

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

June 2021

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

Important Dates

June 1 - Board Meetings
June 7—June 11 - VBS
June 8 - Board of Directors
June 12 - Brat Fry
June 29 - Voters Meeting

Services are:

Saturday at 5:00pm
Wednesday at 6:30pm
Sunday at 9:00am

Reminders:

- Services are open to the public by reservation only. Please contact the church office at (920) 722-2662 or ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com.
- Holy Communion- we are once again offering the choice of Common Cup or Individual Cup.
- 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



Senior Pastor:

Rev. Steven S. Billings
†

Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

Rev. Keith E. GeRue
†

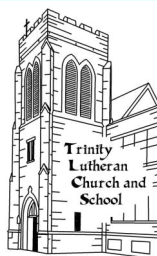
Director of Music:

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.

BRAT FRY

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH NEIGHBORHOOD RUMMAGE SALES

Saturday, June 12, from 7 am to 5 pm
W4908 Spring Hill Drive, Sherwood
Call Paula and Brian Reichert
460-1225 or Ron and Dottie Kraus
991-2705

Welcome!—The Board of Elders would like to welcome Jean Zeinert and Mary Conradt to the position of Church Administrative Assistant. The Board believes that with their combined skills they will be a Blessing to Trinity and to their new role. Please welcome them when you see them. And, please save and use their new email address for all future correspondence —

ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com.

Vacation Bible School

June 7-11, 2021, 9 -11:45AM at Peace Lutheran Church

We will be partnering with Peace Lutheran in Neenah for Vacation Bible School.

A science lab, full of fascinating things, will help explain how things are possible. In

Jesus' ministry, He performed miracles, things that cannot be explained. He turned water into wine, walked on water, and His greatest miracle of all was dying on the cross and rising from the dead for our salvation.

Discover that Jesus does the impossible for us at 2021's VBS, "God's Wonder Lab!"

Help is needed for teachers and teacher helpers, snack servers, art and game activities, etc.

If you have questions or would like to help with VBS please talk with Pastor GeRue.

Tending to Trinity's Flowers and Plants

God's Ray of Sunshine and **your help** with taking care of the plants outside around the church would certainly make it a beautiful display for Trinity! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex on the spinner.



Help Needed Mowing Grass

Volunteers needed for lawn mowing this season. All equipment needed is provided by Trinity. Please contact Lee Colby for more information or to sign up. Thank you!



Congregational Voter's Meeting

Tues, June 29th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, to adopt the 2021-2022 Budget.

June 2021

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952
Church Office Hours 8 am—3 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 am Ladies Bible 9am-3pm Teacher Inservice 6:30 pm Board Meetings	2 9am-3pm Teacher Inservice 6:30pm Worship	3 6 am Men's Bible 9am-3pm Teacher Inservice	4	5 5 pm Worship By Reservation & Online
6 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship By Reservation & Online 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	7 <i>Pastor Billings' Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 12noon-3pm Teacher Inservice 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	8 6:30am Ladies Bible 12noon-3pm Teacher Inservice 6:30pm Board of Directors Meeting	9 12noon-3pm Teacher Inservice 6:30pm Worship	10 6am Men's Bible 12noon-3pm Teacher Inservice	11	12 7am—5pm Brat Fry at W4908 Spring Hill Drive Sherwood 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship By Reservation & Online
June 7-11 Vacation Bible School at Peace, Neenah						
13 Third Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship By Reservation & Online 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	14-Flag Day <i>Pastor Billings' Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible 	15 6:30am Ladies Bible	16 6:30pm Worship	17 6 am Men's Bible	18	19 5pm Worship By Reservation & Online
20-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost- Fathers Day 9am Worship By Reservation & Online 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online Summer Begins	21 <i>Pastor Billings' Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	22 6:30am Ladies Bible	23 6:30pm Worship	24 6am Men's Bible Nativity of St. John the Baptist	25	26 9am Food Pantry 5pm Worship By Reservation & Online
27-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost 9am Worship By Reservation & Online 10:30 am Ed Hour In Person and Online	28 <i>Pastor Billings' Sabbath</i> Sewing Day 6:00pm Prayer Time 6:30pm Women's Bible	29 6:30am Ladies Bible 6:30pm Voters Meeting	30 6:30pm Worship			

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES JUNE

6/1	VOSTER, Ronald & Beverly	6/23	GERUE, Rev. Keith & Valerie
6/6	BURROWS, Donald & Gail	6/23	SICKLES, Tyler & Ericka
6/7	ALLIET, Rev. Paul & Joan	6/24	KAMPRATH, Kenneth & Elizabeth
6/8	STIER, Michael & Jane	6/25	THOMAS, Craig & Jill
6/10	GEHRT, Edward & JoAnne	6/26	BARTEL, LeRoy & Barbara
6/16	MANTEUFEL, Alan & Deborah	6/26	HANBY, Thomas & Sheila
6/17	THOMAS, Ian & Rachel	6/29	GAST, Brian & Iris
6/19	MEIDAM, Kenneth & Helen	6/29	OLSEN, Larry & Dianne
6/20	SCHEWE, Lawrence & Barbara	6/30	CONRADT, Philip & Mary
6/21	BURSACK, Michael & Debra		
6/21	COLBY, Lee & Juliet		
6/21	VAN ARK, Tony & Shellie		



BIRTHDAYS JUNE

6/1	SPROUSE, Richard	6/8	BURROWS, Donald	6/18	VAN DYN HOVEN, Amelia
6/2	RADTKE, Brian	6/8	SCHMIDT, Emma	6/19	LITTLE, David
6/2	UPCHURCH, Jennifer	6/11	WRAY, Timothy	6/20	RICHARDSON, Barbara
6/3	BORGEN, Alexander	6/12	LOOKER, Jackson	6/21	BARTELME, Gary
6/3	HANSMAN, Audrey	6/14	ACKER, David	6/23	HENSON, Cora
6/3	PACK, Jeri	6/14	DEHNE, Valerie	6/23	TUYLS, Ezra
6/3	ROSS, Nicole	6/15	GAST, Lana	6/25	BOSS, Braelyn
6/5	WERTH, LaVerne	6/15	POLAR, LuKayla	6/26	KRAUS, Ronald
6/6	KESTER, Barbara	6/16	TSCHIRGI, Donald (Bud)	6/27	BARTELME, Kaleb
6/6	MEYER, Sandy	6/16	WENDLER, Brian	6/29	LOOKER, Amelia
6/7	DAHMS, Rebecca	6/17	FRIEBEL, Joseph	6/29	MANTEUFEL, Caleb
6/7	STEUERWALD, Michael	6/17	GEHRT, JoAnne		
6/7	WIECK, Kelvin	6/18	TISCHER, Patty		



† Trinity Membership Update †

New Members/Transfers In: Released/Transfers Out:

Baptisms: Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed:

²⁵For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. ²⁶And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God. Job 19:25-26

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT APR 2021

	<u>BEGINNING BAL- ANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/ INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/ EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$13,558.93	\$65,522.68	(\$66,487.84)	\$12,593.77
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$135,276.18	\$6,365.03	(\$1,025.78)	\$140,615.43
LCMS Endowment Fund	\$123,207.65	\$1,493.40	(\$169.65)	\$124,531.40
LCEF Steward Fund	\$722.02	\$7,958.61	(\$7,414.10)	\$1,266.53
Nicolet Money Market	\$53,471.76	\$1.32	\$0.00	\$53,473.08
RBC Account	\$49,963.69	\$3,966.48	\$0.00	\$53,930.17
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,363.57	\$300.63	\$0.00	\$8,664.20
Nicolet Office Acct	\$1,007.80	\$355.01	(\$105.50)	\$1,257.31
Nicolet Debts Re-paid	\$5,388.44	\$0.40	\$0.00	\$5,388.84
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,182.23	\$0.24	\$0.00	\$3,182.47
Nicolet Scrip	\$9,236.11	\$22,675.29	(\$23,073.39)	\$8,838.01
TOTAL	\$440,075.44	\$108,639.09	(\$98,276.26)	\$450,438.27
LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	\$1,090,793.80			\$1,046,036.94



Ordination Anniversary Celebration!

Our Trinity Family has an opportunity to celebrate with the Reverend and Mrs. Steven Billings on the occasion of Pastor's 30th Anniversary of his Ordination. He will be recognized at the worship services on June 26, 27, and 30th. Your Board of Outreach and Social Ministry will be serving treats after those services plus we would love to shower them with many cards of love, thanks and appreciation during the month of June. There are note cards available on a small table in the narthex for you to take. We praise and thank God for Pastor and Liz Billings and their dedication to our Lord and our Trinity Family.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Phillipians 1:21

A Changeless Faith in a Changing World

The OLD Normal

You hear a lot these days about the "new normal" - that our world has changed and there is no going back. Some changes are here to stay. No doubt. And some of those changes that are staying may be good and some may be not so good.

But what about in the church? One thing Trinity Church and School has been intensely focused on is NORMAL. That over this past year, when so much was NOT normal, **people needed normal**. People

needed to know that some things do not change; that there are some things you can always count on. That's what Jesus certainly is, and therefore what the church should also reflect. That in a world where the foundations of many were shaken this year, here is a foundation you can count on.

So we tried to be a normal as we could. Now, of course there were changes as we tried to conform to governmental recommendations and requirements as best we could. But when we determined we could not, we opted for normal; to carry on as normal and do things as we normally do. This included having all our services at the church, even when we had to go down to just 10 essential people. It would have been easier not to! But we thought it important for you to see the church, to see normal, even if you couldn't be there for a time.

Now, to be sure, during this time we also instituted some new things. But as things now begin to open back up in our world, governmental recommendations and requirements begin to ease, and people begin to feel more comfortable being together and interacting again, what we will not be doing is moving into the future of a "new normal" - as if this is just the way it is now. We're going back to the OLD normal! Because much of the old normal was meet, right, and salutary. Because we need that old normal again.

So what does this mean for our church? Well, it means that we'll begin having our after-church fellowship time again soon. Some have already been staying, starving for this time together with their brothers and sisters in Christ. But we'll begin formally to do so again. We have resumed various Bible Studies. We plan to start Sunday School back up in the fall. Acolytes will soon return, as will our instrumentalists.

And what of the new things we've begun? Well, some we'll strive to keep. The **online Bible Studies** have drawn people from outside our congregation, as well as some folks who do not or are not able to come to Bible Study. So that seems like it should stay. The **Children's Chapel Service** on Wednesday mornings will continue to be broadcast, even throughout the summer. And finally, the **live streaming** of our services will continue. We've made - and are continuing to make - a significant investment in technology to do this, and we see the benefit of it for folks who are sick or otherwise not able to attend. We recognize that there is also a danger in this - that folks grow too comfortable staying home and neglect coming to church; that this becomes a bad habit. This is not God's will! We need the Sacrament! We need each other. We need to come together. We need to be the Body of Christ. We need a family of faith. We need the fellowship. So while the live stream will continue for those who need it, we will continue to stress and encourage regular attendance, or in other words, the **OLD** normal! And we'll continue to rely on and rejoice in our Lord *who never changes*.

His servant and yours,

Continuing to Serve the LORD with gladness!

Rev. Keith E. GeRue Associate Pastor and Principal

Graduation 2021 This year we had six students graduate from Trinity Eighth Grade. Mykel Christison, Allison Corrente, Abigail Neff, Eva Radtke, Dakota Rilling, and Kendall Schafer. Congratulations and God's Blessings to all of you.

Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE BOOKS WORD SEARCH

OLD TESTAMENT



Y U K Z E C H A R I A H T R E D S J A D E Q
Z C F W H O X V S S P H U D U S H P N L Z G
C C Z E C C L E S I A S T E S T T G O L E S
D A N I E L W O F S L J P U I V H H Y L K T
A H A B A K K U K G L H S T R J J M E G I Q
Q W O R A G E N E S I S A E K O O O M R E D
H C P R O V E R B S B O L R I B N E A L L Y
A H G E J U D G E S D Z M O N A A H L A H Z
G R S O N G O F S O N G S N G D H O A M L N
G O J L A M O D Q K P C A O S I Z S C E E E
A N Z E P H A N I A H U D M J A W E H N D H
I I T V R U A G P D P C H Y K H V A I T N E
P C R I Y E M M P F B I S A I A H C S A U M
H L C T Z C M I O L E O J O S H U A A T M I
C E H I G B A I C S Q Z G D N A H U M I B A
J S U C J B W E A A X T R H S C Z K U O E H
O I S U V B D C N H H N I A E U U O E N R M
B A R S K X D E X O D U S P E D F G L S S V

ZECHARIAH
ISAIAH
OBADIAH
EZEKIEL
DEUTERONOMY
RUTH
JONAH
GENESIS
HAGGAI

JUDGES
LAMENTATIONS
NEHEMIAH
HOSEA
JOSHUA
PSALMS
EXODUS
AMOS
EZRA

NAHUM
MALACHI
JOEL
ECCLESIASTES
DANIEL
SAMUEL
JOB
SONG OF SONGS
PROVERBS

ESTHER
ZEPHANIAH
KINGS
NUMBERS
JEREMIAH
MICAH
CHRONICLES
LEVITICUS
HABAKKUK

Name: _____

Date: _____

BIBLE BOOKS WORD SEARCH

ANSWERS

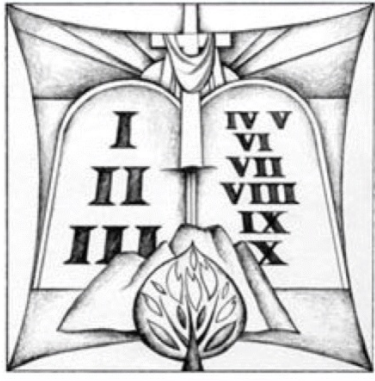


ZECHARIAH
ISAIAH
OBADIAH
EZEKIEL
DEUTERONOMY
RUTH
JONAH
GENESIS
HAGGAI

JUDGES
LAMENTATIONS
NEHEMIAH
HOSEA
JOSHUA
PSALMS
EXODUS
AMOS
EZRA

NAHUM
MALACHI
JOEL
ECCLESIASTES
DANIEL
SAMUEL
JOB
SONG OF SONGS
PROVERBS

ESTHER
ZEPHANIAH
KINGS
NUMBERS
JEREMIAH
MICAH
CHRONICLES
LEVITICUS
HABAKKUK



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 77. *What purposes does the Law then serve?*

B. Second, the Law accuses us and shows us our sin (a mirror).

The *Catechism 1991* continues its answer to the question: "What purposes does the Law then serve?" by saying: "Second, the Law accuses us and shows us our sin (a mirror)" In support of this it lists the following Scripture passages:

Rom. 3:20 – Through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Rom. 7:7 – Yet if it had not been for the Law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

To say we don't like the Law is akin to saying we don't like spinach. We know it's good for us, but it's not to our taste.

People would much rather be a law unto themselves. Were it up to me, all speed limits would be increased by ten miles per hour. Well, it's not really up to me, but I drive as though it were.

But having a heavy foot is not the only exhibition of my rebelliousness. It may not be yours, but you do have your own. We all have our favorite commandments to break. And we would all be fine with that, were it not for that pesky Law itself.

In considering the Second Use of the Law, we find that it does not permit us to make up our own rules as we go along. The Law stands immutable before our rebellion and will not permit us the luxury of ignoring it. It blocks our path, so to speak, forcing us to go around it should we wish to deny its claim on our behavior.

This is what it means to say that the Law functions as a mirror. Should I want to put the pedal down, the Law stands there at the side of the road shouting to me: "Thou shalt not!" And I must confess at that point that I have transgressed. Were there no sign posted, I could make the excuse that I didn't know. But the Law of God is ever before us, indeed, written on our hearts. To claim ignorance is not a valid objection, for the Law itself has shown us our sin.

Much of the world goes about breaking laws, thinking that the only real threat is getting caught. Well, the Law always catches us. Our own conscience catches us. There is no escape from the convicting voice of the Law. We stand accused and are guilty as charged. The only true remedy for the Law is the Gospel.

But the Gospel doesn't erase the Law; it doesn't excuse our violations of it. What the Gospel does is declare that our sin has been atoned, our penalty has been paid. It also helps us to agree that the Law is good and implants a desire within us to honor it. This desire actually comes from Christ, whose image envelopes ours as we gaze into the mirror of the Law. ✠

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

Serving Our Lord with Gladness - June

Senior Pastor: Rev. Steven S. Billings

Associate Pastor/Principal: Rev. Keith E. GeRue

Worship Date/Time	Acolyte Serving	Elder on Duty	Usher Captain	Greeters
June 2 6:30pm	0	Harrmann	Reinke	Philip Conradt
June 5 5pm 6 9am 9 6:30pm	NA	Voigt Collingwood Harrmann	Colby Collingwood Reinke	Tom & Barb Kester Joan Alliet/Jean Z. Carol Evenson
June 12 5pm 13 9am 16 6:30pm	NA	Voigt Collingwood Harrmann	Voigt Reinke	Tom & Barb Kester Jean Z Linda Ratzburg
June 19 5pm 20 9am 23 6:30pm	NA	Voigt Collingwood Harrmann	Harrmann Weinig Reinke	Tom & Barb Kester Carol Evensen
June 26 5:pm 27 9am 30 6:30pm	NA	Voigt Collingwood Harrmann	Maynard Sexsmith Reinke	Nielson/Nielson

Summer Church Office Hours:

(June-August) Monday-Friday 8am-3pm

Jean Zeinert & Mary Conradt Church Administrative Assistant

Phone: (920) 722-2662 ext. 201

email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

“Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but indeed and truth.” **1 John 3:18**

Help Needed- the Altar Guild is looking for someone that would love to join our Altar Guild team. The tasks are to set up, reset and take down the communion; and on Sundays to deliver the Altar flowers to members after Worship. If this sounds like something you would like to do, contact Kari Lindner at (928) 279-7192.



Volunteers- to help with greeting. We need people that will take attendance, ask members if they want communion, and if they want to join us for Worship the following week. If you wish to help, please contact Jean or Mary in the office at (920)722-2662.

Altar Flowers- If you wish to donate flowers, please contact the office. The cost of providing Altar flowers is \$25.00.



Stewardship Talk

Greetings to all of you from The Board of Stewardship!! As the Board continues the message of sharing time, talent, and treasures, our message is the poem, **For the Garden of Your Daily Living**. The poem, whose author is unknown, reads as follows:

“Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Grateful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water Freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

There is Much Fruit in Your Garden Because You Reap What You Sow”

As Galatians 6:8 reads, “For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.”

In summary, whether it is the time He gives us to tend a garden, or the talent to even know what to plant, how much to water or not water what we planted, and/or how to handle the weeds, let us all praise God not just today, but everyday, for all He provides to each and everyone of us.

As noted in Isaiah 61:11 “For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations”.

On behalf of The Board of Stewardship, let us all praise the Lord God that He continues to help us see how we can help here at Trinity with our time, talents, and treasures – as He feeds our hearts and our minds and helps us to nurture the “garden” both here at Trinity as well as beyond these walls!



Trinity Camping Weekend

This year Trinity Camping weekend is August 20-22 & will again be held at Wild West Campground & corral. They are located 8 miles west of Waupaca on Hwy 54. Check them out at <http://www.wildwestcampground.com/> New this year-Reservations are now taken online. Go to their website and place your reservation today. To plan for future years, a questionnaire will be created to get your input. Question? Contact Roger or Merry Voigt, at 920-725-9908 or rvoigt@sbcglobal.net.

YEAR 1, MAY 2021

CALLED TO GO: KYIV, UKRAINE

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



Group discussion during chapel out in the courtyard on Monday

STAY IN TOUCH:

Email:

amanda.groshek@missionofchrist.org

Blog:

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

MISC. MOMENTS

Stories of time spent together in the same place

After 6+ weeks of quarantines and lockdowns public transportation is running again for everyone and not just people with special passes, and people are allowed to meet up at cafes and restaurants. The weather here is also finally feeling like spring with longer days and all the flowers blooming. There's a lot of hope in the air!

It has been wonderful to meet up with friends for coffee on the weekends and spend time -- in person! -- catching up together. And it is so encouraging!

[We've had almost two weeks of everyone being back in the school building now, too, which has also been wonderful (although some of the students regret having to wake up early again in order to get to the school)! Our first week back, as one of the fifth grade girls was leading her classmates in prayer, she said, "Thank you God that we are all back in the building with classmates and teachers. Please let us end the school year here, too!" It's hard to believe that there are only two weeks of school left in the 2020-2021 school year. This year has gone by so quickly! This week was the last week of ELL (English Language Learner) classes for the year as there are a handful of assessments that the students need to have completed before the end of the year. With so much time online, end of semester exams have been waived. Instead, the last week of school will be spent reviewing. I found a "Lord of the Flies Survival Game" online that my ninth grade lit students and I will try playing as part of our time spent in review.

Along with my fifth grader, it is my hope and prayer that we are all able to end the school year together this year, and I am so thankful that the city is opening back up and that people are being allowed to meet in-person again!



The Easter basket packed for church



The Easter service ended outside with blessings and proclamations that Jesus is risen!

EASTER WEEKEND

May 1-2, 2021

Христос воскрес! (Christ is risen!)
Воистину воскрес! (He truly is!)

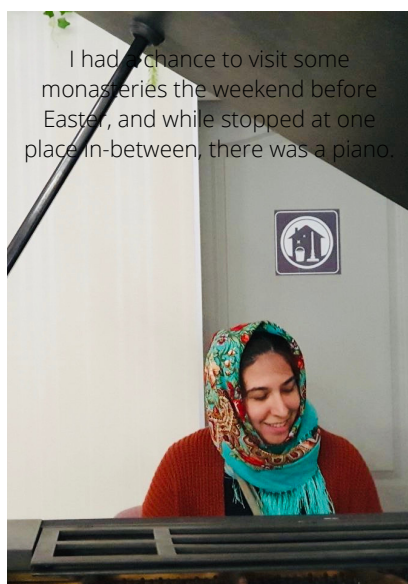
I was blessed and thankful to spend my first Easter here in Ukraine with a friend and her family in the Western part of the country.

We left Kyiv Saturday morning and (due to traffic) ended up arriving at her parents' flat mid-afternoon. After a bowl of borsch and a cup a black tea, we started helping her mom in the kitchen with food -- dessert -- prep. We made frosting and I assembled a 'monastery cake.' Then my friend, her sister, and I started putting together sweets that looked a bit like a walnut or Easter egg and had a walnut in the centre along with sweet and a sort of dulce de leche. In the evening we all piled into her parents' car and drove out to a nearby village where her grandma lived, and there the preparations continued as we decorated Easter cakes, both the ones we had made the Thursday before and also ones her grandma had

made. My friend, her sisters, a cousin and myself all helped with this. We had nuts, dried fruits, sprinkles, lavender, etc. to use. After we finished, her grandma chose one cake for the centrepiece and another to be put in the Easter basket that would be taken to church.

The church service started at midnight and went until around 4 a.m. Her grandma arrived for the start, but most of us left the house around 2 a.m, arriving for the second half of the service. Towards the end, everyone headed outside. It was still dark out. Lit candles were stuck in the Easter cakes in each family's Easter basket, and the baskets were set out on the ground. The priest and whoever else wanted to process around the church building three times, singing and proclaiming "Christ is risen!" The third time there was also a special blessing.

After church, it was time to head home and eat breakfast, before everyone went to bed.



I had a chance to visit some monasteries the weekend before Easter, and while stopped at one place in-between, there was a piano.

Prayer Requests:

- *Prayers for health and healing in Ukraine and around the world as many places continue to deal with COVID.*
- *Prayers of thanksgiving that we are back in the school building together! And prayers that we would be able to end the school year in the school building.*
- *Prayers for my students (and myself) as the school year starts to wind-down*
- *Prayers of thanksgiving for nicer weather which is conducive for more outdoor time*



Musings from MATONGO

NEWS FROM REV. DR. WALTER & ROBYN STEELE



April 2021

SteelesInAfrica.com



STEELES IN AFRICA

—COVID has struck again. Classes are on hold until this wave subsides.

—Walter & Robyn are using the break in classes to prepare for next semester.

—Robyn has been asked to teach two Home Economics courses: one next semester and one beginning in August.

—Walter participated in a PhD seminar (via Zoom, of course) on Luther and Lutheran Pastoral Theology.

—We have bid farewell to our good friend and coworker, Dr. Thomas Aadland, who has retired from the field. He will be missed.

—Perhaps the Lord is calling you to consider international missions. The need to train pastors, deaconesses and evangelists remains. If you ever have any questions about it, please do not hesitate to email us.



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.

COVID Cannot Stop Gospel Preaching!



Preaching at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, in Nyamira County, Kenya

A beautiful day in April, the Third Sunday after Easter. COVID has closed the campus for a while. But no virus can stop the Gospel of our Lord Jesus from sounding forth. An invitation was given. “Professor, will you come and preach to us?” Such is the hunger for the Word of God in Kenya.

“Of course I will!” So, we made our way, about an hour from campus, where Walter preached to them. It was a Communion Sunday. So Walter and the parish pastor, Rev. Gordon Alex, served God’s people with the precious and life-giving Body and Blood of Christ Jesus our Lord. The choirs sang and the people rejoiced to hear how Christ comes to them in Word and Sacrament. We enjoyed the fellowship of those who say: “Christ is risen! Alleluia!”

We pray that soon the government of Kenya will allow schools to reopen. We certainly appreciate their caution. But in the meanwhile, the voice of the Gospel is not silenced. Our students are back home sharing the Word. And with your support, the work continues! Alleluia!



PRAYER REQUESTS:

- That the recent surge in COVID here may soon end.
- That our students will be able to return in May, so we can resume all classes.
- For Walter as he prepares to teach seven courses next semester.
- For Robyn as she prepares to teach Home Economics courses next semester and also in the following one.
- For the Office of International Mission as they seek a replacement for Dr. Aadland, who has retired from the field.
- Thanksgiving for continued support of international mission despite the challenges of these days.
- For our Kenyan coworkers, that they, too, remain healthy and safe.

HEBREW BIBLE PROJECT

Great news! The Hebrew Bibles (Reader's Edition) have arrived in Kenya. Yes, it took a while. After all, they traveled through Germany to get here. But they have made it in time for the next semester.

The pastoral students are excited to be able to study the Old Testament in Hebrew. They look forward to seeing Jesus on every page of Holy Scripture.

This ability—to learn how to see our Savior in the entire Bible—is a skill that we emphasize in all our work here at Matongo.

When they see Jesus, they then know how better to show Jesus to others, to tell the wonderful story of God's grace in Christ for all.

Remember:

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

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

MISSION CENTRAL

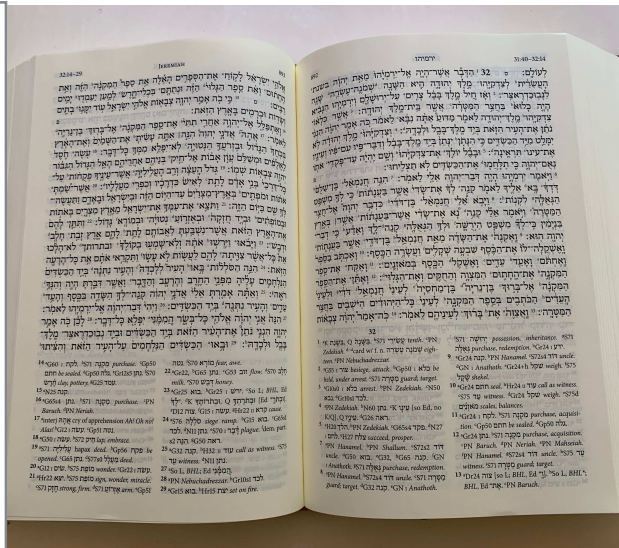
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**The Word of God in Hebrew:
Hebrew Bible: Reader's Edition**

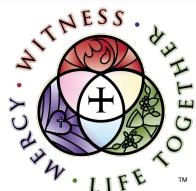
For more information on our work and our progress check out:

Our Website: SteelesInAfrica.com

LCMS page: 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. 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.