

Important Dates

Feb 2- Board Meetings
Feb 7- Cong. Meeting
Feb 9- Board of Directors
Feb 15- No School
Feb 17- Ash Wednesday
Feb 19- Midterms

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



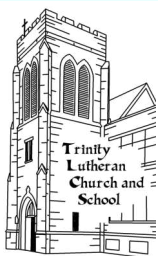
Director of Music:

Mr. Tim Reuning



Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart



Ashes on Ash Wednesday



This ancient act is a gesture of repentance and a powerful reminder about the meaning of the day. Ashes symbolize dust-to-dustness and remind worshipers of the need for cleansing, scrubbing, and purifying. The use of ashes on Ash Wednesday is a more recent custom among some LCMS congregations, although some have done it for decades. The ashes are usually derived from the burned palms from the previous Palm Sunday.

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.



Services for Ash Wednesday are:

Wednesday, Feb. 17th

10:30am - Divine Service

6:30pm - Divine Service

Our Lenten Services are:

Feb: 24th

March: 3rd

March: 10th

March: 17th

March: 24th



Thank You To...

Everyone for the prayers and greetings for my 90th birthday; especially for the handmade birthday cards from the school children and flower delivery by the Altar Guild. It was a very happy day and I am so blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation.
Char Elliott.

For all the sympathy cards, prayers and memorial fund donations that went to the Organ Fund in memory of Bill Dull. God's Blessings to you all. Nancy Lephart.

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU very much for thinking about me when I was sick, had surgery, and during my recovery. The cards are so very beautiful with the get well wishes in them all. The meals that we received from very special friends were so very tasteful and Delicious. . . . and most of ALL, for ALL the prayers going my way for healing. A very SPECIAL thank you to my husband Roger, for taking very good care of me. GOD is so very GOOD. God's blessings to all, Merry Voigt.

What is CPR ?

What is CPR (Cardio pulmonary Resuscitation)--CPR refers to the first aid technique where an individual compresses a person's chest to stimulate blood flow and essentially provide an artificial heartbeat. This method is used for someone who has experienced sudden cardiac arrest, when a person's heart unexpectedly stops beating. This procedure will help prevent the patient's organs from dying, and the chances of them having brain damage before their heart can be restarted.

What is an AED(Automated External Defibrillator)--A portable medical device that analyzes the heart rhythm in cardiac arrest and will only shock the person in certain situations to establish a correct sinus heart rhythm.

Here at Trinity we have 2 AEDs--Do you know where they are placed in case one would be needed in an emergency? Mary Howden--Parish Nurse

February 2021

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional Basketball 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	2 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Board Mtgs	3 8:45am Chapel 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)	4 6:00am Men's Bible 3:45pm Basketball Practice	5 2:45pm School Electives	6 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
7-5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:00am Special Voter's Meeting 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	8 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 3:45pm Instructional Basketball 5:00pm Parent Update 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	9 6:30am Ladies Bible 3:45pm Basketball Practice 6:30pm Board of Dir	10 8:45am Chapel 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)	11 6:00am Men's Bible 3:45pm Basketball Practice	12 2:45pm School Electives	13 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
14-The transfiguration of Our Lord 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	15-Presidents Day <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> No School 9:00am Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	16 6:30am Ladies Bible	† 17-Ash Wednesday † 10:30am Worship 5th-6th Sings 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)	18 6:00am Men's Bible	19 Midterms 2:45pm School Electives	20 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
21-1st Sunday in Lent 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	22 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	23 6:30am Ladies Bible	24 10:30am Worship 5pm Catechism 6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)	25 6:00am Men's Bible	26 2:45pm School Electives	27 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship by Reservation & Online
28-2nd Sunday in Lent 9am Worship by Reservation & Online 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online			<i>Ash Wednesday</i>			

✝ *Trinity Membership Update* ✝

New Members/Transfers In: None

Released/Transfers Out: None

Baptisms: None

Weddings: Brandon Hurst & Angela Miller

Members Who Have Passed: Lois Baldauf

A Memorial gift was given to Trinity's Roof Renovation Fund in memory of Roger Kempf

A Memorial gift was given to The Organ Fund in memory of Bill Dull

A Memorial gift was given to Day School Tuition Assistance Fund in memory of Maggie Sphatt

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2-13 MEHL, Roy & Ruby

2-13 MEYER, Scott & Sandy

2-15 BARTELME, Gary & Linda

2-20 COLLINGWOOD David & Rosemary

2-24 PEOTTER, Jerry & Diane

2-28 HENKEL, Blaine & Connie

BIRTHDAYS

2-01 LOHR, Katelyn

2-02 COLLINGWOOD, Rosemary

2-02 OLSON, Lisa

2-02 WUSSOW, Sandy

2-03 HENRICKSON, Dawn

2-03 MAHONEY, Michelle

2-04 REICHERT, Paula

2-05 GAST, Melani

2-06 BURSACK, Justin

2-06 CLEVELAND, Autumn

2-06 KEMPF, Brenda

2-06 PAUL, Betty

2-06 WRIGHT, Ruth

2-08 FRIEBEL, Alex

2-08 SIEGEL, Amy

2-11 FORBES, Lorna

2-12 JORDING, David

2-13 ROSS, Randy

2-13 SCHMIDT, Henry

2-13 SCHRAMPFER, Martin

2-14 MAYNARD, John

2-17 HOPFENSBERGER, Alayna

2-17 MEHL, Roy

2-19 EVENSEN, Carol

2-19 GERUE, Rev. Keith

2-19 JAHSMAN, Larry

2-19 SIEGEL, Sophia

2-20 RIVORD, Ellen

2-20 WILKE, Rita

2-21 MAYNARD, Sue

2-23 GROSHEK, Jeff

2-23 KOBS, Dylan

2-23 KOHLER, Carl

2-23 RISKE, Carl

2-24 BARTELME, Henry

2-24 HOPFENSBERGER, Robert

2-26 SCHAEFER, LeRoy

2-27 KOHLER, Todd

2-27 PAGEL, Burnette

2-28 TOEPPLER, Jean

Serving Our Lord with Gladness- February 2021

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

Elders of the Month: Tom Harrmann 5pm, Dave Collingwood 9am,

Altar Guild of the Month: Philip and Mary Conradt, Gail Burrows, Jean Zeinert & Beth Wohlrabe.

Worship Date/Time	Acolyte Serving	Elder on Duty	Greeters	Lectors	Ushering Crew
Feb. 3 6:30pm	N/A	Dave Collingwood	N/A	Pastor	Reinke
Feb. 6 5:00pm 7 9:00am	NA	Tom Harrmann Dave Collingwood	NA	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Feb. 10 6:30pm	NA	Brian Ratzburg	NA	Pastor	Reinke
Feb. 13 5:00am 14 9:00am	N/A	Tom Harrmann Dave Collingwood	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Feb. 17 6:30pm	N/A		N/A	Pastor	Reinke
Feb. 20 5:00pm 21 9:00am	N/A	Tom Harrmann Dave Collingwood	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Feb. 24 6:30pm	N/A		N/A	Pastor	Reinke
Feb. 27 5:00pm 28 9:00am	N/A	Tom Harrmann Dave Collingwood	N/A	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood

Note: Ushers if you see your captain's name you are not obligated to usher. If you are willing to assist, please consider doing so.

Trinity's Food Pantry

Thank you for supporting Trinity's Food Pantry through food & monetary donations. You are providing for many who are currently in need. If you or someone you know would benefit from the pantry, call Steve Reinke at 920-540-5090.

The food pantry can use the following grocery items:

- Cereal
- Canned Pasta
- Small Dish Soap Bottles
- Toilet Paper

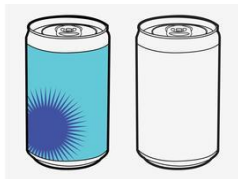
Be an ESL Conversation Partner- How would you like to work with missionaries without ever leaving your home? For the first time, you can volunteer as an online conversation partner with English language learners around the world! Give your partner the chance to practice their English skills with a native speaker. You also get to support the work our missionaries are doing! Classes are one hour a week, for six weeks. All you need is a webcam on your computer and a good internet connection. To sign up, go to servenow.lcms.org.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT DEC 2020

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$22,676.42	\$71,290.26	(\$69,335.47)	\$24,631.21
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$130,243.98	\$3,427.88	(\$1,375.01)	\$132,296.85
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	\$98,462.58	\$3.70	\$0.00	\$98,466.28
RBC Account	\$45,198.04	\$4,765.65	\$0.00	\$49,963.69
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,262.38	\$101.19	\$0.00	\$8,363.57
Nicolet Office Acct	\$746.99	\$0.00	(\$80.00)	\$666.99
Nicolet Debts Repaid	\$8,287.62	\$0.82	(\$2,900.00)	\$5,388.44
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,181.84	\$0.39	\$0.00	\$3,182.23
Nicolet Scrip	\$15,174.16	\$31,497.53	(\$33,034.46)	\$13,637.23
TOTAL	\$440,075.44	\$118,746.39	(\$114,139.04)	\$444,682.79
 LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	 \$1,090,793.80			 \$1,046,036.94

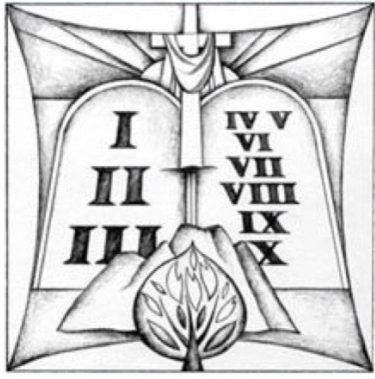
Aluminum Cans

Last year we made a total of \$134.00 from the sale of aluminum cans we collected. Prices were very low most of the year. This year prices are up. Please keep up the good work.



Jerry Peotter,
Recycle Coordinator





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 74: *How carefully does God want us to keep His commandments?*

God wants us to keep His commandments perfectly in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds.

The *Catechism 1991* answers the question: “How carefully does God want us to keep His commandments?” by stating: “God wants us to keep His commandments perfectly in thoughts, desires, words, and deeds.” In support of this it lists the following Scripture passages:

Lev. 19:2 – Be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

James 2:10 – Whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

God is serious about His Commandments. These are not the “Ten Suggestions”; God means for us to follow them. In Leviticus He states it in the positive: “Be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.” Jesus quotes this in Matthew 5(:48) – “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” Through James He says it in the negative: “Whoever fails to keep the Law in one point has become accountable for all of it.” I wonder if we comprehend what an all-encompassing requirement the Law of God is.

To keep God’s Law perfectly in our actions alone would be hard enough, but not necessarily impossibly. It is conceivable, albeit remotely, that one could have evil thoughts or desires and yet train oneself not to act on them, thereby honoring God with respect to actions.

Words would be harder, for, as James says: “No human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison” (James 3:8). Some are better than others at holding their tongue, but no one does it perfectly all the time.

And even if one were to bridle his tongue well, no one can completely conquer his evil thoughts and desires. These plague us whether we like it or not. The ascetics used to think that if it were possible to shut the world out, to go off where no other human being and no tempter would reach them, they could avoid sin altogether. The trouble was, regardless of where they went, they took their sinful nature with them.

I’m sorry to say that the requirements of the Law of God condemn us all. Quoting the Psalms, the Apostle Paul writes: “None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one” (Rom. 3:10–12).

Thank God we have a Savior, Jesus Christ, the Righteous, who has fulfilled the requirements of the Law on our behalf! ✠

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

FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Isaiah 50:5-10

Isaiah here is speaking of Jesus. God's Suffering Servant. The Servant, the Son, God would send to suffer. **The Lord God has opened His ear.** He has heard the Word of the Lord. And we remember the time He was in the Temple as a twelve year old boy, questioning the teachers and learning the Word of God, including all the prophecies that He Himself had come to fulfill. And He did. Every one of them. The easy ones, the hard ones, every one. He would not be rebellious, like Israel was in the wilderness. He would not turn back, again as Israel was tempted to do, time and time again. For Jesus, it was only forward. Forward, to the cross.

And so He **gave His back to those who strike**, and **His cheeks to those who pull out the beard**, and **He did not hide His face from disgrace and spitting**. Notice that Isaiah does not say here that these things just happened to Him, but that He gave His back and face to those who did this. He is purposeful. He does this for a reason. To fulfill the Word of the Lord. To offer Himself for the life of the world. For His life was not taken from Him - He laid it down for you.

This is meekness without weakness. We usually equate the two, but not so with Jesus. He is not beaten because He cannot defend Himself. He is not disgraced because He is timid and under the power of another. He is the strong one here, and those afflicting Him are the weak ones. He is the strong one here, as He bears the sin of the world being inflicted upon Him. And He wants no revenge - not then, not now, not ever. He wants only to take all this for you and me, in our place.

And He is able, for He is not alone. **The Lord God helps me**, He says. He is not forgotten. He is not disgraced, put out of grace. Men may have done that to Him, but not his Father. He will **not be put to shame**. Shame here meaning to show that His faith, His trust, had been foolish, in a God that cannot save. It looked that way as He was manhandled, beaten, and crucified. But that's not what's going on. He was vindicated, shown that He was true and right all along, in His resurrection. For He who puts His trust in God's Word and promises will never be put to shame. And, He says, the one **who vindicates Him is near** - even in His suffering and pain.

Three questions come next: **Who will contend with me? Who is my adversary? Who will declare me guilty?** Many did, we know. And still do. Then it was false witnesses, but their testimony did not agree. Charges brought by the chief priests that weren't really charges at all. Pontius Pilate wouldn't even declare Him guilty - even three times saying that He wasn't; that there was no guilt in this man.

But this does not stop a world hell bent on sin and death. When controlled by sin and selfish desires, and our own definition of right and wrong, and when happiness is attained only in getting our own way, satisfying your lust is the only thing that matters. And this is what they do to God's servant. They lusted for His death, and they got it.

Or so they thought. But God has a funny way of making His will be done in the end. And it was. When those who lusted for his death were shocked just a few short days later . . . when their victory was short-lived, and shown to actually be no victory at all. God's Servant is right: the Lord God helps me.

Isaiah then turns to us, to you. To us listening to Him tonight. **Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant?** he asks. For He has opened your ear to hear, and you have heard the Word of the Lord. Have you been rebellious? Have you turned the cheek to those who strike? Have you been meek, or just weak in faith by defending yourself and striking out against others?

Repent, for **the Lord God helps** you, too. In His Servant who suffered and died for you, to atone for your sins past, present, and future. Every one of them on Him and not you. And so while the godless will **wear out like a moth-eaten garment**, you who **trust in the name of the Lord and rely on God** your Savior will rise and stand with your Vindicator on the Last Day. Because of Him, you will not be put to shame.

In the Name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Pastor GeRue

Midweek Series: Return to the Lord

February 17 – Ash Wednesday - “Fix Your Eyes on Jesus” Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 24 - “Return to the Lord . . . Who Redeemed You” Isaiah 44:21-28; John 8:31-36

March 3 - “Return to the Lord . . . Who Will Restore You” Jeremiah 15:15-21; Luke 13:31-35

March 10 - “Return to the Lord . . . Who Will Raise You Up” Hosea 6:1-6; Matthew 15:21-28

March 17 - “Return to the Lord . . . Who Does Not Change” Malachi 3:6-12; Matthew 6:25-33

March 24 - “Return to the Lord . . . Who Does Not Tire of Calling You” Amos 4:6-13; Luke 20:9-18

April 1 - Holy Thursday - “Incredible Love” John 13:1-17, 31b-35; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

April 2 - Good Friday - “‘Mine!’” Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18-19

Healthy Resolutions You Can Actually Stick To

Making a resolution for the New Year doesn't have to be a big change—in fact, sometimes smaller resolutions can have the biggest impact on your overall wellness, and may even be easier to stick to.

Here are a few resolutions to consider as we embark on 2021 together:

1. Eat more whole foods. You'll be making trips to the supermarket in the new year as you always would—on your trips, simply aim to fill your cart with more fresh, organic foods instead of processed goods.
2. Be more present. An easy way to achieve this is to limit screen time—like putting away your phone during time with friends or family.
3. Remove negative self-talk from your thoughts. If you find yourself having a negative thought, recognize it and follow it up with a positive thought to help train your brain. For example, change “I make a lot of mistakes” to “There are many things I'm great at.”



How to Reduce Work-from-home Back Pain

Spending more time working from your couch, kitchen counter or home-office? You're not alone. And like you, many are experiencing back pain from chairs and desks that aren't exactly ergonomic in design.

Don't worry—there's no need to run out and buy a top of the line chair to manage back pain. Here are some simple tips to try instead:

- Exercise your core: The muscles involved in keeping your spine properly aligned are tied to your core—add some crunches to your daily routine!
- Stretch in the morning and afternoon: Stretching helps to relieve tense muscles that tighten throughout the day.
- Stay hydrated: A dry mouth isn't the only sign of dehydration. Our spine has fluid filled sacs between each bone, which may become a source of pain when not properly hydrated.



Need more help combatting back pain? Give us a call to book an appointment.

A Year of Change Starts Now

As your partner in health, we're always here for you, and want to help you make 2021 your best year yet. With so many uncertainties in the world today, it's never been more important to put your health first—and what better way to do it than naturally.

Over the years, our team has seen many patients who visit us as a last result, having lived in nagging pain for years thinking “this is just how it's going to be.”

If this sounds familiar, schedule a visit with us. Our practice has worked with people just like you, your friends or family members who've spent too much time thinking they can't be helped.

Make 2021 the year you take control of your health naturally—with focused, gentle chiropractic care!



Hope is in the air!

2020. Maybe you are as happy as I am to say goodbye to 2020. Indeed, all the weirdness threw us into a bit of a tailspin. 2020 challenged us in ways we never would have imagined. We did our best to be strong.

There was an upside to 2020. As never before, the year sparked a fire of creativity. We learned just how resilient we can be. We stretched our imagination as we looked for ways to work around obstacles. We all learned to make do. We re-learned the value of our friendships and the power of togetherness.

2021 is here. What is next? Hope.

My hope is that we enter this year with a new sense of optimism.

The much-needed vaccines have started being distributed; our efforts in the past month to decrease our covid numbers have really made a difference (our health care workers thank you for your diligence).

Here are 21 ideas for the new year:

1. Keep up the safe practices for a while longer.
2. Do something nice for yourself.
3. Brighten the day of a senior. They are still staying in their safe zones, but it has been a long year for them. They need to know that we are here and that we care.
4. Get the vaccine.
5. Stretch. Get your body moving and strengthened. It just is good for you.
6. Respect peoples' choices: whether it is masking, getting a vaccine, hugging, whatever – do not force your opinions on others.
7. Drink more water.
8. Look at your budget. Possibly, income and/or expenses have shifted this year. Perhaps, new priorities have emerged.
9. Volunteer.
10. Support a child you know by whatever means are right for you. Read, call, send a note, share a story, share your love.
11. Make a new friend. Do it for them. Do it for you.
12. Forgive.
13. Resolve that from this day forward, nothing new comes into the house without something else going out.
14. Get a garbage bag and throw out 21 things.
15. Get a box and put 21 things into it. Deliver them to your favorite thrift store.
16. Phone a friend.
17. Add more acts of kindness to your life. It just makes you feel good. Smile.
18. Exercise your brain. Learn a new language or do a puzzle.
19. Get rid of all the extra hangers in your house. If they are not in use, they are an invitation to add to the already-overfilled closet. (See number 13)
20. Get a new plant or a goldfish.
21. Make it a point to reach out to a neighbor you don't know. It is as hard for them to make the first move as it is for you.

Probably the best suggestion is to listen to the advice from Aaron Rogers and R-E-L-A-X. Give yourself a break. You are doing the best you can.

AMANDA GROSHEK

TEACHING ENGLISH, SHARING JESUS

YEAR 10 IN THE FIELD; YEAR 1 IN UKRAINE



STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

amanda.groshek@
missionofchrist.org

Blog:

[Called to Go: The Next Chapter](#)



ABOUT THE MISSION...

Kyiv Christian Academy (K.C.A.) is a school that strives to educate students' minds and disciple students' hearts. It is a K-12 school with students from a variety of countries spanning the globe. Although K.C.A. started as a school for missionary families (and there are still a lot of missionaries' children who attend), it has since opened its doors to diplomatic families and international business families, as well as Ukrainian families.

As an E.S.L. (English as a Second Language) teacher my primary role is working with students who need English support in order to help them succeed in their other classes. This year my students include first graders, fifth graders, and ninth graders. Although the younger students just think of our class as another class together, the older students recognize that English is a useful language to know in today's global world. Through time spent together in class, and also through tutoring, I am able to build relationships with students, which then opens the door for discipling students' in their faith as well.

YEAR 1, JANUARY 2021

CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

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



My ninth graders and me at our Christmas party.

STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org

Blog:

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

CHRISTMAS AT K.C.A.

Christmas happenings at Kyiv Christian Academy

One minute it was September and classes were starting, and the next it was already Christmas time! At Kyiv Christian Academy (K.C.A.) the Christmas/Winter break is three weeks long, because it spans from Western Christmas, on December 25th, through Orthodox Christmas, which is January 7th. In the days leading up to the Christmas break, my students and I took some time to remember the Reason for the Season and also to celebrate together.

With both the ninth grade class and also the fourth-fifth grade class, our Christmas festivities kicked off with a viewing of "Christmas According to Kids," a video made by Southland Christian Church several years ago that has children telling the story of the first Christmas and parents acting it out as the kids tell the story. Many of my students are familiar with the tale of that first Christmas: Mary finding out she'd be the mother of God's Son, Joseph and Mary heading to Bethlehem, Jesus being born in a stable, a visit from some shepherds; but not all of my students come from Christian families. With all the busy, albeit fun, activities surrounding the holidays, it was important that my students also remember why we were celebrating. This particular short film is always accompanied by a lot of laughter, but also the reminder that Jesus is not only the Son of God, but he also can be our best friend.

After watching the video, each class had different other fun activities that we did together. The ninth graders had organized their own Secret Santa gift exchange and had asked if they could open presents with me at our class party. We also decorated cookies together. The fourth-fifth grade class watched "Merry Christmas, Mr. Bean!" The first graders had a party complete with games, stories, and snacks.



One of my co-workers doors has become a Christmas photo op!



Christmas Eve (Dec. 24th) some friends and I met up for a meal, games and even some singing..

CHRISTMAS DOOR DECORATIONS

and Advent

After Thanksgiving, decorations for Christmas started going up around the school. It started with classroom door edged with Christmas lights, then another decorated door, leading up a fake fireplace being "built" in the school's entry complete with stockings and presents and a tree.

Since every door in my hallway had some sort of decoration, it only seemed right to decorate my door, too. I made two panels: one with a picture of the stable, the star and some angels singing and a second one with an Advent wreath. Each week, I added one flame to a candle on the wreath.

This led to some interesting discussion amongst the students that regularly are in that hallway. One of the boys thought it was a green birthday cake. Many of the

students were confused because not all of the candles were lit (or had a flame) on the wreath/green birthday cake. This led us to talking about Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, and how it's a time to get ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Each week during Advent another candle is lit until Christmas.

Soon it was the week before Christmas. That Friday (December 18th) was filled with class Christmas parties and an early dismissal for the students. Because of the effects of having been under communism for many years, here in Ukraine, New Years is a bigger holiday or celebration than Christmas is. Some of my students told me that their families don't really do anything to celebrate Christmas at all; however they usually have quite big New Year parties. So it was great to be able to celebrate Christmas with the students.



Prayer Requests:

- Prayers for students and teachers as classes resume January 11th online (Kyiv is back in lockdown, due to COVID, as of January 8th)
- Prayers for health: thanksgiving for all who are healthy and prayers that God would heal those who are sick
- Prayers for this new calendar year: thanksgiving for it's arrival and prayers that it would be a blessed new year
- Thanksgiving for support. I am currently around 76% funded for this year thanks to your partnership with K.C.A and me in this ministry here in Kyiv.

MISSION
OF CHRIST
Network

FINANCIAL PARTNERSHIP

SUPPORT E.S.L. EDUCATION AND FAITH DEVELOPEMENT IN KYIV, UKRAINE

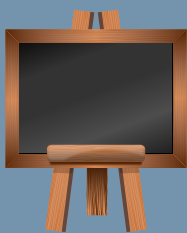


\$24,722

This 2020-2021 budget, which started August 1, provides for needs enabling me to focus on teaching E.S.L. and helping students to grow both academically and spiritually.



To reach this goal, I need a total of **21 people or families to partner** with me in this ministry at \$100/month.



IMPACT

Kyiv Christian Academy (KCA) seeks to support missionary families serving in Kyiv by offering a quality Christ-centred education and environment for their children; and as the years have passed, more and more students of businessmen/women and embassy employees also attend the school. Around 30% of students at KCA are non-native English speakers. E.S.L. is an important support system in school helping these students to excel academically, and through the relationships built in the classroom, students are also being mentored in their faith walks.



WHY GIVE MONTHLY?

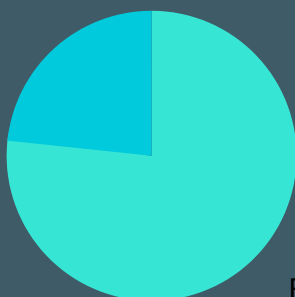
Monthly giving is more sustainable over the long term and is a great way to be personally involved in missions. Not only does it directly connect you, the giver, to the ministry, but it also allows long term missionaries, such as myself, to be able to focus on serving instead of also having to consider where funds for the next month are going to come from.

GET INVOLVED

Give online at:
<https://missionofchrist.org/amandagroshek/>

Send a check to:
Mission of Christ Network
P.O. Box 533
Concordia, MO 64020
Make sure to write: Amanda Groshek on the Memo line.

Still Needed
23.3%



Funds Received/Pledged
76.7%

CURRENT FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR 2020-2021





Easter Lily Sale

We will be selling lilies to help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Orders can be brought to the Church office or call Sally Bolen at (920) 422-2054.

Payment is due at the time you order.

Cost is **\$12.00** for each Lily.

MEMORY: _____

MEMORY: _____

HONOR: _____

HONOR: _____

MEMORY & HONOR: _____

MEMORY & HONOR: _____

I will pick up # _____ Lilies on Saturday Apr 3rd for gifts

Total # of Lilies @ \$12.00 each _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Your Envelope #: _____