

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

(920) 722-2662 Church  
(920) 725-1715 School  
[www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

## March 2021 Newsletter

### Important Dates

Mar 2- Board Meetings  
Mar 9- Board of Directors  
Mar 12- No School  
Mar 13- Food Pantry  
Mar 16- Ladies Aid  
Mar 26-End of 3rd Quarter  
Mar 27- Food Pantry

### Reminders:

- Services are open to the public by reservation only. Please contact the church office at (920) 722-2662 or [bwohlabe@trinitymenasha.com](mailto:bwohlabe@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:

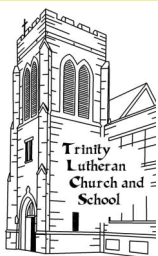
Rev. Keith E. GeRue  
✝

### 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.

Daylight savings time starts March 14<sup>th</sup>. Don't forget to check your batteries in your house smoke alarms.



Lenten Services Are:

10:30AM - Morning Prayer

6:30PM - Compline

Our Lenten Midweek Schedule:

March 3rd

March 10th

March 17th

March 24th

### Thank You...

I was very humbled with ALL of the cards and gifts of thanks that I received in the past few weeks. I am blessed to serve the Lord at Trinity and do everything I can to keep the building maintained and clean, especially through this past year with the Covid-19 virus and the challenges it has added to keep Trinity a safe place to worship, go to school and other activities that are taking place.

What a blessing to be part of this congregation and school. THANK YOU for making me feel loved and appreciated. God Bless!! Lee Colby.

### What is the significance of Lent?

Early in the Church's history, the major events in Christ's life were observed with special observances, such as His birth, baptism, death, resurrection and ascension.

As these observances developed, a period of time was set aside prior to the major events of Jesus' birth and resurrection as a time of preparation.

During Lent, the Church's worship assumes a more penitential character. The color for the season is purple, a color often associated with penitence. The "Hymn of Praise" is omitted from the liturgy. The word "Alleluia" is usually omitted as well.

By not using the alleluia — a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord" — until Easter, the Lenten season is clearly set apart as a distinct time from the rest of the year.

Additionally, it forms a powerful contrast with the festive celebration of Jesus' resurrection when our alleluias ring loud and clear.

Finally, the penitential character of Lent is not its sole purpose. In the ancient Church, the weeks leading up to Easter were a time of intensive preparation of the candidates who were to be baptized at the Easter vigil on Holy Saturday. This time in the Church's calendar was seen as an especially appropriate time for Baptism because of the relationship between Christ's death and resurrection and our own in Holy Baptism (see Rom. 6:1-11).

This focus would suggest that the season of Lent serves not only as a time to meditate on the suffering that Christ endured on our behalf but also as an opportunity to reflect upon our own Baptism and what it means to live as a child of God.

# March 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 3:45pm Chess Club 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	2 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30pm Board Mtgs	3 <b>10:30am Worship</b> 3:45pm Faculty Meeting 5pm Catechism <b>6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)</b>	4 6:00am Men's Bible	5 2:45pm Electives	6 <b>5pm Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b>
7-5th 3rd Sunday in Lent <b>9am Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b> 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	8 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 3:45pm Chess Club 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:00pm Women's Bible	9 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30pm Board of Dir. Mtg	10 <b>10:30am Worship</b> 5pm Catechism <b>6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)</b>	11 6:00am Men's Bible	12 No School	13 9am Food Pantry <b>5pm Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b>
14-4th Sunday In Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins <b>9am Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b> 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	15 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 6:00pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Prayer Time	16 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30pm Ladies Aid	17 <b>10:30am Worship</b> 5pm Catechism 3:45pm Staff Meeting <b>6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)</b>	18 6:00am Men's Bible	19 2:45pm Electives	20- Spring Begins <b>5pm Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b>
21-5th Sunday in Lent <b>9am Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b> 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	22 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 6:00pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Prayer Time	23 6:30am Ladies Bible	24 <b>10:30am Worship</b> 5pm Catechism <b>6:30pm Worship (Mask Required)</b>	25 6:00am Men's Bible	26 End of 3rd Quarter 2:45pm Electives	27 9am Food Pantry <b>5pm Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b>
28-Palm Sunday <b>9am Worship by Reservation &amp; Online</b> 10:30am Ed Hour In Person & Online	29 <i>Pastor's Sabbath</i> 9:00am Sewing Day 6:00pm Women's Bible 6:30pm Prayer Time	30 6:30am Ladies Bible	31 5pm Catechism			

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



3-01 WEBER, Merle & Noelle  
 3-05 WRAY, Timothy & Teresa  
 3-19 KOHLER, Christian & Linda

3-30 HENRICKSON, Todd & Dawn  
 3-31 GUILLEY, Marc & Sandy



## BIRTHDAYS

3-01 COLLINGWOOD, Paul  
 3-01 DAHMS, Anne  
 3-01 KAMPRATH, Alexander  
 3-01 OLSEN, Larry  
 3-01 SCHWERBEL, Ken  
 3-01 VOIGT, Brittney  
 3-02 SCHEWE, Lawrence  
 3-02 SIEBERT, Daniel  
 3-02 WENDLER, Jodi  
 3-03 ROSS, Hunter  
 3-04 CORRENTE, Nicholas

3-04 DIESCH, William  
 3-05 BURROWS, Richard  
 3-05 ERDMANN, Shirley  
 3-07 MANTEUFEL, Alan  
 3-10 KAMPRATH, Tyler  
 3-12 HINTZ, Lorena  
 3-18 JANDREY, Tim  
 3-18 MANTEUFEL, Alan M  
 3-19 DAHMS, Margaret  
 3-21 THOMAN, Jane  
 3-22 RATZBURG, Linda

3-23 BARTELME, Deborah  
 3-24 SEXMITH, Steve  
 3-25 BOSS, James  
 3-25 LOOKER, Matthew  
 3-27 BORCHARDT, Russell  
 3-27 MLODIK, Gabriel  
 3-30 BORCHARDT, Karleton  
 3-30 COLBY, Lee  
 3-31 CLEVELAND, Heather  
 3-31 GROSHEK, Amanda

### † *Trinity Membership Update* †

**New Members/Transfers In:** None

**Baptisms:** Ezra Tuyls & Austin Seals

**Released/Transfers Out:** Carl & Ilene Anderson, Rodney & Janice Bathke, Susan Bailey, Joshua Bailey, & Christina Smith & family.

**Weddings:** None

**Members Who Have Passed:** None

## St. Joseph

God promised to build King David a house. Centuries later, a carpenter, a son of David, welcomed into his home a woman pregnant with a child. The child was not of his own body, but still was the child of his heart. He welcomed the little carpenter, God in the flesh, who had come to build a true temple for God in human flesh and blood. Jesus was the name the angel gave, "for He will save His people from their sins." As Mary came nearer to term and the child grew in her womb, would Joseph place his hand on her tummy and feel the baby kick? Would he say to himself, "This is my Savior. This is the one we have prayed for and hoped for all our lives. He comes to set us free!"

Old Joseph didn't live to see how that redemption would take place. Scripture last mentions him in the temple with Mary and Jesus when the lad was twelve. Sometime between then and Jesus' Baptism at the age of 30, Joseph died. He didn't live to see the shame of the cross, when only Mary and her friends had the courage to stand by the Lord. He didn't live to see the triumph of the empty tomb when Jesus would begin spreading the joy of death's defeat into all the world. He probably never saw Jesus work a miracle, but that didn't matter.

Joseph died still full of faith and hope because he knew that God had come to be with us. He came to save us in that child, learning to walk and talk, embracing him, eating at his table and sleeping under his roof, playing with abandon and praying with glee. And so Joseph closed his eyes in peace and opened them in heaven's light only to be embraced by his child, his Jesus.

While on earth, Joseph had cared and provided for the child and now in heaven the child of Mary would forever care and provide for him – the child, his Jesus, had built a lasting home for his foster father, indeed for all who welcome Him into their lives.

Joseph lurks in the background. But how our Lord loved his earthly protector and provider! You probably know what Joseph felt like. We're background people too, for the most part. Maybe often overlooked and forgotten, just doing the tasks the Lord has given us to do. That's okay. There's One who doesn't overlook or forget, who loves us and is waiting to welcome us home. The child who was born of Mary, nurtured by Joseph; the child who by His cross and resurrection has built and opened wide for all who trust Him – great and small alike – an eternal home. There's a reason He was the carpenter's son. (From *Celebrating the Saints* by William Weedon)

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT JAN 2021

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$24,631.21	\$70,206.92	(\$68,535.68)	\$26,302.45
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$132,296.85	\$2,443.90	(\$100.00)	\$134,640.75
LCMS Endowment Fund	\$113,225.95	\$10,138.83	(\$157.13)	\$123,207.65
LCEF Steward Fund	\$1,625.14	\$6,979.03	(\$7,414.10)	\$1,190.07
Nicolet Money Market	\$98,466.28	\$2.31	(\$20,000.00)	\$78,468.59
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	\$666.99	\$200.00	(\$74.60)	\$792.39
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$440,075.44</b>	<b>\$127,016.51</b>	<b>(\$132,215.97)</b>	<b>\$434,875.98</b>
 LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	 \$1,090,793.80			 \$1,046,036.94



## Serving Our Lord with Gladness- March 2021

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

**Elders of the Month:** Robert Allen 5pm, Brian Ratzburg 9am,

**Altar Guild of the Month:** Sandy Meyer, Carol Evensen, Laurel Wirth, & Beth Wohlrabe.

Worship Date/Time	Acolyte Serving	Elder on Duty	Greeters	Lectors	Ushering Crew
Mar. 3 10:30am 6:30pm	N/A	N/A	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Reinke
Mar. 6 5:00pm 7 9:00am	NA	Robert Allen Brian Ratzburg	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Mar.10 10:00am 6:30pm	NA	N/A	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Reinke
Mar.13 5:00am 14 9:00am	N/A	Robert Allen Brian Ratzburg	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Mar.17 10:30am 6:30pm	N/A	N/A	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Reinke
Mar. 20 5:00pm 21 9:00am	N/A	Robert Allen Brian Ratzburg	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Mar.24 10:30am 6:30pm	N/A	N/A	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Reinke
Mar. 27 5:00pm 28 9:00am	N/A	Robert Allen Brian Ratzburg	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Collingwood
Mar.31 10:30am 6:30pm	N/A	N/A	Volunteer Volunteer	Pastor Pastor	Maynard Reinke

**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.

A Memorial gift was given to Trinity's Roof Renovation Fund in memory of Lois Baldauf

### Getting to Know You:



Rebekah Nielsen was born November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2002 in Appleton, WI. She was baptized on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and confirmed June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at Trinity Lutheran Church. She has two younger brothers -Josiah and Ethan. In the Summertime you can find her with her favorite book (which is anything by C.S. Lewis), watching her favorite movie - *My Fair Lady*, dancing, or sketching. Rebekah is homeschooled and works at Chick-Fil-A in Appleton as a team lead plus trainer. Someday Rebekah would like to be a director at a Chick-Fil-A or a labor delivery nurse. Her favorite hymn is *Hark the Voice of Jesus Calling*, and you can hear her sing it proudly. The Bible verse she likes the most is Philippians 1:21 – “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” When the family gets ready to go on a trip, they all sing a little song that has become more of a tradition than anything. One day she would like to teach art or ballet. When she wants to pass the time, she listens to her favorite Christian bands like Mercy Me and For King & Country; but her all-time favorite is Toby Mac...she loves any song by him. She has toyed with playing the Ukulele. Her smile and kind heart shine through no matter where she is.

# ***FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL***

## ***LENTEN OBSERVANCE***

Matthew 21:1-9

*Others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then [they] cried out: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matthew 21:8–9)*

*In the Name + of Jesus. Amen. They emptied the tree. They took what was pleasant and pleasing to the eye. It's almost as if they couldn't do anything else. It wasn't the branches that made them do it. It was the fruit. It was able to make them wise. That's what he said. The serpent seemed to be right, and "then the eyes of both of them were opened" (Genesis 3:7), and we all know the rest: Adam and Eve hid from God, were cast out of the garden, and were barred from the Tree of Life.*

*The crowd in Matthew 21 emptied the trees. They took the branches and cast them all over the road. "Hosanna!" was their cry. "Save us, Son of David!" They needed to be ready for His coming. Palm branches, the symbol of peace, were the pavement for a donkey, the animal of peace, who was ridden by Jesus, the Prince of Peace.*

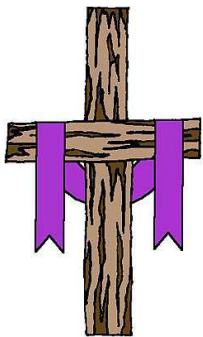
*We want empty trees, as if His coming is dependent on our behavior. We do need to repent. Changing your behavior, putting away your icky deeds, isn't repentance. (Though you should stop all those things!) They are just fruits, signs of bad roots. Repentance is a complete change in heart, soul, mind, and strength—a change only Jesus, the Gardener of Eden, can do.*

*The point of Holy Week isn't the emptying of trees, isn't preparing Jesus' way. Holy Week is Jesus making His way, straight to the Cross, that He might hang upon the Tree for you. There He bears not only your bad fruit but rotten roots, too, being the most rotten tree and fruit ever in your place—"He became sin for us" (2 Corinthians 5:21)—to make you the very righteousness and perfection of God.*

*Repent of thinking you've got to empty trees to make way for Jesus. Holy Week is about His coming to fill a Tree for you and giving to you the fruits of His Cross: His water and His blood (John 19:34), His Baptism and Supper. Through these, the Spirit produces His fruit (Galatians 5), and grafts you into Jesus (Romans 11). The Tree of Life is yours because He filled the Tree for you. In the Name + of Jesus. Amen.*

*Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Collect for Palm Sunday)*

Yours in Christ, Pastor GeRue



### **Midweek Series: Return to the Lord**

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

March 27-28 – Palm Sunday

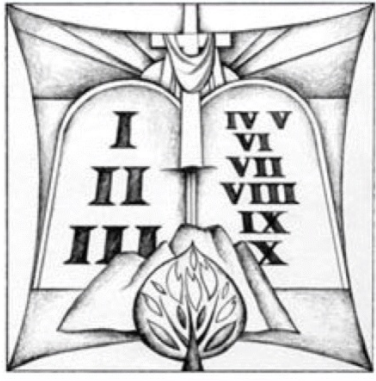
April 1 - Holy Thursday - "Incredible Love" John 13:1-17, 31b-35; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

April 2 - Good Friday – TreOre 12:00-3:00PM

April 2 - Good Friday Vespers 6:30PM – "Mine!" Isaiah 52:13-53:12; John 18-19

April 3 – Easter Vigil 6:00PM - "Rest"

April 4 – Easter 6:30, 9:00 and 10:30AM



# 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 75: *What prevents us from keeping God's commandments perfectly?*

Our sinful nature makes it impossible.

The *Catechism 1991* answers the question: “What prevents us from keeping God's commandments perfectly?” by stating: “Our sinful nature makes it impossible.” In support of this it lists the following Scripture passages:

**Ps. 14:3** – They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.

**Eccl. 7:20** – There is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

**Is. 64:6** – We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.

**1 John 1:8** – If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

It also mentions the following Bible narrative: The apostle Paul grieved over his failure to keep the Law (**Rom. 7:15-20**).

Why does an apple tree bear apples and not pears? Why does a dog give birth to puppies and not kittens? We bear the fruit of what we are.

Apples come from apple trees. Puppies come from dogs. Sinners sin. In other words, we commit sins because we are sinners, and therefore we cannot keep God's commandments perfectly.

The truth of this is borne out in the history of our race since the fall of Adam and Eve into sin. We have all turned aside and become corrupt (Ps. 14:3), there is not a righteous man who does good and never sins (Eccl. 7:20), and we have all become like one who is unclean (Is. 64:6).

While many Christians desire to follow God's commands, we are inhibited by a sinful nature that does not want to. Our natural selves are just as prone to sin as are unbelievers. The only difference between an unbeliever and a believer in this regard – and it is a BIG difference – is that Christians have the gift of the Holy Spirit residing within them, motivating and strengthening them to resist temptation and to honor God.

But even this is imperfect. Despite the aid of God's Spirit, we daily sin much and surely deserve nothing but punishment. We know this to be true. As John writes: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves.”

The more we understand this, the more grateful we become for the gospel, which is, after all, the ultimate purpose of the law – to show us our sin and our desperate need of a Savior. Thank God we have one: our blessed Jesus, the everlasting Son of God! ✠

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



# CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

This picture was taken as the sun came up one Sunday morning. Towards the middle of January the cold weather (and snow) arrived. Temperatures were below zero in both Fahrenheit and Celsius, but the sun came out and the days were beautiful, even if they were best admired from inside.

**Email:**  
**amanda.groshek@**  
**missionofchrist.org**

## THE FAITH OF A CHILD

[illegible]

Plotting out the next unit for my  
ninth grade lit class: poetry.



A friend and I went for a walk on a sunny Saturday.

## TALKING ABOUT THE GOSPEL

### Helping with Bible class homework

Sometimes students ask for help with Bible homework, and it's always interesting to see what they're learning about and how the students are understanding what they're learning about, since the make up K.C.A. has both Christian and non-Christian families.

One of the questions this week was to explain the Gospel using the Roman's Road and also the story of the Thief on the Cross. I asked the student I was working with, "What is the Gospel?" And she replied, "The good news that we are saved by faith in Jesus." So we had a good starting point. :) We decided that the way to approach the question was to look at: the Romans Road, the story of the Thief on the Cross and also why it is relevant to us today.

People are sinners is the starting point for the Romans Road (3:23). The thief on the cross was obviously also a sinner. That's why he was being crucified and crucifixion was a particularly gruesome way to go. Today all of us are still sinners. Which means we all need a Saviour.

The next stop is God's plan for salvation (5:8). Jesus was on the cross next to the thief. Today, the Bible reminds us that Jesus died for all of us, for all of our sins.

The third point has to do with how sinners/we respond to Jesus (10:9-10). The thief acknowledged his faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Not only did he rebuke the other thief, but he also said to Jesus, "Remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). Today we too can believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord and share Him with others.

The final point in Romans talks about the results of this faith and salvation (5:1-2). Jesus told the thief, "Today you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43). Today, we have God's grace and are able to approach God through prayer.

Towards the end, this student said, "You explained this very clearly. I should be able to remember it to write about for my homework."



The Christmas tree in my neighbourhood.

### *Prayer Requests:*

- Prayers for students and teachers at K.C.A. Prayers of thanksgiving that we finished first semester well. Prayers for blessing as we enter into second semester. Prayers for my ninth grade students that are preparing for Poetry Slam on Feb. 18th-19th.
- Prayers for health: thanksgiving for all who are healthy and prayers that God would heal those who are sick







# PARTNER IN MINISTRY IN KYIV, UKRAINE WITH AMANDA

*Are you passionate about education? Do you want to help share the Gospel in Ukraine?*

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.



## Why is partnership so important?

K.C.A. can only afford to continue serving the students and their families who make up the K.C.A. community because of the support of individuals and congregations who partner with the missionary teachers serving at K.C.A. In financially partnering with me, you are making it possible not only for me to serve teaching English but also to share the love of Jesus with each of my students and their families.

## GET INVOLVED:



Mail a check to Mission of Christ Network (*with Amanda Groshek written on the memo line*) to:

Mission of Christ Network  
P.O. Box 533  
Concordia, MO 64020



Give online at:

<https://missionofchrist.org/amandagroshek/>



Questions? Feel free to get in touch: [amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org](mailto:amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org)



## Support raising update:

The current support-raising year runs Aug. 2020 - July 2021. **As of February 2021, I still need around \$4,000 USD to reach this year's financial needs.** Please prayerfully consider financially partnering with me in this ministry here in Kyiv, Ukraine.

## Stay Connected:

There are several ways to stay connected with what's happening here in Kyiv, Ukraine and with the ministry.

- Monthly newsletters
- My blog: CalledtoGo: The Next Chapter

I am always happy to answer questions as well, so feel free to reach out! :)





# FORMELLA 411

February 2021 - Issue 6.1

**Long tɛm!** (ɛ, sounds like the 'e' in 'red')



**Lutheran Bible  
Translators**

That is what people say in Krio when it has been a while since they have seen you or talked to you. So, I shall say, “Long tɛm!”, and also, “Sorry!” since it has been a while since I have written to you about my life and work with Lutheran Bible Translators and the Mende Bible translation Project. That is why the format is more simple for this newsletter; I figure it is better to communicate now than to keep delaying in favor of being more fancy :D

Since the last newsletter, a lot of things have developed or changed. Through the end of 2020, the translation proceeded as it had before. I met with the translation team virtually for a few hours a couple times a week (5 or 6 am in Wisconsin and 11am in Sierra Leone). We finished team checking Isaiah and 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles. In November, I was able to take an online three-week intensive course through a school in Jerusalem on the Book of Proverbs. This class allowed me to practice and improve my Hebrew and learn about different cultural, agricultural, environmental, and historical aspects of Israel that help give a better understanding of Proverbs and the Bible as a whole. During this time, I also applied for the Master of Arts in New Testament program at Biola University. I have been looking for some time for a fully online program that focused on either Greek or Hebrew and the New or Old Testament. Praise God, I was accepted into the program, which allows me to study regardless of the country I am in. I also received my advanced red belt at my martial arts school, which means I am one step (but over a year) away from being able to test for my black belt. A dream I had as a kid getting closer and closer to reality!

Now that you are caught up through the end of the year, here is the big news of 2021: I have returned to Sierra Leone safely! Last year I spent a lot of time going back and forth on whether I should go back to Sierra Leone while the pandemic continues and deciding IF I go back WHEN I should go. To say my mind went in circles is, indeed, an understatement. Ultimately, I decided to return after the holidays, so I left for Sierra Leone on January 11<sup>th</sup> and arrived on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Since so many plans for people around the world have been quickly changed, I wasn't sure the best time to say, “I am going back!”, and I waited so long that I now have to say, “I'm back!” Thank you for your understanding of my belated communications.

Because Sierra Leone required a negative PCR Covid-19 test within 7 days of travel, I had already taken one test when I learned I would need a test within 3 days of transiting through France. Because of this new information (which thankfully came before the three hour drive to Chicago), I took another PCR test at a site that said results usually came back in 2 days. While I was finishing that test my mom called to direct me to a place that had antigen tests with results within 15 minutes. Thankfully antigen tests were accepted for transiting through Paris, because the second PCR test arrived while I was already on the plane there!

When I arrived in Sierra Leone, we had to fill out a few forms, go through immigration where they kept our passports (there had already been official communication from the government, so I wasn't surprised to pass it over). Then we collected our bags and signed-in to receive two more Covid tests. One was a rapid test, so if it was positive they could keep you quarantined at a local hotel, and the other was a PCR test, so they had more accurate results whether your original results were positive or negative. Upon receiving confirmation of your positive PCR test a few days later, you could then go collect your passport from the capital. Fortunately, another missionary who lives near Bo was able to pick up my passport for me (I think I owe her pizza or cookies for waiting for so long). This allowed me to go right from the airport to Bo after staying for one night. Thankfully, my friend Bethany had checked on my house and Kiddo the dog to make sure everything was working and called the apartment manager if anything needed fixing. This made my first few days home so much easier!

After one week of unpacking, cleaning, and recovering from jet lag, I returned to the translation office! Working from home was not my best skill, but now that I am in the office again working with the translators in person I am already working better. I thank God for the opportunity to work from home while in the US, connecting with the translators virtually, but I am happy now to have an office to go to where I can shift my mind from home to work. I suppose that is why I am finally writing to you even when I have more things to do with school and work. We are currently working on proofreading Lamentations, so it is ready for the reviewers to read through, and then we will begin team checking Jeremiah. Jeremiah, and then Ezekiel, will take some time and energy because of their length and their poetic way of prophesying. Thank God for translators who take on the task of translating poetry; I am thankful for the being an advisor without the challenge of actual translating.

At this time, I am also beginning to assist another local language translation project, called Themne, located in the city of Makeni, three and half hours away. My colleagues, who were with the team full time, are now located in the United States, so I will just visit the Makeni office for short trips for any questions or challenges they have, as well as to sit in on a few team checking sessions.

Please pray for health and safety, wisdom and perseverance in the translation work, and diligence for my schoolwork.

I am so grateful for all of you as you continue to prayer, support, and encourage me through this important work. Thank you!

In Christ,

Amy Formella

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Amy.Formella@LBT.org · Facebook group: Formella 411 · <http://amyformella.wixsite.com/amyonthefield>

Donations: Lutheran Bible Translators, PO Box 789, Concordia, MO 64020 OR <http://lbt.org/project/amy-formella>



# Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



February 2021

[SteelesInAfrica.com](http://SteelesInAfrica.com)



## STEELES IN AFRICA

—The new semester is well underway, with even more students than before!

—The response to the Hebrew Bible project has been very encouraging.

—Walter is teaching Hebrew; Old Testament Introduction; Psalms & Wisdom Literature; Principles of Interpretation; Pentateuch (Genesis emphasis); and Greek Readings.

—Robyn is getting to know the deaconesses in the Home Economic class. These ladies are learning entrepreneurial skills so they can support themselves and their families as they do the diaconal work to which they will be called.

—We flew to Nairobi and spent Christmas with our team there.



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

## Making a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord



### Members of the Matongo Seminary Choir Gather to Celebrate a Birthday

One of the great joys of being Dean of Chapel is gathering with members of the choir as they practice both Kiswahili and English hymns for services in the chapel. There is no way I can adequately express both the quality of their singing and the beauty of their voices. Yet, there is one thing I can say. These men and women are committed to singing the faith into the ears of those who hear them.

In addition to singing in chapel, one of the goals of the Matongo Seminary Choir is to assist the local Kenyan Lutheran congregations in learning *Ibada Takatifu* (the hymnal of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya). Since Kenya is a land of many peoples and many languages, this hymnal helps to unite the Lutherans here, as they sing and worship in their national language—Kiswahili. So, on selected weekends, they travel to local congregations to sing and to help them appreciate this wonderful resource.

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the message that is proclaimed. As pastors preach the Word of God from the pulpit, so the choir sings words which “preach” in such a way that the words sink deep into the mind and heart. Both pure and impure messages can be sung. And it is such a joy to know that these students want to be faithful to the truth of Holy Scripture.

As Dean of Chapel, I also work closely with the men who lead the services in the chapel and with those students who begin the task of learning how to preach and teach the Faith. Many of these men also have responsibilities in congregations in the villages, so it is extremely important that they learn well how to lead the services and to clearly proclaim both Law and Gospel in their sermons.



## PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Thanksgiving for the support for the Hebrew Bible Project.
- Please keep praying for the official issuance of Robyn's "dependent's pass," which she needs in order to stay.
- For Walter as he works as Dean of Chapel, Dean of Curriculum Campus Pastor, and Exegetical Department Head.
- For strength, as Walter is also teaching six courses each week.
- For healthcare workers as they work overtime helping those who are sick.
- For peace in the nations torn apart during this season post-election, both in the USA and here in Africa.

Each new academic year, the students pick leaders from their midst for various offices within the student body. Areas of responsibility include the cafeteria, the four dormitories, fellowship, student health and well-being, etc.

Divine Service (Holy Communion) is held each Wednesday at Matongo. During a service last month, Walter had the privilege, as Campus Chaplain to install these men and women in their new positions. Such responsibilities give them opportunities to develop as leaders, skills they will need as they go out from here to serve in their churches and congregations. These students represent churches in Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo!



Walter Installing New Student Leaders for Matongo

Remember:

You can support us at [lcms.org/givenow/steele](https://lcms.org/givenow/steele)

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

MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034

Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya



Walter Being Installed as Dean of Chapel by the former Dean, Rev. Dr. Thomas Aadland.

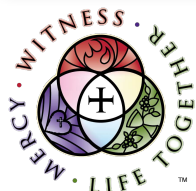
*For more information on our work and our progress check out:*

Our Website: [SteelesInAfrica.com](https://SteelesInAfrica.com)

LCMS page: [lcms.org/steele](https://lcms.org/steele)

On Twitter: @WalterRSteele

Or Facebook: Walter Steele



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

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

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
P.O. Box 66861  
St. Louis, MO 63166-6861

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](https://lcms.org/steele).

## TRINITY LUTHERAN LADIES AID/LWML YEAR 2020 IN REVIEW

### WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE

Despite the pandemic that has plagued our world, our ladies group has continued to function with the help of our Almighty God. He has allowed us to 'think outside the box' and fulfill our motto "Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

Beginning last spring, six of our Ladies of Trinity Menasha sewed and distributed over 500 homemade face masks to assisted living facilities, hospice facilities, Trinity Family, friends and family. This project has continued on a smaller scale throughout the year.

During the summer months and early fall we began our Lutheran World Relief campaign. Trinity Congregation was invited to contribute to the school and health kit items that were compiled and ultimately sent all over the world. Along with the 85 school kits and 100 health kits we sent 50 beautiful handmade quilts. Thank you to the many Trinity members who donated items as well as cash donations to support our World Relief Drive and shipping costs.

Our dedicated quilting ladies have managed to continue most of the year on a weekly/biweekly basis and at home. Besides the World Relief quilts, they have delivered the following to Pillars (the homeless facility in Appleton): 134 handmade quilts, 26 blankets, 91 sheets, 215 pillow cases, 14 towels, and 5 pillows. The Clothes Closet received 21 quilts, 1 blanket, 25 sheets and 8 pillow cases.

We were able to celebrate LWML Sunday in October with the guidance of Pastor Billings creating a beautiful bulletin and delivering a very meaningful sermon. Our faithful banner ladies created a new LWML banner 'Kingdom people produce KINGDOM FRUIT.' that was displayed. We were able to gather after the service for a few pictures and short fellowship time.

Also in October and November, we advertised a 'Call to Order Bake Sale' within our Trinity Congregation. As we were not able to have the fall Trinity Craft Fair we wanted to be able to financially support our missionaries and Trinity Church and School projects as we have in the past years. We were delighted with the many orders we received and ended with proceeds of \$1992. A heartfelt "thank you" to all who placed orders.

A most joyous event of the year was to assemble and deliver Christmas Cheer baskets to 30 Trinity households of elderly and shut ins. We also gave personal gifts to 7 others who reside in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities. Personally delivering these baskets and gifts brought much joy to our ladies with our ultimate goal being to bring joy and love to our recipients.

January of each year is our time to share what we have for mission work as well as to support Trinity needs and projects. Our monies to share were less this year because of the pandemic but we were still blessed to be able to do something.

#### Mission Distributions:

\$400 to Amanda Groshek, Missionary in the Ukraine

\$150 to Amy Formella, Bible translator in Sierre Leone

\$200 Burning Bush Ministry, (Reverend Kevin Parvis, Jews for Jesus)

\$250 Reverend Walter and Robyn Steele, (Montongo Lutheran Theological College in Kenya)

\$200 Matthew Kinne and Family (seminary student at Concordia, Fort Wayne)

Trinity Church and School Distribution:

\$300 for monthly Altar flowers

\$600 cleaning supplies/floor wax

\$200 office supplies

\$350 (\$50 scrip card to each Trinity School homeroom teacher for use in the classroom)

We had 5 actual Ladies Aid/LWML meetings in 2020 but normally we have a meeting or an event each third Tuesday of the month. Our meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the Small Fellowship Hall. The quilting group normally meets each Monday at 9 a.m. but this year's has again been somewhat less. It is best to call Ilene Anderson (574-2477) before you come. This year we have been setting our meeting plans as we go for lack of uncertainty with the pandemic. Our March plan is for Ilene Anderson to demonstrate 'Kringle Making.' She promises samples!

Our Mission Statement: "The Ladies Aid is a fellowship of women members of Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Menasha committed to serving our Lord, our congregation and our community while promoting and supporting relationships among women."

We have tried very hard to communicate with each other as well as members of the congregation, especially during the challenging year. We feel it very vital to keep in touch with phone calls as well as cards of support and caring.

Our group is active with Zone 11 of the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. Betsy Meverden just retired from the presidency position after 10 years of service and Jane Stier serves presently as the treasurer of the zone. Dottie Kraus also serves on the Bd of Directors. Mites are collected and are used to fund grants for projects and needs all over the world. Our present South Wisconsin District goal for the 2020 – 2022 biennium is \$205,000. Our Trinity ladies continue to support mites monthly. All are welcome to contribute to this much needed ministry. Just ask one of our officers and we will get you a Mite Box and a listing of the grants being funded. Each penny in our zone is used towards the grants with zero for administrative use.

Our Present Officers:

Dottie Kraus, President

Carol Evensen, Secretary

Barbara Kester, Vice-president

Jane Stier, Treasurer

We have approximately 27 active members; some are able to be more active than others. But all are loved and treasured. Our pastors are always willing to attend our meetings and events and will assist us in any way we ask. They are wonderful Shepherds! All ladies are invited and welcomed to join us. If you can't join us, please pray for us.



## Monthly Stewardship Talk

Greetings!

Your Board of Stewardship has been encouraging you to utilize your time, talents, and gifts to serve God by serving others for the last several months. We thought that it just might be the time to share with you some of the outreach stories. Today we'd like to tell you about an exciting stewardship activity by our Ladies Aid/LWML group that occurred during this past Christmas season. Our Ladies Aid would like to share a testimony with you.

"Our Trinity Family has a number of members that are shut-in or have limited socialization opportunities with family, friends, or church family due to COVID. The Ladies worked with our Pastors to develop a list of those names. Organization began by requesting a Thrivent grant which was quickly approved. The ladies also received financial support from a friend of one of our members who heard about our plans while shopping and also from one of our Ladies Aid members. Time was then spent obtaining information as to what might bring joy to these individuals. Our primary goal was to let each of them know that they are in our thoughts and on our hearts. Baskets were gathered and decorated, people were lined up to make chicken noodle soup, applesauce, loaves of bread, jams, and an array of Christmas cookies plus a new face mask. Shopping for additional basket items such as adult coloring books, word finding books, Christmas napkins, and shower soap was done by numerous ladies. Skilled nursing facilities and assisted living facilities, where several of our members reside, were contacted to determine what may be on these folks wish lists; we were surprised and thrilled to hear they had an answer for us, which for most individuals came right from our members. Personal gifts of slippers, coffee, scarf and gloves, sweatpants, a Peanuts Gang sweatshirt, Honey buns, a novel, and a cardinal lamp were purchased just for them. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, the ladies assembled the baskets which overflowed so much that all the items did not fit. Pastor GeRue came to help and even had a few items to add. It was a joy to watch the ladies gathering the items for the deliveries they had chosen to make. Our devotion that evening was about the joy of the personal touch that happens when we show love and caring for people in our lives. Sometimes it isn't even about the gift but the love that comes overflowing with the gift. Cards and a special greeting were enclosed with each basket and gift. The next day 10 of our ladies set out to call our recipients and then hand delivered the baskets, gifts, and tins of cookies to each home or residence. The ladies had special and heartwarming stories to share of their visits, long or short, with each person. Thank you!"

All of this is a prime example of love for others by utilizing the time, talents and gifts provided to them by their Lord and Savior. Our Ladies were delighted and felt very blessed to be able to brighten the Christmas season for fellow members.

Recipients were overwhelmed with gratitude. They made personal calls to thank the ladies or sent thank you cards expressing the joy they felt being remembered by fellow members of Trinity. What an impact this event had on everyone involved. God truly was in the center of all of this. Galatians 5:22-25 reads: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. If we live in the Spirit, let us walk in the Spirit.

In closing, we thank God for our Ladies Aid/LWML group and we thank the Ladies for being such positive examples of Christian Stewardship. It is our prayer that this story encourages you to serve others. A card, a letter, a call..... Something, anything that might provide joy for someone, honors God and often provides you with the same joy you shared.

Thank you for your time, blessings upon your outreach efforts!



## **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 3<sup>rd</sup> for gifts.**

Total # of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_

**I will pick up #\_\_\_\_\_Lilies on Sunday Apr 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Your Envelope #: \_\_\_\_\_