

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

January 2021 Newsletter

(920) 722-2662 Church
(920) 725-1715 School
www.trinitymenasha.com

Important Dates

Jan 4 - School Resumes
Jan 5 - Voters Meeting
Jan 6 - Wed Worship Re-starts
Jan 24 - 31 National Lutheran Schools Week

Reminders:

- Services are open to the public by reservation only. Please contact the church office at (920) 722-2662 or bwohrabe@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.
- You may also check the church Facebook page for a Daily Devotion from Pastor Billings.



Senior Pastor:

Rev. Steven S. Billings



Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

Rev. Keith E. GeRue



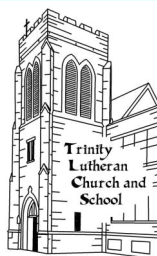
Director of Music:

Mr. Tim Reuning



Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart



Our Mission Statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church & 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.

SCRIP News.....

THANK YOU to everyone that continually purchases SCRIP. We are so grateful for you! Your purchases in 2020 helped raise over \$18,000 for Trinity's Ministry work as well as for tuition support.

To God Be the Glory!

We look forward to serving you in 2021 for all your SCRIP needs!

Trinity's SCRIP Team: Nate, Betty, Naydene, Karen, Jane, Polly, Steve, Jim & Carol.

Thank You!

The Trinity Ladies Aid/LWML extends a heartfelt "thank you" to the many members of our Trinity Family who supported our "Call to Order Bake Sale." It was a joy to do something for you and we pray it brought you joy. We also thankful for the numerous donations. Our final proceeds are \$1992.00. The money will be used in its entirety for missions and Trinity Church and School projects and will be disbursed in January 2021. To God be the Glory!

To all who participated in the Taste of Trinity Fundraiser. Approximately \$200 was raised for the Organ fund. Anyone looking for a sweet treat you can contact Rosemary Collingwood for Jams.

Thank you everyone! Elaine & Rosemary

Celebration of National Lutheran Schools Week: Sun, Jan 24th to Sun, Jan 31st

Congregational Voter's Meeting

Tues, January 5th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary and online, for election of Officers and Board Members for 2021. Please call the church office by Noon on Tuesday January 5th to reserve a spot or to sign up for Zoom attendance.

Why does the New Year begin January 1st?

The early Roman calendar consisted of 10 months and 304 days, with each new year beginning at the vernal equinox; according to tradition, it was created by Romulus, the founder of Rome, in the eighth century B.C. A later king, Numa Pompilius, is credited with adding the months of Januarius and Februarius. Over the centuries, the calendar fell out of sync with the sun, and in 46 B.C. the emperor Julius Caesar decided to solve the problem by consulting with the most prominent astronomers and mathematicians of his time. He introduced the Julian calendar, which closely resembles the more modern Gregorian calendar that most countries around the world use today.

As part of his reform, Caesar instituted January 1 as the first day of the year. In medieval Europe, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with days carrying more religious significance, such as December 25 (the anniversary of Jesus' birth) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation); Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582.

January 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 No School Offices Closed New Years Day	2 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
3-2nd Sunday after Christmas 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	4 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> School Resumes Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional BB 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	5 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm BB Practice 6:30pm Voter's Mtg Followed by Board Mtgs	6 8:45am Chapel 3:45pm Faculty mtg 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship	7 6am Men's Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	8	9 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
10-Baptism of the Lord 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	11 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional BB 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	12 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm BB Practice 6:30pm Board of Dir	13 8:45am Chapel 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship	14 6am Men's Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	15	16 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
17-2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	18 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> No School Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional BB 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	19 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	20 8:45am Chapel 3:45pm All Staff Meeting 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship	21 6am Men's Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	22 End of 2nd quarter Kids Heart Challenge	23 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
24-3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 1st & 2nd Grades Sing 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	25 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional BB 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	26 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	27 8:45am Chapel 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship	28 6am Men's Bible 3:45pm BB Practice	29 No School/Teacher In Service	30 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
	National Lutheran Schools Week					
31-4th Sunday after Epiphany 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 7th & 8th Grade @ Peace 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	<div>HAPPY NEW YEAR</div> <div>2021</div>					

Serving Our Lord with Gladness- January 2021

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

Elders of the Month: 5pm Roger Voigt, 9am Brian Ratzburg.

Altar Guild of the Month: Sandy Meyer, Laurel Wirth, Jean Zeinert & Beth Wohlrabe.

Worship Date/Time	Acolyte Serving	Elder on Duty/ Comm. Assistant	Greeters	Lectors	Ushering Crew
Jan. 2 5:00pm 3 9:00am	N/A	Roger Voigt Brian Ratzburg	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Volunteer Volunteer
Jan. 6 6:30pm	NA	Volunteer	NA	Pastor	Volunteer
Jan. 9 5:00pm 10 9:00am	NA	Roger Voigt Brian Ratzburg	NA	Pastor Pastor	Volunteer Volunteer
Jan.13 6:30pm	N/A	Volunteer	N/A	Pastor	Volunteer
Jan.16 5:00pm 17 9:00am	N/A	Roger Voigt Brian Ratzburg	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Volunteer Volunteer
Jan.20 6:30pm	N/A	Volunteer	N/A	Pastor	Volunteer
Jan. 23 5:00pm 24 9:00am	N/A	Roger Voigt Brian Ratzburg	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Volunteer Volunteer
Jan. 27 6:30pm	N/A	Volunteer	N/A	Pastor	Volunteer
Jan.30 5:00pm 31 9:00am	N/A	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Volunteer Volunteer

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1-1 CISKE, Stan & Johanna

1-8 LUKASAVAGE, Robert & Diane

1-11 JOERNDT, David & Mae

1-20 HAANEN, Tom & Carrie

BIRTHDAYS

1-2 BAEHMAN, Duane

1-2 LOOKER, Brandon

1-3 KROES, Nick

1-3 PEOTTER, Georgina

1-3 VOIGT, Myles

1-4 MEIDAM, Kenneth

1-6 GROSHEK, Joseph

1-6 KRAUSE, Judith

1-9 HENKEL, Blaine

1-9 HENSON, Sara

1-12 BROWN, Finley

1-12 ELLIOTT, Charlotte

1-12 VOIGT, Roger

1-13 NIELSEN, Bart

1-14 TSCHIRGI, Joyce

1-14 VAN ARK, Tony

1-14 WOLTER, James

1-15 BROWN, Riley

1-16 HERTZIGER, Tammy

1-17 MEIDAM, Helen

1-17 REUNING, Alexandra

1-17 ROSIN, Jerry

1-18 BRADLEY, Randy

1-19 VANDEN WYNGAARD, Julie

1-21 GEHRT, Randolph

1-22 WALDBURGER, Jolene

1-23 ZACHEK, Matthew

1-24 MODERSON, Michael

1-26 KAMPRATH, Ashlee

1-26 KONWINSKI, Chester

1-27 BOSS, Cari

1-27 DANIELS, Cody

1-29 ROSS, Jean

1-30 NIELSEN, Ethan

1-30 RALEIGH, Sharon

✠ *Trinity Membership Update* ✠

New Members/Transfers In: David Little

Released/Transfers Out: None

Baptisms: Dana Akers, Ruby Akers, Jordan Jennerjohn, Noah Jennerjohn, & Jack Bouchard

Weddings: Jeremy Bouchard & Dana Akers

Members Who Have Passed: Roger Kempf

A Memorial gift was given to Day School Tuition Assistance Fund in memory of Bill Buksyk

“Why are we doing this?”

The colors on the altar change with the changing seasons and celebrations of the Church Year. Just as our calendar year is divided into months and seasons that repeat each year, the Church Year is divided into seasons and festivals that we repeat each year. The purpose of the repetitive festivals and seasons is to make sure that we don't forget to commemorate important events and teachings in the life of Jesus. (e.g. In the Old Testament God commanded His people to celebrate the Passover every year at a certain time, so that they would never forget what God had done for them, and so they would be able to tell their children about it when the kids ask “Why are we doing this?” We celebrate Christmas and Easter each year for the same reasons. The idea of a “church year” can't be attributed to a certain person who “sat down one day and came up with the idea.” Rather, the idea of a “church year” developed slowly. At first the Good Friday-Easter event was thought of as being commemorated every week at Sunday worship. Eventually, the Resurrection of Christ became the first event celebrated annually.

Today, we divide the church year into six seasons: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent (Ash Wednesday – Good Friday), Easter, and Pentecost.

Now, for the colors that change with the seasons...little is known of the origin of the use of colors for the various seasons and festivals, but here's what they stand for, and when they are used.

Blue: is the color of hope and thus is used for the Advent season, the season of hope for the coming of Immanuel, the God who came to be with His people.

White: symbolizes innocence and holiness, majesty and glory, festivity and joy. Thus, white is the color of the Christmas and Easter seasons. It is also used on All Saints Day and days of giving thanks (like Thanksgiving).

Purple: is the color of penitence and mourning, so it is the appropriate color for the Lenten season.

Black: symbolizes humiliation, sadness, deep mourning, and death and is only used on Good Friday.

Red: the color of fire and blood, symbolizes the Holy Spirit, martyrdom, fervor, and love. Red is used on Pentecost Day, Confirmation Day and Reformation Day.

Green: symbolizes life and growth. It is the color used during the Pentecost and Epiphany seasons when we focus on the words and actions of Jesus that bring life and growth.

Trinity's Altar Guild

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT NOV 2020

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$31,266.01	\$56,079.44	(\$64,669.03)	\$22,676.42
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$130,243.98	\$2,167.00	(\$579.45)	\$131,831.53
LCMS Endowment Fund	\$108,500.24	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$108,500.24
LCEF Steward Fund	\$1,515.37	\$7,658.97	(\$7,414.10)	\$1,760.24
Nicolet Money Market	\$98,458.40	\$4.18	\$0.00	\$98,462.58
RBC Account	\$42,901.62	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42,901.62
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,162.38	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$8,262.38
Nicolet Office Acct	\$828.99	\$0.00	(\$82.00)	\$746.99
Nicolet Debts Repaid	\$8,287.62	\$0.00	(\$2,900.00)	\$5,387.62
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,181.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,181.84
Nicolet Scrip	\$6,728.99	\$26,999.30	(\$18,554.13)	\$15,174.16
TOTAL	\$440,075.44	\$93,008.89	(\$94,198.71)	\$438,885.62
 LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	 \$1,090,793.80			 \$1,046,036.94

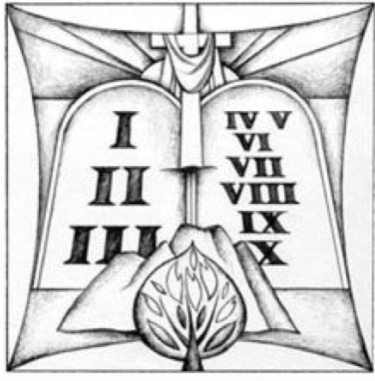
How to Alleviate Holiday Season Stress

The holidays are a time for joy, celebration, and love—but for many people, hectic schedules and holiday blues can make stress the predominant emotion of the season. In a year that's already been unusually stressful, the added chaos of holiday shopping and festivities—or the sadness of not being able to celebrate with your usual traditions due to the pandemic—may overshadow the magic of the season. While managing stress can be easier said than done, it's essential for maintaining both your mental and physical health.

Feeling the stress of the holiday season beginning to creep in? Here are a few ways to keep it in check:

- Give yourself permission to say no. Whether you're opting out of a family get-together because you'd prefer to avoid travel or you simply don't have time to attend a holiday event, remind yourself that it's okay to say no. Overburdening yourself with commitments can lead to burnout and a feeling of resentment, so try to be honest about how much you'll be able to handle before filling up your calendar.
- Maintain healthy habits. The holidays are a time of indulgence—and particularly when you're feeling stressed, it can be tempting to adopt unhealthy eating or drinking habits, which ultimately leads to more stress and feelings of guilt. To avoid this negative cycle, be sure to get plenty of sleep, keep up with your exercise routine, and have healthy snacks before holiday meals so that you'll be less likely to overindulge.
- Set aside differences you may have with friends or family. The possibility of conflict when gathering with friends or family members that you haven't seen in a while is a major cause of holiday season stress for many people. Whether you're concerned that arguments may erupt over politics and current events or long-standing relationship disputes, resolving to accept your loved ones as they are and set aside grievances until a calmer time can help avoid conflicts and reduce stress.
- Stick to a budget. Excessive spending on holiday gifts can be a source of stress now and into the future. To avoid this, set a manageable budget for all of your holiday spending, and consider giving homemade gifts or offering your loved ones experiences or services in lieu of material goods.
- Take time for yourself. No matter how busy you are during the holidays, taking time for activities that you find relaxing and enjoyable is an essential way to minimize stress and find joy in the season. Even if it's just 15 minutes a day to meditate, read, or take a walk, stealing moments for yourself can help keep you equipped to handle the stresses of everyday life.

Sources: [mayoclinic.org](https://www.mayoclinic.org)



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 73: *How does God bless those who love Him and keep His commandments?*

He showers those who believe in Him and their God-fearing descendants with His constant love and good gifts.

The *Catechism 1991* answers the question: “How does God bless those who love Him and keep His commandments?” by stating: “He showers those who believe in Him and their God-fearing descendants with His constant love and good gifts.” In support of this it lists the following Scripture passages:

1 Tim. 4:8 – Godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

When God gave His Ten Commandments, He did not throw darts at a board blind-folded to determine what He would or would not allow human beings to do. He established His Law because He knows better than we do what sorts of behavior are good for us and helpful to our lives in this world.

Therefore, built into these Commandments is a set of rewards, for when we do the things that are good for us and helpful to our lives in this world, we actually get to enjoy life as God intended for it to be lived.

Believe it or not, it is actually better for us not to have other Gods (1st Commandment). Why?

Because there are not really any other gods, and if we pretend that there are, these made-up gods have no power to help us. Indeed, if we pray to them, there is no one there to listen.

If we honor God’s name and remember to keep the Sabbath (especially by worshiping in His house) we are strengthened in our faith and are thereby better equipped to handle the difficulties we face.

Listening to and honoring our parents is better for us. Bear in mind: They’ve been around the block once or twice and have a much better perspective on life (generally) than we do.

If everyone treated others well and tried to avoid harming them physically, how much better would be life in this world? No need for personal protection. No need to fear that someone may be seeking to end our lives, etc.

Think how much better our marriages would be without the threat of divorce and other unpleasantness.

What if no one ever tried to ruin the reputations of others by telling lies about them? And what if, rather than scheming to get what doesn’t belong to us, we actually tried to protect our neighbor by helping him watch out for his possessions and relationships?

These are just a few of the rewards that come from abiding by the Lord’s Commands. He has hard wired these blessings into the Commandments so it’s in our best interest to honor them. It truly is a better way to live. ✚

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



1,914 SCHOOLS | 21,655 TEACHERS | 35 DISTRICTS

RAISING UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DISCIPLES

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus

PROVIDING EXCELLENT ACADEMIC PREPARATION

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

SHARING THE LIFE-CHANGING MESSAGE OF JESUS' LOVE WITH MORE THAN

180,000 students, their families and the community

A Great Lutheran School

"It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant" (**Matt. 20:26**).

"Great Faces, Great Places." The state of South Dakota publicizes one of its most famous landmarks, Mount Rushmore, with this motto. The state invites tourists to visit to see the great faces of the presidents as well as the great faces of the people that greet visitors. Great places in the state not only include Mount Rushmore but also other historic, recreational and entertaining places.

Our Lutheran school obviously has great faces: its students and staff. It also is a great place to worship, learn, play, participate and serve. "What makes our school great?"

In today's Scripture reading, the mother of disciples James and John thinks that her sons are great (doesn't every parent). She asks Jesus to place her sons at the right and left sides of His heavenly throne. The other disciples are immediately jealous. Obviously, they thought they were just as great.

Sometimes people show that they think they are great: the athlete who shares that he's No. 1, or the actors or musicians who surrounds themselves with great things and people. Sometimes we even like to think of ourselves as being great. We may brag about our abilities or accomplishments.

God's Law reminds us that we are sinful people. The only great thing about us is that we have a great list of sins, and that's not so great. Our text (**Matt. 20:26**) tells us that God doesn't measure greatness by what we can do or who we are. Our nature is sinful, and our actions are self-serving and condemning.

Matthew tells us that greatness is shown in serving. Jesus, the great creator, great miracle worker and great teacher, came to serve. Jesus served all sinners when He came "to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus served each of us by dying for our sins. Jesus brings His victory over sin, death and the grave by serving us in the waters of our Baptism and in His Word. We have a great Lutheran school because we have the message of a serving Savior. We don't have to travel to another state to see great faces in a great place. They are right here in our Lutheran school. We show and share the greatness of Jesus by serving in His name. We look forward to a great National Lutheran Schools Week. January 24 – 31, 2021

From the School

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW)

It's here! National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) is the opportunity to celebrate with nearly 2,000 schools nationwide and to give thanks for the gift of Lutheran schools for students, families and communities. Churches and schools rejoice in their partnership with a shared vision for proclaiming God's grace and mercy to equip the next generation of faithful Christian servants. We give thanks to God for the opportunity to touch the lives of thousands and thousands of children and families who attend Lutheran schools.

The NLSW theme this year is "Sent to Serve" and is inspired by Matthew 20:28: "Even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus served through His suffering, death and resurrection — and paid the price with His own life to free each of us from the slavery of sin.

We make ourselves known as followers of Jesus by following His example. It's the message that is taught and lived daily in classrooms in Lutheran schools across the nation and world. Our faithful service is our response. God calls us into specific ministry roles in our church and school and has chosen each of us to be a servant in this time and place.

This message of Christ's death and resurrection is the message that Lutheran schools have shared with children and families for generations.

We are rich with examples of servants following Jesus in our Lutheran schools. We have experienced how social distancing impacted education in classrooms, challenging every educator to design a system of remote learning.

Teachers responded digitally with creative solutions and developed innovative ways to connect meaningfully with students and their families. Chapel services with words of encouragement continued with online platforms, enabling the beautiful Gospel message of the forgiveness of sin through faith in Jesus Christ to be proclaimed.

Students look forward to NLSW every year. In the mix of spirit days, crazy socks, special guests, service-learning experiences, open houses, community projects and the many creative ways

schools celebrate this special week, we have great joy with the promise of eternal life, as we live in His victory and share the Good News with one another and the world.

Daily Themes:

MONDAY: Jesus — Sent to Serve "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you" (**John 13:14–15**).

TUESDAY: Pastors and Teachers — Sent to Serve "He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (**Eph. 4:11–12**).

WEDNESDAY: Serving Together on God's Team "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (**1 Cor. 12:27**).

THURSDAY: Serving in Home and Community "Stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning . . . Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes" (**Luke 12:35, 37**).

FRIDAY: Sent to Serve in the World "May all kings fall down before him, all nations serve him!" (**Ps. 72:11**).



YEAR 1, DECEMBER 2020

CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

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



The middle and high school classes were each assigned a portion of the tree to feature things that they're thankful for.

STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org

Blog:

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

THANKSGIVING AT K.C.A.

At Kyiv Christian Academy we are thankful for...

Through out the month of November leading up to day before Thanksgiving break when the students had their class parties all the classes at K.C.A. were involved in different activities related to being thankful.

With the middle and high school students, there were class photo challenges (that were voted on weekly) and the tree pictured above. Each class was given a section of the tree and loads of leaves. Students could, then, write on the leaves things that they're thankful for. Looking at the leaves, one can see things like: family, friends, K.C.A, coffee, and much more.

The kindergarten and elementary classes also had a myriad of crafts and activities that they did leading up to the break to help them think about being thankful. Kids participated in a school supply drive for an orphanage. Classes made turkeys (and hung them on their doors) where each student was given a feather and wrote things that they're thankful for on the feather (pictured on page two). Along with family and friends, many students wrote that they're thankful for God and/or Jesus.

Then on Wednesday, Nov. 25th, students all enjoyed having class parties in the afternoon.



My first-time making borsch, a traditional Ukrainian soup.



During November, the students thought about gratitude and things they're thankful for.

TALKING TO GOD

Prayer in the 4th/5th grade class

A few weeks after classes started, I suggested to my then only fifth grade class that we begin class with a prayer. One of the girls looked up "Oh no! Is someone dying?!" What's happening!?" she asked. "No one is dying," I assured her, "Praying is just a good thing to do. It's good to talk with God." Since then, at the start of each class, we pray together. There is always an opportunity for them to share prayer requests if they have any and then one of us leads the prayer. Sometimes it's one of the students who leads, and sometimes it's me.

Almost a month ago now the fourth graders joined our fifth grade class. Now instead of the class just being three girls, there are the original three girls, plus four fourth grade boys. It has certainly changed the dynamic of the class, but they all also are able to work together; and we still pray at the beginning of each class as a

group.

What a gift it is to be able to openly go to God in prayer at the beginning of each class as a group! What a blessing to be able to take our cares to Him and our thanksgivings! Even when the students lead prayer, they are always thankful at some point, either before or after submitting the various requests of classmates (or themselves).

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

- Philippians 4:6



Some friends and I went for a walk in a park in the city.

Prayer Requests:

- Prayers of thanksgiving that the elementary students have been able to continue in person learning and that my high school students have been good about meeting for class even when we're online.
- Prayers for health and healing. It's that time of year, with or without COVID, that teachers and students tend to get sick. Thankfully many of us are still healthy!
- Prayers this holiday season: that the light of Jesus would shine out to all those around us as we prepare for and celebrate Christmas, that those traveling would be able to go and return safely, and of thanksgiving for Jesus.



Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



December 2020

SteelesInAfrica.com



STEELES IN AFRICA

—Classes for the semester are now complete.

—New duties are assigned. See the newsletter articles for details.

—The hunger for the Word of God continues to encourage us in our work.

—Robyn looks to repairs and improvements in our home, the 42-year-old, world-famous Karibuni House.

—Learning to spell using British English and use British terms: Saviour; Boot and Bonnet; etc.

—I now know my weight in Kgs and Stones. Stones? Yup, stones.



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.

We Send Out Our Vicars & Interns



Rev. Dr. Walter R Steele preaching at the Divine Service of Sending.

What a joy to preach the Word of God! What a joy to preach the Divine Service at which we sent out our pastoral vicars and deaconess interns to various churches to put into practice what they have learned!

By God's grace, we were able to complete the interrupted semester without any "Covid" incidences. Final exams for the seamster are over and graded exams are turned in. Now it is time to prepare for January, when we start the delayed new academic year. We have said "Kwaheri" (Farewell and blessings) to our departing students and soon we will say "Karibu! (Welcome) to a new class. It will be good to meet them and begin the process of forming them into pastors, deaconesses and evangelists for the growing churches of East Africa.

You know, we would not be able to be here were it not for your faithful, ongoing support. And, as I ponder, pray about, and consider the needs here, I have come to believe that pastors here need **at the very least**, the same level of quality instruction and pastoral formation our Concordia Seminaries give our US students. Not only are these men faced with the challenges of Islam and the tribal religions and practices, but also the materialism, post-modernism, and vices that are infecting them from the secular West. These men need deep training in the Word, in both of the original languages of the Bible. If you would like to know more about some ideas of how to help with this, **please be sure to read the next page** of this newsletter.

Finally, may you find joy, comfort and strength in Christ this Advent and Christmas season, as we worship the Word of God made flesh for our salvation.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That our students can all return in January without incident.
- For the official issuance of Robyn's "dependent's pass," which she needs in order to stay.
- Walter as he takes on new responsibilities as Dean of Chapel, Campus Pastor, and Exegetical Department Head.
- For a successful and safe vaccine against Covid-19.
- Give thanks to the Lord that, we remain safe and healthy.
- For each other, as you continue to support the mission of our Lord and master Jesus Christ here in East Africa.

Academic Year 2021 finds Walter with some new responsibilities. He has been selected to be the Dean of Chapel and Campus Pastor. In this capacity, he will be overseeing the worship life of the Seminary and the spiritual care of the students, faculty, and staff.

In addition, Walter is now the Chair of the Department of Exegetical Theology. This means that he will coordinate and oversee all the classes that teach the books of the Bible and also the Greek and Hebrew language courses. And this brings us to some needs.

Our pastoral students learn Biblical Greek so that they can teach and preach well from the Bible, knowing what the apostles and evangelists wrote, without needing to wholly rely on translations. When they pass their Greek course, they receive a Greek New Testament.

In the same way, they learn Biblical Hebrew, a course I teach, so they can do likewise. However, up to this time, they have not been given a Hebrew Bible. They need one! And there is a wonderful resource called "*Hebrew Bible: Reader's Edition*" that I desperately want to provide them. Robyn and I have been setting aside what we can to build a fund to purchase these for the students, but, especially given the cost of shipping, we need partners who understand and have the same passion for getting the Scriptures in the original languages into their hands. If you are interested in partnering with us in this, in addition to your current support, please email me at walter.steele@lcms.org so we can discuss how this might come together should the Lord so will. Thank you in advance for praying about this.

Remember:

You can support us at lcms.org/givenow/steele

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

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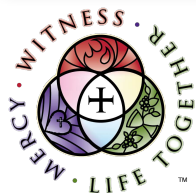
LCMS page: lcms.org/steele

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



Processional with the Archbishop in attendance.



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
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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.