“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

During the month of February people tend to think about how love is expressed. Valentine’s day is February 14. That day sends men scurrying to Hallmark stores and flower shops all over the country, like ants fleeing for their lives when someone overturns a rock in the back yard. Others prefer to express their love through creative toil. They make handwritten poems or perform self-composed love songs. They may even make their own cards. Little kids hand out Valentine cards with their favorite superhero or Disney princess printed on them, along with a piece of their favorite candy. Valentine’s Day is a day swirling with pinks and reds. It’s a day people do all kinds of different things to say three words, “I love you.”

But Valentine’s Day is not the reason why we will be thinking about how love is expressed, at least not this year. February 10 is Ash Wednesday this year. On Ash Wednesday we Christians gather together to express our sorrow over our sins. We confess that in our thoughts, words and actions we have sinned against our God, who loves us. After we confess, we will hear the promise that our God still loves us. After Ash Wednesday we will spend the next five weeks studying how God expressed his love for us. That time is called Lent.

During Lent we confess our sin, and focus on the depth of God’s love for us which was expressed not by giving us cards and flowers, but by giving us his one and only Son. Jesus shows us the full extent of God’s love for us in that he did not come to be served, but to serve. He served us by living perfectly in our place under God’s holy demands. Never once did the sins that we have to confess ever cross his mind or his lips. Not once did he do the same kind of sinful things we have done. Yet, he served us by carrying the weight of our sin for us.

He was betrayed by his closest friends. People who claimed to loved God plotted to take his life. The local authorities saw him as collateral damage in a power struggle. People who once cheered his name shook their heads at him when he was nailed to a cross. And worst of all, upon the cross God poured out his anger over our sin onto him because Jesus took our sin upon his shoulders.

Jesus allowed everyone of those things to happen to him. He didn’t have to. He could have stopped it. He could have demanded fair treatment, and yet he didn’t. He didn’t because he was showing us how much God loves us. Better than a dozen thorny roses is the crown of thorns that was pressed into his head. Better than the most expensive piece of jewelry were the nails driven through his hands. More honest than any Hallmark card was the sign posted above his head, “This is the King of the Jews.”

Starting with Ash Wednesday we will examine all of those events. We will a look God’s undying love for us which was expressed by sending his Son to die for us!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dustin Yahnke
Trinity Women In Service met in the Conference Room on Thursday, January 14, 2016, for their regular business meeting. Seven ladies were present plus Pastor and Mrs. Yahnke. The hostess was Patsy Zastrow. Pastor Yahnke opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer about our baptism.

The program was an informal conversation between the ladies and Jen and Pastor Yahnke. The ladies introduced themselves by telling a little bit about themselves. Then Jen and Pastor told us about their family and background. It was a very enjoyable afternoon for all.

The business meeting was opened by President Kathy Strucely. The minutes for December were in the last newsletter and were approved as printed. The treasurer’s report for December was approved as printed with two corrections to the designations. A Women In Service balance of $514.25 plus $19.56 held for the LWMS was reported. The basket collection today was for the W.I.S. general treasury.

Thank yous were received for: Cheer Bags from Eileen Gutzdorf, Virginia Neubauer, Alan Sanders, & Pastor & Mrs. Walter Schumann; for Gift Certificates from Pastor Brauer, Linda & Jim Moeller, Michelle Wegner, & Pastor Yahnke; from Lorraine Hady for cards sent to her; for Cheer Bags and cards from Audrey Ulrich; for the memorial for Anita Boldt from her family and Trinity Church; and a thank you letter from Principal Moeller for the donation sent to Trinity-St. Luke’s School. A communication from the WELS Prison Ministry was also available to read.

Old Business: Pastor Brauer has already worn his new gown and thanks the W.I.S. for it. (It was part of our budget and planned for several months ago.)

There was a short discussion of the new Women In Service STATEMENT of purpose, organization, etc.

Phyllis mentioned the main changes from the old STATEMENT (dated March 2004). The motion was made, seconded and carried to accept the Women In Service STATEMENT (updated January 2016). If anyone would like a copy they can contact Phyllis Kaesermann (phone: 261-2605, or email kaeserpl@att.net).

There being no more business, the meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer. The next regular W.I.S. meeting will be held on February 11 at 1:00 pm in the conference room. A speaker is coming from the WLCFS Garden Homes in Hartford to give us suggestions about downsizing a home. The hostess will be Phyllis Kaesermann.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Kaesermann, Secretary

"It happened on April 15, 2006." These were the words spoken by a past ROC teen as he recently stopped by at our ROC Youth Center at the exact time as we were having our Bible/Talk Time. In front of all the teens at THE ROC, this young man was confessing his sin of breaking into THE ROC on April 15, 2006 in the middle of the night. He knew the very date because it had bothered him all this time and he needed to confess knowing God forgives him in Christ and that we would forgive him. This man had been in jail for the crime but that didn’t give him any comfort. Only forgiveness in Christ was the answer as it was the answer for King David and for all of us.

March 31 – After this date your Thrivent Choice Dollars will expire and be lost. THE ROC is an eligible organization for Thrivent Choice dollars (free money for Thrivent members to designate). Designate your Thrivent Choice dollars by calling 1-800-847-4836 or by going to https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You will find THE ROC by searching for "Watertown Recreation and Outreach Center for Youth". Thanks so much.
Teen's Corner

Trinity Teens will be at it again this month! We will continue to study the book of Hebrews on Sunday morning. If you are in grades 7-12 and have never joined us, you are certainly welcome. On Saturday, February 6, the teens will go ice skating at the Petit Center in Milwaukee. The cost is $6.50 for admission, and skate rental is $3.50. The costs of admission for adults is $7.50, in case any parents would like to join us! Watch the bulletin for more details. Trinity Teens will also host the Lenten meal on February 17. We'll be serving tacos! We are thankful for a great start to a new year! Keep us in your prayers.

Financial Status

Thanks be to God for the gifts given for the work of the church!

In order to give a clearer picture of our financial status we will be reporting the weekly and monthly totals of offerings for the unified budget.

Weekly offering needed to support the ministry plan: $14,009
Monthly offering needed to support the ministry plan: $56,036

Offerings received the week of December 6: $13,649
Offerings received the week of December 13: $12,061
Offerings received the week of December 20: $11,027
Offerings received the week of December 27: $28,210
Offerings received through Vanco in December: $3,044

Total Offerings received in the month of December for support of the ministry plan: $67,991

Actual offerings YTD: $356,141
Offerings needed YTD: $364,242
Difference: -$8,104

A detailed Treasurer’s Report will be posted on the bulletin board. If you have any questions contact Steve Strucely at 206-1745.

Lenten Season Begins

Ash Wednesday is February 10 and begins the season of Lent with a worship service with communion at 3:30 and 7 pm. Lenten services, which will be held every Wednesday at 3:30 and 7 pm, will focus on “The Blessing of the Lord’s Passion.” We will see the blessing of salvation, redemption, justification, atonement and life.

Between services a light supper will be served by various groups in the congregation. (Except March 16-Spring break week) So whether you would like to join us for supper after the 3:30 service or you are coming from work and need a bite to eat before the 7 pm service, you are cordially invited to join us.
The next monthly meeting of our local OWLS chapter will be on the third Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 1:30 pm, hosted this time by Immanuel Lutheran Church (Farmington), located just 2 miles east of Johnson Creek at W4095 County Rd B (Milwaukee Street). Carol Gronholz has the February program, "A Valentine Social." Refreshments by Immanuel's ladies. This is where a group of German immigrants formed the "Immanuel Society" in 1859, built a log chapel and several years later became a Lutheran congregation. Pastors Burk and Schmitz will tell us more of the history. The Organization of WELS Seniors (OWLS) provides meaningful activity for those who are retired and/or 50 years and older. Come and enjoy spiritual growth and the fellowship of neighboring WELS and ELS members. Bring a friend!
Lutheran Military Support Group

On May 1st, 2015 a group of veterans from throughout the Synod organized the Lutheran Military Support Group, LMSG. Any veteran who has served our country with honor will be considered part of this organization. This group was formed in concert with the WELS National Chaplain, Pastor Paul Ziemer; the Synod’s committee for Military Services and in fellowship with ELS.

We are an incorporated Wisconsin nonprofit, run by a board of evangelical Lutheran (WELS/ELS) veterans from all branches of service, in several states. We are a national level organization, designed to have national reach, but local impact. We are designed to be both an auxiliary to WELS Military Services in their support of active duty service members, and an independent organization supporting the needs of our military veterans and our “military families” of both active duty members and veterans.

Trinity has proudly joined this group and Steve Gillis has agreed to be our congregations liaison. In the next few weeks we will asking for information from our veterans, active duty service members and military families here at Trinity.

A.A.M.P
Annual All Member Potluck

Date: 2/14/16
Time: Noon

Bring your best potluck dish to the annual all member potluck. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and either a side dish or a dessert. Drinks will be provided.

The afternoon will also introduce our new members to the Trinity family along with a cook-off, games and fellowship.

Email Notifications

It has come to our attention that important dates and information are missed by our members if they are added to the calendar after the Sunday bulletin has been printed and distributed. (This would include funerals.) We are proposing to send out a weekly email with the church schedule and also any special items that come up during the week. A few days ago we sent out an email to tell people of this new idea. The feedback has been positive. If you did not receive an email, it means the church office does not have a current email address for you. If you would like to receive weekly emails with the schedule and other special information, email us at trinitymanager@charter.net.
Upcoming Retreats

Women’s Retreats

As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

St. Lucas Kewaskum Women’s Retreat
St. Lucas Lutheran Church
Kewaskum, WI
February 27, 2016
8:30am - 3:00pm

For more information or brochures contact Lynn at (262) 626-4749.

Men’s Retreat

Ironmen Conference Saturday, March 19, 2016

Plan to join us for the Ironmen of God Men's Conference #3! The conference will again be held at St. Paul Lutheran School, W1956 Gopher Hill Road, Ixonia, WI 53036, (located in rural Ixonia and not in the town itself). The cost that includes a delicious catered lunch is just $30 (cost increases to $35 for registrations after 3/4/16). Register at ironmenofgodwi.org

Blood Drive

Trinity will be hosting a blood drive on Thursday, February 11 from 1-6 pm. Volunteers are needed for delivering posters, working the “canteen” and registration. If you are able to help, contact Becky Knauth at 262-0647.

Blood is the essence of life and to give selflessly can make you feel more connected to your community and to the world around you. It’s a fulfilling, powerful and enriching experience to know that your donation could save lives. Unfortunately, fewer than 5% of people who are eligible to donate actually do. Imagine the lives that could be touched by your gift. It’s a quick, simple and amazing way to give back to the community.

For more than sixty-five years, BloodCenter of Wisconsin has partnered with donors to meet the needs of people in our local communities. BloodCenter is the only supplier of blood products to more than fifty Wisconsin community hospitals. Your contribution as a blood donor helps enhance the lives of your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers.
**Meals on Wheels**

During the week of February 22-25 we have the opportunity to bring hot meals to our Watertown neighbors through the Meals on Wheels program. Four teams are needed each day. The meals are picked up at Perkins restaurant at 11:30. The routes are clearly marked and the deliveries can be done in an hour or so. Often when you greet the meal recipients they are very grateful and enjoy seeing a fresh face everyday. If you can spare a couple of hours that week, please sign up in the Fireside Room or contact Lefty Zuleger at 920-261-0488.

**NPH Extra Program**

Recently Trinity received a check from Northwestern Publishing House for $36.10. This was a result of some of our members signing up for their NPH Extra Program. This program rewards participants by donating 1% of their purchases back to a chosen church school or organization. Thank you to our members that have remembered Trinity in this way. If you would like to sign up, visit www.nph.net/NPHextra or call 1-800-662-6022.

**Centennial Committee Update**

- Currently, our fundraising efforts have raised over $950.00 towards our $4,000.00 goal. Thanks to everyone for their generous freewill offerings during Coffee Hour and Advent Dinner.
- The committee is working on the Centennial Cookbook. The goal is to have the cookbooks ready for Mother’s Day.
- Mona Pett is working on creating a 12 oz. insulated mug. The mug will have the Trinity Logo on it. We are taking advance orders for the mugs – sign up is in the Fireside Room.
- Plans are being made for a Daddy-Daughter dance. This would be held at the Western Avenue campus. Watch for more details in the near future.
- The committee will serve one of the upcoming Lenten Meals. The menu will consist of Chili, hot dogs, and other goodies.
- Stone Creek Coffee is still available for sale. This is available in the Fireside Room. The Centennial Logo will be on all bags of coffee – this makes a great gift.
- There are many other activities in the works – keep watching the church bulletins and newsletter to keep up to date.
- The caterer has been chosen for the Centennial Dinner. Make plans now to attend the Centennial Celebration on November 6, 2016. The meal and program will follow at the Western Avenue campus.
- More details of our committee activities are included in the annual church report. We thank you for your generosity and support.
Trinity-St. Luke’s Lutheran School
January, 2016

Planning for 2016-2017

The midpoint of the current school year is reached this coming Thursday, January 21, with the completion of the second quarter. Even though there is still half of a school year remaining it also means that planning begins in earnest for the next school year.

A Nursery Rhyme Scavenger Hunt and Open House for 3K and 4K (preschool), 5K (kindergarten), and first grade will be held on Thursday afternoon and early evening, February 4, from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at the Western Avenue campus. This event allows parents and children to come in and see the classrooms, meet the teachers, and participate in activities geared for their level. Letters will be sent to all prospective families from our congregations; information will also be supplied throughout the community and the Watertown Daily Times.

Over the years we have learned that the best promotional tool for TSL is WOMP: word-of-mouth-promotion. Parents, grandparents, and congregational members telling others about TSL and what we as a school have to offer are important. You are the best recruiters for TSL we have!

While we will graduate 18 eighth grade students in early June, it is unknown at this time if the kindergarten enrollment will match the number of graduating eighth graders. Also unknown are the number of 3K and 4K students. We continue to monitor enrollment carefully as we look ahead to projected retirement dates of teachers, the talents of our current teachers, the number of hired staff we need and the hours required, the various programs we offer as a school, and the impact of all of this on the school budget which then impacts the congregational budgets.

As we begin to prepare the FY2016-2017 budget a recommendation has been received from the TSL Salary Review Committee (Trinity members Jack Nass and Myron Duin and St. Luke’s members Jim Schildbach and Scott Buss). This recommendation will be reviewed by the Joint Board in the weeks to come.

The Joint Committee on Funding (Trinity members Bob Turney and Mark Zastrow and St. Luke’s members Will Wendorff and Paul Dettman) will meet to plug in the current enrollment numbers and update the rolling five-year average that is used to determine each congregations’ amount of support for the budget. This is also an important step in getting ready to prepare the budget.

It seems like a lot to figure out, and it is, but the Lord already has the answers. We patiently wait to see where and how He leads us as we prepare for the next school year and the years to come.

Enrollment

Since our last report our TSL enrollment has grown by eight students. We have welcomed another student in 3K, 4K, first grade, two students in third grade, fifth grade, and two students in seventh grade. This brings our total 3K to grade eight enrollment to 185 students which is slightly higher than our enrollment at the close of the last school year. We thank the Lord for the blessing of increased enrollment.
Student Teachers

TSL is again participating in the student teaching program of Martin Luther College (MLC). Beginning January 25 we will have two student teachers working at the Clark Street campus.

Mr. Foxen will work with Mr. Jacob Rothe, an LPS graduate, in his seventh and eighth grade classroom. Mr. Moore and his classroom will have Mr. Carl Manske of Appleton, a graduate of Fox Valley Lutheran High School Both students from MLC will be with us through early April. They are also supervised by one of the professors from MLC, Prof. Scott Schmudlach of the MLC Education Division.

In late February Emma Hirsch, also an LPS graduate, will work with Mrs. Schultz and her third grade classroom. Miss Hirsch will be with us through early May. She is also supervised by Prof. Jennifer Krause of the MLC Education Division.

As you have opportunity, please meet and greet these young men and woman and remember them in your prayers as they complete this very important step to full-time service in the Lord’s Church.

Terra Nova Testing

This past fall TSL again administered the Terra Nova to all of the students in grades 3-8. Overall we are pleased with the results of this nationally recognized standardized test administered through our synod’s Commission on Lutheran Schools. The following chart summarizes the test results. The scores are given as percentiles which describe how our students did as compared to all other children in that grade nationwide who took the same test. For example, a 70th percentile means the students did better than 70% of the children at that level.

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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Gr. 3</th>
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<th>Gr. 5</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>72</td>
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<td>Language</td>
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<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>Science</td>
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<td>Social Studies</td>
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<td>78</td>
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<td>72</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These scores are valuable for us as a school in looking at our overall curriculum as well as looking at strengths and areas that need improving for individual students. We are grateful that this item could be returned to the school budget to allow us to complete sequential testing for several years in a row.

Thank You!

We thank Will Wendorff from St. Luke’s for his three years of service on the Joint Board including this last year as chairman. Will has also helped in a number of ways with school technology, the website, and other issues that matched his considerable expertise. We are pleased that he has agreed to help TSL in a number of areas in the years to come. St. Luke’s has elected Tim Hammond for this expired term. Matthew Zastrow has completed his first three-year term at Trinity and was reelected for a second term. We pray the Lord’s continued blessings for all of our Joint Board members!
The year 1918 brought big plans for the young Trinity congregation. Shortly after his arrival in Watertown Pastor Stern bought a bicycle to get around town and became known as the bicycling pastor. His route from the parsonage at 1317 Western Avenue to St. Mark’s Lutheran School at times took him down Fourth Street past Veterans’ Park. Across the street from the park on the east side of the street stood the Buchheit property. This house, as well as the entire city block on which it was sitting, was for sale since the death of Mr. Buchheit several years before. Pastor Stern was far thinking in visualizing that this site would be an ideal location for Trinity Lutheran Church.

The minutes of May 30, 1918, list the first mention of the purchase of this property. In less than two months the congregation was informed that they could receive a $3,000 loan from the Church Extension Fund of the synod to assist with the purchase of the property. Originally listed for $12,000, the lawyers representing the estate were able to have the price lowered to $8,500. When the members of the Buchheit family learned that Trinity Lutheran Church was interested in buying the house and land, they further lowered the price another $500.

The new of the purchase of the property was made public with the appearance of the following article in the Watertown Daily Times:

**BUCHHEIT HOME WILL BE USED AS HOUSE OF WORSHIP**

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregation Has Purchased Building Which Will Be Remodeled in Time

The Buchheit estate residence formerly the home of Luther Cole, one of the founders of Watertown, will soon be converted into a house of worship to be used by the congregation of Trinity Lutheran church. The deal was made late Wednesday afternoon through the Jefferson Investment company of which Alex Buchheit of Milwaukee, one of the heirs, is president. It is proposed to remodel the building to fit it as a place of worship, but so far the church council has no definite plans as to the time when this work will be taken up as labor is scarce and building materials high.

The English Lutheran church was founded by the present pastor, the Rev. F. E. Stern, in November, 1916. Mr. Stern came here from Mansfield, Washington at that time. The board of trustees are as follows:

President – Prof. S. Probst
Vice President – Dr. F. Schlueter
Financial Secretary – William Gordor, Jr.
Treasurer – Otto Winkenwerder
Rev. F. E. Stern, Henry Sauer

The Watertown end of the real estate deal was looked after by Skinner & Thauer.

The congregation now owned land (an entire city block) and a building, but it was going to take some remodeling to turn this magnificent mansion (by Watertown standards) into a church building. An article in the Watertown Daily Times of April 23, 1919, explained how this was accomplished:

...The members have been for some time considering the question of securing a site and erecting a church, and finally through the vigilance of the pastor and leaders, the Buchheit block, located between Fourth and Fifth Streets and Milwaukee and Wisconsin streets, was purchased about a year ago. The palatial residence, originally erected by the late Luther Cole, and latterly acquired and improved by the Buchheit family, was found to be well adapted to remodeling for a church edifice and as the location is most ideal, definite plans were without delay placed in operation. J. F. Draeger, a prominent architect of Oshkosh, was given charge of the alterations, and under his supervision, the transformation is coming rapidly.
99 Years and Counting (continued)

The congregation already has suitable church furniture which will be transferred from the school auditorium now occupied [the auditorium of St. Mark’s Lutheran School where the congregation had been worshiping since its founding] to the new edifice.

The plan and design of the magnificent structure were such as to make extended rearrangement unnecessary. A large room for the altar, pulpit, and seats was easily constructed. The main entrance will be on the west side, facing the city square and there will be another entrance on the east side. A very commodious room on the southwest corner will be furnished for a council room and other large apartments are suited for rest or reception parlors, conveniences very comforting about a church.

The Ladies Aid of the congregation has already fitted up in superb manner on the second floor, a reception hall, kitchen, and pantry. There are several other rooms on the same floor which will be fitted out for assembly or study purposes. The basement is a veritable labyrinth and can be splendidly utilized in connection with the building...

The congregation owns besides this block, a substantial parsonage in Western Avenue, but of course it is the intention to eventually have all buildings in the church block...

Dedication for the new home of Trinity Lutheran Church was set for Sunday, May 11, 1919, with three festival services of dedication.

***

In the next installment we will hear about the dedication services and festivities that occurred on Dedication Day.

Our thanks to Phyllis KAESERMANN and Earl Roberts, lifelong members of Trinity, for providing sketches of the floor plans of the “Church House”. We also thank Peter Strucely for translating these sketches into the computer-generated floor plans you see in the article. A depiction of the “Church House” is found in the stained glass window in the passageway that leads from the Fireside Room to the church narthex.

First and second floor diagrams of the “Church House” following the remodeling of the Buchheit mansion. No pictures of the interior of the building exist except for those taken as part of confirmation services or wedding pictures.
Trinity Lutheran Church
604 S Fifth Street
Watertown WI 53094

Sunday Worship Services
8 & 10:30 am
Bible Activity Hour & Bible Class
9:15 am
Wednesday Worship Service
6:30 pm
Ash Wednesday Service
3:30 & 7 pm
Wednesday Lenten Services
3:30 & 7 pm

Pastor Brett Brauer
trinitypastor@charter.net
CELL: 920-915-9070
HOME: 920-261-1599

Pastor Dustin Yahnke
pastoryahnke@hotmail.com
CELL: 414-614-0077

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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trinitymanager@charter.net
www.trinitywatertown.net