

*Though your sins are
like scarlet, they shall
be as white as snow.*

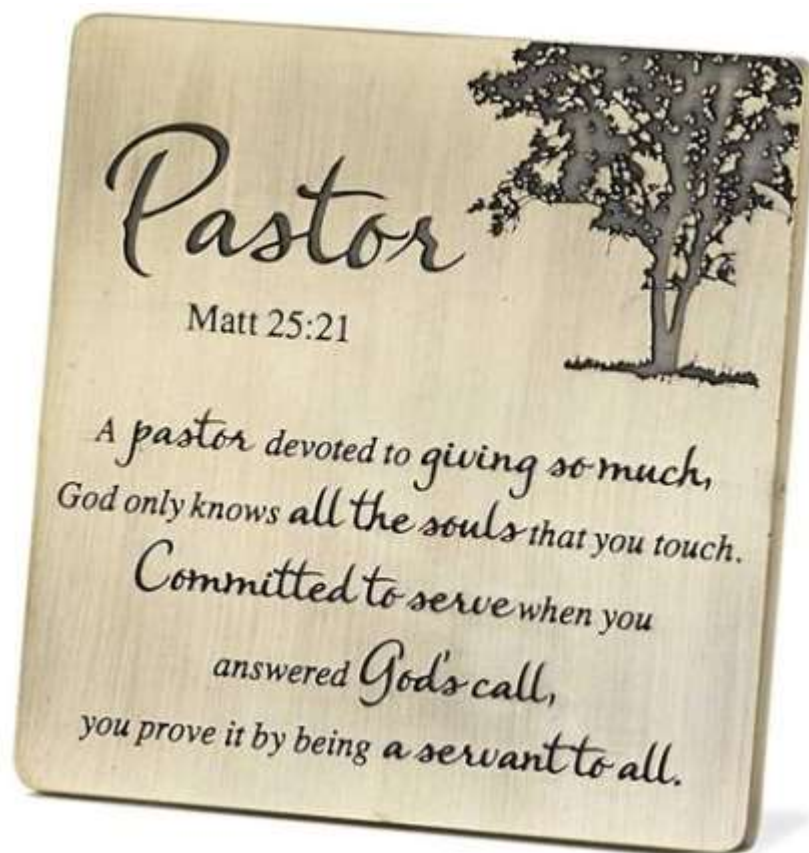
Isaiah 1:18

Think & Thank

In December 1995, I received a telephone call from the elders asking if I would consider a Call to become a pastor here at Trinity in Wausau. Since I was the Administrative Pastor at St. John Church and School in Plymouth (1974-1996), which also was a large congregation, I told them I would consider it and visit them in January 1996. After receiving input from Pastor Schultz and Principal Hartman along with the Call Committee, I accepted the Divine Call to become a pastor here at Trinity Lutheran Church and School. I praise the Lord that I have been able to serve here for 27 years (1996-2023). Now, having some prayerfully temporary walking handicaps, it is best if I retire and reposition. I will continue to work with the Just Older Youth (JOY) Center and the Blind and Visually-Impaired Outreach at Trinity, as well as the Greater Wausau Christian Services.

The words “think” and “thank” come to mind in thinking about the many wonderful God-given blessings all of us have received from God and from the many wonderful and caring people of our Trinity family and the greater Wausau area. We give God the glory and praise as God blesses each one of us to be a blessing in service to one another. I personally thank God for calling me into the Holy Ministry with the opportunity to share the Good News of John 3:16 and Matthew 22:37-39.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch



Happy Birthday!

To our members who are celebrating their 80th or more birthday in January!

January 1	Arthur Kickbusch
January 12	Jan Deverell
January 21	Hugh Deverell
January 27	Verna Schalow
January 28	Mercedes Myszkowski
January 31	Richard Gehrt
January 31	Joanne Pyan

Our newsletter is visible online to both members and non-members of our congregation alike. To protect our members' privacy we are no longer publishing addresses in our newsletter. We would be happy to share contact information with our members (and it will also be available in our directory when it is completed). Contact the church office for more information.

Anniversaries!

Congratulations to the following who will be celebrating their 50th or more Wedding Anniversary!

♥ Terry & Kathy Page	January 10
♥ Dave & Gertrude Johnson	January 23
♥ Dale & Mary Andreas	January 30

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL CONTACTS

Phone: 715-842-0769 or 715-848-0166

Website: trinitywausau.org

Email Address: trinity@trinitynet.org

Rev. James L. Mayland, Senior Pastor. ext. 360
 Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch, Pastor Emeritus. 715-675-4074
 Rev. Steven Vaudt, Pastor Emeritus. 715-610-2920
 Matthew Hoehne, Director of Music. ext. 303
 Bill Zuelsdorff, School Principal. ext. 308
 Rick Stengl, Director of Christian Education. 715-843-7023
 Tina Dickens, Church Administrator. ext. 304

*Emergency On-Call Pastor. 715-842-0769, press "0"
 1-715-506-2807

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Download the RaiseRight
Mobile App Today!



A Note of Gratitude

As we begin a new year, we would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt gratitude for our staff, congregation and families that have supported us throughout this past year. 2023 began with some significant challenges, we were battling a staffing shortage and deep waitlists in all of our classrooms followed by the departure of our director in February. This set of circumstances was not ideal, however through dedication, perseverance and the unwavering support of our congregation we were able to face those challenges head on. We made some significant adjustments to our pay and benefits strategy that allowed us to grow our Childcare center staff from a meager 7 employees in January of 2023 to a much healthier total of 22 dedicated staff members as we closed out the calendar year. That's right! We more than tripled our staff in 2023. Not only did we grow the number of staff in our childcare center, we were also able to provide all of our staff members (those that began the year with us as well as those that joined us in 2023) with the appropriate tools, training and support to obtain the necessary education to ensure they are all meeting or exceeding the requirements for their roles. As a result of more adequate staffing, education and training we were able to significantly increase our enrollment. Our student enrollment increased by 61% over the last 12 months. We could not have done it without your support. THANK YOU! If you see anyone you know from the School Board, the newly founded childcare committee, or our Church administrator tell them thank you for all that they have done to help us continue to pursue our mission of providing our congregation and our community with a exceptional Christ-centered Childcare experience.



Weather Related Closures

Trinity Childcare strives to be open when the school is closed. When weather is questionable, look for notifications on WAOW and WSAW, as well as on our social media platforms, Facebook and Instagram, or our website, trinitywausau.org for the most up-to-date information. In the rare event that Trinity Childcare should also close, it will be noted on those platforms.

Dates to Note

Monday, January 15th is a teacher in-service day. There is no school that day. Childcare will be available for registered school-age students. Please sign-up for care by contacting the main office or signing up on the clipboard in the Extended Childcare Classroom before January 11th so we can adequately prepare.

Contact Info

The best way to reach our childcare staff continues to be by phone at 715-842-0769 during office hours 7:30am–4pm or you can reach all of our lead teachers by email at childcarelead@trinitynet.org. We are happy to announce that each classroom now has a designated team of teachers, lead teachers are listed below.

Little Lambs (6 weeks-12 months)

Lead teacher - Cara Klinger

Happy Hearts (12-24 months)

Lead teacher - Sara Seehafer

Rainbow Room (2-3 years)

Lead teacher - Abby Northup

Butterfly Buddies (3-4 years)

Lead teacher - Emily Zimmermann

Son Shine (4K wrap around care)

Lead teacher - Chelsea Radke

Extended Childcare (school-age wrap around care)

Acting Lead teacher - Mercedes Lobner

For billing questions or concerns, please call Jen Effinger in the Church Office at 715-842-0769 or email effingerj@trinitynet.org.

Here's What's Happening

Congratulations to Layla Effinger and Jackson Kramer, pictured below with their teacher Mrs. Anklam, on being selected as Trinity's students to receive this years Wausau Noon Optimist Award. The award is given to students that show positive leadership qualities and, of course, a sense of optimism in what they do in the classroom. The students, along with their teacher, are invited to a meal and receive a plaque.



School Open House

Trinity will be having a School Open House January 29, 2024. The Open House will give families a chance to check out what our programs have to offer. Event times will run from 4:00-6:00pm that day. Take a tour, meet the teachers, and get a personal look at what sets Trinity apart! At Trinity, we educate for character as well as intellect; for faith as well as citizenship; for virtue as well as knowledge. We partner with families to meet needs and develop disciples. Spread the word—we would love to see a packed house that evening!

Dates to Remember

- **January 3**— Classes resume after Christmas Break
- **January 12**—End of Quarter 2
- **January 13** — Boys A Basketball Tournament
- **January 17**— Noodles Fundraiser for 8th Grade class trip
- **January 27**—Boys B Basketball Tournament
- **January 29**—School Open House (4-6pm)

National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) January 21-27, 2024

Raising up the next generation of Faithful Christian Disciples

- Experiencing and celebrating God's lavish gifts of love, grace and mercy
- Sharing those gifts with others
- Being transformed by God's Word
- Clinging to the cross of Jesus Providing excellent academic preparation
- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others raising up the next generation of Faithful Christian Disciples

News from the School Board

In their December meeting, the Trinity School Board approved the formation of a Childcare Committee. This group will help with the operations of our Trinity Child-care program.

The School Board also approved the formation of the "Family Fellowship Committee." The purpose of this group is to come together to help set up and run events for our school families. It will help fill a void left by our PTL and look to set up fun family centered events throughout the school year. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact the school office for more information.

BIBLE STUDIES & MINISTRIES



*We have a place for you at Trinity:
Get Involved in a Ministry or
Bible Study!*
Questions? Call (715) 842-0769.

Adult Bible Study



The Book of Revelation

Sundays, 10:15am, Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 9:00am & 5:30pm in the Parlors

Revelation is one of the most mysterious books in the Bible, and we are going to break it down to find the wonderful message of hope that Christ has for us.



Classes will begin again in the new year. They will be flex classes, meaning that class participants will be asked to watch the video

lessons (60-70 minutes) sometime before class. We will watch a short recap and then have group discussion. Our first class will be on Sunday, January 7, 2024 at 10:15am. Below is the full schedule of topics we will be covering this month:

Lesson 1: Baby Step 1 & Budgeting (Jan. 7)

Lesson 2: Baby Step 2 (Jan. 14)

Lesson 3: Baby Step 3 (Jan. 21)

Lesson 4: Baby Steps 4, 5, 6 & 7 (Jan. 28)

Please visit <https://www.fpu.com/28026A> for more info.



Men's Basketball

Mondays, 7:00-8:30pm, Gymnasium

Men Age 18+ are invited to join us for an opening prayer followed by Open Gym for basketball. Please contact Troy with any questions: 715-370-6399.

Men's Bible Study

Saturdays, 8:00-8:45am, Parlors

Join us for fellowship that builds one another up and Bible study on the Book of Job. If you have any questions about this ministry or would like more information, please call Terry Page at 715-845-8732.



LWML Women's Fellowship

2nd Tuesday of the month, 1:00pm, Parlors

Women's Fellowship will start the new year by meeting on Tuesday, January 9 at 1:00 PM in the Parlors. Mites will be collected and also \$6.00 for the national LWML Quarterly magazine subscription.

Mission Grant #3 Update: Transportation for Special Needs Students at Journeys Lutheran School in Milwaukee—\$100,000

Journeys Lutheran School began in 1958 when a group of concerned parents determined their special needs children needed a better alternative education. Today, Journeys Lutheran School prepares students with unique learning challenges to maximize their God-given spiritual, academic, physical, emotional, and social potential. The grant funds from LWML will be used to purchase two 15 passenger vans to enable Journeys to serve its students by providing additional transportation options.

GOETSCH/WADZINSKI WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Every other Monday, 1:00pm, Parlors



Trinity Quilters

1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Tuesdays of the month, 8am, Parlors

We have received some very generous cash donations, used to purchase the backing to complete partially made quilts, along with mattress pads and used sheets. One donor is even making the cotton tops from material she has of her own and donating them to us! All donations are very much appreciated! Currently, we are in need of sewers. We will furnish the squares already cut, just need to design to your liking and complete the tops. We can always use new cotton material, used mattress pads and blankets. Since September, we have donated 10 quilts to Aspirus, Wausau for the Palliative Care Unit and 19 to St. Vincent, Wausau. We are down five quilters, so we cannot make as many as we did in the past. Please call Gladys with any questions: 715-842-2942.



Sanctuary Choir—Thursdays, 6:30-7:30pm

Come and join us as we lift our voices in song!

JuBellation Handbell Choir—Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm

We are looking for a couple of ringers to make our ensemble complete—contact Matt Hoehne (715-842-0769, ext. 303 or hoehnem@trinitynet.org) for more information.

Praise Team—Mondays, 5:45-6:45pm

Spiritual Life Center

Join us as we sing praise to the Lord!



Children's Ministry

Sunday School

Classroom Instruction begins again on Sunday, January 7, 2024. As an upcoming service project, we will be making blankets for all our home-bound members on February 11th. The blankets will have a pocket sewn into them to store the Portals of Prayer devotional books! Please consider donating polar fleece fabric in adult, faith-friendly prints (1 yard +) to the reception area bin. Thank you for supporting our service project!



YAT (Youth at Trinity)

(for Grades 7th-12th, divided into Sr. & Jr. YAT)

Various Sundays, 6:00pm, Youth House

Grades 7-12 are invited to join us for devotions, games, snacks, and fellowship! This month's special event is YAT Game Night on January 21st at 6:00pm.

Confirmation

Sundays, 10:15-11:15am, Parlors

We are looking forward to a great year of sharing and growing our faith in Jesus Christ with this year's 7th & 8th graders, as well as learning about the privileges and responsibilities of an adult Christian life in Christ.



Just Older Youth

Older Adult Ministry (55+)

Tuesday, January 16th, 1:00pm, Parlors

This month's Special Presentation is entitled "Galloping Through the Gospel." This video shows an exploration of the major sites in the Gospels as seen in the life of Christ, beginning in Bethlehem. From there we will go to Nazareth and its surrounding area which witnessed so much of the Old Testament history of Israel. From Bethlehem, David takes us to Nazareth and its surrounding terrain. We journey into the wilderness, where John called people to repent, then view the River Jordan. In the lush beauty of Galilee, we visit many of the sites most associated with Jesus: the Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Capernaum, the lakeside, and much more. We discover why Jesus chose Caesarea Philippi at which to elicit Peter's momentous profession. We explore the headwaters of the Jordan around Dan before following the path of Jesus south to Jerusalem, passing through Jericho. In the Holy City, we trace the passion of Jesus from the betrayal, trial, and crucifixion to the resurrection and ascension.

We live in a time of new challenges and hopes as we look around our troubled world—a world too often focused on ourselves and not on our relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, whose birthday we just celebrated on December 25th. The question before us is:

"What do we find in Jesus?"

We find peace, and the PRINCE OF PEACE

We find righteousness and the RIGHTEOUS ONE

We find good counsel and the COUNSELOR

We find wonders and the WONDERFUL ONE

We find salvation and the SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

We find the Kingdom and the KING OF KINGS

Have you found Him daily in your life journey? I pray so!

Enjoy the New Year and God's daily blessings!

(See John 3:16, Romans 10:9 & Luke 2:30-32)

—Pastor Dennis Pegorsch

Nicaragua: The End of a Mission

For nine years, Trinity School has supported schools in the jungle areas of Nicaragua. During that time over \$25,000 has been raised, matched, and sent. This has helped over 4,000 students in 75 different schools. Trinity has provided money for brand new schools, new latrines, repair of roofs and desks. They bought endless textbooks and aids for teachers and students, library books, school supplies, white boards, sports equipment, and many bibles and religious books.

The Nicaraguan government is currently taking over all the jungle schools and students. The Catholic church is no longer allowed to have anything to do with these schools. The government is trying to shut down as many churches as they can. Assets of many Catholic churches have been frozen, priests have been arrested, and 24% of evangelical churches have also been closed by the government.

For this reason, Trinity is no longer able to send funds to Francisco Oporta to help those rural schools. It is hard saying good-bye to a friend. We have followed Francisco's journey as he left Wausau to return to Nicaragua. We learned about his jobs with non-profit organizations that helped schools; we prayed for him and his family when his father became very ill from a snake bite and when his sister broke her leg when her horse fell on her. We rejoiced with Francisco when he married his lovely wife, Katherine, and when they built a new home on her parent's farm. We will continue to pray for them. Francisco has a job for one year with the United Nations Office for Project Development as project manager as they build three new Catholic high schools in the cities, train teachers, and update computers. Katherine has received a scholarship for a two year program to get her master's in University Teaching. She will then be qualified to teach at a university.

God has blessed Trinity and Nicaragua in their partnership, and we pray God will continue to watch over the schools and students, and especially Fransico and Katherine.

School Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, January 21, 2024

Trinity School is raising money to serve lunch on our last school day picnic at Marathon Park—just like the good old days. Come one and all to the Cafeteria on Sunday, January 21st from 8:00-10:30am. It's ALL YOU CAN EAT—suggested donations to eat are listed below.. Join us for a delicious breakfast!

This third Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will kickoff National Lutheran School Week. All choirs and handbell groups will be singing/ringing at the 9:00am worship service.

Menu

Pancakes & Maple Syrup

Scrambled Eggs

Sausage Links

Fruit

Water, Milk, Orange Juice and Coffee

Suggested Donations

Adult (Ages 13+). \$8.00

Children (5-12 years old). \$5.00

Ages 4 and Under. Free



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CALENDAR—JANUARY 2024

Monday, January 1st, 2024:

New Year's Day—Offices and Childcare Closed

No Scheduled Events

Tuesday, January 2nd:

8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors

Wednesday, January 3rd:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

10:00 AM School Chapel Service—Sanctuary

5:30 PM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

Thursday, January 4th:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Friday, January 5th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, January 6th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, January 7th:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary

9:00 AM Blended Worship—Sanctuary

10:15 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary

10:15 AM Financial Peace University Class—Rm 203

10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors

10:15 AM Sunday School—ECC Rm, Library, Rm 212

11:30 AM Retirement Luncheon for Rev. Dr. Dennis W. Pegorsch (*attendees by RSVP*)—Gym

6:00 PM Jr. & Sr. YAT—Youth House

Monday, January 8th:

1:00 PM Goetsch/Wadzinski Women's Bible Study—Parlors

5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC

6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 9th:

8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors

9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge

1:00 PM LWML Women's Fellowship—Parlors

6:00 PM Board of Elders Meeting—Parlors

Wednesday, January 10th:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

10:00 AM School Chapel Service—Sanctuary

5:30 PM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

Thursday, January 11th:

10:00 AM Coffee & Conversation with Pastor
Mayland—Lounge

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Friday, January 12th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, January 13th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, January 14th:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary

9:00 AM Blended Worship—Sanctuary

10:15 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary

10:15 AM Financial Peace University Class—Rm 203

10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors

10:15 AM Sunday School—ECC Rm, Library, Rm 212

6:00 PM Sr. YAT—Youth House

Monday, January 15th:

5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC

6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

7:00 PM Men's Basketball—Gym

Tuesday, January 16th:

9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge

1:00 PM JOY Group—Parlors

Wednesday, January 17th:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

10:00 AM School Chapel Service—Sanctuary

5:30 PM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

Thursday, January 18th:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Friday, January 19th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, January 20th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors

5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, January 21st:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 8:00 AM Pancake Breakfast—Cafeteria
 9:00 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary
 10:15 AM Financial Peace University Class—Rm 203
 10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors
 10:15 AM Sunday School—ECC Rm, Library, Rm 212
 6:00 PM YAT Game Night—Youth House

Monday, January 22nd:

1:00 PM Goetsch/Wadzinski Women's Bible Study—Parlors
 5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC
 6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Tuesday, January 23rd:

8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors
 9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge

Wednesday, January 24th:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
 10:00 AM School Chapel Service—Sanctuary
 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

Thursday, January 25th:

6:30 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

Friday, January 26th:

8:00 AM Bulletin Assembly—Parlors

Saturday, January 27th:

8:00 AM Men's Bible Study—Parlors
 5:00 PM Contemporary Worship—Sanctuary

Sunday, January 28th:

7:30 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 9:00 AM Traditional Worship—Sanctuary
 10:15 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Sanctuary
 10:15 AM Financial Peace University Class—Rm 203
 10:15 AM Confirmation Class—Parlors
 10:15 AM Sunday School—ECC Rm, Library, Rm 212
 6:00 PM Sr. YAT—Youth House

Monday, January 29th:

4:00 PM School Open House—Various Classrooms
 5:45 PM Praise Team Rehearsal—SLC
 6:00 PM JuBellation Handbell Rehearsal—Sanctuary
 7:00 PM Men's Basketball—Gym

Tuesday, January 30th:

8:00 AM Quilters—Parlors
 9:30 AM MStaff Meeting—Lounge

Wednesday, January 31st:

9:00 AM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors
 9:00 AM School Chapel Service (*not 10am)—Sanctuary
 5:30 PM Adult Bible Study: Revelation—Parlors

OPEN HOUSE
TRINITY SCHOOL
 JANUARY 29, 2024 4:00-6:00PM

Take a tour, meet the teachers, and get a personal look at what sets Trinity apart!

Open Enrollment for 4K-8th Grade Begins January 15, 2024

At Trinity we educate for character as well as intellect; for faith as well as citizenship; for virtue as well as knowledge. We partner with families to meet needs and develop disciples.

Tuition Assistance is Available!

Please contact the school office for more information. Trinity is a participant of the **Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP)** which allows students who reside in a Wisconsin school district, to attend any participating private school if certain eligibility criteria are met. The private school, on behalf of the pupil's parent or guardian, receives a state aid payment for each eligible student.

For further details please go to:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/choice-programs>

Applications will be accepted February 1st–April 19th.

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR, TINA DICKENS

Facilities/Properties

There are no major Properties projects going on right now...that's a big change from the last few years. Please let a member of the Properties Committee know if there is something we should have on our radar.

Childcare Update

We have officially formed a Childcare Director/DCE Family Ministry Call Committee. We have a list of names from the District, and that's where we will start. Katie Claxton is heading up the committee from the School Board, and John Schult will serve as the Elder member. We thank all of those members who are willing and able to serve!

November Financial Summary

Repeat from last month in case you missed it...it's important that we all, as a congregation, understand this: We currently have 60 students enrolled through School Choice and a total of 175 students. This is a double-edged sword.

For every School Choice student, Trinity will receive \$9,800 (an increase of \$1,500/student from last year) in the *current* school year. School Choice participation requires that we spend that \$9,800/student per year on each School Choice student, *and* \$9800/student on each of our tuition paying students. Family paid tuition is *at most* \$2,800/student for *members* and \$4,500 for *non-members* (or members who do not meet attendance requirements*). The congregation pays *at least* \$7,000/student for *members* and \$5,300/student for *non-members**. This year, we need to spend roughly \$160,000 more than we needed to spend last year to stay compliant with this program – that is a BIG challenge when we try to keep tuition low for our families and cannot cover that additional expense with current tithes and offerings. We are in process of evaluating how to bring in more income to cover this. Our main sources of income are offerings, School Choice payments from the State, and family paid tuition.

The financial chart includes 4 line items at the bottom that show the “bottom” line for each area within the church. We are all one budget, but we do have individual responsibilities for our respective areas. There is also a comparison to last year in the chart. Highlights from last month's financials include:

- Childcare:
 - ♦ We have brought on 60% more children, and we are preparing to bring on more! With full baby (0-2 year-old) rooms, we have 13 babies in that age range on the waitlist. Childcare access is a BIG problem nationwide for a number of reasons – we are blessed to have a strong, qualified staff who are committed to sharing Jesus with these children and these families.
 - ♦ Our biggest opportunity to bring children on is ages 2-4. Trends show that this age range was born during the pandemic, and many have never been in childcare.
 - ♦ We are already seeing an influx of 4K inquiries for *next* year. We expect that to be a full class, which is exciting. Should we have a waitlist for 4K next year, we may consider splitting that class again.
- School:
 - ♦ See the above note regarding School Choice and the impact on finances this year. This is incredibly important and should be on everyone's radar.
 - ♦ School financials continue to look good this year. We rarely get to report that.
 - ♦ It is important to note that last year our School Choice payment wasn't recognized until December, so that is how it was budgeted this year. As a result, financials look far better than they are likely to look after December.
- Church:
 - ♦ **Tithes and offerings – I'm officially sounding the alarm. I keep telling vendors to take it easy on us because everything is going up but Tithes and Offerings. This is immediately critical. Tithes and Offerings in November were 67% of budget. In my 8 years here, this is the lowest I have seen it, and the November budget was not unreasonable. That brought us down to 85% of Tithes and Offerings for the fiscal year. We will be talking about this in January at Council as we look to preparing the new budget.**

FINANCIALS—NOVEMBER 2023

- ♦ This trend coincides with the announcement of the Estate gifts back in February. If we cannot correct this as a congregation, we will have to reserve the Estate gifts for operational expenses, for which they should not be used.
- ♦ If you have an idea about how we can be practicing better stewardship of the congregation's funds, or if you feel that we are not being good stewards in one area of another, please discuss that with Chad Schwantes, Chairman of the Congregation chairman@trinitynet.org. We strive to be good stewards of the LORD's gifts.
- OVERALL:
 - ♦ The downward trend of Tithes and Offerings is a big concern. As we try to grow ministry, we are concerned about having the resources to allocate to areas of interest. In short, people of the congregation want to see Trinity serving people in a meaningful way, but we don't currently have the resources to do everything we want to do.

We continue to pay down debt ahead of schedule. Debt is currently:

Endowment Loan: \$77,208 ← Perspective...we borrowed \$212,000 from the Endowment in 2018 with the goal of paying it back in 15 years – We are WAY ahead of schedule with interest.

Thrivent Loan: \$507,528 ← Perspective...this was just under \$1,000,000 when I began at Trinity in August 2015!

We fully anticipate this being below \$500,000 by the end of this fiscal year.

TOTAL Debt: \$584,736

Current account balances:

Checking: \$39,760

Savings: \$433,634

Endowment: \$828,922

May God continue to work within you to continue to support the ministry at Trinity with time, talents and treasure in Fiscal Year 2024...we are excited about gathering people to grow in faith and share Jesus with all, and we hope you are, too!

	Nov 23	Budget	% of Budget	Nov 22	Jul - Nov 23	YTD Budget	% of Budget	Jul - Nov 22	Annual Budget
Income									
CHILDCARE INC	25,745	38,047	68%	21,647	125,848	172,706	73%	123,240	440,467
COUNCIL INC	78,968	118,221	67%	84,245	440,695	519,472	85%	445,260	1,237,677
ELDERS INC	26	45	58%	0	499	180	277%	0	450
SCHOOL INC	150,825	47,093	320%	51,400	497,853	355,117	140%	363,382	1,335,563
Total Income	<u>255,564</u>	<u>203,406</u>	<u>126%</u>	<u>157,292</u>	<u>1,064,895</u>	<u>1,047,475</u>	<u>102%</u>	<u>931,882</u>	<u>3,014,157</u>
Gross Profit	255,564	203,406	126%	157,292	1,064,895	1,047,475	102%	931,882	3,014,157
Expense									
CHILDCARE EXP	43,496	39,126	111%	25,699	209,942	196,848	107%	141,173	505,548
COUNCIL EX	16,795	19,189	88%	20,532	79,871	89,436	89%	92,499	617,200
ELDERS EXP	40,312	42,990	94%	38,379	220,344	208,222	106%	193,250	524,164
SCHOOL EXP	110,627	101,759	109%	104,673	542,376	559,453	97%	560,398	1,367,245
Total Expense	<u>211,230</u>	<u>203,064</u>	<u>104%</u>	<u>189,283</u>	<u>1,052,533</u>	<u>1,053,959</u>	<u>100%</u>	<u>987,320</u>	<u>3,014,157</u>
Net Income	<u>44,334</u>	<u>342</u>	<u>12,963%</u>	<u>-31,991</u>	<u>12,362</u>	<u>-6,484</u>	<u>-191%</u>	<u>-55,438</u>	<u>0</u>
CHILDCARE Net Income	-17,751	-1,079	-16,672	-4,052	-84,094	-24,142	-59,952	-17,933	-65,081
CONGREGATIONAL Net Income	62,173	99,032	-36,859	63,713	360,824	430,036	-69,212	352,761	620,477
LAY MINISTRIES Net Income	-40,286	-42,945	2,659	-38,379	-219,845	-208,042	-11,803	-193,250	-523,714
SCHOOL Net Income	40,198	-54,666	94,864	-53,273	-44,523	-204,336	159,813	-197,016	-31,682

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REGULAR OFFICE HOURS are 7:30am-4:00pm. Door #1 (the main door entering the lobby) will be open during office hours—anything else will need to be scheduled through the church or school offices. **Please Note: Offices will be closed Mon., Jan. 1st for New Year's Day.**

MUSIC MINISTRY: Save the Date Join the musicians of Trinity on Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 4:00pm for a special Vespers Service celebrating God's love for us.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2024 are available for pick-up this month in the Narthex. They are arranged in alphabetical order—thank you to Lynn Wadzinski for volunteering to set them out! If you are one of our homebound members and would like to receive your envelopes via mail or visiting pastor, please let the church office know. If you are not currently assigned offering envelopes and would like a box for 2024, please let the church office know.

GIVING STATEMENTS FOR 2023 will be mailed out at the end of this month, so you should receive your statement within the first couple weeks of February. **If we do not have your correct address on file, the Post Office will send your statement back to Trinity.* To update your address, please call the church office. Statements for which we have an incorrect address or no address on file will be placed in the Narthex for pick-up.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS—ANNUAL RENEWAL If you were a subscriber to The Lutheran Witness in 2023 and would like to remain a subscriber for 2024, please send a check for \$27.75 to the Church Office **no later than Friday, January 26th.** Checks can be made out to "Trinity Church." If you subscribed in 2023 but would like to cancel your subscription for 2024, please let the Church Office know by January 26th. **Your subscription from 2023 will be automatically renewed for 2024 unless you contact the Church Office.**

If you have not subscribed to The Lutheran Witness in the past but would like to subscribe for 2024, please let the Church Office know before January 26th. The Lutheran Witness is the official publication of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is published 11 times per year (March-February), keeping you updated with news from around the Synod and addressing topical issues with feature articles, columns, Q&As, and more that will both inform and inspire.

10% DINE TO DONATE OPPORTUNITIES Continue your fellowship at Trinity by dining at **Texas Roadhouse** on Sundays. Present your church bulletin to your server, and 10% of your food bill will be donated to Trinity! Buy Scrip gift cards before you go and earn even more for Trinity. Fundraising doesn't get any easier than this!

SCRIP 90% of the Scrip fundraising program is required to be run by volunteers. Thank you to all of our volunteer Scrip sellers on the weekends between worship services, and thank you to Barb for weekly processing orders. *We could not utilize this amazing program that supports Trinity without each and every one of you.* **We are in need of volunteers to sell Scrip on Saturday evenings after worship—we currently have no one signed up at this time.** We are also in need of volunteers to sell Scrip Monday through Friday, 7:00-8:00am and 2:00-4:00pm. The commitment for these hours is no different than selling Scrip over the weekends. Scrip will be sold in the offices from 8:00am to 2:00pm until we have weekday volunteers. Scrip will continue to be sold at the counter in the Narthex after the 7:30am Sunday service until the 9am service, and after the 9am service until the 10:15am Spiritual Growth Hour. Scrip may not be sold during the weekends if there is no volunteer seller signed up.

TRINITY BLOOD DRIVE, sponsored by the Human Care Committee, is being held on Tuesday, February 13th from 8am to 6:30pm at the Blood Center of Northcentral Wisconsin (211 Forest St., Wausau). Help us make a difference in our community!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR MAYLAND Now that I've been here a year, I've decided that I'd like to find a less formal setting to sit down and get to know you, the members. As I pondered how to make this happen, it dawned on me that there is no better "Lutheran beverage in the morning" than coffee. As such, I am planning to host a monthly "coffee and conversation with the Pastor" hour. The first one will be held on Thursday, January 11th at 10:00am in the Lounge. In the words of the Ghost of Christmas Present, "Come in, and know me better, man."

CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE Harmann Studios is currently working on a second proof of our new Pictorial Directory. We have submitted changes/updates after receiving their first proof in December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (CONT.)

CHURCH OFFICERS & BOARD CONTACTS

COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP Is Christian fellowship within Trinity's membership important to you? Do you enjoy coffee and/or treats? Pray about hosting a Coffee Hour! Coffee Hour provides refreshments and fellowship opportunities between worship services on Sunday, and is a wonderful way you can serve! ***Coffee Hour this year will be held every Sunday morning that there is a volunteer signed up*** between the 7:30 & 9am worship services and between 9am worship and 10:15am Spiritual Growth Hour. Coffee Hour will not be held if there is no volunteer signed up. For more information or to sign up, please see the sign up sheet outside the Sanctuary.

EARLY ENROLLMENT for the 2023-24 school year will begin on January 15th. Enrollment forms for next year will come home with your child after the holidays.

FELLOWSHIP & PR is looking for more volunteers to serve on their committee! Under the supervision of Trinity's Church Council, the Fellowship & PR Committee oversees the bringing together of our congregation through various events, such as Coffee Hour, Years of Service and Retirement recognitions, and other annual events like the Brat Fry & Corn Roast. If you are interested in serving on this committee or would like more information, please contact the church office. Thank you!

ALTAR FLOWERS Thank you to all who provided altar flowers this year—they really brighten the Sanctuary and make our worship experience even more beautiful! The 2024 Altar Flower chart is now posted outside the Church Administrator's office—sign up today!

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP & PRAISE TEAM We recently sent out surveys and held a Town Hall meeting where we talked about the Saturday night Contemporary worship service and the Spiritual Life Center (SLC). After reviewing all of the feedback, it is clear to the Board of Elders that a majority of Saturday attendees are excited to move the service back to the SLC. Jerry's Music is helping us determine what is all needed to help make this transition, as we plan for February. We'll keep you posted on the progress.

WPCP SCHOOL CHOICE Do you know of someone who would like to send their child/children to Trinity but don't because of tuition costs? Did you qualify for WPCP last year? You must re-enroll every year. Open enrollment for School Choice is February 1st through April 19th. Please contact the school office with any questions.



Congregational Officers

Chad Schwantes, *Chairman*
Chairman@trinitynet.org 715-355-3027

Ron Edwards, *Vice-Chairman*
ViceChairman@trinitynet.org 715-845-2972

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Lenore Breit, *Treasurer*
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Board of Elders Elders@trinitynet.org

Doug Beisner	
Raun Egner	
Todd Hauer	Tim Rock
Craig Hoehne	John Schult
Dan Oelke	Dan Schwantes
Terry Page	Eric Sneider
Bob Popelka	Bob Zimmerman

School Board

Katie Claxton
 Barb Emerson
 Emily Jolin
 Sallie Kitzrow

SchoolBoard@trinitynet.org

James Kramer
 Dick Kriewaldt
 Stephanie Lynn
 Marie Traska

Church Council

Brian Barkow
 Dave Christian
 Darryl Neumann
 Chad Schwantes, *Congregational Chairman*
 Ron Edwards, *Congregational Vice Chairman*
 Jamie Schlei, *Congregational Secretary*
 Lenore Breit, *Congregational Treasurer*
 Raun Egner, *Chairman of Board of Elders*
 James Kramer, *Chairman of School Board*
 Rev. James Mayland, *Senior Pastor*
 Bill Zuelsdorff, *Principal*
 Tina Dickens, *Church Administrator*

ChurchCouncil@trinitynet.org



CHURCH & SCHOOL

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