



Monthly Monitor

April 2024

In the past few weeks, we have certainly seen wide array of inclement weather here in the middle of the Mitten. Thunderstorms, strong winds, sleet, rain and snow in were experienced throughout our region.

When I was growing up, one of the more memorable things that my younger brother and I would do when the rain storms blew through was to go outside and play basketball. The harder it rained, the harder we played until we were exhausted or until the storm blew through. When it was all said and done, and the sun began to shine through the clouds, we would make our way back in the house to dry off and clean up. We would be soaked to the bone, but always grinning from ear to ear because of the fun we had.



God’s love and grace in our lives is in many ways like the rain that falls during a spring thunderstorm. His love covers every aspect of our life and soaks us to the very core of our existence. The Resurrection Celebration that we just experienced at the end of March gives us the greatest example of God’s love for us. This amazing love can be seen best in the forgiveness of sin we receive through the death and resurrection of our Lord’s own Son, Jesus. This forgiveness assures us of perfect life forever one day with God after we die. But, God’s gifts to us don’t end with just forgiveness. God’s love refreshes our lives and His grace accounts for every blessing we experience in life, whether we realize it or not.

Despite this amazing truth, there is still a choice that we make. God’s love and grace in our life showers upon us without ceasing, yet if we so choose, we can put up barriers, umbrellas, so to speak, to block out God’s endless outpouring of gifts into our lives. It is our choice if we decide to put up umbrellas of sin to keep us out of God’s grace. These umbrellas can take many different forms and look like many different things. Any time we prioritize something in our life higher than our relationship with God we could effectively be hindering that constant shower of blessings in our life.

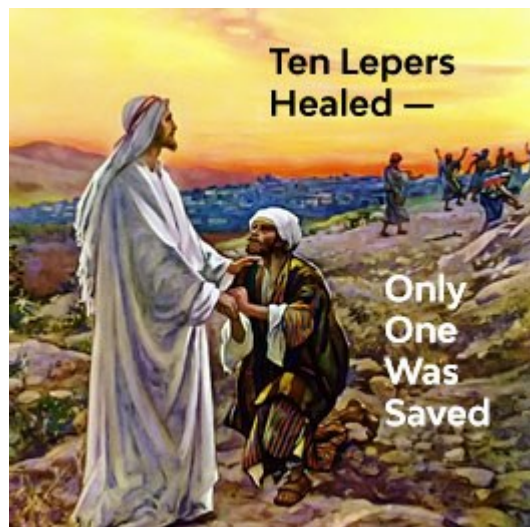
So, this spring, I want to challenge you. As we begin to see the grass green and the flowers bloom as a result of the spring rain, take a look at your own life and see the blessings that God has caused to bloom there. Challenge yourself through the power of the Holy Spirit to reprioritize your life, putting the Lord first in all that you do. Use the gifts the Lord has given to you to help and be of service to those in need around you and do not hinder the work of God in your life by having the wrong priorities. Ask that the Holy Spirit open your eyes to God’s endless shower of love and grace that started with the empty tomb and continues to come new to you each day.

-Pastor Kaiser



Are You One of the Nine?

The account in Luke 17:11-19 of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers is very familiar to us. We remember how these poor afflicted outcasts cried out to the Lord for healing and that Jesus had pity on them and healed them. After getting official clearance from the priests who verified that they were indeed cured of the dreadful disease, nine of them went their joyful way, completely forgetting about Jesus Who had answered their pleas. Only one of them returned to thank Jesus.



Isn't this just like us? Aren't we so often one of the nine? We put our requests before God, and, when He answers them, we go our joyful way, forgetting to thank Him for hearing us and blessing us. Still, He continues to pour out His goodness on us. Take a walk on a summer morning, and you can't help but praise Him for the beauty all around – for the world He has created to sustain us and for us to enjoy. Go to bed at night, safe and secure in your home, with a full stomach and an unworried mind and thank God for His benefits.

Sit down with your Bible, unconcerned that anyone might storm your door and take you off to prison for your “subversive” activities, something that happens regularly to our persecuted brothers and sisters in the faith. Gather

with other believers on Sunday morning to hear and sing the Word, partake of Christ's body and blood which impart forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation, and to pray . . . and thank God for His blessings.

Thank Him with your words of thanksgiving. Thank Him with deeds of service to others. Thank Him with giving your money. Thank Him with your life, for He gave His for you.

The Golden Rule

Jesus said, “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you . . .” (Matthew 7:12). Christ in us enables us to treat others with love and kindness. We can live the Golden Rule. Our hope and desire is that others will return that love to us, although we realize that, just as many didn't return Christ's love to Him, others may not return our kindness to us. Just because we don't always receive goodness and kindness from others, we should never be deterred from expressing God's love to others.





Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

April 2024

Happy Spring Trinity!

While the current weather forecast (3-5 inches of snow in the next 48 hours) is not feeling very spring-like, all the activities inside the school are pointing directly toward SpRiNg! We are in the midst of enrollment season and planning for the new school year.

It is not very often that I will ever talk about politics, but this week I joined other principals in Policy Day for Non-Public Schools in Lansing, hosted by the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools (MANS). Seeing how things work and all that our representatives are dealing with was an eye-opening experience. I am sometimes very discouraged by the news when all I hear is what is going against the parochial schools in our state (and country in general). I was able to be a part of meetings with 2 state representatives, Tim Beson & Matthew Bierlein, and was very encouraged by the work they do and their deep support of Christian education. Representative Bierlein's children attend Lutheran a school and shared with us that the most important thing we can do is to "pay attention to who we vote into office" and to be bold and persistent in sharing the needs of our schools. The common misconception is that children who attend private / Christian schools do not have the same needs as public school children - and that is simply untrue.

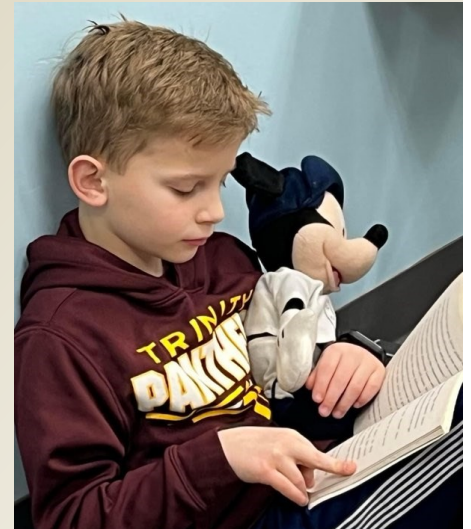
I feel it is important for our members and families to understand some of the changes that are being proposed. The following is a sampling of appropriations that have previously been included in the state budget for non-public schools, but are not part of the proposed 2025 budget. These are talking points shared during our meetings with representatives.

- **Equitable Treatment of Nonpublic Schools:** A number of policy and budget issues impact the operation and vitality of nonpublic schools. From school safety and security to shared time funding and teacher certification, Michigan's nonpublic schools feel the impact of decisions made in Lansing. **MANS urges the Legislature to consider the impact of policy and budget decisions on Michigan's nonpublic schools and their 100,000+ students. Public policy decisions should be made with the best interest of all of Michigan's students in mind, no matter where they attend school.**
- **School Safety Funding** - the last 2 years have included \$18,000,000 appropriation for school safety and mental health initiatives. **MANS urges the legislature to reinstate funding for school safety for Michigan's nonpublic school.**

(continued)



Drop Everything and READ!



The Classroom Chronicles-(continued)

- Health & Safety Mandates - The State of Michigan has passed a number of health, safety and welfare regulations upon ALL Michigan schools. Public schools are compensated for these regulations through the per pupil foundation allowance. The 2017 & 2018 School Aid Budgets included \$2.5 million to reimburse nonpublic schools. In 2019 the amount appropriated was \$250,000; there was \$1 million provided in the 22-23 AND 23-24 school years. There is no appropriation in the proposed 2025 budget. **MANS urges the legislature to support reinstatement of funding for this purpose in the 2024-25 School Aid budget for the purpose of reimbursing nonpublic schools for performing requirements that keep Michigan students safe.**
- Student Teacher Stipend Program - the proposed budget includes the provision of up to the \$9,600 per semester for students attending teacher preparation college programs. The student must student-teach in a public school to receive the stipend. **MANS urges the legislature to include the ability for student teachers to complete their student teaching in a nonpublic school this making the playing field even between public school and nonpublic schools that are both suffering the impact of a teacher shortage.**
- Michigan Future Educator Fellowship Program - this program freely provides up to \$10,000 per year for students seeking to be a PreK-12 teacher (up to \$20,000) and who teach at a public school for 3-5 years post-graduation. Teachers who take positions in non-public schools will not qualify and will need to repay the fellowship. **MANS urges the legislature to include the option of subsequently teaching at a nonpublic school to avoid repayment of the fellowship funding.**

In closing I would like to say that regardless of our government leadership, our King is in control. We have a responsibility to pray for the government - whether we agree or disagree with the politics. Please pray for our leaders to make God pleasing decisions and that our schools, teachers, students and families would not be excluded in their decision making processes.

In HIS Service,
Mrs. Karen Friebe

2024
CONNECTED



Announcements



Trinity's Wild Game Dinner and Auction-2024



"Thank You" just doesn't seem adequate to express how we feel about everyone who supported the Wild Game Dinner Auction Event #7 on March 2nd at The Great Hall in Midland! Whether your role was a Sub-Committee Chairman, an auction item donor/bidder, or an attendee, EVERY SINGLE PERSON is vital to the success of our fundraising efforts and we thank YOU!

Final numbers are still being crunched, but preliminary results are looking like another great year! This year our projects are the school playground, as well as the HVAC units.

There are 21 Sub-Committee Chairmen working together to make this event happen in order to support the mission and ministry of Trinity Monitor. Believe us, we still have room for YOU! If you would commit to a handful of meetings throughout the year, we're positive there's something you can do! Contact us at: trinitymonitordinnerauction@gmail.com.

Again, our sincerest and heartfelt thanks!
Cortney Feinauer and Deadra Hurley, Event Co-Chairs

While we're waiting for the final bottom line, here are some interesting stats for you:

- We fed 369 people!
- Since we began using our online platform, we now have a total 897 supporters (that includes attendees, online bidders, and donors)!
- We had 23 Live Auction items!
- We had 7 different Bucket Drop Packages!
- We had 3 Door Prizes!
- We had 218 Silent/Online Auction items!

The Top Five Most Popular Silent Auction Items:

- #1 with 139 bids - Single Door Refrigerator
- #2 with 118 bids - Sunday Sundae Kit from Trinity's 1st Grade Class
- #3 with 102 bids - Filled Yeti Roadie Cooler
- #4 with 92 bids - Hanging Chaise Lounger
- #5 with 71 bids - Luck of the Irish Wreath

The Top Five Items:

- #1 with \$485 in proceeds = A Walleye Fishing Trip with Captain Mark Peniozek donated by Mike Hampton of Mike's Tire Sales in Kawkawlin!
- #2 with \$386 in proceeds = Filled Yeti Roadie Cooler donated by The State Bank
- #3 with \$364 in proceeds = 6.0 cu. ft. Refrigerator donated by Gretchen Anderson
- #4 with \$325 in proceeds = Bass Fishing Trip donated by Matt Smith
- #5 with \$321 in proceeds = Sunday Sundae Kit from Trinity's 1st Grade Class

Greetings from the Booster Club Corner!

We've been in our quiet season, but always behind the scenes supporting our student athletes over the winter. That changes this spring as we begin ramping up for our warm weather activities that you won't want to miss!

- **Spring Cleanup** of the Pavilion and Grounds on **Saturday, May 4 at 9:00am**. We have a lot of lawn repair to do from the plowed snow over the winter. Please bring your garden rakes to help get the gravel and dirt off the lawn. Many hands make light work as we invite you to work alongside us!
- **Drive-Thru Chicken BBQ** is on deck to celebrate Mother's Day on **Saturday, May 11**.
- **41st Annual Booster Club Weekend** on **August 23-25** complete with:
 - * Middle School Soccer Tournament with schools from our League
 - * Live Band - Whiskey 6 on Friday night
 - * Saturday Lunch - Chicken BBQ
 - * Live Band - Floyd G's Juice Machine on Saturday night
 - * Outdoor Worship Service - 10:30am
 - * Sunday Lunch - Pig Roast

Watch the weekly Messenger for further details! Or better yet, come join Trinity Monitor's Athletic Booster Club the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00pm. On nice evenings, you'll find us out in the pavilion. Otherwise, we meet in the school's dining room.



Save the Date!
**41st Annual
Booster Club Weekend**
Pig Roast & Chicken BBQ

New Weekend
August 23rd-25th
(Moved to the 4th weekend in August)
Same Great Fun!



After our penitential season of Lent, it's time to begin our service of Praise on Wednesday evenings! Join us for **Worship on Wednesdays (WOW)** at **6:00pm**. We begin this next season of WOW on **April 10**.

If you'd like to lend a hand with the service, there are forms on the table in the narthex. Just fill it out with your contact information and we'll give you the details if you'd like to be a Scripture Reader, Song Leader, or Musician for the service. There's also a spot to list a song you'd like to sing!

These praise services will follow Sunday's scripture readings and sermon. So if you're gone for the weekend and missed out on worship, join us on Wednesday evening!

TRINITY MONITOR
SCIENCE FAIR

APRIL 17, 2024

5:30-7:30

In the GYM

Each classroom will have projects for viewing
Please watch for more information from your student's teacher

Trinity Lutheran School
2024-2025
Open Enrollment

Current Students-Congregation Members-Community Enrollment

Kindergarten-8th Grade

Enrollment Fee
Enrollment fees will be \$100 per student
Enrollment fees starting June 1 will be \$200 per student

Preschool

Enrollment Fee
Enrollment is now open please contact the office for enrollment packets
Enrollment Fee \$100 p/student

call the office for more information



Mites are collected the first Sunday of the month. A box will be in the back of the church. Contributions will be sent to the district LWML/ Districts retain 75% of the mite offering to fund district mission grants and 25% is sent to the national LWML to fund national mission grants.

ADULT MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Pastor Kaiser will be starting an adult membership class in mid-April. This will be approximately a four-week series, meeting once per week, with the flexibility to work around your schedule. Anyone interested in attending the class should contact the office at (989)662-6093 or talk with Pastor Kaiser.



Orphan Grain Train is a recognized service organization (RSO) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This Christian humanitarian network has 27 branches across the United States from California to Maryland and from North Dakota to Texas. The Michigan Branch has operated for five years out of the Michigan Thumb. At Sebewaing an 8,000 sq. ft. work and warehouse Center receives and processes humanitarian goods for distribution internationally. Wherever disaster relief is needed in our country, Orphan Grain Train also responds. Orphan Grain Train—Michigan has made numerous international shipments of clothing, medical supplies, and more to Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Moldova, the Republic of Georgia, Latvia, Malawi, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Sudan—and always with the message of God's love in Christ. For more information visit www.ogt.org/ or contact Orphan Grain Train—Michigan Branch Manager, Pastor David Reed, 989-600-2264.



To facilitate the convenient donating of goods to the Orphan Grain Train, a barrel has been placed inside our Trinity School hallway for new or gently used clothing only, such as:

- Clothing-Infant, Children's, Women's, and Men's
- Shoes- Clean and Wearable
- Underwear- New Only
- Socks-Gently Used or New



Thank you Trinity PTO for organizing a night of FUN and HOCKEY with the SAGINAW SPIRIT!



Pastor Kaiser opened with devotion and prayer
 Meeting called to order by Dave Friebe at 7:03 PM

Secretary's Report – Katie Wohlfeil

- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept secretary's report as published in the monthly Monitor

Treasurer's Report – Jerry Rivet

- Financial Report provided for meeting attendees

	Checking Balance	Outstanding Items	Designated Items	Line of Credit Loan Balance	Overall Balance - Debt	Decrease in debt over January, 2024
February, 2024	\$156,812	\$33,887	\$233,681	\$29,150	\$110,756	\$2,314

- Contributions:

February 2024 YTD	February 2023 YTD	Contributions from School 2024	Contributions from School 2023
\$201,305	\$140,162	\$40k	\$30k
\$61,143 increase		\$10,000 increase	

- Expenses:

February 2024 YTD	February 2023 YTD
\$188,018	\$173,698
\$14,320 increase	

- Remaining cash from second PPP loan balance of \$64,498 has been forgiven and is not included in this financial statement
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Budget Committee- Paul Reinsch

- Has met twice in 2024
- Members include: Paul Reinsch, Jenna Kaiser, Amy Kundinger, Dave Friebe, Eric Marter, Jerry Rivet, Rich Herzberger, Pastor Kaiser and Karen Friebe
- Focus this year is to keep service at the same level while maintaining planned budget
- Financing Task Force has been assembled to look deeply into potential changes to improve cash flow and debt to income ratios
 - Paul Reinsch, Mike Avery, Virgil McGuire, Sandy Herzberger and Amy Kundinger are official members
 - Informal members: Dave Friebe, Eric Marter and Jerry Rivet
- Current Financial Position handout provided for meeting attendees
 - Health insurance costs have increased significantly
 - Tuition increase for 2023-2024 school year was higher than anticipated
 - Budget for 2024 is running at a deficit of \$123k
 - Budget for 2025 is tracking at a deficit of \$48k
- Motion made, supported, and approved

Elder's Report – Dan Feinauer

- Lenten services will be held at 4:30 pm and 7 pm, schedule can be found printed in the bulletins
- Membership changes
 - Melissa (Elle) Tam and son Blaise transfer from Amelith
 - Motion, made, supported and approved to accept transfer
- Pastor appreciation dinner was held at Lucky's
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Pastor's Report – Pastor Kaiser

- Home visits continue, please sign up if you have not already
- Two funerals since last meeting
- Two baptisms since last meeting
- First communion will still be held on Maundy Thursday
- Confirmation will be held in the beginning of May
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Trustee's Report – Eric Marter, Dave Friebe

- Thank you to Steve Rivet and Don Behmlander for their work to repair the plaster in the church
- Thank you to Rich Herzberger for replacing all the lights in the church
- Bell tower has water leak with possible structural damage
 - Structural engineer came out to assess current condition and potential repairs needed
 - Second opinion will be sought and discussed at our next meeting
 - Water is pooling in bell tower which is causing beams to rot and plaster to warp in walls
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Board of Christian Education – Katie Wohlfeil

- Brendan Harrison will return part time in April and full time in May
- Joy Feinauer's retirement celebration will be held on May 19
- VBS will be held July 28 through August 1
- Great Start Readiness Program is being explored as a possibility
- Tuition recommendation for '24-'25 school year
 - Increase tuition \$200 per student to a max of \$500 per family
 - \$100 Credit if re-enrollment paperwork is submitted within the first week
 - \$100 credit if tuition paid in full before next school year
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Principal's Report – Karen Friebe

- 100 students K-8 with 17 preschool
- Early childhood open house will be held on March 5th
- Re-enrollment for current students will begin on March 11 with church members and community member enrollment periods to follow
- Preschool rates are expected to stay at current rates
- Discussion about potential GSRP programs
- Motion made, supported, and approved to accept report

Stewardship Report – Sandy Arnold

- No report

Athletic Club – Rich Kernstock

- Storage room is filling up
- Eldor Wegener built shelving
- Chicken BBQ will be held in May

Wild Game Dinner – Deadra Hurley

- Seventh annual dinner and auction fed 369
- 2,980 bids on auctions
- Will not know total profits until April
- Proceeds will go towards new playground and new HVAC units
- 2025 dinner will be held March 1
- Volunteers are always needed and appreciated, please contact Deadra if you are interested
- Motion made, supported and approved to accept report

BFF Funding – Virgil McGuire

- Account balance - \$80,558
- 2024 brought in \$55k which covered the year's payments in full
- Loan balance is just over \$385k
- Monthly payment is \$4,583
- Motion made, supported and approved to accept report

Endowment Fund – Lugene McGuire

- Current account balance -
- Paid this year - \$51,287.34
- Amount available - \$62,698.10
- \$69,525.37 interest earned in 2024
- \$51,375.90 paid out in 2024
- Requests
 - Daily Devotion books for Lent \$261.25
 - Motion made, supported and approved to accept
 - Kate Kaiser cost for Katie Conference \$148
 - Motion made, supported and approved to accept
- Motion made, supported, approved to accept report

Valley Lutheran Report – Dave Friebe

- Annual auction raised \$78k
- Lenten tour will be at St. Paul Frankentrost at 3 pm on March 17
- April 13 will be the antique show beginning at 9 am
- May 2-4 will be Little Women play
- Tuition will also go up \$200 per student next school year
- Motion made, supported and approved to accept report

Old Business

- Parsonage opportunity
 - Grace Auburn's deaconess will be looking for a place to rent in the near future
 - Motion to rent parsonage with discretion given to the church council to decide official monthly rate
- Motion supported and approved

New Business

- Tri City Good Friday worship service requested donations
 - Motion made to have a door offering to accept donations
 - Motion supported and approved
- Handicap accessibility discussion
 - Options include :
 - adding ramp with access on north side of building
 - Installing elevator where men's bathroom is located
- Recommendation is to increase salaries for salaried and hourly workers by 2.5%
- Recommendation is to reduce future new hires' Concordia plan contribution to lower tier option from 8.5%
- Motion made to increase tuition \$200 per student, increase salary and hourly pay by 2.5%, and decrease future hires' Concordia plan to lower tier option
 - Motion made, supported, and approved to accept proposal as stated
- No New Members

Motion made, supported, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM by Dave Friebe.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Attendance

- **Eligible Voting Members: 539 Voting Members: 157 Voting Members Present: 47**