

The Trumpeter

January 2021

Newsletter

A monthly publication of Trinity Lutheran Church

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

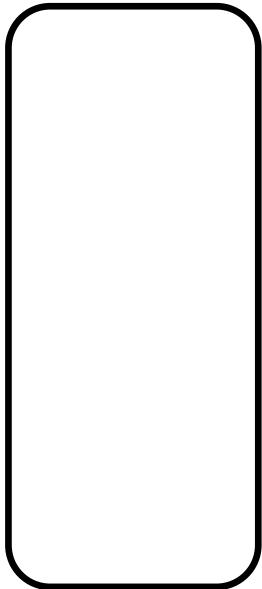
419 East Park Avenue

Riverton, Wyoming 82501

(307) 856-9340

Email: trinitylutheranchurch@wyoming.com

www.trinitylutheranriverton.com



Sunday Schedule

Worship Services at 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

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Great News! Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation Foundation is now enrolled in Thrivent Choice and will be added to the Thrivent Choice online catalog. You can now direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to the school, church or foundation.

If you have any questions about Thrivent Choice, please contact us at 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) and say "Thrivent Choice" at the prompt or email BoxThriventChoiceCommunications@thrivent.com

The Thrivent Choice charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and Thrivent Member Networks in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grant decisions, including grant recipients and amounts, are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars is subject to the program's Terms and Conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

School Office

419 E. Park Ave.

Phone: 857-5710

Stewardship

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We've talked about Time and Talents. Now we take up the third of the trio, Treasure. This, of course, is what many people think of first when the subject of stewardship comes up.

Many years ago, some friends from church told a story on themselves that is worth repeating. As was the custom in many congregations, the pastor had talked to the congregation about giving. The couple went home and looked at what they were giving. They found that they weren't giving anywhere close to 10%, so they decided that they would increase their giving by 1% each year until they got to 10%. Several years went by, and each year they increased their giving over what they had given the previous year. One day they thought to see just how close they were getting to the 10% goal. To their amazement, they had long surpassed it. They asked themselves if they were hurting for anything, and the answer was "NO!" They realized what so many people have learned over the years - you can't outgive God.

Like most congregations, a fairly small number of families give a large share of the money necessary to operate. Some members give nothing, while others give only a small amount once in a while. Many of us grew up with our parents giving us a coin to place in the offering plate each Sunday. As we got older, and got allowances, we were expected to give some of that to church. When we got older yet, and started getting small jobs around the neighborhood, we were expected to give some of that money, too.

St. Paul tells us that God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7). God no longer demands that we give back a certain portion of what He gives us. Instead He allows us to do so because we want to. Jesus praised the widow in the temple because she gave all she had, while others gave what was left over after they satisfied all of their desires. God has greatly blessed us with more than any other people in the history of the world. Certainly we can give some of it back to Him.

We have well over 100 families in Trinity. If each of us increased our contributions by 1% each year, as our friends did, Trinity would easily be able to afford to do all of the things that we have dreamed about. Perhaps you are able to give more. Give as God has blessed you.

David Lininger, Head Teacher

Stewardship

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We've talked about the use of time. Now let's talk about your talents. Many people immediately think of the musicians in the congregation. Trinity is blessed to have so many people that have talent in that area, but what about other areas?

Many of the small jobs around the church don't require any particular talent, just a willingness to help. Others require some specific abilities. You don't want me cooking or matching colors, for example. My wife, though, is excellent in both areas.

The Board of Education is short one member. Ideally, Board members have a child or grandchild in the school, but that isn't a hard and fast rule. The main requirement is an interest in education and a willingness to give a couple of hours each month. Is this something you could do?

Both Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions are open. Both Jack Hildner and Paul Voss have served Trinity for many years in a variety of positions, and both have asked to have some time off from church jobs. Jack has volunteered to continue as Chairman until someone else steps forward. Could you do that job, even if for only a year? How about Vice-Chairman?

Several of the men who accepted re-election have also served Trinity for many years, but were willing to give a few more years of service. We thank them. Might you be able to take one of those positions next year?

David Lininger, Head Teacher



ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Church Services will continue to be held at 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. Please sign in on the attendance sheet at the entrance to chapel.

January meetings and events

Bible Study - Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m.

Circle - January 7 in the school basement at 2:00 pm. Jan Vogelsang hostess.

Elders - Monday, January 4, at 6:30 pm

Board of Ed. – Tuesday, January 5, 6:30 p.m.

Trustees - Tuesday, January 5, at 7:00 p.m.

Council meeting – Monday, January 11, at 6:30 p.m.

Quilting - Fridays at 9:00 a.m.

Budget Informational Meeting - Sunday, January 31 at 2:00 pm in the Church.

Special Voters Meeting followed by a Call Meeting - Feb. 7 @2:00 in the Church.

The LWML Giftshop is stocked with Sympathy, Get Well and other cards. Proceeds from giftshop sales help fund LWML mission work, scholarships, and other LWML endeavors. **Thank you for your MITE donations.**

A decorative graphic featuring the words "HAPPY NEW YEAR" in a colorful, bubbly font. The letters are in various colors including red, blue, green, and yellow, and are accented with small stars.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

Written by Anita Hildner in 1935

Do you ever wonder where all the Christmas traditions come from? Here are a few interesting facts.

Before the real Christmas, the birth of Christ, there was a celebration in December called “Saturnalia” in honor of the God Saturn.

Austria’s Father Mohr’s church organ was broken one Christmas Eve so he, with a guitarist, Franz Gruber, wrote “Silent Night” for the Midnight Mass.

St. Nick’s Day falls on December 6. Bishop Nicholas was imprisoned for his faith and later sainted for working miracles. Thus his day went together with Christmas and the idea of Santa Claus.

The Christmas tree idea was brought over here by the German pilgrims. It caught on over here very quick but in England it took many years for the people to make it part of Christmas.

The first Christmas card was designed by John Horsley, the thought by Sir Henry Cole in 1843. The card message was the same then as it is now, “A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you.” Only about 1000 were sold.

January

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- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1—Sammatha Castro | 16—Kathleen Hatle |
| Carl Dahl | Alexis Jones |
| 4—Robert Anderson | 18—Lance Goede |
| 5—Mel Fausset | 19—Liam Harms |
| Tonya Lange | Jan Vogelsang |
| Ty Post | 20—Lee Rohn |
| Pat Smith | 22—Kevin Schmidt |
| 6—Diana Crippen | Tiffanie Williams |
| 8—Shai Becker | 24—Karen Medow |
| 9—Jay Rodewald | 26—Christina Castro |
| 11—Cole Crippen | Isaac Herrmann |
| 12—Susan Blumenshine | 27—Karen Olsen |
| Richard Smith | 29—Jeanette Kotas |
| 14—Anja Harms | Myron Shavlik |
| Cheri Warner | Kenzley Sims |



January

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30 - Cliff & Sandra Henderson



++ + + Baptismal Birthdays + + + +

1 - Herman Blumenshine

Laura Coniglio

Susan Conilogue

David Dahl

Mitzi Eads

Cheryene Fleenor

Clara Friesz

Jack Hildner

Nicole Jordan

Florence Luers

Bonny Medow

Jennifer Medow

Jay Rodewald

Richard Smith

Carlta Witthar

2—Mark Mumme

4 - Susan Blumenshine

5 - Dave Witthar

11 - Cory Crippen

12 - Gabriel Higgins

13 - Hannah Amos

17 - Nathian Hollaway

17 - Austin Romero

18 - Cameron Hollaway

18 - Hulda Harsch

18 - Ty Jones

20 - Nick McKiernan

23 - Colleen Bartlett

24 - Carolyn Dent

24 - Lauren McKiernan

24 - Danyka Woodward

25 - Kevin Schmidt

26 - Anja Harms



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AN OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS

Written by Anita Hildner in 1935

Christmas time stands out most in my mind. Santa was unheard of in our family. The “Kriskind” (Christchild) decorated the Christmas tree on the 23rd of December in the evening after we had gone to bed. We were allowed to see the tree after the Children’s Christmas Eve service in church.

We all participated in these in one way or another by singing in the children’s chorus or reciting a verse from the Christmas story in the bible. This was a festive occasion.

The nicest part of the evening at home was watching dad light the candles on the tree. We would sing “O Tannenbaum” while he was doing this.

Mother had made a kettle of oyster stew, which everyone liked to eat, with a lot of oyster crackers in it. We also had “Stollen” a Christmas fruit bread, decorated Christmas cookies, and ice cream.

After this “lunch” we were allowed to open our gifts from our godparents. This might have been material for a dress or something to wear. This meant just as much to us as an expensive toy.

The living room, usually kept cold, was also heated on Christmas Day, which helped make this a festive occasion. The tree was left decorated at least until the end of January.

This story probably sounds unusual in this day and age. Yet during the week we lived in the kitchen which was heated by a wood stove and was quite cozy.

Having few toys in my childhood never made me feel as if I had missed out on things. Having two loving parents made up for it all.

Board of Education

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*"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,"
Psalm 103:2*

I imagine many of us are glad the year 2020 is finally behind us. It's been a tough year, but even in these trying times, there have been so many benefits and blessings God has given to our school.

In Mid-March the staff and students showed tremendous ability to adapt and change going to distance learning. Lessons were delivered and work was completed with a combination of traditional paper pencil packets and online videos. This required sharing and collaboration among the staff as they learned and polished new skills. The teachers even created their own Trinity Lutheran School YouTube channel featuring uploaded lessons on math, music, reading, grammar, religion, and even chapel!

Though distance learning was necessary in the early part of the year we all believed that in-person school was preferable, essential, and more beneficial to our students. Also with great effort by the school staff, who over the summer prepared and planned for the new year, the school opened on time as scheduled.

Additionally, with the new school year we were blessed with 2 new staff members: Mrs. Crystal Meyers as the new preschool teacher and headmaster Mr. David Lininger. The school was blessed in the current year simply by making it from August to Christmas break without any major outbreaks or finding it necessary to stop in-person classes again.

Finally, looking to the future, 2021 will provide our church and school with one of the greatest blessings of the new year, the 30th anniversary of our school.

Phil Orbell
Board of Education



News of Trinity's Lutheran Women's Missionary League

FYI: The officers and committee chairwomen will have a 2021 organizational meeting on Sat., Jan. 9 at 9:30 AM.

OFFICERS: President Jan Vogelsang
Vice President - Iva Korell
Secretary - Phyllis Zenk
Treasurer – Janice Haun

NEXT AFTERNOON MEETING: **Jan. 21 @ 1:30 PM**

Program: Christian Life Phyllis Zenk
Hostesses: Cathie Swan and Phyllis Zenk
Closing Devotion: Marge Shavlik

EVENING LWML: Jan. 18

Next circle Bible study will be in the school basement on Jan. 7 at 2 PM.
Jan Vogelsang hostess



\$1460 have been sent in for Mites since April 1, 2020. Our mite goal to meet by Mar. 31, 2021 is \$1700.

Jan 31, 2021 will be a Mite Sunday. Your donations this year have been very helpful in meeting our goal for 20-21. Thank you.

Council minutes cont. from page 8

New Business

Jack Hildner briefly discussed the 2021-22 budget. He advised that budget items need to be given to Dave Becker by December 18, 2020. He will put it together and email it to the council for review. The council will review and discuss the budget at a Council Budget meeting on December 27, 2020 at 2 pm. The budget will be presented to the voters for approval.

Dave Becker advised that he has submitted the 2020 annual compensation report to Concordia health.

Jack Hildner discussed the call process with President Hill. He advised that we need to approve the budget prior to proceeding with the call.

Jack Hildner received a letter from LCMS Board of Directors advising that the National LCMS Convention is still planned for 2022.

A motion was made and seconded for a vote of thanks to Jack Hildner for his leadership in the past years. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 pm.

Ed Steele, Secretary



Merry Christmas! This is one of the shortest seasons of the church year, not quite two weeks long. Even though we have made a big deal out of the secular season, the early church didn't celebrate Christmas at first. Part of the reason was that no one knows for sure when Jesus was born. Scholars disagree on the month of His birth, with some arguing for a date in the spring, while others go with the winter season.

The actual date of Jesus' birth isn't important, though. The important thing is that He was born. The Old Testament has several hundred prophecies about the Messiah, and Jesus fulfilled each of them.

We often focus on Jesus' birth, as if that was all He came to do. All through His life on earth He was focused on the Cross and the empty tomb. Martin Luther's great Christmas hymn, *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* mentions this several times in the 15 verses we have. *All My Heart Again Rejoices* specifically mentions the cross.

Jesus' birth is important, yes, and it is good that we celebrate it, but we shouldn't keep our focus on the little baby in a stable. Rather, we should focus on the work the God-Man Jesus did for us. Indeed, that is what we'll be looking at in the coming weeks. The season after Christmas is Epiphany, where we see that Jesus is not just the Savior for the Jews but the Savior for the entire world. Then we go immediately into Lent, where we focus on Christ's last days before His death and Resurrection.

Following Lent we come to the earliest date in the church year, Easter. In fact, the early church celebrated Easter every Sunday because they considered it to be that important. Even during Lent, the Sundays are not counted as part of the 40 days.

David Lininger
Head Teacher

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

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Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting December 14, 2020

Paul Voss called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Pastor Mumme opened with prayer.

Gary Hatle, Jack Hildner, Dave Young, Ron Rogers, Jim Brodle, Pastor Boehlke, Pastor Mumme, Ed Steele, Dave Becker, and Paul Voss were in attendance. David Lininger, school head teacher, was in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried. A motion was made and seconded to approve the November 9, 2020 Council minutes amended. Motion carried.

Gary Hatle, Elders, reported that they discussed the 2021 vacancies for Church officers. The vacancies include Congregation Chairman and Vice Chairman, Stewardship Chairman, Evangelism Chairman, One Board of Education member, and one Finance Committee member. They discussed ushers at the worship services, the budget, and mask recommendations. January 3, 2021 will be installation of officers.

Pastor Mumme reported that visitation is on hold for now. He reported that Carl and Veronica Warren and family, and Carson Lee were received into membership on December 13, 2020. Pastor Mulholland was elected Circuit Visitor for the Headwaters Circuit.

Pastor Boehlke, Evangelism, advised that he hasn't done much due to COVID.

Ron Rogers, Board of Education, reported there are 69 students in school. The Board discussed the budget and networking. The Board advised that they will begin the call process for calling two teachers for next year.

David Lininger, School Administrator, discussed his report. He advised that he fills in for Pastor for Chapel in pastor's absence. The Christmas program will be video graphed on December 14 & 15. The program will be shown via online link. He is working on the 2021-22 budget that includes two new graduate teachers. He advised that the butter braids fund raiser went well again this year.

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Dave young, Trustees, reported that a fire extinguisher inspection was completed and reviewed with the City of Riverton. He advised that there is a need for 5 new extinguishers and existing ones moved and mounted according to code. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with purchasing and proper placement of the fire extinguishers. Motion carried. He reported that the parsonage dish washer was not working properly. Dave will pursue fixing it. A motion was made and seconded to approve purchasing a new dishwasher for the parsonage if needed.

Dave Becker reviewed the treasurer's report. The total revenue is \$269,813 offset by expenditures of \$240,347 and \$24,000 for payroll reserve resulting in a net surplus of \$5,466. He noted that the recent deposits made up for the two weeks of no worship services in November.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the reports. Motion carried.

Old Business

Pastor noted that the placement of the choir loft pews throughout the church is being well received.

Several bulletin boards around the Church have been cleaned up.

It is recommended that the 2021 Church officer vacancies be noted in the bulletin and Church newsletter.

Gary Hatle and Dave Backer are working on the financial review for the Church.

Dave Becker is working on digitizing the Church records. Jack Hildner and Bonnie Medow will go through the church records to sort out which records need to be digitized.

Pastor advised the Call committee will meet this week to review the SETs.

Paul Voss discussed placing conduits across the alley for the networking cables. They will place them overhead temporarily, then bury conduits in the spring.

Jim Brodle is working on new lighting for the Shepherd window.

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