



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

December 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

*O come blest dayspring come and cheer, our spirit by your advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.*

A few weeks ago in preaching, I told you all that I have no problem getting excited for Advent. The light in the darkness theme, cheering for the underdog Jesus, the babe in a manger who no one knows or understands. That's easier to relate to than Jesus on the cross. We ourselves, people of faith, living in the darkness of winter and often unknown and misunderstood can find lots of common ground there. But it's a whole different thing to relate to Jesus the king on the cross, dying and alone, a failure to the world even as he is the world's savior. One demands our adoration and love. But the other demands our trust even as our eyes see failure and our hearts feel grief until Easter's resurrection.

Advent is here. Christmas is soon to arrive. We await the advent, the coming of Jesus, the blessed dayspring. Dayspring is an Old English word, it means daybreak or first light. The verse above is from O Come O Come Emmanuel. Emmanuel is Hebrew, it means God-with-us. Em Manu El. The verse places all of us in the shadow of death, a gloomy cloud of night in which death is a deeper shade. Yet daybreak is soon to come, a blessed-by-God daybreak. God himself will be with us. God himself is the light that comes. Death's shadow will fly away, weak and insubstantial. But until then it is heavy as lead and dark as the grave. Dense with meaning, right?!

A school classmate of mine passed away this week. I would imagine her burial was this weekend or will be the coming weekend. We were confirmed together and I remember hiding in the bushes and garages around the church by the courthouse with her after confirmation was done. We played night games many autumn and spring nights passing the time after confirmation until our parents were done with choir later in the evening. She was kind, had a funny laugh, and was

always taller than I was until junior year of high school. She had a gentle soul. This is death's dark shadow.

Her son also passed away earlier this year in a car accident. I learned of her passing during my morning preparation to bury another friend, Harold last week. His adult son knelt down on a piece of plywood in a frozen graveyard and we all helped him back up to stand after he placed his father's ashes in the grave. The wind was freezing and we were silent around the stone. This is death's dark shadow.

I don't fear death in the same way I used to. Now I fear the pain my loved ones will experience, even if only temporarily until we are reunited. But I have no fear of death itself – it has actually lost its sting. Oh sure it comes and goes, but usually my hope remains firmly planted on the rock of Christ. But for those with no hope, those without Jesus, those with only this life, the Shadow of death is a towering nightmare. Even with hope in Jesus, even with trust in the king on the cross and the babe in the manger, death's shadow still stretches over so many parts of our lives.

Each Advent we await the coming of Jesus, both the underdog savior who surprises the world, and also the defeated savior on the cross who triumphs over death, but who remains largely unacknowledged by 5.8 or more of the world's 8 billion. Even though we trust that Jesus has overcome death, its shadow still stretches across our community, our world. How might we shine daylight into the darkness around us? How might we reflect the light through our words and our actions? Could Christ's Advent happen through our lives? Could it be that God is sending God's own spirit into our lives for the sake of others? Of course! Absolutely! Without a doubt!

The simple way we know this is that God has shown up for us through other people already! We have already experienced God working this way. As Advent arrives we can shine light into our community because God is already shining brightly! We don't have to manufacture anything ourselves, we can simply reflect the goodness God already has to offer. We can honor the babe in the manger by trusting the savior on the cross. We can welcome God into our lives by celebrating God's coming into the world in Jesus. This Advent I invite you to reflect God's light to your neighbors!

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

** No Do Days in January, February, or March.

** Do Days can always use sheets that are in good condition with no stains or tears to use for making quilts

** Pope County Families in Need is looking for used (good condition!) clothing. Drop off donations at Trinity & Barb W. will deliver.

Do Days

Quilt making continues
as an ongoing project.

+ + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

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

1st Sundays of each month are Food Shelf Offering & 4th Sundays are Luther Crest Offering

| DATE | TIME | READER | MUSICIAN | TECH/AV | COMM. PREP. | ACOLYTE | USHER/ GREETER |
|-------------------------------|--------|---------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Sun, Dec 4th | 9:30am | D. Dahl | K. Zenner | A. Erickson | S. Anderson | S. Estrada | D. & H. Black |
| Wed, Dec 7th | 6:00pm | K. Banta | TBD | R. Huebner | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sun, Dec 11th | 9:30am | K. Schmidgall | W. Richards | J. Knorr | N/A | H. Banta | H. & B. Wentz |
| Sun, Dec 18th | 9:30am | K. Hassler | J. Odello | T. & W. Richards | N/A | O. Huebner | B. Payne & N. Rutter |
| Sat, Dec 24th – Christmas Eve | 4:00pm | H. Rutter | K. Zenner | A. Erickson | J. Boots | W. Richards | A. & J. Rutter |

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.

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BIRTHDAYS

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

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|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 12/01 Carol Vanderweyst | 12/17 Kai Schmidgall |
| 12/03 Steve Tollefson | 12/19 Sandra Anderson |
| 12/03 Jamie Mix | 12/19 Rick Gades |
| 12/04 Wesley Bratton | 12/21 Neveah Birr |
| 12/04 Tim Jergenson | 12/22 Carly (Maanum) Meyer |
| 12/05 Bradley Mix | 12/23 Peggy Christensen |
| 12/06 Nancy Savre | 12/23 Jean Boots |
| 12/06 Ron Mithun | 12/25 Reina Asmus |
| 12/07 Randy Wentz | 12/26 Jeff Boyle |
| 12/08 Betsey Alessi | 12/27 Addison Hills |
| 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 | |
| 12/11 David Black, Jr. | |
| 12/12 Barb Barsness | |



Merry Christmas!

Blank handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

CHRISTMAS WORD SCRAMBLE

Kfirncseenan _____

Rats _____

Gramen _____

Vaniyitt _____

Galen _____

Dressephh _____

Amry _____

Enol _____

Dolg _____

Ejuss _____

Virasou _____

Blgaire _____

Hrymr _____

Sphejo _____

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

November 6, 2022

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Barb Barsness, Kathy Banta & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: Jerry Carlsen, Dena Carbert & Pastor Chris Richards

Holly called meeting to order.

Kathy made a motion & Barb seconded to approve agenda.

Lonnie made a motion & Barb seconded to approve minutes from last meeting.

Kathy made a motion & Lonnie seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Old Business

1. New kitchen coffee maker has chosen & will be ordered.

New Business

1. Mission Fest 2021 fund distributions were chosen.
2. Discussed adding a pastoral sabbatical verbiage to Trinity Lutheran Church personnel files.
3. TLC Women's checkbook will be included in our TLC budget.
4. Started discussing the 2023 budget.

Committee Reports:

Property – Nothing new to report.

Education – Sunday school is having a Christmas program on Sunday, December 18th during church service

Worship – Nothing new to report.

Outreach Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Monday, December 12th at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Erickson, Council 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.

- * Luther Crest Holiday Bake Sale orders need to be placed by December 2nd.
- * Sunday, December 4th – Mission Fest at Trinity!
- * Gatherings Sunday Luncheons for Widows & Widowers will be on Sunday, December 4th, at Noon at Old #1 Southside in Morris.
- * Sunday, December 4th – Pedersen Funeral Home's Holiday Service of Remembrance at 2pm.
- * Cyrus Seniors will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 11:30am at The Lariat in Cyrus, last meeting of the year. No meetings again until Spring 2023.
- * Sunday school program rehearsal will be Saturday, December 17th at Trinity at 10:00am.
- * Sunday School program will be Sunday, December 18th during the Worship service.
- * Kayla will be out of the office from Thursday, December 22nd until Tuesday, January 3rd.
- * Pastor Chris will be out of the office from Thursday, December 22nd until Monday, January 9th.
- * No worship on Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day. The Christmas Eve service will be re-broadcast online.

* ELEMENT SCHEDULE (held at First Lutheran unless noted)

- * Wed, Dec 7th; 6pm-7:30pm - Christmas Service Projects
- * Sat, Dec 10th; 6pm-8pm - Live Nativity - Fusion Youth Ministry has been invited again to act in the Live Nativity as a part of the Lights on the Prairie drive-thru event at the Fairgrounds. Come experience the lights & feel the Christmas Spirit!
- * Wed, Dec 14th; 6pm-7:30pm - Christmas Party

* SR. HIGH FUSION SCHEDULE (held at First Lutheran unless noted)

- * Sun, Dec 4th; 6:30pm-8pm - Christmas Service Project
- * Sat, Dec 10th; 6pm-8pm - Live Nativity - Fusion Youth Ministry has been invited again to act in the Live Nativity as a part of the Lights on the Prairie drive-thru event at the Fairgrounds. Come experience the lights & feel the Christmas Spirit!
- * Sun, Dec 11th; 6:30-8pm - Christmas Party

DECEMBER 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---------------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4 9:30a – Worship- Mission Fest 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion | 5 | 6 11:30a –Cyrus Seniors- lunch at Lariat | 7 9a - Weekly Devotional 6p – Advent service 6p - Element | 8 | 9 | 10 6p-8p – Fusion youth in Live Nativity @ Lights on the Prairie, Stevens Co fairgrounds |
| 11 9:30a – Worship 10:30a – Sunday School 6:30p – Fusion | 12 | 13 | 14 9a - Weekly Devotional 6p - Element | 15 | 16 | 17 10a – Sunday School program rehearsal @ Trinity |
| 18 9:30a – Worship- Sunday School program No Fusion | 19 | 20 | 21 9a - Weekly Devotional No Element | 22 Office Closed | 23 Office Closed | 24 4p – Christmas Eve Worship |
| 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! * Christmas Eve service re- broadcast online No Fusion | 26 Office Closed | 27 Office Closed | 28 Office Closed No Element | 29 Office Closed | 30 Office Closed | 31 Office Closed (until Tuesday, Jan. 3rd) |

