

TRINITY CONNECTION

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA • 735 2nd St. SE • P.O. Box 249 • MILACA, MN • 56353

Telephone: 320-983-6420 Website: trinitymilaca.org Email: trinitymilaca@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinitymilaca

Volume 28, Issue 1 • January 2022

Pastor Bauer, servant of Jesus Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



To have an epiphany is to have an “aha” moment, a moment when we get it. The season of Epiphany in the church is the season of revelation. It begins on January 6th when the magi behold the child Jesus and offer their gifts for the gift that God has brought to us. It begins with the revelation at the Jordan that Jesus is God’s beloved Son. It ends on the Mount of Transfiguration with the same word, but with the addition that we are to listen to him. Along the way Jesus called the disciples and began to teach them. They were a bit dense. They did not really get their “aha” moment until Jesus rose from the dead. Even then they had plenty to learn and discover about what God was up to, how God would work in them and through them to bring good news and the love of God to the world. Epiphany is “to give light” especially “to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.” And so many do in so many ways.

Life goes on. The preacher of Ecclesiastes claimed there is nothing new under the sun. We face another year beginning with perhaps the biggest wave of COVID, the omicron variant, upon us. Same old, same old. We become complacent. We know what we know and we just keep plugging along.

I pray that as the year begins you may be open to all kinds of epiphanies, discoveries, “aha” moments, that change the same old, same old of life into something more, better, and filled with the hope. I pray that faith, hope and love may call you to those you meet along the way. I pray that the Holy Spirit will fill you and overflow from you to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I pray that worship and fellowship may become available to your life again, though I understand the reluctance to be in crowds. I pray that God may dawn in your life with each new day and be a light for you in the darkness of every night. I pray that you may have daily revelations that guide your feet in the way of peace, both within your spirit and in your encounters with everyone you meet, see, or hear about.

Epiphanies change us. While we resist change and claim that we are fine just the way we are, God comes to raise us from the broken and fallen world in which we live to rejoice in the kingdom of Christ which God brings. May you have the epiphany of repentance and the epiphany of redemption.

Along the way we will do many of the same things we have always done: Annual Meeting, Lent, Worship, Sunday School, Confirmation, Youth Group, Fellowship, Easter, and the like. Amidst what we have always done I pray that God will inspire you to see more and more how these rites and rhythms lead you thru the routines of your weeks. Watch and wait for the Spirit. Listen for the word and the prayer. Be open to the

moment when you go even against yourself and say, “aha” now I get it. I will follow where You lead.

Keep the faith. Say your Prayers. Love Like Jesus. Happy New Year. Pastor Tim Bauer

Congregation Needs

New Church Council Nominations: We have five people whose terms on Church Council are complete. Three of them can be nominated again, but two have finished three terms. Thank you to Doug Reetz and Bob Kern for faithful service and leadership. If you would like to serve on Church Council, please speak with Pastor Bauer.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

Sunday, January 30th at 11:00 AM.

Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM.

Coffee Fellowship hosted by TLCW.

TLCW will also have a Bake Sale that morning with all your favorite Norwegian treats for sale.

Then the Annual Meeting business and discussion will take place.



***Annual Ministry Reports are due by Monday, January 17th.**

Stewardship: God’s World in Our Care

The Milaca Wolves Snack Pack program serves about 90 children each week. Youth from Trinity and the Christian Reformed Church of Pease meet to pack 900+ bags every few months. Food is most often purchased through the Milaca Area Pantry. Donations have not been emphasized but are appreciated. One of the food items that has been difficult to order is Juice Boxes. Thank you.



As giving mechanisms change from checks, offering envelopes and hard currency to electronic means we encourage you to consider an automatic withdrawal plan to support the church. As we head into a new year, we also express our appreciation of your faithfulness and generosity while we ask you to consider whether you are able to increase your offerings. Thank you.

A new safe and secure way to give electronically. Trinity has partnered with Give Lively to securely process your online donation. This transaction will appear on your bank statement as “Trinity Lutheran Church, Milaca MN.” The link is:

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/trinity-lutheran-church-milaca-mn>

From our Council President



Hello Trinity Lutheran!!

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. My family celebrated Christmas with friends and relatives at home this year which was really nice. Lots of planning to get ready, and just like that, it is over. It is crazy how fast it comes and goes. I wish that the feeling of Christmas would stay with us longer. But after the celebrating is over, we drift back into our normal groove of life. For some reason, I don't want to let it go this year. I don't want to get back into my normal groove. I have been reflecting on my feelings for this over the past few days and realized that my "light" has gotten a little dim this past year. Why? I don't think that is too hard to answer. Since COVID hit in March of 2019, life has been anything but normal. I need to get my light shining bright again. I am not quite sure yet how I am going to do that, but I know it starts with me. 2022 is going to be great, I can feel it! I am going to be more aware of my light and be sure to take care of it so I can be the best me that I can be. More importantly, I will remember that I am not the only one feeling this. While we are all in this same storm, we are all in different boats. We must all remember this and simply remember to be kind to others, we don't know what is going on in their boat. Kindness might be all they need. This will keep our lights shining bright!! The world needs our light more now than ever!! We can do this!!

It has been a pleasure and an honor serving as your Council President for the past two years. This Council has had to navigate through things where there is no guide book to follow. They have and continue to do this with the congregation and community as top priority in its decision making. We all thank you for your patience and understanding. There are a few Council seats that will be available at the end of January. Please consider it in your heart to serve this wonderful church. If you have any questions about being on the Council, please reach out to Pastor Tim, myself, or anyone on the Council. We are happy to answer any questions.

Wishing you all a blessed, safe, and Bright New Year!!

Kerri Steinbrecher

Confirmation and Youth Group Resumes

Confirmation resumes January 5th. We will meet at Zion Lutheran Church. Meals will be served from 5:30-6:30 PM. Class will focus on the story of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.



Youth Group also resumes January 5th and meets at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Readers

Meeting our weekly Sunday needs has been frustrating. We are going to try something different, beginning with those who read scripture during worship. The vision is to create a list of people who are willing to take the responsibility. With that list we would create a rotating schedule for the months. We would assign readers to each week. If a reader is unable to read, they contact another reader on the list who would be available. The larger the list of readers the fewer times any one reads. So... if you are willing to read scripture on Sunday mornings contact the church office, turn in a slip that we will make available, or somehow let us know you are willing. Eventually we hope to expand this system to include other things, particularly Coffee Fellowship. You will hear more about this during the announcements at Services. Thank you.



Trinity Notes

- **Quilter's will meet Thursday January 6th and 20th at 9:00 AM.**
- **Dorcas Circle meets January 12th at 9:30 AM. TLCW meets at 11:30 AM.**
- **Trinity Men's Coffee Fellowship** – (Bring Your Own Coffee) will meet **Thursday January 13th and 27th at 10:00 AM in the Trinity Room.** All are Welcome!
- **Help Leona Lee celebrate her "100th" birthday on Sunday, January 16th** at Trinity Lutheran Church from 2-4 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Annual Ministry Reports are due Monday, January 17th.** Please have them in by then.
- **2022 offering envelopes may be picked up at the east entrance to the sanctuary.**
- **Altar Flower Sign Up 2022** – The chart for signing up to provide Altar Flowers during the coming year is on the table in entryway.



Thank you

- **Special thanks** to those who decorated the sanctuary for Christmas, our accompanists, praise bands, Bell Choir, Brenda Follmuth and our Sunday School kids for their Christmas program. Thank you to Keith Anderson and our other video, sound and projection technicians for your behind-the-scenes work. Our Altar Guild members for preparing the worship space. We appreciate all of you!



- **Thank you** to those who donated gifts towards our Holiday Helping Hands Program. Your donations were well received! Please know that your efforts truly make a difference to those in need. A special thanks to Candy Jacobson and Dar Gould for making this Christmas giving happen each year.
- **Thank you** for remembering our Milaca Wolves Snack Pack Program! Your donations are appreciated!
- What a joy to have such good help with delivering Meals on Wheels. **Thank you to:** Dene Byers, Warren Liepitz, Pastor Tim, Don and Sandy Herr, Phil and Nola Hals. **A BIG THANK YOU to** Ben Biniek and John Youngberg for coordinating the drivers and helpers.

Sunday School

Sunday School will begin again for all kids age 3 through Grade 6 on Sunday, January 9th. Sunday School is held during the service each Sunday and kids will be dismissed during the service to Sunday School.



WE NEED YOU! Following the same format from fall, we are looking for volunteers to teach one Sunday. We would love ALL church members to consider supporting our youth education by volunteering. Lessons are sent to you and consist of all the materials you need to conduct classes. Sunday School lasts approximately 25 minutes and includes a story and activity. Please sign up in the entryway. Thank you.

National Youth Gathering Fundraising

Trinity Lutheran Church has registered 21 people to attend the Synod Journey and the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in the summer of 2022: Abby Anderson, Alexa Anderson, Clay Anderson, Lydia Bauer, Sam Biniek, Hunter Bockoven, Shaina Christensen, Zach Elbert, Ahnna Elbert, Addy Greninger, Dylan Greninger, Mason Hartung, Ella James, Jack Nord, Cyan Steinbrecher, Braden Taylor, and Brock Talberg, along with Adult Leaders, Pastor Bauer, Wendy Anderson, Corey Greninger, and Kerri Steinbrecher. We will be preparing with Faith Formation and Fundraising. It is a large group and the task before is a bit daunting. In the next couple months, we plan on the following means of raising the funds we need.



- Roll Sundays.
- Tru Earth laundry and other household Earth friendly products. Fundraising link is... <https://fundraising.tru.earth/TrinityYouthMilaca>
- Serving Concessions at the Vikings-Bears Football game on January 9th.

Please be patient with us and supportive of our efforts. We are grateful.