



# TRINITY *TRIUNE*

## LUTHERAN *NEWSLETTER*

CHURCH OF SPENCERPORT

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

#### *THE GHOST OF JACOB MARLEY*

Anyone that has come into my office and looked on my desk has seen this strange little statue of Jacob Marley from Charles Dickens, "A Christmas Carol." I have even had people ask me why it is there because they found it odd that a pastor who has preached against the existence of ghosts would have a statue of one on his desk. I figured it being December and close to Christmas I would explain this seemingly strange phenomenon.

Around 2002, my family and I attended a church that loved to perform dramas. The drama director convinced me that I should play Jacob Marley in their upcoming production. I was a little hesitant but later agreed and wasn't sorry because it was such a joy to get involved in this way. If I remember right, there were 80 people involved in the production. This drama was so successful in bringing our neighbors to the church that we continued to offer it every Christmas. Two years later I had the most challenging year of my life as my grandmother, mother, and father passed within 4 months of each other (dad passed around 5am on Christmas Eve). My family and I gathered as usual on Christmas Eve, but it wasn't the same. As a matter of fact, I don't remember much about Christmas day or any day into January. We were so numbed by grief that we didn't attend church for quite a while. It was probably the end of January before we started attending again and the first Sunday back one of the teenagers that also acted in the drama gave me a Christmas gift. Actually, she'd been wanting to give it to me for a while and was patient enough to wait for us to return. I opened it and to my surprise it was a statue of Jacob Marley...the very one that sits on my desk. I started laughing when I saw it. I realized then that it was the first time I laughed in a very long time and it felt good. As

with us. Even in the darkest of times, there is always the light of Christ that shines through the darkness. That statue will sit on my desk and I will tell that story to anyone that asks.

Now, I realize that Jacob Marley is merely a fictional character, but sometimes we need something tangible to remind us of something positive in our lives especially when things are not going well (that is usually around the holidays). It might be depression, family conflict, family that wrote you off all of the sudden calls you, or many other things. And this is where that wonderful manger scene shines brightly and reminds us of the love of God that is ALWAYS with us no matter what.

I am writing this two days before Thanksgiving and we have yet to put our manger scene under our tree. Even though mine is still in its box, I know exactly how each piece is supposed to be placed. You have Joseph and Mary in the manger while the shepherds, wise men, and the animal set up outside of the manger. I usually try and put them in the same place, but I can't always do that. The most important thing about the little figurines is that their eyes are focused on the little baby in the middle...their eyes are focused on the true reason for the season...the Messiah come to earth. Emmanuel!! God with us!!

I hope this Christmas season and beyond that we keep these little reminders around to know that there is more than hope, but an eternal hope that is with us during our lives on this earth and we are assured by that same hope that there is forever after. It might be a manger scene, it might be a picture on your walls, or it might be a cross that you wear every day. May they remind you of the peace that surpasses all human understanding that keeps your hearts in



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

*Best Wishes and God's Blessings to the Following:*

- 1 - Sasha Dodgson
- 8 - Kyria Perrotta
- 10 - Joe Rayter
- 11 - Joseph Lagas
- 11 - Baren Ritzenthaler
- 13 - Ann Marie Klauda
- 18 - Lana Walls
- 19 - Debbie DeVantier
- 19 - Johanna Rittler
- 20 - Phil Blank
- 22 - Vince Micillo
- 24 - Janet Cronin
- 24 - Craig Oswald
- 25 - Alonzo Jacobs
- 28 - Catherine Hammond
- 29 - Ilse Reichert
- 30 - Wendy Mayer
- 30 - Kristen Oswald



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

*Congratulations and God's Blessings to:*

- 19 - Walt & Gail Cranmer
- 15 - Matthew & Kelsey Garrett



## 2023 HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **Children's Christmas Program**

Sunday, December 17th - 9:00AM  
(Adult Bible Study, Sunday School & Confirmation will be held after the service)

### **4th Sunday in Advent Communion Worship**

Sunday, December 24th at 9:00AM  
(No 11:00 AM Contemporary Service)

### **Christmas Eve Communion Worship**

Candlelight Worship Service  
Sunday, December 24th at 7:00PM

### **New Year's Eve Worship Service**

Sunday, December 31st at 9:00AM & 11:00AM

## NEXT TRIUNE - JANUARY

Mark your calendars! The deadline to get information in for January is Monday, December 18th. Any announcements sent later than that may not make the printing of the January Triune!

## CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS NEEDED

We are currently in need of a Vice President and a Council Secretary for the church council. The council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, beginning at 7pm. The V.P. is responsible for facilitating the meetings, and the Secretary is responsible for taking notes at the meeting and submitting them to the church administrative assistant for posting in the monthly newsletter. If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Cathy DeConinck!

## WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT SERVICES

Trinity is having services this Advent season and Pastor Steve's Message will be centered on "Symbols of Salvation". When we think of the prophecies of the birth of Christ, we often have particular verses in mind. But every account in Holy Scripture testifies about Jesus. He is the embodiment of the Scriptures. The Old Testament is not just a historical record. It is the active, Spirit-filled Word of God. From the very beginning of creation, the ways God interacts with His people give us living symbols that foreshadow and foretell Jesus' advent among us in flesh.



Advent services will be held on Wednesday Evenings at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary on the following dates:

November 29 - 'The Burning Bush'

December 6 - 'The Cloud in the Tabernacle'

December 13 - 'The Call of Gideon'

Come and Worship with us!



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women at Trinity and their friends are welcome to join us for Bible Study! We will meet twice in December and hope you can join us. We are getting together on the following Wednesdays in the fellowship hall.

*Please note the time change on December 13th*

December 13th at 10:30 - we will read some Christmas scripture and then share a light lunch  
December 27th at 10:00 - Bible Study  
Please join us and bring a friend!

## JUDY JENNEJAHN'S NEW ADDRESS

God Bless You, Judy, in your new home!

Judith Jennejahn  
c/o Brightview Senior Living  
8100 Rossville Boulevard  
Room 328  
Nottingham MD 21236  
585-749-5579

## VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING

Please join us!  
Sunday, December 10th at 10AM  
following the 9:00AM service

Item of discussion:  
2024 Budget

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Happy Birthday Jesus and a great big Merry Christmas from Trinity Christian Pre-School! Our students have been working hard this year learning their colors, letters, numbers and writing their names.

The excitement is building every day as we are busy getting ready for our Christmas programs, projects and activities.

We are very thankful to be invited back to McDonald's Restaurant in Spencerport to decorate their Christmas tree. We are hard at work making Christmas ornaments and will be going to McDonalds on Wednesday, December 6th to decorate their tree. Please stop by and see how beautiful it looks.

Our 3-year-old class will have their Christmas Program on Thursday, December 7th at 10:00 a.m. in the Mary/Martha Hall. Our 4-year-old class will have their Christmas Program on Friday, December 8th, at 10:00 a.m. in the church. A holiday party will follow each program with cookies, punch, gifts and a couple of "special guests." Everyone is welcome to come and join us as we share our gift of Christmas music and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Cubitt Family for all the donations we received in honor of Marilyn. She was an integral part of our school for many years and is thought of and missed every day. We would also like to thank the members of Trinity for the donation you generously give us each year. We are so blessed to be a part of Trinity Lutheran Church.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year filled with many blessings.

Jodi Blank, Laurie Butts, Yvette Casserino  
Jamie LaFave & Marilyn McMullen





## SPENCERPORT ECUMENICAL FOOD SHELF

Thank you for your support during the Thanksgiving Season. The food we collected help fill boxes for those in need in the Spencerport School District Area. Many thanks to those who donated turkeys! We supplied the ingredients for a Thanksgiving dinner to over 50 families! The food shelf will continue to supply food when necessary in December and all of next year. Please watch for the needs list in the church bulletin. But remember we always need the basics: canned fruit, vegetables, soups, and meats. Anything you can give will be used to help families in our own community. Happy New Year!

The Food Shelf serves those in need of food and household supplies in Ogden and South Parma. If you or someone you know is in need please call 585-397-0290 for assistance at Monday - Friday between 9AM and 5PM

## CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE - COMMUNITY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

The need to help each other is even greater this holiday season than ever before. Community Lutheran Ministries has sent us information for angels who need our help this year. The angel ornaments are on the Angel tree. Please take an Angel ornament and print your name on the sheet by the tree, next to the number on the Angel ornament.

The gifts will need to be purchased, wrapped, and returned to church, with the Angel tag attached, by Saturday, December 16th, so they can be delivered to Community Lutheran Ministries that weekend. When you bring your gift to church please place a checkmark in the column titled "Gift at church". Thank you for being an Angel to someone in need!





## MITES

This month’s featured mission is the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Bismarck, North Dakota. The mission of this Ranch is to help at-risk children and their families succeed in the name of Christ. They are seeking to raise \$100,000 to help with building costs of a new specialized chapel and provide the spiritual help and care these children and their families need. Your Mites donations are collected on the first Sunday of each month. Together our small coins and cash can help many!

## COMMUNION SERVICES FOR DECEMBER

For the month of December, we will have Communion on the 1st Sunday, December 3rd and the 4th Sunday, December 24th. The 4th Sunday in December is also the 4th Sunday in Advent for the morning service and then becomes Christmas Eve for the 7PM service. Communion will be served at both services on the 24th. There will not be an 11AM Contemporary service that day.

The 3rd Sunday of December, the 17th, will be the Children’s Christmas Program which is ‘The Twelve Days of Christmas’.



## HOME BOUND MEMBERS

Remember our home bound members. Give them a call on the phone or send a card. Above all, remember to keep them in your prayers:

- Marie Feldmann
- Tom Troxell
- Waltraud Maisel
- Bill Crow
- Lon Jacobs
- Dorothy Ayers
- Glenn Neumann
- Cathy Crow
- Henrika Menge

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Communicating through prayer with God is essential for every christian. If you are in need of any prayer we encourage you to contact us with a request. As these prayer request are sent out to our members we also hope you keep us up to date so we may know that the Lord has answered.

trinitylutheran191@gmail.com

# TRUSTEES' REPORT

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

### Items Previously Discussed or Completed

The Church boiler was cleaned and inspected by Hawn Heating on October 25th. This was done under a contract that the Church maintains with Hawn. Subsequent to this service, on Sunday, November 5th, the boiler stopped working and the Church was cold when people arrived for the first service. Hawn immediately responded to an emergency call and restarted the unit. There was initially a service charge but Hawn subsequently informed me that they were reimbursing the \$200 dollar charge to the Church credit card.

### Other Items

- As a reminder, a contract for snow plowing has been renewed with Cedar Creek Lawn Care. Snow plowing will be done November 1st of 2023 through March 31st 2024. Plowing will be done when snow accumulations reach 2 inches. The property is to be cleared by 7 am.
- The Church lift (elevator) was inspected on November 9th by a representative from NEIS (National Elevator Inspection Service). No problems were identified.
- The Church boiler will be inspected by a representative of HSB (The Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company) on December 12th. This inspection is schedule to occur after 12 noon. It is my understanding that this is required under our insurance and is done every 2 years. Separately, a state inspector will be inspecting our boiler early next year but I do not have a date for that inspection.

Rodney

## SERVING SCHEDULE

*Please check your dates carefully and arrange for a substitute if you cannot serve when scheduled.*

BLENDED SERVICE 9:00AM					
	DECEMBER 3 9:00AM Communion Worship Service	DECEMBER 10 9:00AM Worship Service Voters Meeting	DECEMBER 17 9:00AM Sunday School Program	DECEMBER 24 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Advent 9:00AM Communion Service	DECEMBER 31 9:00AM Worship Service
ACOLYTES	Julie Hammond	Elizabeth Hammond	Lily Ingham	Victor Castricone	Elizabeth Hammond
USHERS	Mike Mayer Bob DeVantier	John Gentzke	Ron Lillie Ryan Ingham	Mike Mayer Bob DeVantier	Bob DeVantier
LECTORS	Whitney Lagas	Sigrun Miller	Chris Reigle	Eileen Bruton	Brian Miller
ELDERS	Craig Coon Craig Oswald			Brian Miller Eileen Bruton	
COUNTERS		Cathy DeConinck Mitch Frey			Kim Rivers Nancy Goehring
ADULT BIBLE STUDY (ABS) COFFEE SET UP	Craig & Sue Oswald	Madeleine Antonio	Sunday School Reception Joe/Whitney Lagas	No ABS	No ABS
ALTAR GUILD	Cathy DeConinck			Eileen Bruton	

### December 24, Christmas Eve 7:00PM Service

ACOLYTES	Julie/Elizabeth Hammond
USHERS	Chris Reigle Mitch Frey
ELDERS	Bev Lillie Craig Oswald

# COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

## NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Attended: Cathy DeConinck, Kim Rivers, Rodney Boatman, Chris Reigle, and Pastor Steve Shrum

Minutes from last meeting reviewed and approved with the following modifications: Kim Rivers was in attendance, Chris Reigle was not in attendance.

### Treasurer Report:

- September: Actual Spent: 15,838.03; Collected: 12,054.38 Difference: (3,783.65)
- October: Actual Spent: 18,722.54; Collected: 17,260.38 Diff: (1,462.16)
- YTD: Actual Spent: 176,487.12; Collected: 165,804.44: Diff: (10,682.68)
- Treasurer's report approved.

Financial Secretary Report: none

### Pastor's Report:

- Fall Convention was good.
- Leadership team met. We are looking forward to the next phase of working on the plans agreed upon.
- Mid-week Advent services are the following Wednesdays: November 29th, December 6th & December 13th. There will NOT be an Advent Service on Wednesday, December 20th.
- Mid-Week Lenten Services will be on Wednesday evenings at 7PM and will be a sermon series
- There is need for additional vocalists for the contemporary service.
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- Elders Report:
- Members of the Congregation were contacted regarding adding the liturgy to the 9AM service. 17 members preferred the Traditional service with the liturgy. 21 members preferred the Blended service with minimal liturgy. Blended services resumed on November 12th.
- Organist contract has been renewed for another year.
- Discussion around the choir continuing. All agreed the choir is an important and inspirational part of the service.
- Long-time member Judy Jennejahn is moving to an assisted living facility in Maryland. There will be cake and farewell celebration for Judy on Sunday, November 12.
- Thanksgiving Eve Communion service will be blended a blended service on Wednesday, November 22nd

### Outreach Report:

- Angel tree names have been requested and should be sent to use by December 1st.
- Betsey and Krista are leading a Cookies & Carols event scheduled for December 9th.
- Christmas caroling will take place on Sunday, December 10th. All are invited to carol through the neighborhood around the church.

### Trustee Report:

- Church boiler was cleaned and inspected by Hawn Heating on October 25
- contract for snow plowing has been renewed with Cedar Creek Lawn
- Church lift (elevator) was inspected on November 9th
- Church boiler will be inspected by a representative of HSB (The Hartford Steam
- Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company) on December 12th

Old Business: Time & Talent survey given to all members along with pledge cards. They are due December 3rd

New Business: Congregational meeting will be Sunday, December 10, between services.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12, with Pastor Steve praying us out. Next meeting will be December 11, 2023



# DECEMBER 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 9:00am Traditional 10:00am ABS,SS... 11:00am Contemp.	4	5 1:00pm Quilting 7:00pm Bell Choir	6 7:00pm 2nd Advent Service	7 6:30pm Elders Meeting 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	8	9 8:15am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast 6:30pm Cookies & Caroling Event
10 9:00am Traditional 10:00am Voters' Mtg 11:00am Contemp. 2:00pm Caroling Around	11 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	13 10:00am Women's Bible Study 7:00pm 3rd Advent Service	14 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	15 5:00pm Steve Brew's Recital	16 9:00am Steve Brew's Recital
17 9:00am Sunday School Program 10:00am ABS,SS... 11:00am Contemp.	18 Triune Article Deadline	19 7:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	20	21 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:00am Traditional 10:00am ABS,SS... 7:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day	26	27 10:00am Women's Bible Study	28	29	30
31 New Year's Eve 9:00am Traditional 10:00am ABS,SS... 11:00am Contemp.						



*191 Nichols St. Spencerport, NY 14559*

***Schedule of Sunday Service:***

*Traditional Worship Service at 9:00AM*

*Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Bible Study 10:00AM*

*Contemporary Worship Service 11:00AM*

*(both services live streamed on youtube)*

***Pastor:*** Steve Shrum

***Cell Phone:*** (216) 551-1334

***Email:*** [pastorsteve4464@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsteve4464@gmail.com)

***Administrative Assistant:*** Susan M. Oswald

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