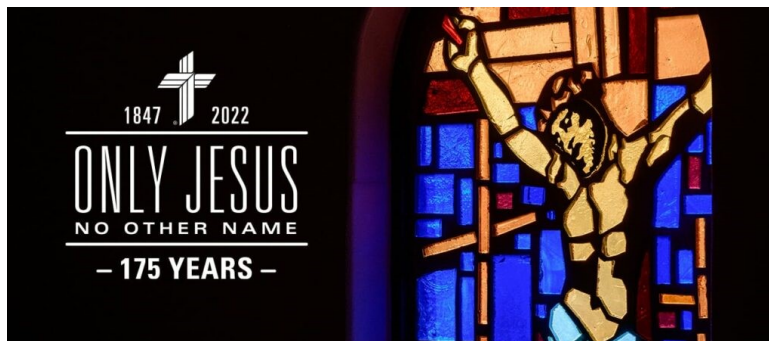


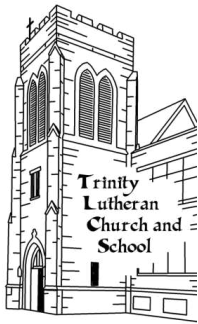
Trinity Lutheran Church & School
300 Broad Street
Menasha, WI 54952



April 2022 Newsletter



For 175 years, the LCMS has believed, taught and confessed Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father. He alone is the atonement for sins.



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

Worship Services:

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

Education Hour: Sunday - 10:30 am

In Person & Online Worship Service and Education Hour

Trinity's website: www.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.

Important Dates:

April 5: 6:30 PM Board Meetings

April 6: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Lenten Worship,
5:00 PM Catechism, 5:15 PM Lenten Meal

April 7: 7:00 PM Choir Practice

April 9: 9:00 AM Food Pantry

April 9: 5:00 PM Palm Sunday Service

April 10: 9:00 AM Palm Sunday Service

April 12: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM Circuit Pastor Meeting @ Trinity, Oshkosh

April 12: 6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

April 13: 7:00 PM Choir Practice

April 14: **Maundy Thursday:** 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM Worship, **School Released at Noon**

April 15: **Good Friday:** 12:00-3:00 PM Tre Ore Service, 6:30 PM Vespers, **No School**

April 16: **Holy Saturday,** 5:00 PM Worship, Easter Prayer Vigil (Sign up for a time slot)
Saturday Evening: 6:30-7:30 PM/7:30-8:30 PM/8:30-9:30 PM/9:30-10:30 PM
Sunday Morning: 5:00-5:30 AM

April 17: **Easter Sunday:** 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Service, 9:00 AM Easter Service

April 18 – April 22: **NO SCHOOL – EASTER BREAK**

April 22: 7:30 AM – 5 PM Brat Fry, 1031 Antelope Trail, Neenah, WI

April 23: 7:30 AM – 5 PM Brat Fry, 1031 Antelope Trail, Neenah, WI

April 23: 9:00 AM Food Pantry

*A Memorial gift was given to Trinity
in memory of Audrey Hansman.*

*A Memorial gift was also given to
Trinity in memory of Harvey Bielefeld.*

Holy Communion

We are once again offering the choice of Common Cup or Individual Cup.



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

Director of Music:

Mr. Tim Reuning

Assoc. Pastor/Principal:

† Rev. Keith E. GeRue


Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

Trinity Lutheran Church & School
 Church Phone: (920) 722-2662
 School Phone: (920) 725-1715

April 2022

Church Office Hours:
 Monday-Friday, 8 AM - 3 PM
 Email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| |  | Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil Times <i>(Please Sign Up in Narthex):</i> 3/16/22 - 6:30-7:30 PM/7:30-8:30 PM/8:30-9:30 PM/9:30-10:30 PM 3/17/22 - 5:00-5:30 AM | | | | 1 2:45 – 3:15 pm School Electives | 2 5 PM Worship Svc In Person/Online |
| 3 9 AM Worship Svc In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online | 4 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 4-8 PM Tom's Dine Out 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 5 6:30 AM Ladies BS 6:30 PM Board Mtgs | 6 10:30 AM Lenten Svc 5 PM Catechism 5:15 Lenten Meal 6:30 PM Lenten Svc | 7 6 AM Men's BS 2:45 – 3:15 pm School Electives 7 pm Choir Practice | 8 | 9 9 am Food Pantry 5 PM Worship Svc In Person/Online | |
| 10 Palm Sunday 9 AM Worship Svc In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online | 11 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 12 6:30 AM Ladies BS 9-12 PM Circuit Pastors Mtg@ Trinity, Oshkosh 3:45 PM Running Club 6:30 Bd of Dir Mtg | 13 8:45 AM Chapel 7 PM Choir Practice | 14 NOON DISMISSAL Maundy Thursday 6 AM Men's BS 10:30 AM Maundy Thursday Svc 6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Svc | 15 NO SCHOOL Good Friday 10:30 AM Cross Walk- Neenah Riverside Park 12-3 PM Tre Ore Svc 6:30 PM Vespers Both Offices Closed | 16 Holy Saturday 5 PM Easter Vigil Worship In Person/ Online | |
| 17 Easter Sunday 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise Svc 9:00 AM Easter Svc Both services are In Person & Online NO ED HOUR OR SUNDAY SCHOOL | 18 Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 19 6:30 AM Ladies BS 6:30 PM Ladies Aid/ LWML Mtg (SFH) | 20 | 21 6 AM Men's BS | 22 7:30 AM-5 PM Brat Fry 1031 Antelope Trail Neenah, WI | 23 7:30 AM-5 PM Brat Fry 1031 Antelope Trail Neenah, WI 9 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Worship Svc In Person/Online | |
| EASTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL | | | | | | | |
| 24 9 AM Worship Svc In Person & Online 10:30 AM Ed Hour- In Person & Online | 25 MAP Testing Pastor's Sabbath 9 AM Sewing 6 PM Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's BS | 26 6:30 AM Ladies BS MAP Testing 3:45 PM Running Club LCMS 175th Birthday 1847-2022 | 27 8:45 AM Chapel MAP Testing 5 PM Catechism 6:30 PM Worship In-Person & Online | 28 6 AM Men's BS MAP Testing 3:45 PM Running Club | 29 MAP Testing 4 th Quarter Midterms 2:45-3:15 PM School Electives | 30 5 PM Worship Svc In Person/Online | |

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES – APRIL 2022

04/06 BURROWS, Richard & Nancy
 04/14 VOIGT, Roger & Merry
 04/16 WEINIG, Lee & Elaine
 04/26 ERDMANN, Franklin & Shirley
 04/28 BARTELME, David & Deborah



BIRTHDAYS – APRIL 2022

04/01 WIECK, Jordon
 04/02 ECKRICH, Linda
 04/03 ALLIET, Joan
 04/03 BENGES, Sandra
 04/03 WENDLER, Logan
 04/04 GODWIN, Michael
 04/04 REICHERT, Brian
 04/04 SOKEL, Ann
 04/05 MORAN, Phyllis
 04/13 BAHNRNS, Elizabeth
 04/23 BORGAN, Brad
 04/20 BOSS, Nathaniel
 04/15 DANIELS, Anna
 04/11 DRUM, Judi
 04/09 GUILLEY, Marc



04/24 HENRICKSON, Kimberly
 04/27 KAMPRATH, Kenneth
 04/08 KNISELY, Skyler
 04/10 KOSLOSKI, Rose
 04/25 LINDNER, Kari
 04/26 MLODIK, Ariel
 04/06 PEOTTER, Diane
 04/17 POMERENKE, Norbert
 04/12 PUES, Vance
 04/06 RALEIGH, George
 04/29 REUNING, Jackie
 04/13 SCHWERBEL, Irene
 04/26 SOKEL, Sophia
 04/13 WENDLER, Bethany
 04/24 WITTMANN, Kyle
 04/22 ZEINERT, Jean



✠ *Trinity Membership Update* ✠

New Members/Transfers In:

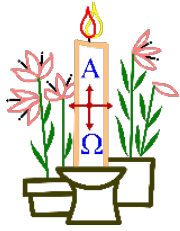
Released/Transfers Out:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed: David Jording 3/27/22

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



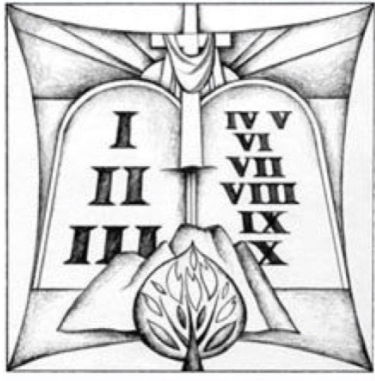
Serving Our Lord with Gladness – April 2022

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 |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Apr 2: 5:00 pm Apr 3: 9:00 am Apr 6: 10:30 am Apr 6: 6:30 pm | Donovan Rausch Maya Torres Emma Schmidt | Tom Harrmann Brian Ratzburg Bart Nielsen | Vance Pues Blaine Henkel | Jerry Maynard Steve Sexmith Volunteers Volunteers | Barb Kester Jane Nielsen | Philip/Mary Conradt Kari Lindner Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth |
| <i>Palm Sunday</i> Apr 9: 5:00 pm Apr 10: 9:00 am | Mirella Taschner Braelyn Boss | Tom Harrmann Brian Ratzburg | Bruce Buksyk Ron Kraus | Lee Colby Dave Collingwood | Dan & Peggy Dahms Rose Collingwood | Philip/Mary Conradt Kari Lindner |
| <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Apr 14: 10:30 am Apr 14: 6:30 pm | Melani Gast | | | Volunteers Volunteers | | Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth |
| <i>Good Friday</i> Apr 15: 12:00 pm Apr 15: 6:30 pm | None Dylan Kobs/Levi Kroes | | | Volunteers Volunteers | | No Communion |
| <i>Holy Saturday</i> Apr 16: 5:00 pm | Donovan Rausch | Tom Harrmann | Lee Colby | Roger Voigt | JoAnn Schultz | Jean Zeinert |
| <i>Easter Sunday</i> Apr 17: 6:30 am Apr 17: 9:00 am | Maya Torres Emma Schmidt | Brian Ratzburg | | Volunteers Jim Wittmann/Volunteer | Connie Henkel | Jean Zeinert Laurel Wirth |
| Apr 23: 5:00 pm Apr 24: 9:00 am Apr 27: 6:30 pm | Braelyn Boss Melani Gast | Tom Harrmann Brian Ratzburg Alan Manteufel | Ian Thomas Robert Flater | Tom Harrmann Lee Weinig Steve Reinke/Bill Diesch | Bud & Joyce Tschirgi | Carol Evensen Kari Lindner Jean Zeinert/ Carol Evensen |
| Apr 30: 5:00 pm May 1: 9:00 am May 4: 6:30 pm | | Tom Harrmann Bruce Gast Tom Harrmann | Dan Siebert Steve Sexmith | Jerry Maynard Steve Sexmith Steve Reinke/Bill Diesch | Barb Kester Jane Nielsen | Paula Reichert Gail Burrows |



Catechetical Comments

A Series

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

This month we conclude our look at the Ten 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 85: What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel?

The *Catechism 1991* concludes its discussion of the Ten Commandments by asking: "What is the difference between the Law and the Gospel?" Its answer to this question comes in three parts:

A. The Law teaches what we are to do and not to do; the Gospel teaches what God has done, and still does, for our salvation.

This has often been explained this way: In the Law, God tells us what He expects of us. In the Gospel, He tells us everything He has done and continues to do for us.

The Gospel may be further classified in two categories: The Gospel in the wide sense and the Gospel in the narrow sense.

In the wide sense, the Gospel includes everything God does for us, particularly those things relating to the First Article of the Creed, i.e., He has given us life and sustains that life by His further gifts of home, family, food, property, etc.

In the narrow sense, the Gospel includes those things relating to the Second Article of the Creed, namely, Christ's work of atonement to gain for us forgiveness of sins, life eternal, and salvation.

B. The Law shows us our sin and the wrath of God; the Gospel shows us our Savior and the grace of God.

Under this heading we learn our status with God according to His Law and Gospel. Under the Law,

God is angry with us on account of our sin. Under the Gospel, God loves us on account of our Savior.

You may have heard the saying that God loves the sinner but hates the sin. This is only partly true. In reality, God both loves us and hates us at the same time. In God's eyes, there is no distinction between us and our sin. Our sin condemns us entirely. So, in hating the sin, God hates the sinner. This is a requirement of the Law.

However, God, on account of Christ, simultaneously loves us, for in His eyes there is no distinction between us and Christ. By grace through faith Christ has united us to Himself. We are one with Him and beloved together with Him by the Father. So, in loving His Son, God loves all who are in His Son. This is the great blessing of the Gospel.

C. The Law must be proclaimed to all people, but especially to impenitent sinners; the Gospel must be proclaimed to sinners who are troubled in their minds because of their sins.

The Law is appropriately proclaimed to all people, but especially to those who are secure in their sin. The Law has the power to convict them and to move them toward repentance. The Gospel ought to be preached only to those in whom the Law has done its work, i.e., those who are repentant and ready to receive the forgiveness earned for them by Christ through His suffering, death, and resurrection. ✠

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

FROM THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

“In the Darkness Hangs the Light”

John 19:30



When we're little, we're scared of the dark. The dark is the time of nightmares. It is the time of strange and dreadful sounds. It is the time of separation and uncertainty and of aloneness.

When we get a little older, we begin to lose that fear. More mature minds can explain it and

understand it. We can handle it, just as at one point in our lives we believed we could handle anything that came our way! The darkness is no big deal anymore.

But then at some point in our lives again – for some it comes sooner, for some later – we begin to see, *and fear*, the darkness again. We realize that the darkness we feared as a child is real. Maybe as children we didn't know why we were afraid and we didn't understand our fear, but then you come to realize that in our world there is the stuff of nightmares. The darkness of sin, the darkness of evil, and the darkness of death surround us and threaten to engulf us. And in that darkness are strange and dreadful sounds; separation and uncertainty; and aloneness. And then what's worse, we come to realize that this darkness isn't just outside of us and around us, but also within us. The same sin and evil living in us and corrupting our hearts. It's not only others – it is me. . . . And we realize that when we were children, we weren't so far off! The darkness is something to be afraid of after all!

And so, when Jesus is arrested, He says, **“this is the hour and the power (or the authority) of the darkness.”** (Luke 22:53) For this is what the darkness does – it kills. From Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, to the sin that we commit, to the Son of God on the cross. And we are told that from the sixth hour to the ninth hour, as Jesus was hanging on the cross, as His life was being extinguished, there was darkness over all the land. (Mt 27:45) A second century theologian named Melito of Sardis said that because man was not ashamed to look upon his Creator hanging on a cross, the sun stopped shining that it might hide Him. (Richard John Neuhaus, *Death on a Friday Afternoon*, 257) The darkness we fear is but a slight premonition of the darkness in which Jesus hung on the cross. The darkness we experience is but a slight taste of all that attacked Jesus on the cross. Of that darkness we will soon again hear from Psalm 22, **“Many bulls have compassed me: Strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, As a ravening and a roaring lion.”**

But when we are children, our parents do not leave us to our fears. The darkness is too much for us . . . and so light is provided. A light to lighten the darkness. Perhaps it is only a small nightlight – so small against the deep darkness. *But it is enough.* It scatters the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome it. As small and weak as it may be, the light wins.

And while Good Friday is a service of darkness, as we remember the darkness of our Lord's crucifixion, there is also light. Amid the darkness, our Father has provided us light. (Mt 4:16) It is the light of the cross. The cross, which look small and weak amid such great evil and the deep darkness that surrounds us. *But it is enough.* It scatters the darkness within us and around us. The darkness cannot overcome it. (Jn 1:5) The light wins.

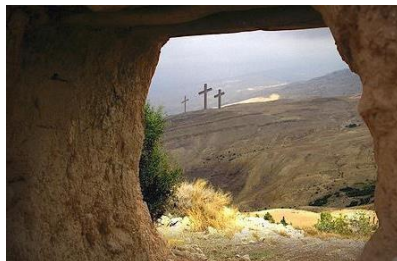
Jesus said, **“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”** (Jn 8:12) That light never shone so brightly as it did on the cross. As it did when Jesus said, **“It is finished.”** For what is finished? His life? Yes. His sacrifice for us? Yes. But also, it is finished. The darkness, evil, sin, death, and devil – they are finished. Their reign is finished. Their power is finished. Their grip on us is finished.

Now that is not to say that there is not still darkness around us and in us – there most certainly is! You know that. But it cannot win. Even when things look hopeless and bleak, it cannot win. Even when it seems like the darkness is winning, it cannot overcome. Even when your sin seems too much for you, it is forgiven. **It is finished.** Our Father has given us light in the light of His Son, the Light of the world, on the cross. He reigns, not the darkness, no matter what the darkness would like us to think!

Good Friday is not the last word – Easter is. And **“though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”** (Psalm 23:4)

And then it will be silent . . . The words of Jesus finished. He breathes His last and gives up His Spirit. He gives us His Spirit, that we may believe; that His light may shine on us. . . . It will be silent. Appropriately, for this story started quietly too. On a silent, holy night in Bethlehem. But on that quiet night, somewhere outside of

Bethlehem, was also the song of the choir of angels, rejoicing that the Son of God had become a son of man. Today too. Listen. For even in the darkness, in the quiet, is the song of Easter. For the Son of Man shines for us. Christ is Risen.



He has won.



Serve Your Lord, Trinity Congregation and the Community!
Friday, April 22 & Saturday, April 23 • 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM
1031 Antelope Trail Court • Neenah

We will need grillers and food stand workers both days beginning at 7:30 through 5:00 p.m. (which includes set up and clean up). There are also donation opportunities. There will be a sign up on the spinner in the Narthex, or call Ron and Dottie Kraus at (920) 991-2705 to volunteer or donate.

Many thanks to Cari and James Boss for opening up their home at 1031 Antelope Trail Court in Neenah for this event. This will be in conjunction with the famous annual Irish Road Rummage sale. All proceeds will go for new furniture and updates in our Trinity Narthex area and for Trinity's roof fund.

Bake sale items may be brought to Trinity on Thursday, April 21 and placed in the Small Fellowship Hall between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM or brought to the Brat Fry site on Friday and Saturday. With the price of meat and all groceries having increased considerably, our costs for everything are much higher. If anyone would like to give a monetary donation for the brats, hamburgers, and hot dogs, it would be accepted with very grateful hearts. You may call Brian and Paula Reichert at (920) 460-1225 or the Krauses at (920) 991-2705. We are also applying to Thrivent.

We ask you to prayerfully take this opportunity to serve your Lord and enjoy fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ. This is also an outreach for Trinity in the community. Many thanks for anything you can do to help!



Ladies Aid/LWML 2022

We began our Ladies Aid/LWML 2022 with the distribution of our funds to several missionaries, a seminary student, a Bible translator, Jews for Jesus, and for Trinity Church and School projects. The total distributed in January was \$4100. We have held \$1400 in our account as a starting amount towards replacing the narthex furniture at some point in the near future.

In February the focus of the meeting was a Bible study led by Barbara Kester 'Merciful Care'. We continually ask God to help us as sisters in Christ to grow in faith, love, and mercy for our neighbors by the power of the Spirit.

For our March meeting we invited Shellie Van Ark to demonstrate her beautiful and delicious frosted cut out cookies. We look forward to using the skills she taught us for Easter treats for our families and friends.

April 19 will consist of fun with 'Chair Yoga', to be led by an instructor from the Neenah/Menasha YMCA. As a group we feel it is most important that we are together in His Word and prayer. We also serve our congregation by sending cards, visiting and bringing special gifts to our shut ins and those who are ill and offer to prepare and serve meals for funerals. We serve the community by sewing quilts for Pillars Homeless Shelter as well as providing bedding for Pillars and also Community Clothes Closet. We reach out all over the world through Lutheran World Relief to send many beautifully constructed quilts, plus health and school kits. It is also important that being together is not all work but also fun. We try very hard to plan events during the year that bring us joy and help us to laugh together. It is a true blessing to be together with our sisters in Christ.

The Spring Rally for the South Wisconsin District Zone 11 LWML is scheduled for April 25, 5:15 p.m. at Hope Lutheran Church in Fond du Lac. The theme is 'The Road Signs Through Detours of Life'. We plan on numerous of our Trinity ladies attending this event. All ladies are invited; we do carpool so just let us know a week ahead if you'd like to go. A light evening meal will be served.

May 17 at 5:30 is another fun event where we all bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre, salad or dessert and enjoy a meal together. One of our pastors will have a devotion to share with us. Again all ladies are invited; there will be a signup in the narthex. We hope to have some enjoyable entertainment.

On June 21 we will have a special guest Glenn Erdmann come to lead us in a glass fusion project.



There will be a cost of \$10.00 per cross but will plan to apply for a \$250 Thrivent grant to cover part of the cost. If you plan to attend let us know by April 15 so Mr. Erdmann can order adequate supplies.

On June 18 six Trinity ladies will be attending the 2022 LWML South Wisconsin District Convention at St. Paul's Grafton. The guest speaker will be David Fiala, a missionary that served here at Trinity as youth leader in the past.

July 19 will be our outing. We are again looking at some type of local cruise along with other options; we promise it will be fun. Watch for more information.

We have already started collecting items for our 2022 Lutheran World Relief Drive for school and health kits and making beautiful quilts. The date for the assembly is August 16. Come join us and share in the excitement of being a blessing in another person's life.

Our last meeting of our 2022 Ladies Aid/LWML year is September 15. We begin the evening with a potluck at 5:30 and will then set up our calendar

for October 2022 through September 2023. Bring ideas!

We meet most every Monday for 'SEWING' beginning at 9 a.m. and you may stay if as long as you'd like. Some put together and tie quilts, others cut strips or squares for quilts, others use the sewing machine, and others sort items. There are jobs for everyone, and you need not have sewing experience. Call Elaine Weinig if questions (470-9090).

God has blessed Trinity with willing women to serve Him, our Trinity Congregation, our community, and our world. You are lovingly invited to join us any, and at all times. Pastors Billings and GeRue are very involved and supportive of our group and are always willing to join us or help us in any way.

Dottie Kraus, President (991-2705)
Barbara Kester, Vice President (722-3228)
Carol Evenson, Secretary (725-5576)
Jane Stier, Treasurer (284-2937)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Fun with Chair Yoga

April 19 – 6:30 pm

Small Fellowship Hall

Our next meeting will feature fun with "Chair Yoga", led by an instructor from the Neenah/ Menasha YMCA. Join us for the fun!

3 Ways to Relax in Under 5 Minutes

Feeling anxious, overwhelmed, or stressed? You're not alone. Sometimes, taking a moment to ourselves can make all the difference when it comes to mental health. Here are some of our favorite ways to relax quickly.

Get your head below your heart. Hanging with your arms and head toward your toes lessens your fight or flight response.

Connect with your breath. Did you know that when we're stressed, we tend to hold in the air? Set a timer for 60 seconds and breathe in and out slowly for a full minute.

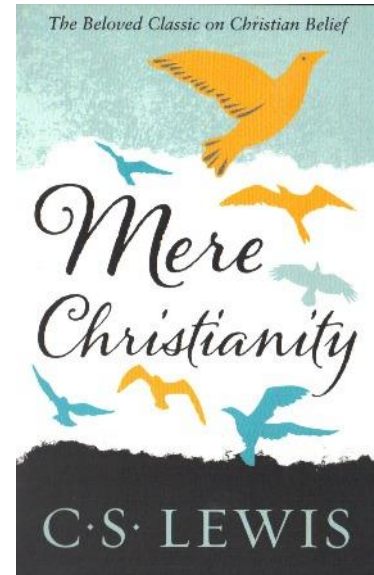
Squeeze yourself. Progressive relaxation is the practice of tensing and releasing muscles one by one. Start with tensing your fists for a few seconds and consciously releasing them. Then move to your arms, shoulders, feet, and so forth.



Stewardship Message for April

C.S. Lewis in his book titled "Mere Christianity" wrote: Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your entire life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not His in a sense He doesn't already own.

Here are some scripture passages to provide a bit of thought:



Psalm 24:1. The earth and everything in it, the world, and its' inhabitants, belong to the Lord.

1 Chronicles 29:12. Riches and honor come from You, and You are the ruler of everything. Power and might are in Your hand, and it is in your hand to make great and give strength to all.

Proverbs 21:20. Precious treasure and oil are in the dwelling of a wise person, but a foolish man consumes them.

Colossians 3:23-24. Whatever you do, do it enthusiastically, as something done for the Lord and not for men, knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord

What does Stewardship look like in our lives today? Unfortunately, many Christians only associate the idea of Stewardship with church budgets. The idea of Biblical Stewardship is much more expansive. It is where the concept of faith, work and economics interact with one another. There are six highly important Stewardship principles that we should understand. It is the



Board of Stewardship's goal to share these principles with you starting next month, to assist each of you in your future decision-making process. See you next month with the first three principles! God bless your day.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 2022

| | BEGINNING BALANCE | DEPOSITS/INCOME | WITHDRAWALS/ EXPENSES | ENDING BALANCE |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| Nicolet General Fund | \$20,627.34 | \$72,910.83 | (\$90,316.16) | \$3,222.01 |
| Nicolet Restricted Funds | \$146,354.98 | \$20,405.13 | (\$30,635.66) | \$136,124.45 |
| LCMS Endowment Fund | \$132,133.52 | \$471.10 | (\$1,861.74) | \$130,742.88 |
| LCEF Steward Fund | \$2,165.36 | \$7,393.41 | (\$7,414.10) | \$2,144.67 |
| Nicolet Money Market | \$52,962.66 | \$1.01 | (\$22,000.00) | \$30,963.67 |
| RBC Account | \$63,088.81 | \$0.02 | (\$12,969.88) | \$50,118.95 |
| Nicolet Memorial Fund | \$7,279.57 | \$300.56 | \$0.00 | \$7,580.13 |
| Nicolet Office Acct | \$1,607.42 | \$300.01 | (\$86.96) | \$1,820.47 |
| Nicolet Debts Repaid | \$3,089.52 | \$0.23 | \$0.00 | \$3,089.75 |
| Nicolet Think Tank | \$3,182.95 | \$0.24 | \$0.00 | \$3,183.19 |
| Nicolet Scrip | \$15,132.40 | \$23,940.24 | (\$21,478.21) | \$17,594.43 |
| TOTAL | \$440,075.44 | \$125,722.78 | (\$186,762.71) | \$379,035.51 |
| | | | | |
| LCEF Mortgage (BOTR) | \$988,518.64 | | (4,222.01) | \$984,296.63 |

\$ **SCRIP News** \$

SCRIP is sold in the Church/School Office Mon.-Fri. from 8:00AM-3:45PM, and in the narthex before and after worship services.

How to Order Scrip? Call the office Mon.- Fri., or email your order to: ChurchAdmin@trinity menasha.com. They will put it together.

Fleet Farm Scrip—get yours now at a special 10 percent discount!

Kwik Trip Scrip—10 percent rebate!



SteelesInAfrica.com

Meet Pastor Frank Mdingi of Tanzania



TANZANIA

- Tanzania is a country comprised of Tanganyika and Zanzibar.
- The national language of Tanzania is Swahili.
- Approximately 62% of the population identify as Christian.
- Slightly over a third of the people are Muslims.
- A large percent of the Christians are members of the Lutheran Church
- However: The real challenge to the Gospel is the influence of liberal theology on the church.
- The Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese is faithfully proclaiming God's Word and helping the ELCT become more firmly grounded in the Word of God and the Gospel of Christ.



Walter and Frank sharing a time of fellowship and friendship

Photo credit: Erik Lunsford

Rev. Frank Mdingi is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania (ELCT). He served in the "Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese." Frank was baptized at the age of 11 after his brother returned from war as a Christian. Being very close to his brother, he listened to him as he shared the Gospel. Frank then became the second member of his family to become a Christian.

In 2006, he attended the Mission Training Center, in Shinyanga Tanzania, which was funded by the LCMS. He served as an evangelist until 2010, when he was ordained as a deacon. From 2014 to 2015, he studied for a Certificate in Theology and was ordained as a pastor.

He began his studies at Matongo Lutheran Theological College, Kenya, in 2018. And that is how we met. Frank is enrolled in the Bachelor in Theology (BTh) program at Matongo. He is one of the finest students I have ever met. His commitment to the Lord and to the Scriptures, and to his pastoral task is exemplary. It is a joy to call him, not only one of my students, but a friend and coworker in Christ Jesus.

This is what serving here is all about: Teaching faithful men who are able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:1-2). Our mission is to "make the Word of God" fully known so that more people may be brought to Christ and those who believe may be strengthened in their faith.

We only can do this because of your faithful support: your prayers; your words of encouragement, and your financial support. We thank you. And Frank sends his thanks to you in this letter as well.



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



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- *Frank as he competes his final semester at Matongo*
- *The Evangelical Lutheran Church Tanzania, that more faithful pastors may be raised up to meet the need.*

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- *Continued good health as we serve here in Africa.*
- *Continued faithful support of the work*

PRAISE GOD FOR:

- *New supporters of the mission*
- *For Christ Jesus our Lord, who has died for us and is risen from the dead, never to die again.*

A most blessed and joyful celebration of Christ's resurrection this Easter!



Frank Looks to The Work Ahead



As is true for many of the churches in East Africa, there is a shortage of pastors to fill the pulpits. Therefore, the churches rely on evangelists to meet the day-to-day pastoral needs and the weekly worship needs of God's people.

The issue Frank and others see is that the training of these evangelists has not always been as rigorous as it should be. Because of this, while the parish pastor may be fully trained in the Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions, the evangelists don't always get the message quite right.

Frank is desirous of seeing every evangelist trained more fully in the Word of God and in solid biblical theology. Therefore, he is working to get copies of the Swahili Book of Concord and *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (published by Concordia Publishing House) into their hands and to see that the training of evangelists becomes an ongoing priority for the ELCT, especially in the diocese in which he serves.

One of the projects Walter supervises is getting copies of the *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* for every pastoral student at Matongo. If you would like to support this project, please email him at Walter.Steele@lcms.org.

Again, this is another way you or your congregation can participate in the mission of God to the people of Africa.

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

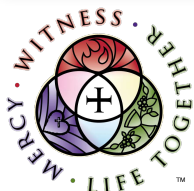
Or at the world-famous Mission Central

MISSION CENTRAL

40718 Highway E-16

Mapleton IA 51034

Make the memo line: Steele/ Kenya



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 & 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.



Quick Update

I must once again beg your forgiveness, as well as praise your understanding and patience, since it has been so long since my last newsletter. I am continuing to work on my balance between my different responsibilities as a student, translation advisor, and adult. I am so grateful for your prayers and encouragement as I continue to work in Sierra Leone with the Mende and Themne translation projects, continue my New Testament studies for my masters (lots of Greek homework!), and keep up with reports and correspondences with all of you (well try to at least). I always appreciate you and thank God for you, even if I am always delayed in writing to you. Since there is a lot to update you all on, the next few letters will have a focus on one particular part of my ministry and life, starting with the Mende project...



Consultant Checking Exodus



Women of Bible Translation



Mende Translators & Visiting Staff

Since I joined the translation project, while the translators still had some drafting to do, the main focus was on team checking, as well as reviewing and consultant checking a few times a year. This year we are heavily focused in all four stages of the translation work (drafting, team checking, reviewing, and consultant checking). Please pray for good health and safety for the team and their families.

Drafting: Since the Old Testament is in its final stages (still a couple years of work left), it was decided that it was time to begin drafting the New Testament. Some of you maybe remember that there is a 1959 edition of the Bible in Mende, as well as a 2002 New Testament. So why do we need another edition of the New Testament? One reason is consistency. Our current project uses the New Revised Standard Version (similar to the ESV) as our based text, and the 2002 New Testament used the Good News Translation as its base text. In order for the Old Testament and New Testament to have a similar style and translation choices, we need to continue on with the New Testament. Other reasons include adapting the text more fully to Mende orthography (using only letters found in the Mende alphabet) and vocabulary (using less borrowed words when possible) all in an effort to make the Mende Bible as

natural, accurate, and clear as possible for Mende speakers throughout Sierra Leone. Before any work was started, we had three days of training for understanding the New Testament historical and cultural context, for seeing how we got the New Testament we have today, and for translating Philemon together. The translators have all begun drafting their first New Testament books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and 1&2 Timothy). Please pray for them as they not only make every effort to find the right words, but also keep in mind all the various details (spelling, consistency, punctuation, capitalization, translating for the Mende context without abandoning the original context, etc.). Please pray for them in this work that they may be led by the Holy Spirit in wisdom and patience.

Team Checking: Since all of the Old Testament is team checked, this year we will be focusing on team checking the Deuterocanonical (DC) books for the Catholic edition of the Bible. There is a fairly large number of Roman Catholics in the Mende speaking Christian community, so we are including the apocryphal books that are a part of their canon. Making this edition available will allow the translation to be more acceptable and accessible to a wider community of Mende speakers. While not in the protestant canon, Martin Luther assures us that “These are books that, though not esteemed like the Holy Scriptures, are still both useful and good to read.” They help us understand the culture and religious shift between the Old Testament and the New Testament, as well as record significant historical events, such as the events leading to the celebration of Hanukkah. Pray for us as we check these books together, for fruitful discussions leading to natural and clear translations.

Review: The reviewers will also be focusing on the Deuterocanonical books this year (in addition to a few remaining Old Testament books). To do this, we invite about ten to twelve Mende speakers and readers to go over portions of the book in small groups. They then come together to discuss the suggested changes. This process encourages reading the translations out loud (very important for not just well written translations, but ones that are ‘sweet’ to listen to), discussions for more natural translations, and active engagement from Mende speakers throughout the region. Last year I presented some of the important historical, cultural and other information about the DC books, so those who were not familiar with them would have the background to help them this year in their review. Pray for the reviewers, that they may read the books diligently and be encouragers of the work.

Consultant Checking: Does it sound like there is too much work to do already? Well, to add to the first three stages of work, we will also be reviewing Old Testament books with the translation consultant about one week a month. Usually, we only work with the consultant one or two weeks a year. This means that not only do we have twelve weeks out of the year set aside for the consultant, but we also need to check the books before we meet with her. Many of these books were team checked and reviewed years ago, so we need to update spellings and word choices. We have all learned a lot over the years, so we are more equipped for better translations, so we also spend time as a team focusing on greater accuracy and more natural sentence structure. For this stage, please pray for wisdom and perseverance!

Correspondence

Lutheran Bible Translators
PO Box 789 Concordia, MO 64020-0789
Phone: 660-225-0810

Contact

Amy.formella@lbt.org
Facebook: Formella 411
Phone: (920)288-2289 (texts only)