

President's Message

Grace and peace to you. Just like that, 2020 is almost over. It is so easy to look back at 2020 and only remember the parts making it such a difficult time in our history. Being so distanced from things we love makes remembering the good things that happened this year even harder. I encourage you all to take the time to focus on the blessings the Lord provided this year and give thanks.

James 1:2-4

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

As we finish the year at the church, look back at all the challenges and all the gifts the Lord has provided, allowing us to overcome. Time and time again it was evident that you are the gifts God has provided. Your time, talents, prayers, and love has sustained Trinity through it all.

As my term of Congregational President nears an end, I have one last request. Please remember Trinity as you fill your Christmas lists. With all the challenges the church has faced this year, it will be a challenge for the Church to meet our financial needs. I ask you to take a moment to prayerfully consider the Church during this season.

May Grace and Blessings be in your Path,
Congregational President
Scott Delzer

Live Sunday Service Broadcast Update

We have converted our live Sunday Service broadcast from Facebook to YouTube. You can locate Trinity's YouTube broadcasts at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJnM7Q5qrov8sKctyvJ_rA. Don't forget to subscribe to the channel and click the bell to get notifications of new videos.

***Due to some scheduling issues, we will not be broadcasting the Celebration service on December 6th, but we will resume broadcast after that.



Candlelight Christmas Eve During a Pandemic

The Candlelight Christmas Eve service is the culmination of the Advent Season at Trinity. Plan to share in one of the most meaningful worship services of the year online this year. This service will have beautiful music, a message of hope and a new experience of passing the candlelight—the Light of Christ—as we sing “Silent Night” together from our own homes.

Congregational Meeting Update

On November 22nd Trinity held a Special Congregational Meeting to vote on updating our constitution to include the following section:

C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

At that meeting the congregation did vote to update the constitution. This amendment gives your church council the ability to hold our annual congregational meeting via electronic means in the event the council does not feel that it is safe to meet in person. The amendment just provides the option of holding the meeting electronically, but it would be up to the church council to decide how the meeting will be held. At this time the council has not decided if we will hold the meeting electronically.

Council Meeting Minutes

Trinity Lutheran Church
Zoom Council Meeting
November 10th, 2020
7:00 P.M.

“Sharing God’s Word, Doing God’s Work,” the mission statement of Trinity, was recited on Zoom by the Trinity council members.

President Scott Delzer called the council meeting of Trinity Church to order at 7:00 P.M. Members absent and excused were Nancy Sabbe, Kristin Morse, and Pastor Dirk.

The council was led in devotions and prayer by Vice President Rob Thuringer.

The Agenda was presented and added to the business was Christmas services and congregation constitution amendment. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Becky Brown and seconded by Ryan Townsend. Motion passed.

The council minutes from October 13th were presented by President Scott and a motion to approve them was made by Tim Walburg and seconded by Rob Thuringer. Motion passed.

President Delzer discussed the financial report and we are behind \$15,570.40. A motion to accept the report was made by Ryan Townsend and seconded by Rob Thuringer. Motion accepted.

Pastor Dirk is in Germany and they have locked down and not sure when he will be able to come home.

Vice President Rob Thuringer reported his report on the call committee will come under new business.

Board of Parish Ed. Chairman Susan Farrell-Poncelet reported:

- Their board met concerning Preschool for the next school year.
 - The Sunday school superintendent, Amy Winrow, has resigned and we will need to replace her
 - Amber Coomes is working on the ICAP Christmas Tree
 - Discussed Confirmation which will be held in April
- Board of Deacon Becky Brown reported:

Worship & Music:

- Discussion was held regarding Christmas Eve services. We are going by the numbers from last year’s average attendance and numbers and the Deacons feel it is not possible to hold services in person safely and recommend doing an online option as a possibility. Would also like to see what the other churches are planning.

Services & Sacraments:

- Discussed the baptism bowl which is in bad con-

dition and Jim Iverson will get information on what we need to do if we refinish silver at a price of \$400.00 or purchase a new bowl.

Evangelical Outreach:

- Discussion was held regarding streaming (audio) services on KJAM. They will monitor the livestream and rebroadcast the audio at 11:00 a.m. for \$50.00 per service. Bob tested current equipment and he will be able to stream on YouTube which will give us better audio sound.
- A motion was made by Becky Brown to approve broadcasting services by audio on KJAM each week at 11:00 a.m. for a fee of \$50.00/service, once YouTube livestream is in place. Jim Iverson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Board of Trustees Tim Walburg reported:

- Issues with the north tower and they are working with Don Amert about repairs
- Alex reported that when he starts the organ for service it blows a fuse so we will have him call an electrician.

President Delzer asked for a motion to approve the reports and that was made by Ryan Townsend and seconded by Josh Van Dyke. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Call Committee Rob Thuringer reported we will have a congregation meeting on November 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the church with guidelines from the synod, and it will be live streamed so people can ask questions and give opinions as to what we want for an associate pastor.
- Rev. Renee Splichal Larson from the synod will be present at the meeting.

On November 22nd a short meeting will be conducted in the church parking lot from your vehicles at 10:00 a.m. to change the constitution amendment so it may be held on Zoom if it would need to be with the Covid-19.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob Thuringer and seconded by Becky Brown. Motion passed. We closed with the council praying The Lord’s Prayer.

The next council meeting will be December 8th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joan Merager
Council Secretary



Preschool Job Openings

Trinity Lutheran Preschool is currently seeking a Teacher/Preschool Director for the 2021–2022 school year. The ideal candidate should have previous experience working with young children, preferably in a classroom setting. Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education or Early Childhood Education required. Hours are 8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday beginning August 2021. Currently set as a nine month position, but could potentially become a twelve month position. Salary is negotiable. Please submit a résumé, along with three references, to Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Attn: Board of Education, 203 N. Harth Ave., Madison SD 57042.

Trinity Lutheran Preschool is currently seeking a Teaching Assistant for the 2021–2022 school year. The ideal candidate should have previous experience working with young children, preferably in a classroom setting. Hours are 8:15 a.m.–3:15 p.m., Monday thru Friday beginning August 2021. Please submit a résumé, along with three references, to Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Attn: Board of Education, 203 N. Harth Ave., Madison SD 57042.



Creating a Realm Account

You may have received an e-mail from notifications@onrealmmail.org inviting you to create an account with Realm, our new online database. Once you have your account, you can log in to update your contact information, see your giving status, check your I Am IN pledge, and more. We encourage you to create an account to help us keep the database up-to-date and ensure we have the best way to stay in touch with you. If you did not receive an e-mail invitation, please contact Alex in the church office at officemanager@tlcmadison.com. You can access your account by going to <https://onrealm.org/TLCMadison/SignIn>.

Sign Up for the Weekly E-News

Did you know that the church office sends out a weekly e-mail with announcements and current events? Contact the church office to sign up today in order to stay connected in these changing times.

HELP WANTED

To be able to open the church for worship, we are in need of volunteers to help members navigate through the changes necessitated by Covid-19. To volunteer, please contact the church office at 256-2771 or officemanager@tlcmadison.com. Thank you.

USHERS: Assist members entering and exiting the sanctuary to maintain social distance; distribute masks, as needed, and promote the use of hand sanitizers. These duties are in addition to some of the duties ushers have always done, including counting the attendance and writing it in a book, and, after the service, depositing the offering into the bank depository. With these added responsibilities, it would be preferable to have extra volunteers available to help.

LECTOR: For each service, we need a lector to read the lessons aloud.

CANTOR: For each traditional service, provide vocal music on the congregation's behalf.

Pastor Solveig's Contact Info.

For pastoral emergencies during Pastor Dirk's absence, please contact Pastor Solveig Hendrickson at 605-695-8516. Her e-mail address is solveijim@siouxvalley.net.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Communion on the 1 st & 3 rd Sundays each Month		01 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall	02 • 5:30PM–6:15PM Information : Fellowship Hall • 6:45PM–8:00PM Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Study : Youth Room • 7:30PM–8:30PM Information : Fellowship Hall
06 <i>Advent II</i> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–10:30AM Home Faith Formation • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary	07 • 5:30PM–6:30PM Cub Scouts : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Scouts Mtng. : Fellowship Hall	08 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 12:00PM–1:00PM Finance Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 5:00PM–6:00PM Precouncil Executives' Meeting • 6:30PM–7:00PM Trustees' Board Meeting ; Deacons' Board Meeting ; Parish Education Board Meeting • 7:00PM–9:00PM Council Meeting	09 • 5:30PM–6:15PM Information : Fellowship Hall • 6:45PM–8:00PM Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Study : Youth Room
13 <i>Advent III</i> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–10:30AM Home Faith Formation • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:30PM Mary Hunter Piano Studio Christmas Recital : Sanctuary	14 • 5:30PM–6:30PM Cub Scouts : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Scouts Mtng. : Fellowship Hall	15 • 9:30AM–11:00AM Mary Circle : Fellowship Hall • 9:30AM–10:30AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall	16 • 5:30PM–6:15PM Information : Fellowship Hall • 6:45PM–8:00PM Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Study : Youth Room
20 <i>Advent IV</i> • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–10:30AM Home Faith Formation • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship w/Lucah Ahlers Baptism : Sanctuary	21 • 5:30PM–6:30PM Cub Scouts : Youth Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Scouts Mtng. : Fellowship Hall	22 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall • 6:30PM–8:30PM Pack 5 Committee Mtng. : Fireside Room	23 • 5:30PM–6:15PM Information : Fellowship Hall • 6:45PM–8:00PM Rehearsal : Sanctuary • 7:00PM–8:00PM Study : Youth Room
27 • 8:45AM–9:45AM Traditional Worship : Sanctuary • 10:00AM–10:30AM Home Faith Formation • 11:00AM–12:00PM Celebration Worship : Sanctuary	28 • Church Office Closed • 5:30PM–6:30PM Cub Scouts : Youth Room • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Mtng. : Fireside Room • 7:00PM–8:00PM Troop 5 Scouts Mtng. : Fellowship Hall	29 • 9:30AM–10:30AM Staff Meeting : Church Office • 1:00PM–4:00PM Quilting : Fellowship Hall	30 • 6:45PM–8:00PM Rehearsal : Sanctuary

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7th–8th Gr. Confir- all Celebration Team y High School Bible 9th Gr. Confirma-</p>	<p>03 • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Mtng. : Fireside Room</p>	<p>04 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</p>	<p>05</p>
<p>7th–8th Gr. Confir- all Celebration Team y High School Bible</p>	<p>10 • 6:30PM–7:30PM Bear Den Mtng. : Fireside Room</p>	<p>11 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>7th–8th Gr. Confir- all Celebration Team y High School Bible</p>	<p>17 • 6:30PM–8:00PM Pack Meeting : Fel- lowship Hall</p>	<p>18 • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>7th–8th Gr. Confir- all Celebration Team y High School Bible</p>	<p>24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> • Christmas Eve Online Worship Service</p>	<p>25 <i>Christmas Day</i> • Church Office Closed • 6:30AM–7:30AM Men's Group Bible Study • 9:30AM–10:30AM Christmas Day Worship : Sanctuary</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>Celebration Team y</p>	<p>31</p>		

Missionary Update

Walking in Hong Kong with Matt Hafar

November, 2020

Greetings from the serene campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong! In the midst of one of the world's most crowded cities, I have the privilege to teach and build relationships on the top of a peaceful mountain. As the weather cools into the 70s and 80s (!) I have the opportunity to spend time enjoying blooming flowers and swimming fish! I thank God for serenity, but my newsletter today is about our church's work in Hong Kong and about building relationships!

Although we are not letting our guard down too much, the virus situation here is not bad. We have been able to return to face-to-face teaching, which has made a world of difference for me. We check our temperatures and wash our hands at the beginning of each class, and keep the doors and windows open. We wear our masks throughout. I am so glad to be seeing real people!

When last I wrote, I had just concluded an orientation program for a new group of five students from Myanmar to LTS. Our relationship has continued to grow since then! They each have me for at least one class, and we often spend time with each other informally.

Soon after they were free from their long quarantine, I called them to my office to present them with an English Bible—just a small welcome gift. But they outdid me! When they arrived, they came with many gifts for me: a necktie from the Karen people; a book bag from the Chin State; and, from the Kachin State, a beautiful wicker basket with a colorful neck strap. Needless to say, both containers were filled with food items from Myanmar.

Perhaps because I still feel pretty new myself, I feel a strong connection to them. The more we talk and they write, I am aware of our many differences. We don't always agree on social and theological issues, and I need to remind myself frequently to listen and keep an open mind. (Sometimes I encourage them to do the same!) But we share so much, and the longer I am here, the more convinced I am that the relationships we have the opportunity to develop, among faculty and students, are the reason we are all here together.

We continue to engage the students here with our family groups. My colleague Francis and I lead the Family of Joy, a group of international students from

throughout Southeast Asia. Last month, Francis hosted a pasta-making lunch for us.

We prepared the dough, forced it through the hand-cranked machine, set the pieces out to dry, and enjoyed a terrific afternoon of conversation and delicious food.

It's not all food and fellowship! I am teaching three classes, preaching occasionally at morning chapel and at the nearby Christ Temple, playing a little music, helping doctoral students edit their dissertations, and tackling other duties as assigned. I'm grateful for this experience and for all the ways it has stretched me. I miss being at home at times, but I know that time will come soon!

Thank you for all the ways you have made this opportunity possible! Feel free to contact me at matthew.hafar@elca.org or visit my blog at hafarm.wordpress.com.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION

Recently Received Memorials

In Memory of Bill Richter

Nancy Miller

In Memory of Jessie Reed

Myron and Clara Downs

Adelyne Stearns

Mark and Sandra Haynes

Connie McGowan

Rod and Linda Gustad

Bob and Lisa Gale

Michael and Patricia Peterson

Amber Marie Stitz

David and Carol Richart

Marlys Schmidt

Tanya Oyos and Steven Lilehaug

Peggy Hoff

Doug and Joan Merager

Nancy Miller

Marv and Sandy Rhode

Krystal Draper

Martin and Mary Oyos

Gene and Marilyn Hexom

Vernon Stitz

In Memory of Bev Kraft

Myron and Clara Downs

In Memory of Connie Walburg

Dennis and Nancy Rook

Gift of Grain

Bethel Lutheran Home and Foundation are a member of Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD. As a member we invite you to consider a non-cash gift of grain in support of Bethel and/or your church.



"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce." —Proverbs 3:9

If you farm, your crops are your life and the livelihood for which you work so hard. You nurture them from the time you plant until the time you harvest. Sharing your gifts of grain to support the ministries you care about most — including the Bethel Lutheran Community and Foundation — is a meaningful way you can share your harvest with others.

Here is how it works: As a producer, you can make a gift of grain or livestock with your unsold inventory. Upon receiving notice of your intent to make a gift, LPGSD will establish an account at the appropriate elevator or sale barn. We will distribute the sale proceeds to Bethel according to your wishes. A gift of grain can be used as an outright gift to the Bethel Community or Foundation, or to establish/grow a donor advised fund.

Why should I make a gift of grain? What are the benefits? Using stored commodities or unsold inventory to make a gift maximizes the benefit to Bethel while reducing taxable income. No income is recorded on a gift of grain, but production costs remain as part of your deductible expenses. Here is an example:

	DONATING CASH	DONATING GRAIN
Grain Value	\$ 5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Income to Farmer	\$ 5,000.00	\$0.00
Federal Income Tax (28%*)	\$ 1,400.00	\$0.00
Self-Emp. Tax (15.3%*)	\$ 765.00	\$0.00
TOTAL DONATION	\$ 2,835.00	\$5,000.00

Want to learn more? Contact Kathy McHenry, Executive Director of Lutheran Planned Generosity of SD at kmchenry@sdsynod.org or 605-274-5030 or www.lpgsd.org. Or, Rosie Jamison, Development Director of Bethel Lutheran Home Foundation rosie@bethelcommunity.com or 605 427 2195 or bethelcommunity.com/foundation.

*The 28% federal income tax rate and 7% state income tax rate are used for illustrative purposes only. Individual income tax rates may vary. Information provided for illustrative and educational purposes only. Please consult your tax preparer or legal counsel for advice specific to your gift plans.



South Dakota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Siblings in Christ of the South Dakota Synod, Grace and peace to you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I am a woman of many lists, I have a running grocery list, I have a weekend to do list and a list of tasks to be completed at work. Lists keep me focused and organized; but they also give me reason to celebrate my small achievements when I check a completed item off my list. I work in a field where the work is never done, but most days more things get added than crossed off. So, I learned to celebrate the little victories of even the smallest of tasks being completed. You, the people of the South Dakota Synod are on my December ministry list. As we near the end of the year, I would like to take the opportunity to share a few things with you. So in a good old list fashion here it goes:

1. THANK YOU! Thank you for your continued support, whether it is through your financial participation in the ministry we undertake together, or the gift of giving of self to a South Dakota Synod ministry or event. Thank you for showing up to strengthen the proclamation of the Gospel among the people of South Dakota.

2. Have you had a chance to listen to the Synod's Advent podcast? We joined forces with Joel and Aimee Pakan, Tangled Blue to celebrate the Advent of Christ with #reluctanthope. The podcasts air every Wednesday through Advent and are available to you to enjoy and share with others who may also enjoy them. They are based on the daily lectionary and have a focus on a current event. These podcasts include music, scripture and a faithful conversation based on the scripture of the day. Check it out. Share it widely. May it help you to celebrate the season of Advent as we await the Savior's birth.

3. You may have been able to join us for Synod Day on November 7th, where we celebrated and learned about synod ministries and the vision for our "Journey together in Christ", based on Luke 24:13-35. If you didn't have an opportunity to join, please know that a recording of the day's events is available to you. You may access the Synod Day resources here: sdsynod.org/synodday.

4. Last but not least, please remember that I had promised you to "show up." Your synod staff is committed to accompany you in your congregation's needs. Please, reach out to us, if you would like to be in conversation with us, to bounce off an idea or if you have questions. Our numbers and email addresses can be found on the synod's website www.sdsynod.org.

I would like to close by saying thank you again for your trust, support and continuing to show up. Now, let's #JourneyTogetherinChrist.

Rev. Constanze Hagmaier

Bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA



203 N. Harth Ave.
Madison, SD 57042

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Financial Giving Options

- Checks can be mailed to the church.
- Credit cards can be processed in the church office.
- The church website (www.tlcmadison.com) allows for one-time or recurring donations using a checking/savings account or a credit/debit card.
- The Electronic Giving option through Vanco can also be initialized by filling out an application form in the church office.
- We also have a quick and easy Give+ Mobile App option for financial giving from your portable device! Just download the app! Available for Apple and Android, it's usable with bank routing and account numbers or credit card/bank cards. This app can be used to set up long-term giving options or for a one-time use.
- If you should have questions with any of these options or would like to discuss which one is the best option for you, please call Alex at the church office at 256-2771.

Congregational Information

Deaths: none
Baptisms: none
Weddings: none

Mission of the Month

The December Mission of the Month is Family Connection.

Food Pantry

The Lake County Food Pantry mission of the month for December is peanut butter, although they are not accepting food donations at this time.