they could have it if they wanted it. Not the delivery room Mary expected nine months ago, but beggars can’t be choosers. At least it would be warm there, with the animals. And so her son was born, and she laid him in the manger that was there. A tough way to start a life! But nothing about her son’s life would be easy, she would learn . . . and pondered in her heart.

But still Mary had more to ponder, for God wasn’t done yet. Still had more up His divine sleeve. For the angels had come back again, this time to shepherds, to announce to them the birth of their Savior. And they came to see Him. Today, with all of our security, they wouldn’t have gotten near Him! But then, they did. And they marveled. Not just at a baby, but at their Lord, like this! Come for them. Come to save them. And Mary pondered *this* - not just the shepherds, but *all* that God was doing. Nine months that all led up to this day, this moment.

But more than nine months, actually. Thousands of years of prophets, priests, and kings, all leading to this day, this moment. This moment that not only changed her life forever, but would change the world forever.

**That’s a lot to think about! To ponder!**

So how about you? What are all the things you are keeping and pondering in your hearts?

Christmas brings many memories, many thoughts, old and new. Maybe for you there are lots of old memories, of Christmases past. Maybe you are pondering a loved one who isn’t with you this Christmas. Or maybe a loved one who is with you for the first time this year. Perhaps you are pondering an uncertain future, or rejoicing in the blessings and gifts you have received. Like Mary, there is certainly no shortage of things for us to ponder - of the past, present, and future. Of joys and sorrows. Of hopes and disappointments.

But Mary didn’t just remember or just think about these things - she *pondered* them. The Greek word there is *things thrown together*. Which could either be things thrown together randomly, **or** things thrown together like following a recipe, making something greater and more delicious than the sum of its parts. Mary knew that’s what it was - the work of God, working something far greater than she knew. Nothing by accident, nothing left to chance. All according to God’s Word and promise. *All things working together for good* (Romans 8:28), no matter how they might have seemed at the time. Mary pondered that, and marveled at that.

Marveled, because what all this teaches us is that it is not only Mary and you and I who ponder - **it is also God. Our Lord pondering us in His heart.** That you are always in His heart and on His mind. That what He is doing is not random, but always for you and your salvation. We may not always understand it, how God’s recipe works. It may not make sense to you, how all these ingredients, all these things happening in your life can possibly come together into something good . . . And yet, we see tonight that they do, indeed. That after nine months of mixing and stirring up, after thousands of years of prophecies and actions, **to us a child is born, to us a son is given. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.** The darkness of sin, of confusion, of unbelief, has been lightened by this child, that we





see the hand of God, the plan of God, and the mercy and love of God. The recipe just right, and doing something far greater than we could imagine, or which we could hope for.

And so amidst all our ponderings this night, **we ponder this, too:** the love of God for us this night. The love of God that would cause Him to send His Son into the world *like this*. The love of God that would cause Him to send His Son to the cross, God and sinners to reconcile, the innocent to die for the guilty, and then rise to give life to the dead. The love of God that would cause Him to send His Son to us still, tonight, as we receive that same Body and Blood born of the virgin Mary, held in her arms, and laid in the manger - now placed into our mouths for the forgiveness of our sins. The forgiveness He won on the cross and the life that sprung forth in His resurrection, now given to you, to each of us. For a life which cannot end.

And ponder how this recipe of God is still happening today. How it has brought you here, to this place, tonight. A random series of events? No. God coming for you, working for you. For always you are in His heart and on His mind. That you receive the greatest gift of all - His Son - by grace through faith.

**That's a lot to ponder!** And marvel at. Just as Mary had so much to ponder, too.

But let me give you **one more thing to ponder**, and that is how God is now throwing you into the mix, using you in His recipe for others. Just as He blessed Mary and used Mary, just as He blessed Joseph and used Joseph, as we heard from Paul's letter to Titus tonight, so He also blesses and uses you. ***A people zealous for good works.*** For you have pondered God's recipe in the past, and are zealous to see it in the future. How God is still working all things for good, and using you in that. Maybe you're just as unlikely as an unmarried virgin to have a baby. Maybe you're just as unlikely as shepherds to be the first to set eyes on their Savior. But this night, ponder that as well. With Mary. How the mercy and love of God is still working in you, for you, and through you.

**That's a lot to ponder!** To throw together in your heart and mind. But what joy and confidence it brings. To know that God can and is doing all this. **For you.** And one day, maybe soon, you will get to taste what the Lord has been preparing for you all along; the recipe all this has been leading to - the feast of heaven, which will have no end. We gather for this meal, this night, but knowing that as great as this is, the greater is still waiting for us.

**Ponder that, too!** And then whatever else Christmas is for you this year - joy or sorrow, hope or disappointment, alone or with others - it is a night of wonder. The wonder of God born for you.



#### EVENTS AROUND THE SCHOOL

- Dec. 2: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 3: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 4: 9:00 am Advent Chapel
- Dec. 5: 9:00 am School Devotion  
5:45 pm Trinity Caroling Gather 'Round  
Christmas Event Curtis Reed Square Menasha
- Dec. 6: 9:00 am School Devotion Midterms
- Dec. 9: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 10: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 11: 9:00 am 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service "O Christmas Tree"  
6:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service "O Christmas Tree"
- Dec. 12: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 13: 9:00 am School Devotion  
9:00 am PS3-K4 Christmas Service "Christmas Time"
- Dec. 16: 6:00 pm PS3-K4 Christmas Service "Christmas Time"
- Dec. 17: 9:00 am School Devotion
- Dec. 18: 9:00 am 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service "R U Ready"  
6:30 pm 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Christmas Service "R U Ready"
- Dec. 19: 9:00 am School Lessons and Carols  
School Christmas Caroling  
12:00 Noon Dismissal
- Dec. 20 – January 3 Christmas Break

# Merry Christmas

# Greetings from the Kinne Family



Dear Members of Trinity Lutheran Church & School in Menasha,

11/20/2024

Peace be with you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My family and I pray that you are all doing well as we begin to enter this Advent season. As always, we are thankful for your past and present support as I study for the office of the Holy Ministry.

Here is an update on our family: Matthew finished his vicarage assignment at *Immanuel Lutheran Church and School* in Hamilton, OH this past June. He is now in his last year of the Master of Divinity program at CTSFW. He is applying for the STM (Systematic Theology Master) program which may or may not affect him receiving a call this spring. There will be updates on what the Lord has in mind for him coming this January. In the meantime, he is busy with schoolwork, continues to teach music lessons, directs the adult choir at *Ascension Lutheran Church* in Fort Wayne, sings in the Kantorei on top of spending time with his family. Lauren has been mastering the art of motherhood in the home with two toddlers and a baby. Lately she has been refining her craft of baking delicious sourdough bread, sings in the Schola Cantorum (the seminary community chorus), and enjoys hosting other seminary wives and families at the Kinne house. Trinity-Ann is a helpful older sibling to her brothers. She started ballet this past year and is enjoying her new dance studio in Fort Wayne. Josiah has been honing in on being an older brother. He enjoys camping with dad and playing with his train set. David just started eating solids (in time to test mom's yummy bread) and is beginning to crawl.

Again, from my family to you, thank you. May God bless you and keep you in His care this Advent season, as we await our Lord's second coming with anticipation. I hope to send you another update sometime after the winter quarter. In the meantime, if you could please keep me, my family, and all seminarians in your prayers that would be greatly appreciated.

In Christ,  
Matthew Kinne and Family

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Kinne'.



## Annual Trinity Ladies Cookie and Candy Sale



It is that time again when we think about all the joys of Advent and Christmas. On top of that list is the birth of Baby Jesus; our Savior, who then died to deliver us from the punishment of our sins. There never has been or never will be a larger gift. We ask you to take every opportunity to share His love with the people you meet and tell them about Him. You can never give a better gift than to share this Good News! That is the prayer the Trinity Ladies have for each one of you this blessed season.

Our annual cookie and candy sale begins the weekend of  
December 7th and 8th December 14th and 15th, before and after the worship services.  
Also for the Trinity School Children's programs on December 11, 18 (9:00 AM & 6:30 PM) and  
December 16 @ 6:00PM.

The price for cookies will be \$7 per pound and candies will \$9 per pound

WE INVITE YOU TO HELP US BAKE COOKIES AND MAKE CANDY; YOU CAN SIMPLY BRING THEM WITH YOU WHEN YOU COME TO WORSHIP. You need not wrap or bag the items separately as we sell them right out of the container you bring them in. All proceeds go for numerous missions as well as for Trinity Church and School projects. We thank you for serving with us and bringing joy to our customers!



## German Dinner Thank You

Dear Trinity members,

The German Dinner committee would like to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your incredible support and contributions to the German Dinner.

We are overwhelmed with appreciation for the wonderful help and generous donations that played a crucial role in making the event such a resounding success. Your dedication and enthusiasm truly made a difference, and we couldn't have done it without each and every one of you.

Once again, thank you so much for your unwavering support and for helping us create a memorable and delightful day.

In Christ's love,

The German Dinner Committee



## December 2024 Newsletter Stewardship Message

The Bible often refers us to being a member of the body of Christ. What does this mean for you as an individual in this body? Are you aware of God's plan for you as a part of this church's membership? Do you clearly know what God wants you to do and are you truly dedicated to following through with your assignment from our Lord as a member of His body? Do you recognize the talents that God has given thus far? Do you know that He provides new opportunities for you to serve others and then gives you new and additional talents and time to carry out the task He has asked you to do? Do you understand just how important you really are in this church, the body of Christ?

You are not here by coincidence. You are here because God placed you in this place and time. You are here for His purpose alone. You are important to Him as a part of His body. He has granted you many gifts; acknowledge them and put them to work for God's glory and He will continue to provide you with what you need. One of the biggest challenges for a Christian is claiming that they don't have the skills to do something, unfortunately, that is a "cop out."

Your brothers and sisters here at Trinity (Christ's Body) need you! We need your time; we need your talents and your gifts. There is a lot to do here and there is a lot to do to build God's kingdom here on earth. You are important and you can do whatever God asks you to do with faith and trust in His promise to you as a member of His body.

But there's something more here. Not only does the church need you, not only has God chosen you to be a member of His body, not only has He given you gifts to use for the benefit of the church and the community, but God has given you gifts that, when you put them to use, are a blessing to *you*! The Lord says, "Put me to the test and see if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need" (Malachi 3:10). Ask anyone who's tried it, and they will tell you: God blesses those who honor Him with their lives and serve Him by serving others with the gifts they have received from Him. He gives them to you that He may bless you. He calls you to serve Him that He may bless you. There's only one entity in this universe that wants you to hoard your God-given gifts, because he – the enemy – does not want you to be blessed. Ignore him, use your gifts, whether they be money, time, or talents – or any combination of the three – to the glory of God, for the service of His church, and the benefit of your neighbor, and He will truly pour out on you such a blessing that you will not be able to contain it.

Following is a list of scriptures for your reference. Please read through these, then in prayer ask God to use you in accordance with His will:

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Ephesians 4:11-16

Matthew 28:18 -20

2 Corinthians 5:17 -21

1 Corinthians 3:9

Acts 6:1-7

Acts 13:1-3

Malachi 3:10

Thank you!

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT OCT. 2024

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$14,335.32	\$92,121.82	(\$90,961.31)	\$15,495.83
Nicolet Restricted Funds*	\$61,185.78	\$780.06	(\$36,539.29)	\$25,426.55
LCMS Endowment Fund**	\$127,957.80			\$127,957.80
LCEF Steward Fund	\$1,660.34			\$728.15
Pastors' Appeal	\$25.96	\$85,734.73		\$85,760.69
Schwab Wealth***	\$52,526.79			\$52,526.79
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,886.34			\$8,886.34
Nicolet Office Acct	\$3,306.07	\$1.39	(\$173.00)	\$3,134.46
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,196.44	\$0.27		\$3,196.71
Nicolet Scrip	\$17,512.17	\$22,115.81	(\$31,474.06)	\$8,153.92
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$290,593.01</b>	<b>\$200,754.08</b>	<b>(\$159,147.66)</b>	<b>\$332,199.43</b>
LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	\$829,427.77		(3,351.73)	\$826,076.04



**The Craft Bazaar Committee** would like to thank everyone for items that were donated to the Heavenly Bargains, Vintage & Antique Booth, and the Silent Auction. The Ladies Aid Bake Sale is always a great success. And let us not forget the Praise Him Café and the wonderful meals they served up for everyone.

We also need to express our gratitude to everyone who shared their "Time, Treasures and Talents" to ensure the success of this year's bazaar. Our volunteers did an incredible job of keeping everything running smoothly.

The total proceeds from this year's event were \$5,080.75. God has blessed Trinity greatly.

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!***



# *Thank you,*

A very special thank you to Pastor Billings for leading us through the renewal of our wedding vows on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

To all who were there with us in Church or in thought and prayer.

We received many kind wishes, beautiful cards and gifts. The Ladies Aid graciously provided punch and ice cream and served the cake.

To our children and grandchildren who planned and prepared a very tasty meal and for making sure everything was perfect.

The memories of this day will always bring a smile to our faces and will never be forgotten. We felt surrounded with so much love.

Much Love to All and Gods' Blessings

Bruce and Lana Gast



**A BIG Thank You to Our Bakers!**

A big hug and many thanks to all the Trinity bakers; you certainly outdid yourselves with the many donations for our November 16th bake sale. And a special thanks to those of you that peeled potatoes and assisted in making the German potato salad, to those of you who peeled apples for the delicious apple sauce and also to the special group who helped us build 43 apple pies in one day; what a team! God was with us all the way at each event and then provided many wonderful customers on the weekend. He is so good and pray each one of you were blessed by the fellowship of your Trinity Family.

Our proceeds were over \$2000 and will be disbursed in January for numerous missions and for Trinity projects. Watch for our Candy and Cookie Sale on the weekends of December 7 & 8, and also December 14 & 15 and after each of the Trinity School Children's Christmas worship services (December 11, 16 and 18). Thank you! Trinity Ladies Aid

# Alzheimer's Disease, What To Know

Last updated: November 1, 2023

Alzheimer's disease is influenced by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. Identifying and addressing modifiable risk factors is crucial to reducing your risk of developing the disease.

## **Lisa Nebel, Vice President of Post-Acute Care, ThedaCare**

As we mark Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month this November, it's a good time to familiarize yourself with signs and symptoms of the condition.

More than 6 million Americans live with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia.

Doctors diagnose 3 million new cases of Alzheimer's each year, and experts say the neurodegenerative disease is deadlier than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. The number of people with Alzheimer's or dementia is expected to increase as our population ages and as people live longer.

## **Alzheimer's Disease Facts**

Alzheimer's is a complex condition that primarily affects the brain. People with the disease experience gradual deterioration of cognitive functions, including memory, thinking, and behavior.

While there's no known cure for Alzheimer's disease, there is growing evidence that certain risk factors may contribute to its development. You can take steps now to potentially stave off dementia and its progression to Alzheimer's disease.

"Alzheimer's disease is influenced by a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors," says Lisa Nebel, Vice President of Post-Acute Care for ThedaCare. "Identifying and addressing modifiable risk factors is crucial to reducing your risk of developing the disease."

## **7 Risk Factors**

The exact cause of Alzheimer's is still not fully understood, but experts have identified several risk factors.

**Age:** The risk doubles every five years after the age of 65. Nearly one in three people over the age of 85 will develop Alzheimer's.

**Genetics:** Individuals with a family history of Alzheimer's are at higher risk. Specific genetic factors, like the presence of certain genes, also can increase the risk of developing the disease.

**Cardiovascular health:** Conditions such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and diabetes can all lead to increased risk.

**Inactivity:** A sedentary lifestyle limits blood flow to the brain, increasing the risk of disease.

**Poor diet and nutrition:** A diet high in sugars, saturated and trans-fats, low-fiber foods, and high-sugar drinks puts people at increased risk. This includes a high intake of fast food and processed foods.

**Loneliness and social isolation:** Isolation and lack of social interaction can be detrimental to cognitive health.

**Sleep quality:** Poor sleep and sleep disorders can contribute to cognitive decline. Sleep is restorative and crucial for cognitive function and memory consolidation.



## 7 Positive Steps to Take

These steps can help reduce your risk for developing Alzheimer's.

**Lifestyle choices:** Maintaining an overall healthy lifestyle is key. This includes not only eating well and exercising but also avoiding smoking and excessive alcohol consumption.

**Physical activity:** Regular physical activity has been shown to have numerous benefits for brain health. Exercise promotes good blood flow to the brain, reducing risk of disease. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise per week.

**Mindful eating:** Adopt a brain-healthy diet rich in antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and foods that promote heart health. These include fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Consider the Mediterranean diet as a well-rounded option.

**Cognitive Stimulation:** Staying mentally active throughout life is protective. Engaging in activities like reading, puzzles, or learning new skills can help keep the brain healthy. Challenging your brain can enhance its resilience and may reduce the risk of cognitive decline.

**Social engagement:** Stay socially active, foster relationships, and prioritize a strong support network. Maintaining an active social life and staying connected with friends and family is essential.

**Adequate sleep:** Good sleep hygiene includes ensuring a comfortable sleep environment and establishing a regular sleep schedule. It's also important to address any sleep disorders.

**Regular Checkups:** Regular medical checkups are crucial for monitoring and managing cardiovascular risk factors like high blood pressure and diabetes. Early detection and management can reduce Alzheimer's risk.

### Seeking Care

If you notice mild or moderate symptoms of Alzheimer's, talk to your primary care provider. They can help guide you to treatment options and specialist care.

Aging is inevitable. But with the right choices and lifestyle modifications, we can better equip ourselves to face the challenges that come with it.

"By adopting a proactive approach to brain health, individuals can potentially reduce their risk of Alzheimer's disease and enjoy a higher quality of life as they age," Nebel says.

Learn about senior and memory care available through ThedaCare

Tags: aging Alzheimer's disease dementia memory care senior care