



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Give, Worship, Prayer, Invite, Serve, Study, Encourage

Trinity Messenger

December 2021

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

Prepare the Royal Highway, the King of Kings is near – let evr'y hill and valley, a level road appear.

John the Baptist, the cousin that Jesus names as the greatest prophet since Elijah, says, “make straight the way for this king to enter and bring in his kingdom.” And we Christians know that this kingdom, not of this world, is in fact the new creation, the new true way of life where love has the ultimate power. This is the kingdom in which those who are the most highly honored are those saints whom we have known and loved, whose examples of service and faith changed our lives for the better!

John gets up in our faces, in the faces of the wealthy and elite, in the faces of those who think they have it all figured out, in the faces of the religious, and he is abrasive, frustrated, truth-spitting! Tear down the roadblocks in your life and receive **WHATEVER** it is that God has for you in Jesus Christ.

Boy, do I hear that one loud and clear this Advent – what about you? Have you built up some roadblocks this year on the royal highway?

Imagine the full weight of that image – A king is coming – in fact, the greatest king of all kings – and to honor him the department of transportation starts charging higher taxes, years ahead of

time, so that a monumental engineering project can begin – a gigantic superhighway for the King and his court to enter into the capital city, where there are no bumps, a smooth and beautiful vista to enter that puts the very best foot forward, even before the king arrives. Years of hassle, traffic jams and construction zones and cones everywhere, just for the king that has YET to arrive! And the residents of the city are ready to cheer on that arrival – ready for the reign of peace the kingdom will enjoy!

We who follow Jesus, we are already in that kingdom – beginning to know that true power is love, that true joy is in serving others, but the world has yet to accept this kingdom. I don't know about you, but I know that I have built up a few roadblocks to the coming of the king this year – some detours on the highway, some complaints about the inconvenience, and definitely some grumbling about the sacrifices necessary.

Yet ironically, I am still desperate for Jesus to come again, into my heart, into my life, into my community! Simultaneously I find it hard to welcome in the kingdom because of the way it denies my own wishes and insists on God's way. And so I pray again, just like Advent seasons before, "Stir up your power and come" the same way the Lord's prayer reminds us, YOUR kingdom come, YOUR will be done on earth.

Thanks be to God that the kingdom has come, and is coming! Thanks be to God that the truth of God's love and joy cannot be stopped by hurting hearts or exhausted bodies. Thanks be to God that Jesus Christ can come straight into our hearts, straight into our lives, even if we have toyed with roadblocks and cones. How might you ease the way? How might we together open wide the exit ramp and welcome Jesus into our lives and into the community this year!?

Christ's Peace - PrCR

How You Can Help!

Here are some things you can do to support the church and your neighbors this month!

1. **Call people.** Use your Trinity Directory – call your church family members and check in. **Make a Plan to call 3 families or individuals** (especially those who may be isolated) If everyone does this from the church – all will receive messages of care and hope. You could pray on the phone with one another.
2. **Give Financially:** You can support local charities like the food shelf, Luther Crest, the Red Cross, etc. Please remember to either mail or drop off contributions to the church office or give online. You can download the Vanco mobile app to do the online giving. Check it out at <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-app>.
3. **Pray:** Please keep up a prayer list of those you care for. Daily prayer is a powerful way to develop compassion, empathy, and spiritual discipline. There is no better time than now to begin praying.

TRINITY LUTHERAN WOMEN

** REMINDER: Taste of Christmas will be on Sunday, December 12th to coincide with Mission Fest.

Do Days

NO Do Days in
December.

Quilt making continues
as an ongoing project.

+ + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & LIVE WEBCAST

We are still looking for volunteers for tech/AV and readers. Please contact the church office if you're interested.

First Sundays of each month are Food Shelf Offering & Fourth Sundays are Luther Crest Offering

DATE	TIME	READER	MUSICIAN	TECH/AV	COMM. PREP.	ACOLYTE
Sun, Dec 5th	9:30 AM	K. Hassler		R. & B. Barsness	A. Joos	B. Black
Sun, Dec 12th	9:30 AM	H. Black		J. Knorr		N. Kolden
Sun, Dec 19th	9:30 AM	K. Banta		D. Black & Boys		J. Logeais
Fri, Dec 24th – Christmas Eve	4:00 PM	L. Anderson		T. & W. Richards	J. Boots	O. Huebner
Sun, Dec 26th – Lessons & Carols	9:30 AM	B. Barsness		S. & K. Banta		W. Mithun

Special Music: We would like to welcome anyone interested in sharing God's message through special music in our service to please let the office know: tlccyruskayla@gmail.com.

+++++

BIRTHDAYS

NOTE: We are working on updating our online membership system, please let the church office know if any birthdays are incorrect or missing.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12/01 Carol Vanderweyst | 12/12 Barb Barsness |
| 12/03 Steve Tollefson | 12/17 Kai Schmidgall |
| 12/03 Jamie Mix | 12/19 Sandy Anderson |
| 12/04 Wesley Bratton | 12/19 Rick Gades |
| 12/04 Tim Jergenson | 12/19 Kevin Meixel |
| 12/05 Bradley Mix | 12/21 Nevaeh Birr |
| 12/06 Nancy Savre | 12/22 Carly Maanum |
| 12/06 Gerald Jesness | 12/23 Peggy Christensen |
| 12/06 Ron Mithun | 12/23 Jean Boots |
| 12/07 Randy Wentz | 12/25 Reina Asmus |
| 12/08 Betsey Alessi | 12/26 Jeff Boyle |
| 12/09 Austin Crow | 12/29 Vera Steffens |
| 12/10 Paul Carbert | 12/29 Lauren Dalen |
| 12/10 Erland Mickelson | 12/31 John Ettesvold |
| 12/10 Luke Joos | |
| 12/11 Vernon Mickelson | |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, November 24, 2021, via Email

Council meeting was held via email due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were emails out to all council members and motioned to approve by Lonnie Anderson and the motion was seconded by Barb Barsness.

December meeting and 2022 budget planning is still being decided.

Respectfully,

Kayla Schmidgall (filling in for Roxane Malland, Secretary)

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact Kayla (tlccyruskayla@gmail.com or 320-795-2569) if you'd like to add any other announcements or information to the upcoming monthly newsletter.

** Becky (Brandt) Soberg would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers & goodies to help her celebrate her 59th birthday. She was only limited to 4 guest, but a few more people stopped by. It was a happy, happy special day for her! And remember: don't worry, be happy! --- Becky is never grumpy! ☺

* If you'd like to be a part of the Trinity Prayer Email Chain (or if your email address has been changed), please let the church or Kathy Banta know. We can never have too many people praying for others!

* Mission Fest will be on Sunday, Dec 12th. There will be lefse sales, silent auction & a small meal that will coincide with the Trinity Women's Taste of Christmas. Any donations need to be to the church office no later than Friday, Dec 17th to ensure that everything can be sent to the various organizations by the end of the year.

* Element Schedule: Youth in 6th-8th Grade

- * Wed, Dec 1st – 6pm at First Lutheran
- * Wed, Dec 8th – 6pm at First Lutheran
- * Wed, Dec 15th – Christmas party – 6pm at First Lutheran
- * Sat, Dec 18th – Live Nativity from 5pm-7pm – sign up to act in Live Nativity at Stevens Co fairgrounds

* Sr. High Fusion: Youth in 9th-12th Grade

- * Sun, Dec 5th – 6:30pm at First Lutheran
- * Sun, Dec 12th – 6:30pm at First Lutheran
- * Sat, Dec 18th – Live Nativity from 5pm-7pm – sign up to act in Live Nativity at Stevens Co fairgrounds
- * Sun, Dec 12th – Christmas party – details to come

** Please check out Fusion's website (www.fusion-ministry.com) for more information. Also follow along on Facebook (@fusion56267) and Instagram (@fusion56267).

* Pedersen Funeral Home's Holiday Service of Remembrance will be Sunday, Dec 5th at 2pm.

* Join us at Trinity on Dec 5th from 1p-4p for a baby shower celebrating Jasmine (Boots) & Zach Walsh's baby girl due on February 1st. Please bring a book for new baby instead of a card – it doesn't matter if it's well-loved or new, for years to come it'll be a reminder of you! Jasmine is registered at Target & Amazon.

* 18th Annual Luther Crest Christmas Bake sale is open for orders. Place orders by Fri, Dec. 3rd. Pick-up dates are Fri, Dec. 10th from 3p-6p and Sat., Dec. 11th from 8am-Noon.

** Financial Update

Income:	\$172,208.94
Expenses:	<u>\$182,590.57</u>
	-\$10,381.63

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
28 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm No Sr. High Fus	29 ● 9am Do Days	30 ● 9am Do Days	Dec 1 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - plan & p	2	3	4
5 1p-4p Baby shower-Jasitt ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	6	7	8 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Christm	9	10	11
12 Mission Fest/Taste of Ch ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm Sr. High Fusion	13	14	15 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 6pm Element - Christm	16	17	18
19 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm No Sr. High Fus	20	21	22 ● 9am Weekly Devotional ● 10am Services at Holly ● 6pm No Element	23	24 Christmas Eve Day off for Christmas Day ● 4pm Christmas Eve se	25 Christmas Day
26 Pastor Chris out of office						
27 Church Office Closed						
28 Pastor Chris out of office						
29 ● 9:30am Worship ● 6:30pm No Sr. High Fus						
30 Church Office Closed						
31 Church Office Closed						
Jan 1 New Year's Day						

Trinity Lutheran Church
Box 220
Cyrus, Minnesota 56323

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
Cyrus, Minnesota 56323
Permit No.1

