

The Contact January 2012

A Publication of Trinity Lutheran Church - An Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

204 First Street NW, New Richland MN 56072

Grounded in faith, gathered in love, and sent with a purpose: so that others may gain the King.

Happy New Year—2012!!

I trust that 2012 will be a joyous and healthy year for all of you. If the year past was difficult for you or someone you know, may this year be one of new and blessed beginnings.

New beginnings are important for all of us—even if we're getting old enough to not enjoy changes as much as we perhaps used to. New beginnings help keep us alert and active both physically, mentally and spiritually. New beginnings work to give us life, keeping negative thoughts and feelings from taking the joy of life away from us. One of these negatives is characterized by the phrase, "It'll never work."

I received an article last month sometime with these examples of things that people thought would never work.

* *"Heavier-than-air flying machines are impossible."* (Lord Kelvin, British mathematician and physicist, 1895)

* *"The horse is here to stay but the automobile is only a novelty-a fad."* (President of Michigan Savings Bank advising Henry Ford's lawyer not to invest in Ford Motor Company, 1903)

* *"There is no reason anyone would want a computer in their home"*, (Ken Olson, president of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977)

These were well-respected people who had let negativity take control of their vision for the future. They were afraid of new ideas, uncomfortable with changes. It happens both outside of and inside the church.

Jesus reminds us in Luke 5, "No one tears a piece from a new garment and sews it on an old one ... and no one puts new wine into old wineskins ... But the new wine must be put into fresh wineskins."

May the changes of this new year be pleasant for you. And may you be open to the changes God will provide. Happy New Year! Pastor Paul Andree

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 15, 10:15 AM in the fellowship hall. Childcare will be provided!

The Annual Meeting will include:

- Pictorial Review of Trinity Ministry in 2010
- Election of people to the Congregation Council
- Approve budget for 2012
- Review of Possible ministries in 2012 – What areas of ministry does Pastor Paul believe God wants us

to explore?

Congregational potluck will immediately follow adjournment of the meeting.

Worship With Us

January 1 / Holy Communion

The Name of Jesus. The first Sunday of the month is New Year's Day, traditionally the designated holy day for The Name of Jesus. The year begins in the name of Jesus to remind us that the whole year belongs to our God.

January 8 / Holy Communion

Baptism of Our Lord

Parents of children who were baptized during the past year are encouraged to bring the baptism candles to worship for a celebration of baptism.

January 15

Four friends of a paralytic create a stir by crashing a Jesus party. The annual meeting of the congregation will be held after the service.

January 22

The Geresene demoniac goes from playing in cemeteries to witnessing to Jesus. **January 29** Jesus gets interrupted on the way to heal Jairus' daughter.

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

Prayer and Blessing for a New Year

The slate is clean, Lord, the calendar is as bare as the Christmas tree. Bless the new year that beckons. We sing of you as help in ages past but need to know you as hope for years to come. Help us face what we must, celebrate every triumph we can, and make changes we need. We're celebrating to the fullest this whistle blowing, toast-raising moment, for it is the threshold between the old and the new us.

Around the Bend

I'm getting a crick in my neck trying to see around the bend, God of past and future. I'm wearing myself out second guessing. Teach me to live in today, needing just a small glimpse down the road. No need to borrow trouble that may not be waiting.

Answers

We pray but don't feel answered, Lord. Help us

understand that regardless of the answers we want, being connected to you through prayer is changing us into “can do” people. We can find solution, we can try again, Looking back, we understand you did answer.

From Simple Prayers & Blessings by Margaret Anne Huffman and Gary Wilde

Reflections on the Liturgy: Blessing and Dismissal

With the start of the new year there are lots of resolutions made. From weight loss to personal goals, the first day of January seems like the best date to start something new. When we worship together we end with a blessing. We hear words like, “The Lord bless you and keep you... The Lord make His face shine on you... and give you peace” so that we might have a fresh start with the work that God has called us to do outside the doors of Trinity. Showered with blessings we can make resolutions to work for justice and peace, to be generous, to use our talents.

In the book, Crazy Talk, author Rolf Jacobson defines blessing as “an action or gift that is a sign of divine favor.” He explains “God blesses us in two ways. First, God blesses us directly when God gives us undeserved gifts—a sunny day, a good friend, a rhubarb pie. Second, God blesses us indirectly when we speak words or do actions that bless others.”

Blessings can be personally experienced but also communally granted. This is the gift of worship, that a community can be reminded of their identity, purpose, and their commissioning of love. So it makes sense that the final formal word of the liturgy is the dismissal, “Go in peace! Serve the Lord.” And our natural response is, “Thanks be to God!” This dismissal is the action step of a blessing.

May God bless your words and actions this day!

Faithful Living

Bible Bits is a book-by-book overview that will help put the whole Bible into an understandable context. For example:

UPDATE: 2 John

WRITTEN: Around A.D. 90

WRITTEN BY: John, the disciple

WRITING STYLE: A letter

OVERVIEW: Keep your chin up and your hearts open, but keep a close watch on your faith.

The Bible isn't a book like an encyclopedia. It isn't just full of facts. It is the record of God's actions and people's reactions. Second John is a good example of the

slice-of-life style of the bible. It is a letter that John wrote either to an actual woman or to the church (using “lady” as a metaphor). It contains about the amount of words that would fit on one papyrus sheet of paper. It is a very personal letter like one you might write to a friend going through a difficult time. What would you tell him? You would tell him to concentrate on what matters. You would tell him to keep his chin up. You would tell him to listen to the right people. That's what John did.

Concentrate on what matters: “His command is that you walk in love.: 2 JOHN 6

Listen to the right people: “Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God.” 2 JOHN 9

From The Everyday Guide to the Bible by Carol Smith

God's Global Barnyard

A unique gift and the chance to change a life

Are you looking for a new tradition to start in your home? One that offers long-lasting solutions to end poverty, injustice, human suffering and hunger? Then I have a suggestion for you. Put a “God's Global Barnyard” barn on your kitchen counter. Rhonda and I are going to start this tradition. We are going to drop our spare change into the barn. The gift will go to ELCA World Hunger. At the end of the year or when your box is full, bring it to church. The barn will be taken to the bank to have the coins counted. **Make sure your name is on the barn so you can get a receipt for tax purposes.**

In parts of the world where the food supply is precarious, a hearty goat can survive under challenging conditions, giving milk that nourishes and sells. Feed a family with the gift of a goat—not just for one day, but for a lifetime.

Or a hen and chicks can give a woman the opportunity to earn income and care for her family. Or a gravity-fed water system can give a children and families clean water and helps prevent illness. Or a dairy cow can help farmers work their way out of poverty by providing milk to drink and sell.

What story will your Lutheran World Relief gift tell? There are many possibilities. But one thing is certain—the person in need will get the chance to change their life.

Your gift of love tells a story that eases suffering, ends poverty and promotes peace. Thank you for starting this tradition.

The barns will be on the table as you enter the

worship center in about one week.

"Lord, when was it that we saw you
hungry..."Matthew 25:37.

Pastor Paul Andree

January/February Mission Action Project

The HIV/AIDS Epidemic has added enormous challenges to health care worldwide. An AIDS/Hospice Kit for Global Health Ministries can help Provide cleanliness and comfort to someone who is suffering. The F.I.S.H. (youth in 3-6 grade) will be collecting items and/or complete kits during January and February. Please see the display and drop off basket in the back of the church. All members of the Trinity community welcome to participate!

One Hospice Kit contains:

New or gently used items:

1 regular size bath towel, 1 wash cloth

New items:

1 bath size bar of hand soap (wrapped) - any brand
1 toothbrush, 1 toothpaste (size medium or large, or two small sample size - any brand), 1 "pick" comb,
1 nail clipper, 6 Band-Aids, 1 jar of petroleum jelly 4 oz. or larger, 1 pair of heavy-duty household gloves (kitchen type, size medium), 1 small devotional booklet, does not need to be current.

Drop your gifts in the Mission of the Month box on the mission table in the narthex.

New Richland Area Food Shelf

January is Main Dish Month

Canned meat, Hamburger Helper, Tuna Helper, etc. Food collection is **Sunday, January 15.**

Mission of the Month for January

Women's Shelter Inc. offers temporary safety and shelter for women and children who are in immediate need of a refuge. 24 hour staffing is available to help provide a myriad of services: medical, legal, support groups and information groups.

For shelter, advocacy or information, call (507) 285-1010 or 800-438-6439. The focus of our mission in January is to supply paper products, feminine hygiene products and diapers that can be used by mothers and children who have had to leave home suddenly and are in need of these items during their stay in the shelter. Thank you so much for your contribution that might ease their situation in a practical way. Pastor Paul

Trinity Lutheran sells "Fair Trade" coffees and teas. One of the ways we can answer the call to "do justice" is by improving the lives of small-scale farmers throughout the world. Fair Trade coffee is a simple solution that can mean the difference between surviving and not surviving for these farmers. There is a good selection of regular and decaffeinated coffee, regular and decaffeinated teas and herbal teas in the display cabinet by the office.

Quilting

The quilters meet on Mondays at 9:00 AM in the south room of the Education Wing. A thank you to all who have contributed in 2011 both in supplies and helping to put the quilts together. Fillers such as blankets, cotton flannel sheets and mattress pads are always needed. Everyone is welcomed to come and join us. Contact Avis Rugroden or Barb Solberg.

MISSION TABLE

Don't forget our ongoing collections of Campbell's labels, Box Tops for Education, and milk tops, used ink jets and cell phones, baby care and personal comfort supplies and Haiti mission needs. These items can also be dropped off in the baskets in the narthex. So much of what we throw away can have and give new life in the right hands. Thank you for your continued support.

More things that can be used/reused/recycled:

1. **2011 calendars** that feature photos of nature or have scripture. Julie can use them for the display board in the narthex.
2. **Crayon pieces**
3. **My Coke Rewards points:** a volunteer enters them on the MCR website for charities such as the USO and World Wildlife Fund, National World War II Museum and more. Points are found on the inside flap of cartons of Coca-Cola products and on bottle caps. Products include:
 - All varieties of Coca-Cola, diet, caffeine free, etc.
 - Dasani water
 - Powerade
 - Minute Maid juices
 - Fanta
 - Vault
 - Barq's root bear
 - Fresca
 - Mr. Pibb
 - Mello Yello

- Nestea
- Seagram's ginger ale

There is a basket for them on the Mission Table.

Candles are especially popular during the holidays. Bring what's left of them to church for the Haiti Mission Needs basket. Leftovers are melted and made into new candles by volunteers in Rochester.

Why not pick up a list of the Haiti Mission Needs and perhaps one of the kits. When you're going through your closets/garage/attic you may find items to donate. When you're shopping for post-holiday bargains, perhaps you will find some kit items!

Faith Formation: Adults

Lutherans filter things through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is our starting point and our ending point when it comes to life, faith and understanding the Bible.

WELCA

Bible Study and TWELCA general meeting is January 11th at 2:00 PM. Circle 1 serves.

Saturday Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (M'sBB)

Saturday, January 14th at 7:30 AM. Have plans? Now you do! Join with other Trinity men who enjoy breakfast, fellowship, and Bible study together. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall for breakfast at 7:30, study at 8:00 and we'll be on our way at 9:00. Please email or call Pastor Paul so Rhonda knows how much food to prepare.

B.R.I.D.G.E.

Building Relationship in Dynamic Group Experiences
Pastor Paul is preparing for a BRIDGE group to start the week of February 26 (8 weeks). A BRIDGE group is made up of 6-10 people who use a prepared resource to discuss the contents of the weekly sermon and readings. It's a great way to get to know people and to study with others who are living out their relationship with Christ in their day-to-day life. Groups meet at a variety of days and times. Contact Pastor Paul if you would like to participate or lead a BRIDGE group!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Have you been thinking of making Trinity your church home? Great! Please contact Pastor Paul.

Please feel free to participate in any activity that

Trinity has to offer as you do not need to be a member first to get involved. We are just glad you are here.

Welcome to Trinity!

BOOK NEWS: A Renewed Prayer Life

Are you making New Year's resolutions? How about a desire to enrich your prayer life and experience a deeper walk with God? Here are some books that can help you in your personal growth.

Where Is God In My Praying? Biblical Responses to Eight Searching Questions by Daniel

Simundson. The author uses biblical texts and examples to discuss how God answers prayer, how we know He is listening and what things to ask for.

Whole Prayer by Walter Wangerin Jr. This awarding winning author (currently fighting cancer) examines our prayer stance and what it really means to pray, to talk **with** God rather than **to** him. He defines prayer as having four acts, four discrete parts. These parts are: 1. We speak. 2. God listens. 3. God speaks. 4. We listen.

Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference? By Philip Yancey. Yancey explores numerous questions about prayer that many of us wonder about but few of us know how to express. He addresses unanswered prayer and prayer for physical healing.

Praying For Wholeness and Healing by Richard J. Beckmen. This guide includes reflection questions and prayerful Biblical activities to practice. Beckman also addresses unanswered prayer and how forgiveness relates to healing.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY (CYF) NEWS

Thank you, Christmas Program volunteers! Jenny Johnson and Lana Purdie thank everyone who helped make the Christmas Program and lunch a success. The children did a great job with the help of their teachers and staff. Without the volunteers who helped with all aspects of the program and lunch, we couldn't make this happen. We truly appreciate each and every one who contributed in any way all the way to the end.
THANK YOU!

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS

If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home from SS. We ask parents to follow the same

policy that schools and daycare use. If your child is sick, please stay home from Sunday School to prevent spreading the illness to others. Thank you in advance on behalf of Trinity's Sunday School family.

FAMILY MOVIE AND GAME NIGHT

January 22 at 4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Starting at 4:30 PM, we will have board games set up in the Fellowship Hall (bring a favorite, labeled with your name). At 5:30 PM we will have a potluck supper. We will be watching the movie *Rio* at 6:00 PM. The church will provide popcorn and lemonade. For the supper, please bring a potluck item. If you would like, bring a snack to share during the movie. Also, bring your favorite movie watching items: blankets, pillows, slippers, etc. As always, friends are welcome. See you there! Come for just one part or stay for the whole time! Contact Pastor Paul.

Faith Steps for Families

Trinity Lutheran Church is embarking on a new ministry which brings students and their parents or other adults who love them into high-energy, multi-sensory short-courses that cover the basics of their faith. "Faith Steps for Families" incorporates traditional Bible basics with experiences such as grape stomping, sign-language, science experiments, group physical activities and more in order to bring God's Living Word to life for today's families. Faith Steps breaks the classes down by grade levels and interfaces with kids where they are in their developmental process. Faith Steps is open to all families in the community. Please contact Pastor Paul Andree at 465-3635 for more information.

The next Faith Steps classes are January 22 January 29, and February 5 from 10:15-11:15 AM. "Who Am I? Real People in God's Plan" These classes are for or 6th grade students and their parents and will meet in the Fellowship Hall. Parents will be getting information by email.

Series Overview:

Heroes of the Bible? Yes, we have used these terms in the past. What's really cool about this unit is that we look at the humanity of 8 key Biblical individuals and find and who we relate to and in which ways? Years may separate us from them, but we are all pretty similar in God's eyes.

Theme: Relating to people in the Bible

Highlight activities:

✓ Slow motion videos

- ✓ "Whoizzit" game
- ✓ Superhero Sundaes
- ✓ Would You Rather . . . ?

Key Bible verse is Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

F.I.S.H. (Fun In Serving Him). Youth in grades 4-6 will meet on Wednesday January 18th after school.

7-12 grade summer trip planning meeting Sunday, January 8th, at 10:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Parents and youth are invited to meet with Pastor Paul to explore some summer trip possibilities, including backpacking, canoeing in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota, urban immersion trip to the Twin Cities (urbanimmersion.gmcc.org), Youthworks mission trips (youthworks.com). We will look at these on the big screen TV.

B.R.I.D.G.E. For Youth

Building Relationship in Dynamic Group Experiences Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to bring a friend on Sunday, January 29, to the basement Fellowship Hall. This is an opportunity for youth to discuss ideas, thoughts, and share how the gospel may connect with their lives each week. We will also talk about a summer trip.

News of Congregational Life

We encourage you to share in the times of joy and sorrow with fellow members of God's family at Trinity.

THANKSGIVINGS

Rhonda and I thank everyone who sent Christmas cards and other gifts of kindness in this season. In these days, we all join Christians in heaven and on earth singing praise to God for the gift of Jesus—God incarnate in our world in human flesh.

DEATHS

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. *1 Cor. 15:51-52*

- Christian comfort to Kari Buendorf and her family as they mourn the death of her grandmother,

Gladys Mann, who died on December 18th.

Pray for all those who are mourning loved ones and all who are alone or feel alone. Please pray that they will be reassured of God's great love for them, and feel God's presence with them.

When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

LET'S PRAY!

"I want all of you to develop intimacies in prayer."

1 Corinthians 14:5

Please notify Pastor Paul if you or anyone you know has a prayer need, or when you or a loved one is hospitalized, has a baby, or a death occurs in the family. (465-3635 or email him). The prayer is then passed on through a phone chain to other members of Trinity that will pray about your request. Please include who you are, relationship to person needing prayers, and what type of prayers are needed.

Daily prayer is an intentional and meaningful way to strengthen and nurture your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Trinity prayer ministry invites you to Pause to Pray with our faith community twice each day, at 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM. **To join the prayer ministry team, phone or e-mail Pastor Andree at: paandree@hickorytech.net with your name, e-mail address and phone number.**

Pray for all those who are in nursing facilities, ill at home or are undergoing treatment: **Jay and Pearl Anderson, Merrill Johnson, Natalie Johnson**-sister of Darlene Abraham, **Elaine Sybilrud and Julie**-relatives of Audrey Jensen, **Stathi Saltis**-infant cousin of friend of Scott and Julie Routh, **Lori Sunderman**-friend of Pam and Larry Goehring, **Bev Sandberg**, friend of Audrey Jensen, **Robert Enestvedt**—father of Connie Kaupa, **Matt Pakko**, nephew of Donna Hedman, **David Gardner**- brother-in-law of Donna Hedman, **Winn Ann Simser, Willie Klus**-friend of Audrey Jensen, **Samantha Nechanicky**-friend of Eva, Owen, and Quinn Wayne, **David Mueller**-brother-in-law of Curt Krause, **Kathy Sherbert**-niece of Elroy Boelter, **Helen Thompson, Dawn Halgren, Karen Widboom, Wayne Billing.**

For those serving in the military: **Colton Eustice, David White and Ernesto Quezada.**

Prayer question: Does God answer prayers immediately? Not necessarily. God has promised to

hear and answer our prayers. Since God sees what we cannot see and He knows what we cannot know, He chooses – in His goodness – to answer our prayers not only in the perfect way, but also at the perfect time. God's sense of time may be different than our own. He is never a minute early in His response nor a moment too late. So when you find yourself frustrated by or wondering when God will answer, remember and trust and give thanks that He will always do what is best at the absolute best time.

Trinity Lutheran Prayer Lap Shawl Ministry

Colorful, cozy, comforting softness in a prayer lap shawl. Care; love; prayer. Give a prayer lap shawl and seek healing: body, mind, spirit to bless the one who suffers. You are invited to reach out to someone you know who suffers, providing love, prayers and caring by giving a prayer lap shawl from Trinity. Contact Pastor Paul.

Giving

Living Stewardship: Start with Prayer

Dear members and friends of Trinity:

Thank you for your faithfulness in attendance, serving, and giving this year.

The nightly news seems to contain nothing but the bad and negative. Let me give you some good news about your investment in God's work through our church. Six Children were baptized this year. The 3-6 graders, F.I.S.H, meet once a month, after school. There are usually 3 or so who come who do not belong to Trinity. They have put over 275 health kits and 13 personal comfort kits together that get sent overseas. The 3-6 graders went for two days at Prairie River Bible Camp. The men's group is going well. The Sunday School staff and children gave a wonderful program this year entitled, "Christmas Letters." We had a Seder Meal for the fifth graders (who were getting ready to take First Communion) with their parents. We started Faith Steps for Families, a new faith formation experience for parents and their children. We have taken people to Feed My Starving Children at Eagan. We are involved in our community. We have let non-profit organizations use our church building. We provide space for the New Richland Area Food Shelf. We partially support a missionary, Lutheran World Relief (ELCA) and Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

We're all in this together. We're on the same team,

and one day we'll all celebrate together at the feet of Jesus! Be faithful! Keep your eyes on Jesus! God created you. Jesus died for you. The Holy Spirit lives in you. You've been called, gifted, and anointed for your ministry. Never give up! Someone once said it is how you handle the middle of you life not your beginning that determines your ending.

Being a disciple of Jesus is a marathon, not a 50-yard dash. It's not how you start that matters. It's how you finish the race. Sustainability counts more than speed. Don't give up! Paul tells us to run the race for a "heavenly reward that never disappears" (1 Cor. 9:25). Live with your eyes on eternity.

The psalmist says to give God glory, come close and bring your best (Ps. 96:8). As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let us offer our gifts in thanks for God's precious gift to us.

Prayer: In your holy presence, God, we give thanks and praise and bring our gifts. May they be used to bring love and peace to your troubled Earth. This we do in the name of Jesus, born this day in Bethlehem. Amen.

Sincerely, Pastor Paul Andree

Offerings to the General Fund of Trinity

- 11/27/2011 \$ 1,665.00
- 12/4/2011 \$ 891.50
- 12/11/2011 \$ 2,779.00
- 12/18/2011 \$ 3,123.00
- 12/24/2011 \$ 3,208.00
- 12/25/2011 \$ 1,605.00

The December financial statements will be in your mailbox on January 8.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

- A gift of \$150 to the Elevator Fund in memory of **Hilbert, Paul, and Jim Truebenbach** by Laura Truebenbach.
- A gift of \$200 to the Altar Guild by TWELCA.
- A gift of \$50 to the Altar Guild by Circle I.
- A gift of \$15 to the Altar Guild in honor of **shut-ins** by Circle I.

NEED OFFERING ENVELOPES?

Please contact the church secretary, Julie Routh, when you need more envelopes. If you have any questions about your contributions, please feel free to call Mary Berg, Financial Secretary.

MISSION CALENDAR

Remember or honor someone on a special day by giving \$10 to the Mission Calendar.

January 7	In honor of Jaclyn Peterson Mann on her birthday by her grandfather, Vince Peterson
January 11	In memory of Peggy Reese Uecker on Her 60th birthday by her parents, Joyce and Theresa Reese
January 13	In honor of Tom Rankin on his birthday by his father-in-law, Vince Peterson
January 25	In honor of Sam Rankin on his birthday by his grandfather, Vince Peterson

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

Make your offering permanent! Include Trinity Lutheran Church in your will or estate plan.

We are only one generation from faithlessness and godlessness. If one generation fails to pass the torch, then the next generation will not recognize God and will live in ignorance of God's will for life. We often leave this effort of legacy to experts (pastors, youth leaders), but we all need to reclaim the legacy – the legacy of faith. The question then is this: "What do you want your legacy to look like?"

What is The Endowment Fund?

The Endowment Fund at Trinity was created to help answer some of these concerns. The fund is not about current accounts, but rather the future investment in our legacy of faith, an investment that could last forever. What better place for a portion of our assets, assets that when no longer needed will continue to promote this legacy of faith. Members of our church community can make gifts to the Endowment Fund in their will or estate plan to ensure that the work of the church continues long after they are gone. This Endowment Fund is close to home, with a pure mission, helped along by people you love and who care. Please think and pray about how you can insure the continuation of our legacy of faith.

For more information, please contact the Dawn Halgren, Larry Goehring or Pastor Paul.

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 9th, 2011 @ 7pm

Quorum was declared with Paul Andree, Dale Bayerkohler, Terry Hansen, Larry Goehring, Jeff Jessen, Jennifer Johnson, Kim Berg, Dean Buendorf, Scott Schuller, Lana Purdie and Gail Schmidt. All members were present!

Motion was made to accept the October 2011 minutes, as they were presented in the contact, by Terry Hansen with a second by Dale Bayerkohler. Verbal vote was to accept.

Reviewed the October 2011 financial activities and with no discussion a motion was made by Gail Schmidt and a second by Larry Goehring to accept as posted. Verbal vote was to accept.

Worship and Evangelism report was given and discussed. Joint Thanksgiving worship service with St Peter Lutheran Church @ St Peter @ 7pm will be held. Christmas day service will be held like a "normal" Sunday at 9am. There is a need for some pictures of a few events such as Blessing of the bikes and Blessing of the animals. If anybody can get hold of some please pass them on to Gail Schmidt. Discussion was held regarding sound and screen in the worship center. Members of the council will check with a few places and come back to report next month.

Education and Youth report was given. Faith Steps was held for the 4 yr olds and their parents. Christmas program for the Sunday school kids will be held December 18th at 11am with a potluck meal to follow, everybody is invited to attend. The youth would like to hold a lock in at the church. There will be a limit to the number of friends one can bring and we will be looking for adults willing to stay over with the kids. There will be rules places and when they are not followed youth will be asked to call their parents and leave. Adult bible study is being held currently on some Tuesday nights following the "Fireproof" movie. Anybody wishing to join please contact Pastor Paul.

Property and Management report was given. Terry Hansen along with the nominating committee is looking for 3 or 4 people willing to serve on the council this next year. Copier company was here offering a new improved copier, discussion was held and our copier we have works just fine so we plan to make no improvements at this time. Discussion was held regarding snow removal and Jeff Johnson has offered to do this again this year. Council approved. Kipp Boese will be looking at some doors around the building that need some work done. Long discussion

was held on the prices of the rental of the church and kitchen. These fees have not been raised in over 10 years. Property and Management will have a sub committee meeting and bring fees back to next months meeting. Community service workers being allowed at the church was discussed.

St Olaf Cemetery report was given by Larry Goehring. Discussion was held on some markers for winter that were hard to find along with one being damaged already this year. Talked about the possibility of putting up year round markers that would state the block of the plots, so as to be used as a map of directions for visitors also.

Pastor's Report

- Conducted wedding on October 15th for Craig Eustice and Rachael Berg.
- Had by coaching session for Journey of Renewal on October 19th at 9:00am on the phone.
- Conducted worship at the 3 sites in New Richland on November 1.
- Attended Excelling Mission at Zion Lutheran Church, Stewartville, on November 1.

With no further information to discuss a motion by Larry Goehring and seconded by Lana Purdie to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jennie Johnson

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting. Minutes December 14th, 2011 @ 7pm

Quorum was declared with Paul Andree, Dale Bayerkohler, Kim Berg, Dean Buendorf, Gail Schmidt, Terry Hansen, Larry Goehring, Jeff Jessen and Jennifer Johnson. Excused were Scott Schuller and Lana Purdie.

Motion was made to accept the November 2011 minutes, as they were presented in the email, by Terry Hansen with second by Gail Schmidt. Verbal vote was to accept.

Reviewed the November 2011 financial activities and with no discussion a motion was made by Dean Buendorf and a second by Gail Schmidt to accept as posted. Verbal vote was to accept.

Property and Management report was given. meeting agenda was discussed and it was asked that we only put the topic of items that had needed attention. Agendas were getting too long. New Rental Policies were reported, a motion by Terry Hansen and second by Dean Buendorf to approve. Verbal vote was to accept. New Rental Policy will be printed in the contact. Terry

Hansen was going to work on getting a quote on a new front door of the church along with replacement for the back door by the kitchen and Sunday school rooms wing. Jennie Johnson was going to contact Jeff Reese regarding fixing a door at the parsonage.

Worship and Evangelism report was given and discussed. Facebook page is up and trying to stay current, those Facebook users please like and stay alerted to the news. Cordless microphone for the church was missing, it did re-appear before the Christmas Eve service. We are having some quotes done for sound and screen information for the church worship center.

Education and Youth report was given and discussion was made as to what time the Christmas program should be held. Motion was made by Dale Bayerkohler and second by Kim Berg to keep it at the time posted of 11am. Verbal vote was to accept. Discussion was held of the idea of having game and social night the last Saturday of each month in hopes of getting more adults together at the church to get to know one another and enjoy some social time. St Olaf Cemetery report was given by Larry Goehring. Nothing new to report all is quite and calm out there. Pastor Paul's report:

- Presided at a wedding for non-members in the Twin Cities on November 12
- Attended the MN. River Conference Pastor's meeting at Grace Lutheran, Waseca, on November 15th.
- Presided at worship at Whispering Oaks, Ellendale, on November 25th.

Next regular council meeting is January 11th, 2012 at 7pm. With no further information to discuss a motion

by Dean Buendorf and seconded by Gail Schmidt to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jennie Johnson

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Father-Daughter Purity Ball Friday, February 24 OR Saturday, February 25** beginning at 5:00 at the Verizon Wireless Center, 1 Civic Plaza, Mankato, MN. Guest speaker is Lakita Garth-Wright, author of The Naked Truth, what many call the "Bible" of abstinence education. Reservations are \$50 per person if received by February 10 and \$60 after the 10th. Reservations must be received by February 14. Contact Terry or Wendy Hansen.

BRAND NEW

I am the new year. I am an unspoiled page in your book of time. I am your next chance at the art of living. I am your opportunity to practice what you have learned about life during the last 12 months. All you sought and didn't find is hidden in me, waiting for you to search it but with more determination. All the good your tried for and didn't achieve is mine to grant when you have fewer conflicting desires. All you dreamed but didn't dare to do, all you hoped but did not will, all the faith you claimed but did not have - these slumber lightly, waiting to be awakened by the touch of a strong purpose. I am your opportunity to renew your allegiance to him who said, "See, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:5, NRSV). -Author unknown-

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CHURCH COUNCIL
 President: Jeff Jessen
 Vice President: Dean Buendorf
 Secretary: Jennifer Johnson

Education and Youth
 Jennie Johnson, Lana Purdie

Property and Management
 Kim Berg, Jeff Jessen, Scott Schuller

Worship and Evangelism
 Dale Bayerkohler, Dean Buendorf
 Gail Schmidt,

Stewardship
 Larry Goehring, Terry Hansen

Treasurer/Financial
 Secretary: Mary Berg

TWELCA President:
 Theresa Reese

Altar Guild Chairperson
 Diane Matthies

St. Olaf Cemetery Chairperson
 Larry Goehring

NRAFS Board Chairperson
 Larry Goehring

Endowment Fund Chairperson
 Dawn Halgren

Thrivent Representative
 Dawn Halgren

Missionaries
 Kristopher & Rebecca Hartwig
 Tanzania

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:00 AM Coffee fellowship	2 9:00 AM Quilting	3 8:45 AM NR senior living sites communion 5:00-6:30 PM NRAFS open 7:00 PM NRAFS Board meeting	4 6:00 PM Confirmation	5	6 Deadline for Annual Report reports	7 7:30 AM Men's breakfast and Bible study
8 9:00 AM Worship with Communion 10:00 AM Sunday school/coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Summer trip planning meeting	9 9:00 AM Quilting	10 5:00-6:30 PM NRAFS open	11 2:00 PM WELCA Bible study and business meeting 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Council	12	13	14 7:30 AM Men's breakfast and Bible study
15 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday school/coffee fellowship 10:15 AM Annual Meeting and potluck	16 9:00 AM Quilting	17 5:00-6:30 PM NRAFS open	18 3:30 PM F.I.S.H. 6:00 PM Confirmation	19	20	21
22 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday school/coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Faith Steps for Families 4:30 PM Family movie night	23 9:00 AM Quilting	24 5:00-6:30 PM NRAFS open	25 6:00 PM Confirmation	26	27	28
29 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Sunday school/coffee Fellowship 10:15 AM Faith Steps for Families 6:00 PM B.R.I.D.G.E.	30 9:00 AM Quilting	31 5:00-6:30 PM NRAFS open	<u>Acolytes</u> Maurya Johnson Hailey Schuller	<u>Altar Guild</u> Julie Routh LeAnn Buendorf Cheryl Perry	<u>Ushers</u> Eugene Warke Kim Berg Mitch Thompson	