



Trinity Tidings



*"But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be."
Luke 1:29*

Trinity Lutheran Church
499 4th Ave. NW
Valley City, ND 58072
(701)845-3837
"Love God. Love Others."

Email:
trinitylutheranvc@bektel.com
Website:
www.trinitylutheran-valleycity.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Worship

Sundays, 10 a.m.

Sunday School

Sept. 10th—May 19th
9-9:45 a.m.

Bible Study

Tuesdays: 10:30—11:30 am

Pastor:

Rev. Diane Krumm
Email: ptlc@bektel.com
Cell: (701)840-7548

Office Manager:

Rochelle Triebold
Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m., M-Th
Closed on Fridays

Treasurer/Expenses:

Kaneia Kinney

Offerings Secretary:

Karen Magnuson

Custodians:

Jerry & Michelle Dahl

A young woman was greeted by an angel who told her that the Lord was with her. Her response: she was perplexed. It would be the beginning of many perplexing and soul-piercing moments for Mary, the mother of Jesus.

No doubt Mary felt the joy of carrying and delivering her first-born son. Yet her joy was sprinkled with circumstances beyond her control. The scandal of being a pregnant virgin. The required trip to Bethlehem. Making do with a stable, straw, and livestock instead of an inn, a bed, and a welcome party. We can imagine that this young woman was acquainted with a host of emotions as she carried and birthed the Savior of the world.

In our day, many messages proclaim the joy of Christmas time. Still, we live in a perplexing world – which can make the holidays difficult for some. Perhaps it is their first Christmas since a loved one died and the absence at the table is keenly felt. Perhaps they are reminded of their limited resources and feel the shame of being unable to afford the gifts and meals that they see in the media. Perhaps their longings for restored relationships or better health are not balanced by good cheer and a glass of eggnog.

If we learn anything from the Christmas story, we discover – and rediscover – that our God comes to us where we are. The Christ child slept in a manger and was first worshipped by smelly shepherds. Christ comes to us in the joy, confusion, and sorrow of this world. He honors us and all of what we feel with his presence.

Blue Christmas Services come from the recognition that sometimes we need a way to hold both the joy of Jesus' birth AND the heaviness of our hearts. Such services – or similar activities – offer us the opportunity to lay our deepest pain in the manger with Jesus, to acknowledge its weight, and to lean into the strength of our God for whom nothing is impossible.

Whether you experience these coming days as "merry and bright" or hectic or perplexing or anything else, Christ is with you. The good news is given to you through the birth of the Son of the Most High God who has come to us in flesh and blood. This season, may you hear a message of hope saying, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." And may you ponder and treasure this beautiful, perplexing, glorious message in your heart.

In Christ,
Pastor Diane



16th Annual
"Sounds of the Season"
@ OSLC 12:10-12:50 p.m.
Wednesdays,
Dec. 6, 13, & 20

Featured performers: 6th (to be determined),
Dec. 13th (Faye Bubach), 20th (Beth Quick
Berge)

Bring your own lunch and listen to some
delightful Christmas music in the Sanctuary @
Our Savior's Luth. Church (138 3rd St. NW).
All are welcome!



VC Community Gift Tree

In this season of giving, and
making sure Barnes County
families enjoy a nice Christmas,
Dacotah Bank is sponsoring the
Community Gift Tree. If you
would like to contribute, you may drop off
your giftwrapped donation (label boy or girl &
age) to Dacotah Bank (240 3rd St. NW, VC) by
Dec. 14.

Dacotah Bank will partner with Abused
Persons Outreach Center (APOC) for distribu-
tion of gift donations. Monetary gifts are also
accepted. Contact Dalene Bock for ?'s (701)
845-2712.



All are welcome to join us this
Christmas season for the
following Worship services
at Trinity Lutheran Church:

Sunday, Dec. 17th @ 10 a.m.
Sunday School Christmas
program during worship

Sunday, December 24th
@ 4 p.m. @ TLC:
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Worship
& Holy Communion



51st Annual Community Christmas Eve Dinner

St. Catherine's Church Dining Hall
Sun., Dec. 24th, 2023, 5:30—7 p.m.

For those who will be alone this Christmas, come
celebrate Jesus' birthday with other community
members. If you need transportation, please call
845-0556 from 1-4 p.m. on Dec. 24th. Sorry, no
food deliveries.

Monetary or dessert donations are welcome. For
questions or to volunteer, please call Jessica Storhoff
(845-0354). Financial donations can be mailed to:
St. Catherine Church, Attn: Christmas Eve Dinner,
540 3rd Ave. NE, VC

Poinsettias for Christmas

If you plan to give a donation towards a poinsettia plant, please fill out below info and return
this form to the church **no later than Dec. 13th**. You may either give money towards a plant
(\$20 recommended donation) or order the plant yourself and bring it to the church by 12/20.



_____ We plan to buy a plant and deliver to the church by Dec. 20th.

_____ We are enclosing \$_____ to go towards the Christmas plant fund.
Church office will order a predetermined amount of plants to adorn our
sanctuary.

(Recommended donation is \$20, but any amount would be appreciated.)

Name of person(s) giving: _____

Name of person(s) it is given in memory/honor of (please circle memory or honor):



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



We are gearing up for our Christmas Program at Trinity. Our program will be Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. During the Christmas Program, we will be taking a "noisy" offering to benefit our Sunday School program. These funds are used to buy curriculum and help with VBS. We are also continuing to work on updating our Sunday school rooms with new furniture and purchasing a TV for the Youth room.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Sun., Dec. 3, 9 a.m. - Christmas Program Practice
 Sun., Dec. 10, 9 a.m. - Christmas Program Practice
 Sun., Dec. 17, 9 a.m. - Christmas Program Practice
 (Christmas Program @ 10:00 a.m.)
 December 24 & 31 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 Sun., January 7 - Sunday school resumes
 Sun., January 14 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
 January 16 - Christian Educ. Cmte meets @ 5 p.m.
 Sun., January 21 & 28 - Sunday school meets

Submitted by Rebecca Westman, Christian Educ.



**Gr. 4-6: Kids Club, 3:30-5 p.m.
 @ Faith Lutheran Church**

Registration is required:
christianedtlc@bektel.com

Meets Wednesdays: Dec. 6, 13 (not Dec. 20, 27)
 Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 (not Jan. 3)

Gr. 10-12: FREE Senior High lunch @ OSLC
 every Monday during scheduled lunch time.
 Dec. 4, 11 (not 18, 25); Jan. 8, 22, 29 (not 1, 15)



Fri., Dec. 15th: Fargo Force Hockey game for gr. 7-12. Bus ride provided (leaving VC @ 5:30 p.m.); more info forthcoming.



Thanks to those who gave monetary donations towards the Community Thanksgiving Baskets. A total of 125 baskets went to those living on income restrictions within our community. Each basket costed \$55 to make and contained items for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. TLC donated approximately \$1,652 towards this project. This was a joint effort of TLC, Faith, and OSLC.



TLC WELCA would like to say "thank you" to all who gave a monetary donation on Nov. 19th towards the Thank Offering. A total of \$481.42 was received. Your donation supports the many ministries of our ELCA Women (WELCA) — from helping those in life transitions, healing from domestic abuse, scholarships & job training, and so much more.

Confirmation Corner (gr. 7-9)

Dec. '23/Jan. '24

Confirmation class schedule for
 Wednesdays, 6:30-8 p.m. @ OSLC

Dec. 6th: Service projects: Gift shopping in Jmstn. -OR- making care packages for VCSU students & Open Door Center.

Dec. 13th: Gift wrapping (from 12/06 shopping), Pizza, & a Christmas movie. (Optional)

No class Dec. 20, 27

Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 (No class Jan. 3)



Thursday, Jan. 4th @ 5:30 p.m.
 to discuss #1 NY Times Bestseller, *"The Giver of Stars"*. Please have entire book read. The deadline to order a book via the church has expired, but you may purchase your own copy elsewhere.

A 2019 historical fiction novel by Jojo Moyes about packhorse librarians in a remote area of Kentucky. Set in Depression-era America, "The Giver of Stars" is the story of five extraordinary women and their journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond. The women deliver library books to people in the mountains of Kentucky during the Great Depression, a real-life program launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.



The Worship Cmte invites you to share your musical talents during the Christmas Eve service. If you are interested in sharing a vocal or instrumental piece, please contact Amy Anderson (840-8468) by 12/10.



Homemade Quilts for sale!

Looking for a homemade quilt to keep you warm or give as a gift? TLC Quilters have quilts available for sale for \$50. Many patterns & beautiful colors to choose from! If interested, contact Sue Martin (840-0668) or Karen Ladbury (840-2591).



Family/Friends of: **Ray McClaflin** (died 11/17, no service), **Elaine Beyer** (died 11/19; private family svc), **Joe Jongeward** (died 11/06, funeral on 11/10); Bev Anderson, Nicole Wieser, LeRoy Magnuson, Sandie (Dahl) Mielke (Jerry's sis), Nicole Gordon (Julie Yokom's niece/cancer), Chad Henningsgard; Casa de Fe orphanage (Ecuador); Our ELCA/ Synod (Presiding Bishop Eaton/Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth); Our military women & men; Missionaries, Diplomats; Peace



Eastern ND ELCA Synod News

C.A.R. Centennial Celebrations: In November, a group from Eastern ND Synod, Western ND Synod, and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod traveled to Central African Republic to celebrate with our Lutheran siblings their 100th Anniversary as a church. Bishop Tessa has posted pictures on Eastern ND Synod's Facebook page and promises to share stories of their trip. We continue to ask for God's blessings on the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic.

Bible-Read: Everyone is welcome to join in a synod-wide Scripture read! Together, we will dwell in the words and stories of the book of Acts during Jan. & Feb. 2024. Each day, we will be encouraged to read one chapter of Acts, and every Sunday afternoon we will gather via Zoom for conversation with Dr. Eric Barreto, Professor of New Testament at Princeton Seminary. This event kicks off with an introductory Zoom session on Jan. 7, and our reading schedule begins Jan. 8. We hope you'll consider joining others from across Eastern ND Synod. No biblical or theological degree required. For more info, visit eandsynod.org and look under the "Events" tab.



A Virtual Blue Christmas Service: Dec. 21st, 7 p.m.

Holidays can be a time of joy as we gather with family and friends. They can also be painful reminders of loss and change. The Women of the ELCA offers a Virtual Blue Christmas Service on Thursday, Dec. 21st, at 7 p.m., for anyone who may need a safe place to bring their grief, fear, and loss. The service includes brief readings, quiet and reflective music, and prayers. All are welcome. Two options to view:

- Via Zoom – visit womenoftheelca.org/event to register. You will need to register online, and you will be able to view the service in the privacy of your own home.
- In-person at Trinity Lutheran's Library: Pr. Diane has registered for the group and will set up for the service to be viewed in a small group setting.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Diane (701-840-7548).

November 2023 Memorials

Memorial/General Fund

In memory of **Shirley Willson**
Given by her family, and Shirley Koslofsky

In memory of **Joe Jongeward**
Given by Friends of Joe Jongeward

In memory of **Eleanor Anderson**
Given by Pam Burchill, Puklich

In memory of **Grace Hansen**
Given by Shirley Koslofsky

Christian Education

In memory of **Joe Jongeward**
Given by Jerry & Julie Yokom

Altar Guild

In memory of **Shirley Willson**
Given by Friends of Shirley Willson

In memory of **Joe Jongeward**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner

Quilters

In memory of **Shirley Willson**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner

In memory of **Eleanor Anderson**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner

In memory of **Grace Hansen**
Given by Bernie & Edna Elsner, Ethel Heckman

Casa de Fe

In memory of **Russ Umsted**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

In memory of **Arlene Geisinger**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

In memory of **Jon Nilles**
Given by Pat Beil & Bernie Walters

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS 2023:

Council President: Linda Anderson

Vice Pres.: Kim Wittenberg

Secretary: Jennifer Jenness

Other members: Russ Larson, Gene Langemo, Bruce Anderson, Stan Flemmer, Kathy Hoefs

November 14, 2023 Council Minutes

Present: Pastor Diane, Kaneia Kinney, Linda Anderson, Russ Larson, Jennifer Jenness, Gene Langemo, Kim Wittenberg, Kathy Hoefs, Bruce Anderson, Stan Flemmer

I. Call to Order: President Linda Anderson

II. Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Diane: Matthew 4

III. Correspondence: Sympathy card and memorial for Grace Hanson

IV. Agenda Review/Additions: Stan moved to approve the agenda; Jennifer seconded; motion carried.

V. Minutes of Last Meeting: Kim moved to approve the October minutes; Kathy seconded; motion carried.

VI. Treasurer's Report: Jennifer moved to receive the treasurer's report; Russ seconded; motion carried.

VII. Pastor's Report: see report

VIII. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Educ. & Youth—Jennifer: Sun. School Christmas program is Dec. 17 during worship. Kids Club for early dismissal on Oct. 18: 40+ kids pre-K-6th had activities at Faith & watched a movie at the theatre.

2. Endowment—Russ: Meeting Dec. 3

3. Global Missions/Outreach/Stewardship—Gene/Linda: Lutheran Immigration & Refugee speaker on Oct. 22; Community Thanksgiving baskets: assembling Nov. 16 at Faith, distributing Nov. 17.

4. Worship/Music—Kathy: Christmas services: Christmas Eve at 4 pm; no service Christmas Day; Regular service on New Year's Eve; Advent starts Dec. 3.

5. WELCA (Women of ELCA) - Kim: Raised almost \$4000 at fall festival; monies will cover final benevolent offering for 2023. Very busy with funerals lately. Preparing for honoring senior shut-in population and special needs members as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach.

6. Property - Gene, Bruce & Stan:

Church:

A. Furnace line leak and replacement: more info coming.

B. Bill Carlblom will pick up folding chairs soon.

C. Sanctuary carpet: loose carpet a continuing issue; will be addressed as needed.

D. Elevator invoice: make sure they have been here before paying

Parsonage:

A. South side outside faucet replaced and leak from upstairs tub fixed

B. Insulation and drywall need to be put back

C. Leaves were mowed; gutters need to be checked

D. New furnace vents to basement – possibly done this week

IX. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Snow removal contract with ACB verbally agreed to on 10/26; same charges as last year.

B. Financial situation and letter.

C. Trinity will be 140 years old in 2024. We will need to ask for a committee for planning at the annual meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Annual meeting: Meeting set for January 28.

a. Nomination committee: Russ and Gene will serve from the Council; they will find 2 others from the congregation to serve with them.

(continued on next page...)

- b. Elections for Council: two 3-year terms (to replace Jennifer, Gene, and Russ) and one 1-year term (to replace Bruce Anderson).
- c. Endowment Committee: Alex Wittenberg completing first full term; he is eligible for a second if he is interested.
- d. Audit committee: Linda will ask last year's committee if they will serve again.

B. Bektel coop: Kaneia will sign us up.

XI. Next meeting will be December 12, 2023 at 6:30pm.

XII. A motion was made by Jennifer to adjourn meeting, seconded by Kathy; approved by Council.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

"God's Work. Our Hands."

October 2023 Financial

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning Balance (as of 10/01/23): | \$ -3,503.27 |
| Income: | \$13,837.76 |
| Expenses: | \$15,534.24 |
| Ending Balance (as of 10/31/23): | \$ -5,199.75 |

November 2023 Worship Attendance

Nov. 5th: 59 12th: 36 19th: 51 26th: 52



A blessed ADVENT,
CHRISTMAS, & NEW
YEAR'S to you from us!

Pr. Diane

Karen

Naomi

Kaneia

Rochelle

Jerry & Michelle

Amy



The Valley City Salvation Army Kettle Campaign needs bell ringers through Dec. 23! If you can help for any amount of time (1-2 hours, or more!) sign up by calling **Naomi Schlecht at (701)541-1418 or Lenora Ziemba at (701)840-1357**. Bell ringing locations will be at Petro and Leever's. Thanks!



Mark your calendar for the Trinity Lutheran Church Annual meeting on **Sunday, Jan. 28th, 2024**, after 10 a.m. Worship. Potluck to follow the meeting. Committee heads/treasurers, please have your reports/financial books into TLC office by **Jan. 5th** for our auditing team.



The next breakfast fundraiser for Casa de Fe will be on Sun., Jan. 14th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be no breakfast in December.



At TLC we are blessed with many who share their time & talents. In this newsletter, we would like to thank the following TLC folk who have volunteered with recent projects: **Fall Festival workers**, for organizing/baking & cooking, etc. this year's festival, which was a success (approx. \$5,500 profit); **Bruce Kracht** for various repairs around the church; **Diane Kracht** for fall decorating at the church; **Shawn & Kim Wittenberg** for cleaning leaves out of the parsonage gutters; Advent/Xmas decorators: Kevin & Elsa Kamphuis, Cindy Weisenberger, Pat Larson, Karen Ladbury, Bernie Botner, Jerry & Julie Yokom, & Rochelle Triebold.

St. Raphael Stocking Stuffer program

SMP-St. Raphael will once again be accepting donated items & financial contributions for their annual Stocking Stuffer program. The items that are donated will be given to the residents and the money raised will be used to purchase personal items for the residents all to be delivered on Christmas Day to each resident's room. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the business office or mailed to SMP-St. Raphael, 979 Central Ave. N., Valley City, ND 58072. If you'd like to purchase items, please contact Activities Director, Cindy Schwehr at 845-8238 for ideas. Thanks for your support!



Christmas at Homewood *Saturday, December 2 @ 2 p.m.*



Come celebrate Christmas in an old restored barn! For those unable to do steps, a closed circuit TV will be on the main floor.

Featuring local musicians!

No admission fee. Refreshments served afterwards.

At the home of Tim & Becky Hagar:

11145 40th St. SE, Valley City.

Directions: Exit 288 on I94, 5 1/2 mi. south on Hwy #1, and 1 3/4 mi west. Turn at the Moon Lake sign.