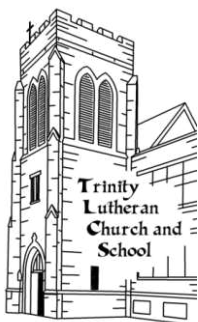


Trinity Lutheran Church & School  
300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952



## December 2023 Newsletter





## Trinity Lutheran Church and School

300 Broad Street  
Menasha, WI 54952

Church Phone: (920) 722-2662 / School Phone: (920) 725-1715

Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Website: [www.trinitymenasha.com](http://www.trinitymenasha.com)

### Worship Services

Saturday – 5:00 pm; Sunday – 9:00 am; Wednesday – 6:30 pm

Education Hour: Sunday - 10:30 am

Services will continue to be available for streaming on Trinity's Facebook page, and for later viewing on YouTube. Check the church website for more details.



## IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

### First Week in Advent

- December 1: 7:00 PM Christmas Hymn Sing
- December 2: 9:30 AM Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Worship
- December 3: 9:00 AM Worship  
2:00 PM Christmas Caroling to Shut-Ins
- December 5: Board Meetings
- December 6: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
5:15 PM Mid Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid Week Advent Worship

### Second Week in Advent

- December 9: 5:00 PM Worship  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 10: 9:00 AM Worship  
11:30 AM Church Christmas Decorating  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 12: Board of Directors Meeting
- December 13: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
K5-3rd Grade Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale  
5:15 PM Mid-Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
K5-3rd Grade Christmas Service

### Third Week in Advent

- December 16: 9:30 AM Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Worship  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 17: 9:00 AM Worship  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale

### Third Week in Advent (Continued)

- December 18: 6:00 PM PS3 – K4 Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale
- December 20: 9:00 AM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
4th -8rd Grade Christmas Service  
Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale  
5:15 PM Mid Week Advent Meal  
6:30 PM Mid-Week Advent Worship  
4th -8rd Grade Christmas Service
- December 21: Day School Children Christmas Caroling & Noon Dismissal
- December 22-January 3 No School –  
Christmas Break  
School Office Closed



### Fourth Week in Advent

- December 23: 5:00 PM Worship
- December 24: 9:00 AM Worship  
Christmas Eve 4:00 PM Worship  
6:30 PM Worship  
11:00 PM Candelight Worship
- Christmas Day  
December 25: 10:00 AM Worship
- December 30: 9:30 AM Food Pantry  
5:00 PM Worship
- December 31: 9:00 AM Worship  
6:30 PM New's Years Eve Worship



### Our Mission Statement:

Trinity Lutheran Church and 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.



### Senior Pastor:

✙ Rev. Steven S. Billings

### Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

✙ Rev. Keith E. GeRue

### Director of Music:

Mrs. Connie Henkel

### Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

# Trinity Lutheran Church & School

Church Phone: (920) 722-2662

School Phone: (920) 725-1715

# December

## Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 ADVENT 1
					7:00 PM Christmas Hymn Sing	9:30 AM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Worship
3 ADVENT 1	4	5	6 MID-WEEK 1	7	8	9 ADVENT 2
9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School 2:00 PM Christmas Caroling	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study 4:30 pm BB @ Trinity Oshkosh 6:30 PM Bd Meetings	9:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM Worship	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study BB @ Celebration 5:45 pm Caroling Gather Round Curtis Reed Square Menasha 6:00 PM Choir		5:00 PM Worship Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 
10 ADVENT 2	11	12	13 MID-WEEK 2	14	15	16 ADVENT 3
9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 11:30 AM Church Christmas Decorating	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study 	6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 3:45 pm BB Practice 6:30 PM Bd of Dir Mtg	9:00 AM K5-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM K5-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Christmas Service	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 3:45 pm BB Practice 6:00 PM Choir		9:30 AM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Worship Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 
17 ADVENT 3	18	19	20 MID-WEEK 3	21	22	23 ADVENT 4
9:00 AM Worship 10:30 AM Ed Hour /Sunday School Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Sewing 6:00 PM PS3-K4 Christmas Service 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study 3:45 pm BB Practice	9:00 AM 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service Ladies Aid Cookie and Candy Sale 5:00 PM Catechism 5:15 PM Mid-Week Meal 6:30 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Service	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study School Caroling 6:00 PM Choir <b>School Closes at Noon</b> <b>School Office Closed at Noon</b>	<b>No School/School &amp; Church Offices Closed</b>	5:00 PM Worship
24 ADVENT 4	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00 AM Worship 4:00 PM Worship 6:30 PM Worship 11:00 PM Worship Candlelight	10:00 AM Worship <i>Pastor Billings, Pastor GeRue, the faculty &amp; staff of Trinity Lutheran Church &amp; School wish you a very Blessed Christmas</i> <b>School &amp; Church Offices Closed</b>	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> 6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study 	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> No Catechism	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b> No Men's Bible Study	<b>No School, School Office Closed</b>	9:30 AM Food Pantry 5:00 PM Worship
31						
9:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM New Year's Eve Worship						

Church Offices will be closed Friday, December 22 through December 25, and New Years Day.

School Offices will be closed beginning at Noon on Thursday, December 21 through January 3.



## Serving Our Lord with Gladness – December 2023

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



Worship Date/Time	Acolyte	Elder on Duty	Communion Assistant	Usher Captain	Greeter	Altar Guild
Dec 2: 5:00 PM Dec 3: 9:00 AM Dec. 6: 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Sydney Gast Axle Hurst	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	Lee Colby Steve Sexmith	Tom Harrmann Lee Weinig  Harrmann/Weinig	Betty Allen Liz Kamprath	Philip & Mary Conradt Craig & Jill Thomas
Dec 9: 5:00 PM Dec 10: 9:00 AM Dec 13: 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Payton Lenth Robbie Kohler	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	Ian Thomas Scott Gutzmann	Jerry Maynard Steve Sexmith  Maynard/Sexmith	Barbara Kester Jane Nielsen	Philip & Mary Conradt Craig & Jill Thomas
Dec 16: 5:00 PM Dec 17: 9:00 AM  Dec 20: 9:00 AM and 6:30 PM	Emma Schmidt Simon Kroes	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	Dan Siebert Ron Kraus	Lee Colby Dave Collingwood  Colby/Collingwood	Dan & Peggy Dahms Rosemary Collingwood	Brian & Paula Reichert <b>Volunteer Needed</b>
Dec 23: 5:00 PM Dec 24: 9:00 AM 4:00 PM 6:30 PM 11:00 PM Dec 25: 10:00 AM	Richie Sprouse Mirella Taschner Maya Torres Sydney Gast Axle Hurst Robbie Kohler	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	Vance Pues Josiah Nielsen	Roger Voigt Jim Wittmann Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer Volunteer	JoAnn Schultz Connie Henkel	Philip & Mary Conradt Jean Zeinert  <b>Volunteers Needed</b> Jean Zeinert
Dec 30: 5:00 PM Dec 31: 9:00 AM 6:30 PM	Payton Lenth Simon Kroes Emma Schmidt	Alan Manteufel Bart Nielsen	Bruce Buksyk Robert Flater	Tom Harrmann Lee Weinig	Betty Allen Liz Kamprath	Shirley Fleischer Jean Zeinert Jean Zeinert

### December Altar Guild Volunteers Are Needed:

As of November 28, the following slots are open:

- Sunday, December 17: Clean up and deliver flowers
- Sunday, December 24 • 11:00 PM Candlelight Service: Clean-up & reset for Christmas Day service

Setting the Lord's Table is truly an honor and blessing. Please contact Mary Conradt (920) 882-8676 or Jean Zeinert at (920) 722-2662 to become a member of our team.



## Wedding Anniversaries – December 2023

12/09 BILLINGS, Rev. Steven & Liz  
 12/15 VOIGT, William & Jennifer  
 12/17 SIEGEL, Scott & Amy



12/20 KRAUSE, Darrell & Vera  
 12/27 BOUCHARD, Jeremy & Dana  
 12/28 WUSSOW, Craig & Sandy

## Birthdays – December 2023

12/01 DEHNE, Jim  
 12/01 NOLAN, Madeleine  
 12/02 COLLINGWOOD, Joel  
 12/02 MLODIK, Sarah  
 12/04 REUNING, Abigail  
 12/05 HURST, Brandon  
 12/08 GAST, Sydney  
 12/09 FROST, Sue  
 12/10 MIES, Kevin  
 12/10 RISKE, Karen  
 12/11 PUES, Dane  
 12/12 REINKE, Steve  
 12/13 HIBBARD, Brenda  
 12/13 KESTER, Thomas  
 12/13 MEYER, Scott  
 12/14 EIDE, Noah  
 12/14 HEID, Jonathon  
 12/15 BORGEN, Breanna  
 12/15 BORGEN, Gina  
 12/15 VITEK, Barbara



12/16 BECKER, Jean  
 12/16 HAANEN, Carrie  
 12/16 WEBBER, Noelle  
 12/18 EMERY, Matthew  
 12/18 PUES, Ella  
 12/19 MIES, Donna  
 12/19 SIEGEL, Scott  
 12/20 HEYN, Carrie  
 12/20 MANTEUFEL, Rebeka  
 12/20 VOIGT, Henry  
 12/26 MEIS, Jacob  
 12/27 BOUCHARD, Dana  
 12/28 BOUCHARD, Justin  
 12/29 HENRICKSON, John  
 12/29 MILSKE, Maxwell  
 12/30 CALLAN, Isabelle  
 12/31 BOLEN, Sally  
 12/31 HEID, Joshua



### ✝ Trinity Membership Update ✝

**New Members/Transfers In:** Thomas Ziebell

**Released/Transfers Out:** Sara, Kraig, Grace & Cora Henson

**Baptisms:**

**Weddings:**

**Members Who Have Passed:**

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

# Join us for the Season of Advent

During Advent we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came into the world as both God and Man so that our sins might be forgiven. On the other hand, we anticipate the day when Jesus will return to Earth and bring an end to this world.

Advent Week 1, Dec. 2—5:00 PM & Dec. 3—9:00 AM: “Watchfulness”

Advent 1 Mid-Week Service, Dec. 6—9:00 AM & 6:30 PM: “Disappointed”

Advent Week 2, Dec. 9—5:00 PM & Dec. 10—9:00 AM: “The Mouth of the Lord Has Spoken”

Advent 2 Mid-Week Service, Dec. 13—9:00 AM & 6:30 PM: *K5-3RD Grade Christmas Service*

Advent Week 3, Dec. 16—5:00 PM & Dec. 17—9:00 AM: “A “Pink” Pause”

Dec. 18—6:00 PM: *PS3-K4 Christmas Service*

Advent 3 Mid-Week Service, Dec. 20—9:00 AM & 6:30 PM: *4TH-8TH Grade Christmas Service*

Advent Week 4, Dec. 23—5:00 PM & Dec. 24—9:00 AM: “May It Be to Me as You Have Said”

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24—4:00 & 6:30 PM: “No Room for God?”

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 Candlelight Service—11:00 PM: “The Glory of God”

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 Christmas Day—10:00 AM: “Taken Out of Man”

Dec. 30—5:00 PM & Dec. 31—9:00 AM: “Good to Go”

New Year’s Eve, Dec. 31—6:30 PM

## Advent Meals—Served at 5:15 PM:

Dec. 6: Boards of Stewardship and Outreach & Social Ministry

Menu: Pulled Pork, Hot Beef Sandwiches, Tossed Salad, Pasta Salad, Baked Beans, Desserts, Coffee, Milk & Water

Dec. 13: Boards of Worship and Properties

Menu: To Be Announced

Dec. 20: Board of Elders and Board of Christian Ed

Menu: To Be Announced



## Everyone is Invited to Help Decorate Trinity for Christmas



Sunday, December 10th beginning at 11:30 AM, following Bible Study, we will be decorating the Sanctuary for Christmas. We will meet at 11:30 AM in the Large Fellowship Hall. A light meal will be provided, and of course, it includes Christmas Cookies for dessert!

## ..... Electronic Upright Player Piano Free to a Good Home .....

Tim Reuning has an electronic upright player piano with at least 100 piano rolls that he is giving away. For more details contact Tim at (920) 507-0062.

## 2024 Offering Envelopes

December 9th your 2024 offering envelopes will be in your mailboxes. Please don't use these until January 1st. We ask that you recycle your 2023 unused envelopes.

If you have started to donate electronically and no longer need your envelopes, please let the church office know so you can be assigned to a different series of numbers. Please turn your 2024 envelopes back into the church office. Thank you!

# ♪ Hymn-Sing!

HERE! at Trinity ♪ #

THIS FRIDAY

♪ at 7pm 1 December

Come sing your  
Favorite Christmas  
hymns!! ♪

Questions: see Bart or Rose



## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

JOIN US ON SUNDAY, DEC. 3

AT 2PM

WE'LL MEET AT DOOR 2 ON BROAD STREET.

POTLUCK AFTER PARTY AT

RON AND DOTTIE KRAUS

BRING A SALAD, VEGGIE, OR DESSERT

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!



# Catechetical Comments

A Series

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

This month we continue our look at The Apostles' Creed and consider the following question: *Who is God?*

### 93. *Who is God?*

In His Word God has told us that He is

*K. merciful (full of pity)*

The *Small Catechism* further answers the question *Who Is God?* by saying:

*In His Word God has told us that He is*

*K. merciful (full of pity)*

It then offers the following Scripture passages in support of this answer:

**Jer. 3:12** – I am merciful, declares the LORD.

**Titus 3:5** – He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy.

Can we possibly understand mercy? Perhaps. But we have to look beyond our everyday experiences to find it.

Mercy is seen throughout Scripture. We see mercy in the life of Moses. When he was born, Pharaoh had declared that all the baby Hebrew boys born in Egypt were to be killed as soon as they were born. To avoid this, Moses' mother hid him in a basket, which she floated down the Nile. It was picked up by a servant of Pharaoh's daughter, who recognized Moses as a Hebrew child. She should have killed him, but she had mercy. Not only did she let him live, she took him into her own home soon after he was weaned, and raised him as her own.

Another example is found in the life of Samson, whose Philistine wife tried and tried to get him to tell her how he could be defeated. Eventually, he told her. Why? Because he loved her. Because he had mercy on her and allowed her to betray him, he lost his eyes, his liberty, and ultimately his life.

Samson in the Old Testament is one of many pre-figures of Christ. Jesus, would one day allow Himself to be betrayed, arrested, brutally treated, and ultimately killed. Why? Because God had mercy on us.

Jesus took the punishment we deserve. He died the death that should have been ours. But, because He loves us, He permitted us to mistreat Him, subjecting Him to be beaten, flogged, and crucified. That's right, God used human beings to carry out His righteous judgment against human beings! In mercy, Christ, the Son of God, stepped into the path of our suffering, deflecting it from us and absorbing it into Himself.

In our vernacular, we compare such situations to Secret Service agents, who are willing to "take the bullet" aimed at the President, or a soldier "falling on a grenade" to save his comrades in arms. These are examples of mercy in action – removing suffering from the intended target by taking it in their place.

There is no greater example of this in the history of mankind than Jesus. God grant you a joyous celebration of His birth. ✚

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

# From the School December 2023



## IT'S ABOUT TIME! A REFLECTION ON THE TIME OF CHRISTMAS

I once read a book about time management by R. Alec MacKenzie titled, *The Time Trap*. It is now in its fourth edition and is still a worthwhile read. It has many excellent suggestions for managing one's time, but the primary concept of the book can be summed up in one sentence:

**"You cannot save time; you can only spend it."**

The idea of *saving* time was well engrained in my mind, but the idea of *spending* time, as if it were a precious commodity, was something I really hadn't given much attention. MacKenzie's thesis was simple: We have a limited amount of time—it is precious—so how does one choose what is worthy of spending one's time?

So how do you manage time, i.e., *spend* time. "Is what you are spending your time on worthwhile? If the old expression, "Time is money!" is true, are you bankrupting your "time account" by what you choose to do, or are you investing your time in truly worthwhile (time worthy) pursuits?"

How we spend our time has become more difficult over the years and will be intensified as the Christmas season approaches. We are pulled in every direction at this time of the year. We feebly attempt to prioritize how we spend our time, but far too many "time traps" arise, such as:

1. Christmas shopping—better to have every present ordered ahead of time because of supply chain problems! Oh, no! The toys the kids want are stuck in San Francisco for the next 10 weeks!
2. Family is coming over for Christmas dinner—better clean the house thoroughly or I'll be criticized by great aunt Brunhilda!
3. Must write the Christmas letter to put into the Christmas cards that need to be addressed right now so they will arrive in time because the U.S. Post Office is being overwhelmed! Arrrrgh!
4. Just ran out of wrapping paper—must go to Walmart again! Arrrrgh, arrrrgh! And it's Christmas Eve!
5. Must go to the Christmas Eve service. Need to be finished on time so we can start rehearsals! I wish I'd started writing this in August! *Sigh*....
6. Fill in your own "time traps" here: \_\_\_\_\_ (Sorry there's not more room to write!)

Now, take a breath. Breathe in—and breathe out... Consider what is *truly* important during this season, and, for that matter, every season of your life. Think of the things that are of greatest importance and start to relax in the Gospel. Christ came to bring peace to troubled hearts and to bring comfort to the lonely, the poor, and those who are ill in body, mind, and soul.<sup>1</sup> In the time of Caesar Augustus, God sent his Son—that's God's *kairos* time, i.e., the time where God is in control—when God's will is done—when the miracles of salvation occur. God's *kairos* time is not like our *Chronos*, or chronological time, which is measured in seconds, minutes, and days. *Kairos* time is when God creates the universe, makes covenants, raises Christ from the dead, takes hold of us in our baptism, and grants us eternal life.

We need to reset our clocks to *kairos* time wherein we can "ponder anew what the Almighty can do"<sup>2</sup> and to reflect on how to prioritize our "to do" list as we take our ease in the miracle of Jesus' incarnation. Would it be earthshattering if the Christmas letters didn't make it to their destination until the third week of Epiphany? Would

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<sup>1</sup> The Hebrew word for soul is *nephesh* (נֶפֶשׁ) – pronounced *neh-fesh*. It has a deep meaning that should not be confused with the Greek philosophical concept of the soul as kind of a ghost that lives within us and released from us when we die. The *nephesh* is our innermost being, our mind, desires, emotions, breath, everything that is within us, our life itself; our whole living being. *Nephesh* in Hebrew refers to the throat because everything that we depend on for life comes into us through our throat, our breath, our food, our drink. When we worship and praise God, we do it with our *nephesh* – our entire being.

<sup>2</sup> From the hymn: "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." *Lutheran Service Book* #790. Author: Joachim Neander (1680); Translator: Katherine Winkworth (1863).

our Christmas celebrations be ruined if only the bathroom was cleaned, or if there were only four, instead of six, courses for Christmas dinner?

Take a few moments of your chronological time to focus on the essentials in your life, not the peripherals, so your heart and soul might be centered on, and lived in that *kairos* time when God sent the Promise of Promises to the world. May the Spirit of Christ fill you as you relax in the goodness, righteousness, and love of God during this blessed Christmas season and in all the seasons to come.

**John 1: 1-5; 14 (ESV)** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*



### EVENTS AROUND THE SCHOOL

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Dec. 1:             | 9:00 am School Opening<br>Midterms   |
| Dec. 4:             | 9:00 am School Devotion  |
| Dec. 5:             | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>9:30 am The Grand, Oshkosh The Reluctant Dragon PS3 – 1 <sup>st</sup><br>4:30 pm Basketball Trinity Oshkosh               |
| Dec. 6:             | 9:00 am Advent Chapel  |
| Dec. 7:             | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>4:30 pm Basketball @ Celebration<br>5:45 pm Trinity Caroling Gather ‘Round Christmas Event Curtis Reed Square Menasha     |
| Dec. 8:             | 9:00 am School Opening   |
| Dec. 11:            | 9:00 am School Devotion  |
| Dec. 12:            | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>3:45 pm Basketball Practice   |
| Dec. 13:            | 9:00 am K5–3 <sup>rd</sup> Christmas Service “God Had A Plan”<br>6:30 pm K5–3 <sup>rd</sup> Christmas Service “God Had A Plan”                       |
| Dec. 14:            | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>3:45 pm Basketball Practice   |
| Dec. 15:            | 9:00 am School Devotion  |
| Dec. 18:            | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>6:00 pm PS3-K4 Christmas Service  |
| Dec. 19:            | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>3:45 pm Basketball Practice   |
| Dec. 20:            | 9:00 am 4th–8th Christmas Service “Sound the Bells! The Savior is Born!”<br>6:30 pm 4th–8th Christmas Service “Sound the Bells! The Savior is Born!” |
| Dec. 21:            | 9:00 am School Devotion<br>School Christmas Caroling<br>12:00 Noon Dismissal   |
| Dec. 22 – January 3 | Christmas Break  |



# Merry Christmas

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT OCT 2023

	<u>BEGINNING BALANCE</u>	<u>DEPOSITS/ INCOME</u>	<u>WITHDRAWALS/ EXPENSES</u>	<u>ENDING BALANCE</u>
Nicolet General Fund	\$12,124.21	\$76,111.94	(\$76,113.32)	\$12,122.83
Nicolet Restricted Funds*	\$105,591.84	\$9,274.37	(\$19,770.00)	\$95,096.21
LCMS Endowment Fund**	\$121,551.95	\$1,026.31	(\$4,442.48)	\$118,135.78
LCEF Steward Fund	\$864.12	\$22,631.54	(\$22,615.60)	\$880.06
Nicolet Money Market	\$35.96	\$0.00	(\$10.00)	\$25.96
Schwab Wealth***	\$42,783.26	\$129.49	(\$3,557.80)	\$39,354.95
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$7,669.92	\$101.36	\$0.00	\$7,771.28
Nicolet Office Acct	\$3,433.87	\$1.51	(\$21,944.69)	(\$18,509.31)
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,190.11	\$1.59		\$3,191.70
Nicolet Scrip	\$3,803.21	\$36,963.80		\$40,767.01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$301,048.45</b>	<b>\$146,241.91</b>	<b>(\$148,453.89)</b>	<b>\$298,836.47</b>
LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	\$882,958.24		(\$3,827.08)	\$879,131.16

## Trinity Ladies Aid Annual Cookie and Candy Sale

Look for us beginning the weekend of  
December 9 & 10, and continuing on  
December 16 & 17, before and after the  
worship services. We will also open for the  
Trinity School Children's programs  
on December 13, 18, and 20.

We also invite you to bake cookies and make candy! Simply bring them with you when you come to worship. You need not wrap or bag the items separately as we sell them right out of the container you bring them in.

All proceeds go for numerous missions as well as for Trinity Church and School projects. We thank you for serving with us and bringing joy to our customers!

This time of year we think about all the joys of Advent and Christmas, especially the birth of Baby Jesus; our Savior, who then died to deliver us from the punishment of our sins. There never has been or never will be a greater gift. We ask you to take every opportunity to share His love with the people you come in contact with and tell them about Him. You can never give a better gift than to share this Good News! That is the prayer the Trinity Ladies have for each one of you this blessed season.



# From Your Parish Nurse...

## Debunking the Myths of Aging



The average lifespan of people in the US is 80.

The fastest growing population group in the US are people over 85.

The ability to learn does not diminish.

The majority of older people are physically strong and in good health.

30% of people in the US die of heart disease, 23% of cancer, 7% from stroke, 5% from respiratory diseases and 4% from accidents.

Dementia and senility are not inevitable.

Urinary incontinence is not inevitable. There are several causes of urinary incontinence and the issue should be thoroughly evaluated by a physician.

Older people have less injuries at home than younger people.

Only 10% of people over 65 live in nursing homes. More 80 and 90 year olds live independently than in nursing homes.

Only 10% of seniors are below the poverty level, and only 15 % of seniors are classified as having financial problems. This is lower than for younger people.

Many people are busier in retirement than when they were working.

Older people have a lower rate of absenteeism than younger people.

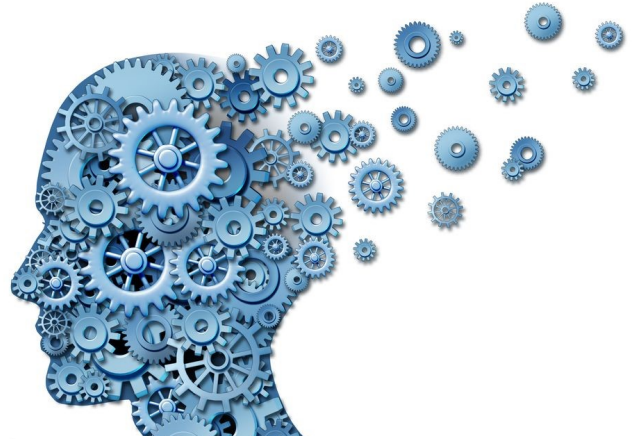
People over 65 are less frequently victims of criminal activity. However, elderly are more fearful of victimization than are younger people.

There are 5 times as many widows among our elderly population than there are widowers.

There is no arbitrary age at which sexual functioning ceases. Sexual feelings and fantasies are normal for older people.

# From Your Parish Nurse (Continued)...

## Aging: What You Should Know



**Skin** – Loss of subcutaneous tissue and thinning of skin  
more fragile; unable to respond to heat and cold quickly; loss of moisture; wrinkling

**Sensory** – Eyes become less elastic; ear canal narrows and bones in inner ear calcify; smelling decrease  
Increased difficulty with vision and adjustments in vision between far and near; need for more light to see; cataracts; increase risks of glaucoma; loss of hearing and ability to discriminate odors

**Heart** – Heart and blood vessels stiffen. Many people have cholesterol deposits in the walls of arteries restricting blood flow to the heart and brain. The heart has to work harder to pump blood through more resistant blood vessels.  
Increased incidence of high blood pressure, heart attacks, heart failure and strokes.

**Brain** – Brain cell death progressively increases with age, largely due to blood vessel issue mentioned above.  
Minor forgetfulness.  
(This does not mean that Alzheimer's disease or dementia are in any way "normal", and progressive loss of memory and/or judgment should be investigated vigorously by a physician.)

**Bones** – Loss of density and demineralization.  
Shortening of height; increased incidence of osteoporosis and fracture.

**Joints** – Stiffening and "wear and tear" from years of use.  
Movement slower and more difficult; increased incidence of arthritis – stiff, painful and swollen joints; decrease in strength and stamina.

**Digestive** – Loss of muscle tone; weakening of intestinal wall; reduced gastric acid to aid in digestion.  
Increased incidence of constipation, incontinence, reflux, peptic ulcers, and inability to digest some foods.

# Musings from Matongo

## Rev. Dr. Walter & Robyn Steele

### Serving the Lord in East Africa



December 2023

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

## Missionary Life includes: On-going Education



### ROBYN'S BIG NEWS!

At our gathering in Kigali, Rwanda, it was announced that Robyn will officially serve as a **Missionary Nutrition Educator**. She will be teaching a Home Economics course to deaconesses. Additionally, she will serve the wider area, emphasising the connection between Faith and Food as God's gracious gift.

-**Pray** for her as she goes through the work permit process in Kenya.

- Pray for her as she prepares her lesson plans for the coming semester, which begins in January.



### Continuing Education in Kigali, Rwanda

Photo Credit: Shara Osiro

Our missionary life includes not only teaching. We also must always be students. There is much we still need to learn about the various cultures that make up life in East Africa. We are blessed to be able to gather each year with all our fellow Africa Region missionaries to learn together.

This year we traveled to Kigali, the capitol of Rwanda, to learn from Dr. William Shumacher about various models of mission work. Our presenter has served as a missionary in Botswana and also as a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO. Together, we explored the changing face of missions over the centuries. We considered the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches. The goal was to help us think about why we do what we do and how we do it. Ultimately this will assist us as we look toward the future of the work to which we have been called.

These times together are also helpful for other reasons. First, by traveling to other countries, we are exposed to the varieties of cultural expressions of the Christian Faith. And since our students come from all over East and Central Africa, this is very helpful.

Second, gathering together gives us the opportunity to share one another's burdens and to be encouraged by those who share this life with us.

In Christ's love,

*Walter and Robyn Steele*



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

## A Time of Education, Fellowship & Encouragement



As missionaries we learn about many things as we live and work with people from many cultures.

During our Continuing Education in Rwanda, Walter learned from Rev. Volmir da Rocha, an Alliance Missionary from Brazil, how to make chimarrão, an herbal tea which is popular in South America.

Preparing it takes much more care than throwing it into hot water.

*P.S.: Walter confesses he needs continuing education on this too. He still doesn't make it right.*



**Robyn Enjoys Learning More About Missions**

### Gathered with our Africa Missionary Family

*All Photo Credit: Shara Osiro*



Remember, you can help us continue to teach future church workers here in Africa by your prayers and financial support at:

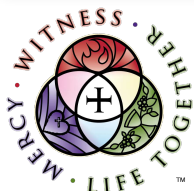
[lcms.org/givenow/steele](https://lcms.org/givenow/steele)

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

MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034



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 & 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 Walter & Robyn Steele." Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website, on my online giving page at [lcms.org/Steele](https://lcms.org/Steele).