

Trinity Lutheran Church

January 2024

Worship Services

8:45 AM, Sundays

5:30 PM, Wednesdays

Holy Communion at all services.

Newsletter



**The Annual Meeting of Trinity
Lutheran Church will be held Sunday,
January 21st, 2024.**

We will convene the meeting in the church sanctuary.
The quorum to conduct
business requires a minimum of 35 voting
members. There were 40 voting members present in
2023.

We will be electing members to the church
council, nominating, and other standing
committees.

All members are encouraged to attend.

MN Adult & Teen Challenge

Inspiring choir composed of teens and adults recovering from major drug and alcohol addictions. MN adult & Teen Challenge will make their annual visit to Trinity on Sunday, January 14th, 2024.

All are welcome, bring a friend.
There will be a dinner in Trinity Hall.

First Mentor Event of 2024 will be January 28th at 12:00 in Trinity Hall at Trinity Church. Mentors and their students will be discussing Holy Communion. We will share in a soup lunch.



Ruby's 
PANTRY

*Please follow the signs
and stay in your
vehicle*

Next drive - thru pantry is:
Saturday
8:45 am - 10:00 am

For a \$25 cash donation, people can receive an abundance of food. There are no income or residency requirements.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF ALBERTLEA
702 HWY 69 S, ALBERT LEA, MN, 56007

Volunteers Needed: Call 507-373-8233



January 6, 2024

JANUARY 2024 COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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The annual meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, January 21st, 2024. We will convene the meeting at 11:00 AM in the church sanctuary. The quorum to conduct business requires a minimum of 35 voting members. There were 40 voting members present in 2023. We will be electing members to the church council, nominating, and other standing committees.

A review and approval of the 2023 treasurer's report and adoption of the 2024 budget is also a vital part of the annual meeting. We will also review, accept various reports and discuss any new business that comes before the group.

One item on the annual meeting agenda will be a report regarding the Shared Ministry Agreement with First Lutheran of Glenville. Another one is the structural situation regarding the "South Tower" of the church sanctuary. The roof and supporting structure on the approximate 12' by 12' area is in need of major repairs.

Trinity is planning to host MN Adult/Teen Challenge from Rochester at our January 14th service. We will be serving a meal for everyone following their sharing time in Trinity Hall after the service. If you would like to help prepare and serve the meal please let me know.

I find it hard to believe that we are entering a "New Year". It is time to reflect on the past year, but also a reason to search out new opportunities how we can serve the church and help each other.

Ron Petersen

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Premises Committee January 2024

We continue to work with our roofing contractor to work out a plan for repairs on the South tower. Our plan is to do these repairs in the spring when the weather gets better.

Looking back to last year at this time, our snow plowing contractor had already plowed 6 times before Christmas.

This year it is zero plows. It sure has been unusual fall weather. I'm looking for a mild winter and an early spring. Is that too much to ask for??

If you have any questions or concerns, contact Jeff, Steve, or any council mem-

Happy New Year! 2023 is gone and on we go to 2024.

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As you all know we had a snowless Christmas. Judging by the amount of rain we received on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day that is a good thing as travel would have been very difficult.

2023 was a good year for Trinity financially, we are roughly \$21,000 ahead of where we were last January. A small portion is a reduction in lower payroll costs due to a retirement and a change with our Office Manager position. But a large portion of the swing is an increase in giving to Trinity by our members.

Thank you to all for your donations in 2023.

Looking ahead this year one of our financial challenges for 2024 will be a large repair to the roof and structure of the south tower. Any funds designated to this project will be appreciated.

Be sure to mark your calendar and attend the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 21st.

Please consider setting up for online giving either on our website at www.tlc-al.org or at <http://myeoffering.com/>.

Happy New Year and God Bless!

November financial overview:	Total Receipts	
	\$26,609.89	
	Total Disbursements	
	\$19,354.16	
	Cushion	\$7,255.73
YTD financial overview:	Total Receipts	
	\$250,347.49	
	Total Disbursements	
	\$248,090.67	
	Cushion	\$2,256.82

s/ Chris Skogheim

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

Psalm 103:1-2

This past year we have been blessed.

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But what does “blessed” really mean? So, I looked up blessed on dictionary.com. Blessed = *adjective* consecrated; sacred; holy; or worthy of adoration, reverence, or worship. It can mean blissfully happy or contented. As a *noun* = those who have died and are believed to be experiencing happiness or bliss in heaven.

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However, the definition that works the best with my opening statement is: “divinely or happily favored; fortunate to have, do, or experience something.” Looking back, we have experienced a lot in the past year.

First, we have learned how to live with CoVid. This virus is a part of our lives, but it is no longer a pandemic. People still get CoVid (I did). We wear masks when needed. We quarantine for the safety of others. The energy and spirit of the church is returning. I feel a renewed energy and spirit in our worship, fellowship, study, and service. We are blessed to Love God and Love Others in all aspects of our life.

In service, we continue to feed the hungry physically and spiritually. Come on any Wednesday night and be fed a healthy meal. Enjoy the fellowship of others. Worship God together. And participate or witness the energy of our 6th-9th graders as they learn about God’s purpose and God’s love in their life. We also continue to assist with the Ruby’s Pantry food distribution, the Salvation Army, the United Way Winter Gear Drive, etc. Trinity and First members are seen volunteering all over the place.

This summer we helped organize and lead a Community VBS with Ascension, Grace, and Salem Lutheran Churches, and the Salvation Army. We hadn’t had VBS since before CoVid. It was a joy to see everyone at VBS. And, of course, there was good food. It is my prayer and hope that we will continue the Community VBS.

We had 8 young men and 1 young lady Affirm their Baptisms this year. Trinity is blessed with our youth. Do you know who is inviting others the most to our community of faith? Our kids. Our 6th-10th graders are wonderful at inviting their friends and telling them, as Jesus said, “Come and See.” We could all learn something.

A majority of this group then served on a Mission Trip

Continue on next page

I am most fed through our Bible Studies. It is my prayer and wish that more people would get involved in Bible Study. We have bible study on Mondays at 6:15 pm, the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:45 pm, Thursdays at 9:30 am, and Saturday mornings.

Our biggest blessing is our new Ministry Partnership. In October, Trinity, Albert Lea and First, Glenville agreed to partner in ministry. The main part of the partnership is pastoral leadership. I am contracted for 25% at Glenville. However, the partnership has produced fruit we could not have expected. Our Confirmation and Pre-Confirmation Program are thriving with the partnership. It's more fun when there are more people. Lay Leadership is expanding also. I, as pastor, cannot do everything since my time has limits. This has allowed for fantastic individuals to step up and say yes to help our ministries grow. I look forward to what God through the Holy Spirit has planned.

We had some changes in our staff at Trinity. Jill Hagen, our Family Ministry Coordinator, and Deb Lunn, our Office Manager, both resigned their position. We give thanks to God for all their gifts and their commitment to Trinity's ministry. They are both missed. We had the addition of Carol Trish as Trinity's new Office Manager. She is also the Office Manager at First. So this really helps. It is my hope that by this spring or summer we will have another new position for Christian Ed and our Seniors filled so our ministry can continue to thrive.

I want to thank our staff: Greg Andersen, Nancy Halvorsen, Leland Johnson, Steve Olson, Carol Trish, and Patti Yaw for all your devotion. Thank you also to all the volunteers that keep the church chugging away.

Thank you to Trinity's council: Greg Andersen, Cheryl Endersen, Lori Holty, Del Johnson, Jeff Nelson, Steve Olson, Cathy Petersen, Ron Petersen, Christ Skogheim, Jason Taylor, and Tonya Telles. Sometimes being a leader is a thankless job. I want you to know that I thank you and I appreciate all that you do to serve God and serve Others.

Finally, thank you to my wonderful boys, Jacobi and Martin. You make my time away from church more beautiful. I love you so much.

Thank you church, for sharing in this ministry. I look forward to moving forward with the Holy Spirit's guidance. Amen.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2024

By Linda Olson & LeAnn Juveland

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

-2 Corinthians 5:17

There is a reason January is the most important month of the year for gyms and diet programs because it seems like it is a fresh chance to start again, to improve yourself. It seems like a natural time for new beginnings. The Christian life offers lots of opportunities for fresh starts, for changing what we've been doing or beginning to live differently. Each week in worship, we begin with a time of confession where we admit what we've done wrong. We admit to God and to each other that our lives are not perfect, that we're not living the way we ought to live. Then, after confession, we hear God's response. We hear the good news that because of God's forgiveness, because God Loves us, we all get a fresh start. You don't have to wait for a new year to have a fresh start. ***Each day offers the opportunity to wake up and remember that you are a baptized child of God. You have been claimed, redeemed, and set free by Jesus Christ.***

TLCW Board Meeting	Tuesday, January 2 at 9:30 am
Mary Circle	Tuesday, January 9 at 1:30 pm
Sewing Day	Wednesday, January 10 <u>All are Welcome</u>
Deborah & Elizabeth Circle	Wednesday, January 17 at 9:30 am
Eunice & Lois Circle	Wednesday, January 17 at 2:00 pm

****Coffee Hour Circle Dates for January****

January 7th	Mary
January 14th	Teen Challenge
January 21st	Debra
January 28th	Elizabeth

TLCW Circle Workshop on Tuesday, January 9th at 9:30 in the Confirmation Center!

The TLCW Board is honored to welcome Jody Nygaard as the newest board member. We are Blessed to have her on our Board.

January 6th is the Day of Epiphany. This is the day that we remember the Wise Men visiting and blessing Jesus with gifts. During the season of Epiphany, it is tradition to bless our homes.

On Sunday, January 7th, we will be blessing our sanctuaries where we worship. This is also a good time to bless our homes. If you would like Pastor Eileen to come to your home for a blessing, please contact her by calling the church or emailing her at ewoy-en@gmail.com.

High School Fun Night!

Sunday, January 14th

From 7:00pm-9:00pm

Memorials Given in Loving Memory of...

Youth Trip

Marlys Jensen

By Barb Larson

By Eleanor Schou

By Friends and family

Glenda Spiotta

By Mark and Sheila Jensen

Undesignated

Paul Field

By Mary Ann Martinson

Roof Repair

Marlys Jensen

By Leverne and Liz Skov

Wednesday night supper

Marlys Jensen

By Doris Hanson

By Phyllis Tavis

By Sue Fink

Roof Repairs

Marlys Jensen

By Donna Oliva

Undesignated Memorials

Marlys Jensen

By Friends and family

By Glenn and LeAnn Juveland

By Bob and Pat Goldman

By Al and Nancy Halvorson

By Dale and Gloria Jensen

Banners

Marlys Jensen

By Shorty and Nancy Jensen

Improvements

Marlys Jensen

By Joan Mattick

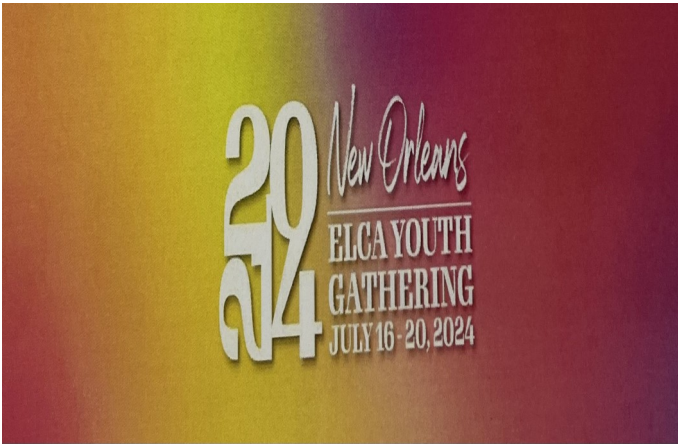
Youth Mission trip

Marlys Jensen

By Jan Drews

Berthelsen Scholarship

By Erna Berthelsen



Our youth are planning on going to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.
Please pray for our youth as they prepare.



Bible Studies resume Monday, January 8th and Thursday, January 11th. We will be studying **Explaining All The Scary Stuff In Revelation**, *By: Rev. Ken Klaus*. From the study: "Nobody said demons, plagues, and an appointment with Armageddon would be fun, but it doesn't have to be feared-at least not for the Christian. Check out our Bible study. Explaining All The Scary Stuff In Revelation gives both insight-and encouragement to those who follow "the bright Morning Star." This study looks at the main themes of the book of Revelation.

Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a fellowship of believers in Christ, sustained
by God's Word, led by the Holy Spirit and
committed to
God's vision of caring!

F.R.O.G. Valentine's Party
Saturday, February 3, 2024
Central Freeborn Lutheran Church,
Fellowship Hall 6:00-9:00pm
Cost \$7.50 person
\$15.00 per family
FREE Food Coupons for all!!!
Pop, Pizza, Bingo with prizes
Drawing for Door Prizes!
RSVP to Bob & Genie Hanson 373-8655or
Wayne & Bev Indrelie 826-3267



Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor Eileen Woyen

Pastor Eileen's email: ewoyen@gmail.com

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Albert Lea, MN

January 2024 newsletter