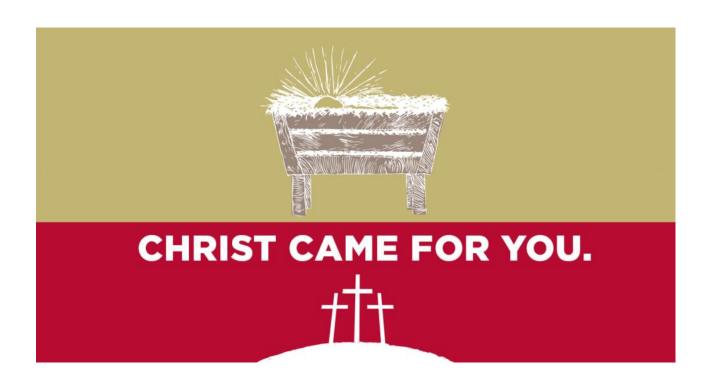


Trinity Lutheran Church & School 300 Broad Street Menasha, WI 54952



January 2025 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

Worship Services:

Saturday – 5:00 pm; Sunday – 9:00 am

Education Hour: Sunday - 10:30 am – Bible Study and Sunday School

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 JANUARY

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

January 1: New Years Day – Church and School Offices Closed

January 2: School Office Closed January 3: School Office Closed

January 6: School Resumes, Church & School Offices Open

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 7: **6:30 PM Congregational Voter's Meeting**

Board Meetings following Voters Meeting

January 8: 9:00 AM School Chapel January 10: 7:00 PM Hymn Sing January 11: 9:30 AM Food Pantry

5:00 PM Divine Service – Soup & Bread Sale begins

& runs through February 2nd

January 14: 6:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting

January 15: 9:00 AM School Chapel
January 21: 6:30 PM Ladies Aid Meeting
January 22: 9:00 AM School Chapel
January 25: 9:30 AM Food Pantry

January 26: START OF LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

9:00 AM School Children Sing

January 29: 9:00 AM School Chapel January 30: Kid Heart Challenge

January 31: NO SCHOOL - TEACHER IN SERVICE

NO Wednesday Worship Services



Soup & Bread Sale
January 11 - February 2
Before & After Services

Sponsored by Trinity's
Friends of the Pipe
Organ & Grand Piano

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

Choir Director:

Mrs. Connie Henkel

Organist:

Mrs. Nancy Lephart

January 2025

January 7, 6:30 PM Congregation Voters Meeting Voting will be to elect board members for 2025.



Trinity Lutheran Church & School

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

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM Email: ChurchAdmin@trinitymenasha.com

						,
DAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 CHURCH & SCHOOL OFFICES ARE CLOSED	5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal	3	5:00 PM Divine Service
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour	SCHOOL RESUMES Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Shelter Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Congregation Voter's Meeting with Board Meetings to follow	9:00 AM School Chapel 5:00 PM Catechism	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	9:30 AM Food Pantry Soup & Bread Sale before & after services 5:00 PM Divine Service
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour Soup & Bread Sale before & after services.	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Shelter Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30 AM Ladies Bible Study BOD Meeting	9:00 AM School Chapel 5:00 PM Catechism	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17	Soup & Bread Sale before & after services 5:00 PM Divine Service 6:30 PM Family Game Night
9:00 AM Divine Service 10:30 AM Ed Hour Soup & Bread Sale before & after services.	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Shelter Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible Study	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study 6:30 PM Ladies Aid	9:00 AM School Chapel 5:00 PM Catechism	6:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	9:30 AM Food Pantry Soup & Bread Sale before & after services 5:00 PM Divine Service
9:00 AM Divine Service School Children to Sing 10:30 AM Ed Hour Soup & Bread Sale before & after services.	Rev Billings' Sabbath 9:00 AM Shelter Sewing 6:00 PM Home Prayer Time 6:30 PM Women's Bible	6:30AM Ladies Bible Study	5:00 PM Catechism	Soup & Bread Sale Before & after churc Contact Elaine if you Questions at (920) 4	h services have	eb 1st
before & after Services.		Lutheran School We	eek – January 26 to F	ebruary 1 5:15 PM Handbell Rehearsal	NO SCHOOL Teacher In- Service	



01/01 Nicolette & Tyler Lentz01/05 Chris & Cindy Williams01/08 Diane & Robert Lukasavage01/11 David & Mae Joerndt01/12 Brandon & Angela Hurst

January 2025 Birthday Blessings!

01/02 Duane Baehman 01/02 Brandon Looker 01/02 Matthew Looker

01/03 Nick Kroes

01/03 Georgina Peotter

01/03 Lynne Schroeder

01/03 Myles Voigt

01/06 Joseph Groshek

01/09 Blaine Henkel

01/10 Austin Seals Jr

01/12 Finley Brown

01/12 Charlotte Elliott

01/12 Roger Voigt

01/13 Bart Nielsen

01/14 Harper Labby

01/14 Daniel Schmidt

01/14 Joyce Tschirgi

01/14 Tony Van Ark

01/14 James Wolter

01/15 Riley Brown

01/17 Alexandra Reuning

01/18 Kaylin Kohler

01/21 Randolph Gehrt

01/22 Claire Gast

01/22 Jolene Waldburger

01/23 Alec Bricco

01/23 Jordyn Mies

01/23 Matthew Zachek

01/24 Michael Moderson

01/25 Emmalyn Lessmiller

01/25 Aliyah Weyenberg

01/26 Ashlee Kamprath



01/26 Chester Konwinski 01/27 Cari Boss 01/27 Cody Daniels 01/28 Madelyn Graper 01/29 Jean Ross 01/30 Ethan Nielsen 01/30 Sharon Raleigh



♥ Trinity Membership Update ♥

New Members/Transfers In: Released/Transfers Out:

Baptisms:

Weddings:

Members Who Have Passed:

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

Serving Our Lord with Gladness – January 2025

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
Jan 4: 5:00 PM	Payton Lenth	Roger Voigt	Vance Pues	Jerry Maynard	Barbara Kester	Jean Zeinert
Jan 5: 9:00 AM	Robbie Kohler	Michael Bekx	Lee Weinig	Steve Sexmith	Jane Nielsen	Carol Evensen
Jan 11: 5:00 PM	Sydney Gast	Roger Voigt	Bruce Buksyk	Gast/Corrente	Dan & Peggy Dahms	Jean Zeinert
Jan 12: 9:00 AM	Simon Kroes	Michael Bekx	Josiah Nielsen	Dave Collingwood	Rosemary Collingwood	Carol Evensen
Jan18: 5:00 PM	Payton Lenth	Roger Voigt	Steve Reinke	Roger Voigt	JoAnn Schultz	Jean Zeinert
Jan 19: 9:00 AM	Richie Spouse	Michael Bekx	Blaine Henkel	Jim Wittmann	Connie Henkel	Carol Evensen
Jan 25: 5:00 PM	Sydney Gast	Roger Voigt	Ian Thomas	Tom Harrmann	Betty Allen	Jean Zeinert
Jan 26: 9:00 AM	Robbie Kohler	Michael Bekx	Dave Collingwood	Lee Weinig	Volunteer Needed	Carol Evensen

Thank you to ALL who spent their time and talent to enhance our services this Christmas season. The musical additions were heartwarming and wonderful. A special thanks to all the family members who were willing to share their family member(s) so they could be involved in all the practices and rehearsal or may have helped move a table or hold a bag. Every little bit is appreciated and helpful. May we, as a congregation, be blessed in the new year with your many talents. THANK YOU.

Trinity's Board of Worship

January 2025 Altar Guild Volunteers Needed:

Serving the Lord means being completely devoted in all service to the Lord and His people. It means obeying and enjoying our relationship with God as our Heavenly Father. To serve the Lord with our whole being means that the spirit, soul, and body all participate in the service to the Lord. All believers are called on to serve the Lord. It is with sadness that we say goodbye to Philip and Mary Conradt who for the past several years have served faithfully on the Altar Guild.



We pray for God's blessing as they sell their home and move closer to their son, Rev. Joshua Conradt in Waterford WI.



Catechetical Comments

A Series

THE APOSTLES' CREED

This month we continue our consideration of the First Article of the Apostles' Creed, with special focus on question 101.

101. Who are human beings?

Human beings are the most important visible creatures. God created Adam and Eve in His own image, with authority over all the earth.

Martin Luther continues his explanation of the First Article of the Creed by asking the question:

Who are human beings?

He answers this question with the statement:

Human beings are the most important visible creatures. God created Adam and Eve in His own image, with authority over all the earth.

For scriptural support of this statement, he provides the following:

Genesis 2:7 – The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

Genesis 1:26-28 – God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion

over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Mark 10:6 – [Jesus said] "From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female."

We understand from these verses that man is indeed a creature - he was created. As much as our world would like to claim that human beings started as single-celled beings that over millions (billions) of years evolved into the remarkable beings we are today, this fantasy does not stand up to simple logic. Much evidence could be brought forward to demonstrate that evolutionary theory is pure lunacy, but suffice it to say that evolutionary claims are insufficient to explain human complexity; we could never simply have evolved this way. Simple creatures do not become more complex. New cellular and molecular information does not just appear out of nowhere on its own. We are creatures created by our Creator, and He has written down for us how He did it.

From the Genesis account we learn that mankind was the last of the created beings and are the only creatures to bear the image of our Creator. This sets us apart from the animal kingdom. Humans are not animals. We are different, selected by God, and endowed with His blessing to rule everything else on the planet.

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

From the School

"A New Year and a New Life"

Luke 2:21

In the name of the Father and of the ♣ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

When a son was born, the nurses ask if you want to have him circumcised. It is your decision, to do or not to do. Not so for Mary and Joseph. On the eighth day after His birth, Jesus had to be circumcised, according to the covenant given to Abraham (Genesis 17) and the Law given to Moses (Leviticus 12).

What difference does it make? For sons today, not much. But for Jesus – if He had not been circumcised, He could not have been our Savior! Not that the physical act was that important. It wasn't. It was the Word and promise of God attached to that act that made it so important. His command that every male child be circumcised on the 8th day after its birth, and His promise that this simple act of faith would bind this child to Him, made it so precious.

And Jesus, to be our Savior and fulfill His Name, is circumcised. His carefully chosen mother and stepfather see to it. For by His birth, Jesus is bound under the Law for us. Not to abolish it, but to fulfill it. Every jot and tittle of it. To do what we are unable to do, and be the sacrifice not for His own sins, but for ours. Had He not, He would have been a sinner and no Savior. And so, this day is an important one, to give thanks not only to our Savior and His birth and life for us, but also for pious mothers and fathers, who bring their children to God in faith.

Maybe that would be a good New Year's resolution for you to make this year – to thank your father and mother for all that they have done for you. Or if they are no longer alive here on earth, to thank those parents around you for their care for their children, and to encourage them to bring their children to the Lord in faith.

But though circumcision was an option for us, there was an act that was not – the New Testament circumcision, not of the flesh, but of the heart; the true circumcision of the Spirit (as we prayed earlier), which is Holy Baptism. Like circumcision in the Old Testament, the physical act of baptism isn't important. It is the Word and promise of God attached to that water that makes it so important. His *command* to baptize all nations into His Name, and His *promise* that this simple act of faith would bind all who are so baptized to Him. And with every child (or teen, or adult!) that is baptized, Jesus is *still* fulfilling His Name, being our Savior from sin, and giving us the gifts of faith and everlasting life.

So this is a day to remember our baptisms, even as we remember the Circumcision of our Lord. For both find their meaning only in Him. The simple act of circumcision pointing the faith of Old Testament Israel to the promise given to Abraham, to look to the future, that one of his seed would be the Savior. And in the same way, the simple act of baptism points the faith of the New Testament Church back to the promise of the Savior fulfilled – a Savior come to wash away our sin. And yet even more, both these signs not only *signify*, but <u>do</u> what they signify – by the Word and promise of God, they join us to our Savior, who joined Himself to us in His birth at Christmas.

Yet not only is Jesus circumcised on the 8th day, He is also given His name, the name the angel revealed to Joseph. And while names today are not so filled with meaning, this one is – Jesus, which

means: *The Lord our Salvation*. He is the fulfillment of circumcision, the one who fills our baptisms with meaning, and the fulfillment of the blessing given to the people of Israel, and still given to us today:

"The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

When you were baptized into His Name, all these blessings and promises became yours. All that He did is yours, including most importantly, His death and resurrection. For joined to Him, though you will die physically, your physical death will not be that important. For you will also rise to life, as your Savior rose to life; rising with your body and He rose with His, never to die again.

So, in a world filled with turmoil and strife, filled with sin and death, filled with uncertainty, doubts, and fears . . . *The Lord our Salvation* gives you peace. For He has come to bless and keep you. He has come and made His face shine upon you. He has come with His grace and forgiveness for you. And so there is peace. The peace of which the angels sang on Christmas night. For we have peace with God in our Savior; and if peace with God, then peace in our hearts, and peace with each other.

So, as the calendar turns to a new year – a new year that will be filled with changes and challenges – one thing will not change: *The Lord our Salvation*. For we have been made already new in Him. With a new that never wears out. Not just a new year, but a new life, to live forever in Him.

So, no matter what this New Year brings, that makes this a truly Happy New Year. In the name of the Father and of the \(\mathbb{P} \) Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. In Jesus, Pastor GeRue

What's happening around The School.

- O January 6 School Resumes
- O January 8 School Chapel
- O January 10 Electives
- O January 15 School Chapel
- O January 17 End of Second Quarter
- O Electives
- O Popcorn Friday
- O January 22 School Chapel
- O January 26 School Students sings at 9 am service at Trinity
- O Lutheran Schools Week January 26 February 2 Watch for more details to come.
- O January 29 School Chapel
- O January 30 Heart Challenge
- O January 31 NO SCHOOL Teacher Inservice
- O February 2 School Students sings at 9 am service at Peace, Neenah

What an exciting time to be a servant in the LORD's harvest. Thanks for being a part of the Trinity family.



Congregational Voter's Meeting

Your Attendance is Strongly Encouraged

Our next Congregational Voter's Meeting will be held on January 7, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Voting will take place in person only.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect new board members and directors of our congregation. We are also seeking approval of the nominations for District President and Vice President for SWD-LSMC.

Thank you.

Dave Collingwood, President

FROM YOUR PARISH NURSE ... Influenza and RSV



Influenza and RSV are highly contagious and can be contagious in affected individuals for up to a week after the start of symptoms. Furthermore, individuals are often



contagious prior to the start of recognizable symptoms. Both viruses are transmitted to others via "droplet transmission". For this route of transmission, droplets are sent into the environment via saliva and



mucous when you cough, sneeze, or talk. Droplets may enter the eyes,

nose, or mouth of those who are in proximity. Typically, droplets are not in the air for a long time, but cold and flu viruses can remain contagious on surfaces for several hours. Germs can also be transmitted when someone encounters a surface that droplets have landed on. If an individual touches the surface and then touches their nose, mouth, or eyes, they may become infected.

To prevent or reduce transmission, avoid being around others who have symptoms. Symptoms often include the following: fever, body aches, cough/congestion decreased appetite, wheezing, increased fatigue, and headaches.

Further ways to prevent transmission is to wash your hands frequently. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth as much as possible.

TRINITY LUTHI	24			
	BEGINNING BALANCE	DEPOSITS/INCOME	WITHDRAWALS/EXPENSES	ENDING BALANCE
Nicolet General Fund	\$15,495.83	\$70,986.85	(\$78,893.15)	\$7,589.53
Nicolet Restricted Funds	\$25,426.55	\$4,608.56	(\$4,076.68)	\$25,958.43
LCMS Endowment Fund*	\$127,957.80			\$127,957.80
LCEF Steward Fund	\$728.15	\$6,705.67	(\$7,414.10)	\$19.72
Pastors' Appeal	\$85,760.69	\$8,769.02	(\$14,000.00)	\$80,529.71
Schwab Wealth***	\$53,273.45	\$119.80	(\$1,384.49)	\$52,008.76
Nicolet Memorial Fund	\$8,887.09	\$0.71		\$8,887.80
Nicolet Office Acct	\$3,134.46	\$1.25		\$3,135.71
Nicolet Think Tank	\$3,196.71	\$0.25		\$3,196.96
Nicolet Scrip	\$8,153.92	\$24,697.96	(\$17,305.27)	\$15,546.61
TOTAL	\$332,014.65	\$115,890.07	(\$123,073.69)	\$324,831.03
LCEF Mortgage (BOTR)	\$826,076.04		(3,369.22)	\$822,706.82

Love to Sing? 1

Join us on Jan 10th (Friday night) 🎝

 \square at 7pm to experience

Trinity Monthly Friday Hymn-Sing!

Pastor Billings will begin with a brief devotion. Followed by Call-Outs from YOU!

- **♪♪** What's **YOUR** favorite hymn??
- we'll keep picking people to call out their favorite hymns and sing 2+ stanzas ... for an hour!)
- Oh ... Reception follows in the Narthex!! \square Any questions, call or see.

Bart, 920-734-8843 or Rose, 608-213-2644

Congratulations to Joshua and Hannah Fuchs on the birth of Patrick Noah!

Patrick was born

December 21, 2024.





Stained glass windows are particular to churches for a reason. They tell a story, they encourage us to grow in faith, and provide us with a sense of being connected with God.

As one might expect, our 1961 stained glass windows are in need of repair. We have been advised to re-lead our windows in order to preserve them. As we all know, these aren't just windows. Each one is an incredibly valuable, and beautiful, piece of art.

The Connection Between Stained Glass Windows and the Divine

Why has stained glass been a part of most churches throughout history? The stained glass windows aren't used merely because they are beautiful. Historically, the windows also serve to connect the physical space of the church with the divine. Stained glass windows are believed to be more than just colorful images or symbols. The vibrant colors in stained glass windows can be seen as a reflection of the beauty and majesty of God.

One of the ways in which stained glass windows connect the church with the divine is by the natural light. The way the light shines through the glass creates a unique atmosphere that is often described as heavenly. The atmosphere in a church takes on the feel of a sacred space set apart from the secular world. The warmth and beauty of our stained glass along with the knowledge that you are in God's House often brings us a sense of peace and calm.

But, more importantly, stained glass windows help to teach the Faith. Trinity's windows depict the life of Christ from birth to resurrection and ascension. The larger windows give us a glimpse into the throne room of heaven, as John describes it in the Book of Revelation.

How often have you walked through our church and examined the windows? Do you wonder what the significance of each window is? What part of the Bible or life of Christ is it depicting? Stained glass windows have been used to inspire learning and deepen one's faith. And have you noticed that the Rose Window (above the organ pipes in the balcony) colors move around the church as the sun moves?

Trinity's Beautiful Stained Glass

All our stained glass windows are the work of the Willet Studio of Philadelphia. Dr. Henry Lee Willett was one of America's outstanding stained glass window designers.

Each window is made of hundreds or thousands of pieces of glass. The smaller the pieces, the more expensive the window. The glory of a window lies in its life and movement in light. From sunrise through midday to night, the colors change. They gain or lose prominence like the instruments in an orchestra. The blues grow prominent when the light wanes. The reds and yellows gain brilliancy at midday. Thus, through the day there is an ever-changing, living pattern of tones and hues.

How we can preserve this beautiful artwork?

In 2017 we were advised to have them re-leaded within the next five to 10 years. At that time, they quoted this could cost between \$10,000 to \$16,000 per window. The original installation of all the windows in the early 1960's cost \$10,330, including the Rose and Altar Triplet. In 2017, the windows were appraised at \$400,000. Which means we also need to increase our insurance on the windows.

We were just given a new a repair estimate, for all the windows, of approx. \$82,000 on December 5th. If, all of the repairs were done at one time.

Prayerfully consider how you may want to help with this effort. Elaine Weinig is the contact for this project. We are in need of volunteers for this committee, as well as fundraising ideas. Elaine's phone is (920) 470-9090.

"For with God, nothing shall be impossible." ~ Luke 1:37









Friends of the Pipe Organ & Grand Piano

Soup & Bread Sale



Before & After Services

A variety of Soups and Breads will be available.

A ready-made meal to warm the day.

Bring your favorite soup or bread/quick bread to support the maintenance of our Organ & Grand Piano. Jars & instructions will be available in the Narthex in January.

Contact Elaine with any questions 920-470-9090 (If you have a favorite you'd like us to make - let us know!)



Meeting Blessings For 2025 YEAR Trinity Ladies Aid/ Lutheran Women's Missionary League



January 21, 2025: Meeting with main goal of distribution of finances. A budget will be voted on, including the missions we will select to support.

January 31 - February 1, 2025: LWML SWD Winter Getaway @ Cranberry Country Lodge, Tomah. Theme is "Wonderfully Made"

February 18, 2025: Meeting with Bible study led by Lynne Schroeder. Followed by attendees sharing their favorite snack.

March 18, 2025: Meeting with Easter card making led by Carol Evensen.

April 15, 2025: Meeting with "movie" night

May 20, 2025: Salad, Hors d'oeuvre & Dessert supper to be enjoyed by all interested members of the congregation. It is a good time to share fellowship and memories with each other.

June 17, 2025: Meeting with presentation of the "Comfort Dog"

July 15, 2025: Outing and Dine Out, destination TBD

August 19, 2025: Meeting with nominations of officers (V.P. & Treasurer) & assemble World Relief Kits.

September 16, 2025: 5:30 Potluck followed by meeting to set the calendar for 2025 & 2026 and to install officers.

SEWING FOR WORLD RELIEF AND SHELTERS, EVERY MONDAY IN SFH. ALL ARE WELCOME NO NEED OF SEWING SKILLS REQUIRED.

A very special **Thank you** to all who made the Ladies Aid Bake Sales in November and December a huge success.

Whether you provided baked goods, your time to work at the event, requested Thrivent cards to help purchase baking supplies or purchased the delicious homemade pies, cookies and candies you helped to raise the funds we will need to support Missions that will share God's word with those we cannot touch in person.

So again, thank you to all and please continue to prayer for the Ladies Aid so that we continue to serve God, our congregation and our community while promoting relationships among women. God's Blessings!