



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

February 2023

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

"The Kingdom of Heaven has come near" Matt. 4:17

Last month you heard the Beatitudes in worship – Blessed are the peacemakers, the poor, the lonely, the grieving, and so on. I preached on the topic of God's kingdom coming near that day. After services we had a 24 minute long annual meeting (New Record!). I have talked with a number of my colleagues about both of those things lately, annual meetings and the Kingdom of God. In many ways, an annual meeting is a simple gauge for how the kingdom community is doing in any congregation.

Afterwards, a church member asked me if I was frustrated that attendance at the meeting wasn't higher. My response? Exactly the opposite. I was glad that everyone seemed not too worried, enough to miss the meeting.

Its been my experience that annual meetings are often one of two extremes.

Either – 1: What the heck are they doing? We gotta figure it out and fix something!

Or – 2: We are doing all the things we keep telling you we are doing. No surprises.

Now, I'm sure there are many other possibilities. I've seen board meetings where nothing is going on because nothing is ever going on. And I've seen charged-up meetings where everyone is very defensive and irate, but only a few are there because everyone else is afraid or has left. In the last 20 years of annual meetings that I have attended, I have mostly seen the two I mentioned above: fear or unsurprising agreement.

In the first case, What the heck are they doing?!, there is fear. Maybe the budget is short, maybe attendance is low, or the world is changing and folks are angry. Along with fear and anger there should be conversation. But there isn't. There is closed door discussion or behind-the-back worry. Fear is not being processed, folks aren't feeling listened to, others are afraid to make things more tense. Tension builds and nothing changes until something blows up.

In the second case, no surprises, there is just a little cheerful boredom. In this case, leaders are telling the story of what is going on repeatedly, wherever folks can hear: "we are doing these things for these reasons and for Jesus. Come join us". After you've heard it enough, the annual meeting is simply a formalized time to say, "yup, this is what we are doing".

Thank you and congratulations to our current leadership! As you can imagine, number 2 is much preferred. Mostly, it seems that you all feel like you are aware of what we are up to as Trinity Lutheran. You generally seem to feel that we are meeting important needs and accomplishing reasonable goals. Where there is room for improvement, we are receiving feedback. Where there is frustration, we are hearing people speak up. Yes! AWESOME! Keep it up!

When Jesus says the Kingdom of Heaven has come near in Matthew. He then immediately sets about healing people and teaching them that the kingdom is a place where wrongs are made right, the broken made whole, and a glimpse of heaven comes to earth. It is not a magical fairy-tale rainbow realm. It is people dealing with the hard things of life and God showing up and partnering with them. This kingdom is centered on love for our neighbor acted out first and talked about second. A church is a place where we pool our resources so that we can figure out what God is up to and then we can partner up with the Spirit to get things done for Jesus and our neighbor.

When this kingdom is moving and grooving, there will be conflict and mistakes made. There will be adjustment and must be listening for feedback. That's why a faith community includes space for confession, frustration, complaining, and venting. It is also ready for forgiveness, adjustment, and repair. These are not optional in a Christian community; they are fundamental for its survival. If you cannot name a frustration with your brother or sister in Christ, how will you love your neighbor who has yet to even meet Jesus?

So – keep listening for what we are up to, keep talking, and let us know which way to go!

Christ's Peace – Pr. CR

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

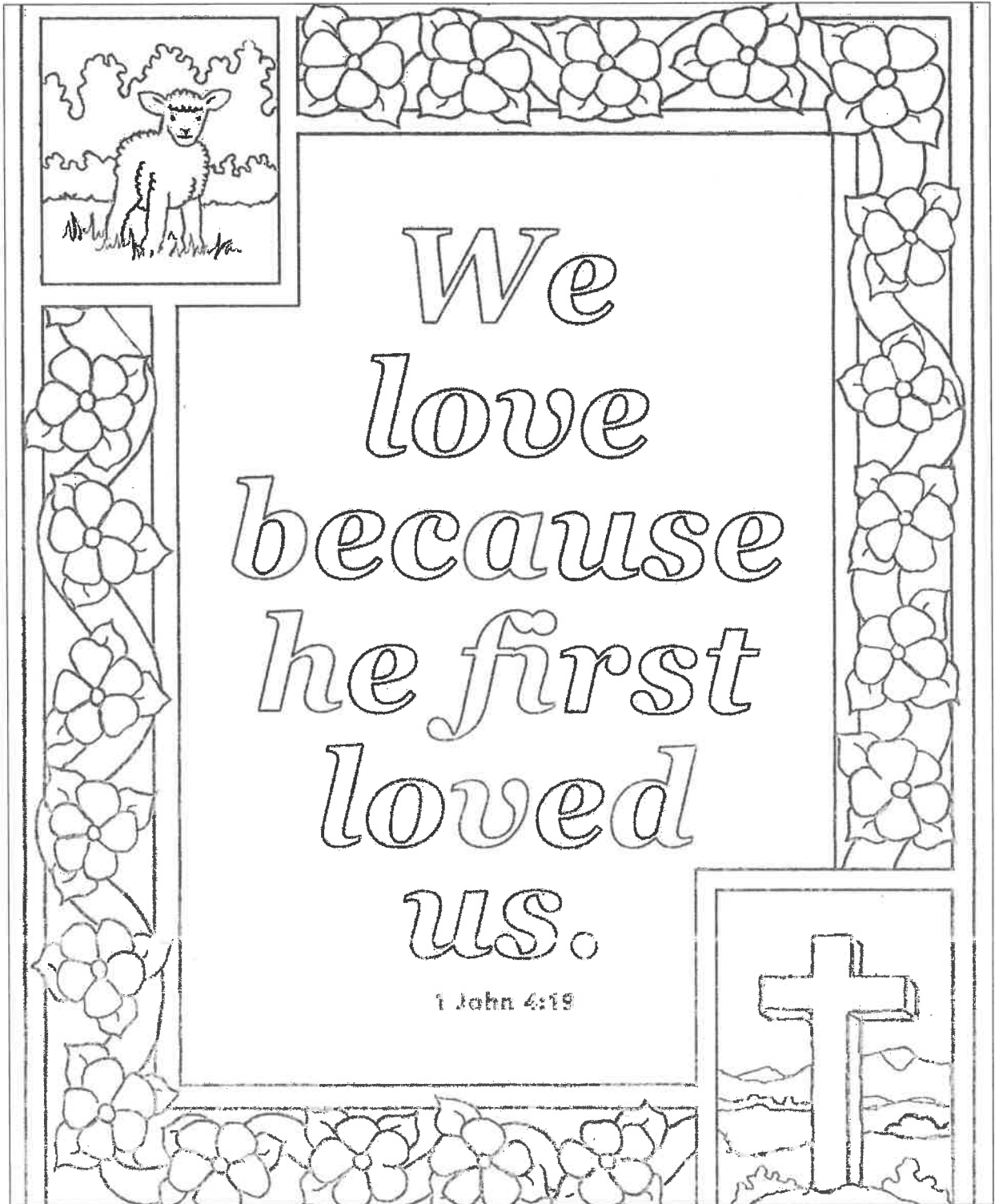
** No Do Days in January, February, or March.

** 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., Feb. 5th	9:30am	L. Banta	K. Zenner	A. Erickson	J. Maanum	B. Black	N/A
Sun., Feb. 12th	9:30am	A. Barsness	TBD	M. Barsness	N.A	E. Anderson	N/A
Sun, Feb. 19th	9:30am	J. Solvie	K. Zenner	S. & K. Banta	N/A	O. Huebner	N/A
Wed., Feb. 22nd – Ash Wednesday	6pm	H. Rutter	TBD	T. & W. Richards	K. Schmidgall	N/A	N/A
Sun., Feb. 26th	9:30am	J. Maanum	K. Zenner	R. Huebner	R. Schiefelbein	S. Estrada	N/A

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: tlccyruskavla@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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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 02/01 Steven Edlund | 02/15 Alissa Maanum |
| 02/01 Brian Payne | 02/18 Donald Hansen |
| 02/03 Paulette Solvie | 02/18 Valentina Alessi |
| 02/03 Diane Estenson | 02/20 Eric Berg |
| 02/04 LeRoy Edlund | 02/20 Dawn Driggins |
| 02/04 Daniel Bratton | 02/22 Lisa Banta |
| 02/04 Andy Aaberg | 02/22 Jarrett Carlsen |
| 02/05 Linda Retzlaff | 02/23 Ella Anderson |
| 02/05 Kayla Schmidgall | 02/24 Jason Bratton |
| 02/05 Joe Boots | 02/24 Sophia Carlsen |
| 02/06 Joel Hanse | 02/26 Joyce Brandt |
| 02/06 Barbara Wentze | 02/26 Mark Tollefson |
| 02/06 Randy Erlandson | 02/26 Grayson Huntley |
| 02/08 Braelynn Black | 02/27 Barbara Jergenson |
| 02/09 Lynn Asmus | 02/27 Mitchell Maanum |
| 02/10 Joel Mickelson | 02/28 Thomas Olson |
| 02/12 William Osterman | 02/28 Mathew Anderson |
| 02/14 Barbara Hesse | 02/29 Jacob Banta |
| 02/15 Roxane Malland | |

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting Minutes; January 8, 2023

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Barb Barsness, Kathy Banta, Jerry Carlsen, Dena Carbert, Kayla Schmidgall & Pastor Chris Richards

Holly called meeting to order.

Dena made a motion & Kathy seconded to approve agenda.

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

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

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business:

1. Sabbatical – Pastor taking time off in summer 2023; contract signed
2. Final review of 2023 budget – to be shown/approved by congregation at annual meeting

New Business:

1. Scott E. can take the large safe in the narthex.
2. Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th after church – not held via Zoom
3. Will purchase more white plastic/resin tables for basement to be used for funerals & other church events; five 8-foot tables & two 4-foot tables

Committee Reports:

Property – Nothing new to report.

Education – Christmas program was a big hit, by children & congregation members

Worship – Starting to plan for Lent/Easter

Outreach – Old furniture from old youth room to be donated or sold – need to make room for funeral overflow

Next meeting: Sunday, January 29, 2023, after worship – the annual meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Erickson, Council Secretary

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Annual Meeting Minutes; January 29, 2023

Holly called meeting to order.

Pastor Chris gave a short devotion.

Kathy Banta made a motion & Scott Banta seconded to approve agenda. Passed.

Robert Huebner made a motion & Matt Huntley seconded to approve minutes from last meeting.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Dena Carbert made a motion & Linda Dahl seconded to approve committee reports.

No Old Business.

New Business

1. 2023 was presented by Lonnie Anderson.

Lonnie made a motion & Robert Huebner seconded to approve the 2023 Budget.

Motion was passed.

Committee Reports:

Property – Mark Barsness is on the Property Committee

Education – Nothing new to report

Worship – Nothing new to report

Outreach – Nothing new to report

Church Council will have their next meeting on Sunday, February 12th following worship.

Respectfully submitted,

Kayla Schmidgall – subbed-in for 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.

* Early Bird Registration has started at Luther Crest for 2023! Deadline to sign up is February 14th. Please go on their website luthercrest.org to register. There is a link for assistance in registering. Please pay your deposit and sign Trinity Lutheran Church Cyrus as your home church. We have funds available to pay the remainder of the camp registration. Please note there is a substantial savings if you early register, which assists the church in sending more kids to camp. Please contact Jodi Jergenson with any questions.

* ELEMENT SCHEDULE (held at First Lutheran unless noted)

- * Wednesday, Feb. 1st; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, Feb. 8th; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, Feb. 15th; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, Feb. 22nd – No Element due to Ash Wednesday services

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

- * Sunday, Feb. 5th; 6:30pm-8pm
- * Sunday, Feb. 12th; Super Bowl party at Nick Milbrandt's house (more details to come)
- * Sunday, Feb. 19th; 6:30pm-8pm
- * Sunday, Feb. 26th; 6:30pm-8pm – Student & Adult Leadership Meeting

* Financial Update

Income:	\$17,438.79
Expenses:	\$17,094.32
	\$ 344.47

LOVE NEVER
FAILS

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

—1 CORINTHIANS
13:4-8

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9a - Weekly Devotional 6p - Element	2	3	4
5 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School 6:30p - Fusion	6	7	8 9a - Weekly Devotional 6p - Element	9	10	11
12 9:30a - Worship 10:30a - Sunday School 6:30p - Fusion Super Bowl party	13	14	15 9a - Weekly Devotional 6p - Element	16	17	18
19 9:30a - Worship- 10:30a - Sunday School 6:30p - Fusion	20	21	22 9a - Weekly Devotional 10a - Holly Ridge service 11a - MLH service No Element 6p - Ash Wednesday service	23	24	25
26 9:30a - Worship 6:30p - Fusion- Leadership Mtg	27	28				

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