



Monthly Monitor

December 2022

A Season for Relationships

Trinity Monitor Family,

Greetings to you this Advent season in the name of our God-in-the-flesh Savior, Jesus Christ! It is so good to finally sit down and share with you all as your soon- to-be installed, new pastor. I know the wait has been a long one for the Trinity Family, but as we all know, God is faithful! Kate and I and our whole family are looking forward to beginning new relationships with each of you as we seek to serve the Lord together at Trinity Monitor.

And when I think of ministry and the Holiday season, one of the first words I think of is relationship. It really sums up so much of what this time of the year is all about. All the way back to when I was a kid, the best memories that I have of the Holiday season are not of gifts that I received, but memories of the people I was with. Christmas Eves spent at my Grandma & Grandpa Denker's house could always be marked by memories of oyster soup and chili, great conversations with uncles, aunts, cousins, and Grandma and Grandpa, and of course, our post-present-opening Christmas paper war with balls of wrapping paper being launched from all corners of the living room.



Christmas morning would be marked by a flurry of present stacking and sorting. Us kids would take turns opening while Mom and Dad would watch and wait for our reactions as we tore into each new gift.

Our Christmas season would then conclude with a trip to a location not too far from you! We would then come to Michigan to celebrate Christmas with the Kaiser side of the family. The highlight of the trip is always the special chicken dinner that we enjoy as a big family in Frankenmuth followed by our family gift exchange the following night, where again, conversations with relatives are always at a premium.

All in all, as I have grown older, I have come to realize something. The gifts and presents wrapped up in bows and pretty paper aren't what make Christmas special, but rather, the gift of relationships shared with loved ones celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus, is what makes the Holidays so special. And this Christmas, the thought of beginning new relationships with each of you at Trinity Monitor while celebrating the birth of Christ brings me much joy!



continued—>

Pastor's Message-continued

Two thousand years ago God gave us the greatest gift of all time by sending His Son into the world to die and rise for us. God sent His Son to restore our broken relationship with Him. Our God cares about relationships. You see, God cares so much about us that our relationship with Him was worth the very life of His own Son. Our God desperately wants to be in a relationship with you!

This Holiday season, amidst all the mistletoe, eggnog, & perfectly wrapped presents don't forget the true Reason for the Season. Treasure and appreciate those relationships that God has placed in your life and give thanks to God for restoring your relationship with Him through the Gift of His Son, Jesus. See you soon and God bless!

In Immanuel's Service,
Pastor Seth Kaiser

From the Chairman

What a joyous season we're about to enter!

As we get ready to celebrate Advent, Christmas and the birth of our Lord, we're also preparing to welcome our new Pastor and his family.

Rev. Seth Kaiser, his wife Kate and their four children will move into their new home in Saginaw Township the week of December 12th.

As you know, Pastor is looking for help in unloading boxes and getting his family settled in. The date for the official move is Thursday, December 15th. We'll start at 9 in the morning and continue until the job is done. If you can't make it there early, feel free to sign up for later in the day. That sign-up sheet is at the back of the church.

We're also looking for help in covering the cost of Pastor's move. You can make a designated gift in an envelope marked "Pastor Kaiser's Move", or you can also donate electronically. We're hoping to raise at least \$10,000 and avoid using general fund money to cover the cost.


Pastor Kaiser's Installation service will be Sunday afternoon, December 18th at 2 o'clock. There will be a reception for the Kaiser family immediately following in the school gym.

His first services in our Trinity pulpit will be on Christmas Eve! Those services will include a 3:00 p.m. Children's Service, 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service and a 10:00 p.m. Candlelight service.


This has been a long and sometimes frustrating process of searching for our next spiritual leader but God has blessed us with a wonderful man and his beautiful family.

Our Trinity Family truly has much to be thankful for.

In Christ,
Mike Avery
Chairman



Trinity Lutheran Church cordially invites you to join us for the Installation of **Pastor Seth Kaiser** on Sunday, December 18, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. A reception will be held in the school gym immediately following the installation.




WISHING YOU AN ABUNDANTLY BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!

FROM THE FULLNESS OF GRACE WE HAVE ALL RECEIVED ONE BLESSING AFTER ANOTHER.
John 1:16

Stewardship Minute-December

Rejoice Exceedingly!

This is the Christmas season, and, a small but important part of Jesus' birth is the visit of the wise men. Their visit is recorded in the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Following the star, inquiring at the king's palace, informed by the priests where to find the Child, they trudged with determination to Bethlehem, bringing with them the gifts they planned to present as they worshiped Him. "When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matthew 2:10-11).

What did the wise men from the East know about this Baby or His family? Not much. Yet they came in faith, bringing gifts with them to honor Him. How far did they travel? How long was their trip? We can surmise, but what's important to know is that, for them, the trip with all its drudgery was worth it. "They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy"

How long a trip are we prepared to make this Christmas to worship the Christ Child? Are we willing to put up with inconvenience and sacrifice in order that we might come before Him with our gifts, offering them in faith, as the wise men did?

What causes our joy this Christmas season? Is it seeing the eyes of little children light up when they open their presents? That's good. Is it finding exactly the right gift for someone special? That's good, too. But do we rejoice exceedingly when we see the star? Contrary to the messages we hear in the commercials and even the seasonal songs, the entire focus for Christmas should be the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.

Along with doing all the wonderful things that are good to do at this time of the year, including visiting the sick and the shut-in, baking goodies for food banks, sharing financial resources with those in need, and all the shopping and caroling and everything else, let's find our joy in seeing the star. That star points us to Jesus and leads us to the Cross. May God grant us the same determination and faith that the wise men had when they traveled to honor Jesus. Let us open our treasures and worship Him with our best and most precious gifts as the Wise Men did.

As the Star of Bethlehem guided the wise men, may the light that is the Light of the world guide our thoughts, words, and actions. Merry Christmas!

Stewardship Corner

The glory of the Lord shone around the angels who appeared to the shepherds, and those poor shepherds were terrified! Once they heard the truth, though, fear turned to excitement and eagerness. "Let's go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us," they said to one another. Many today avoid thinking about spiritual things simply because they are afraid to contemplate what lies ahead. What joy and comfort we can bring by sharing the "good news of great joy" like the angels did. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2)



Trinity Lutheran School The Classroom Chronicles

December

2022-2023

The long awaited holiday season is here! The excitement is building as November comes to a close and the end of another calendar year is just around the corner. This is a great time to take a minute to look at what has already happened and what we can look forward to this school year with a thankful heart.

Thankfully, our school year has been returning to a more "normal" pre-pandemic environment. One of the most exciting returns has been field trips. It was staggering to think that our 2nd graders had not yet experienced a field trip, but they did it this year! Another important return was our Veterans Day Celebration! Our students and staff were honored to celebrate Veterans Day with about 25 Veterans and their guests by providing a pancake breakfast (thanks to the Athletic Boosters for their donation) followed by a program filled with music, poetry, scripture and gratitude. Our school also completed the first mission project of the year, filling 160+ shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

As we look to the immediate future, we will welcome the return of Advent services with our younger students, advent dinners and a pastor of our very own! We will be able to share in fellowship during Advent dinners on Dec. 7 and 14 that will be fundraisers for the 7th & 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. in April. Pastor Kaiser and his son, Judah, "zoomed" into 4th grade and chapel early in November. Both virtual visits were a great opportunity to meet with them both. We were even able to take Judah on a "walk through" the school - thanks to modern technology.

Our next mission is Life Clinic Pregnancy Center. We will be collecting different items during the months of December, January & February (toddlers socks, baby wipes and diapers). Please watch for additional information about this mission to be shared in future Monitor and Messengers.

I ask that you would continue to keep our teaching staff in your prayers. Mr. Brendan Harrison, our 6th grade teacher, who was diagnosed with colon cancer in October, is recovering from surgery and preparing to start cancer treatments in the very near future. Also recovering is Mrs. Marcy Chambers, our PE teacher and boys basketball coach. Mrs. Chambers had a terrible stage accident a couple of months ago. We are hopeful Mrs. Chambers will be able to return after Christmas break. We are thankful for the progress of both Mr. Harrison and Mrs. Chambers and look forward to their return to school.

I pray you will all have the opportunity to enjoy the gifts of this advent season as we prepare our hearts for Jesus return to us

In HIS Service,
Mrs. Karen Friebel

Our theme this year is "Created in God's Image" based on Psalms 139:13-14
For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.



Announcements-December

Harvest Dinner

Harvest Dinner 2022 was a Huge Success. THANK YOU Trinity Church Members and Trinity School members for all your hard work in making this such an enormous success!!!

God has blessed us and my heart overflows with all the help we got this year! The usual crew showed up - Plus new volunteers to make this the BEST dinner ever!

When 100+ people come together for 100's of man hours to put Harvest Dinner together, God is smiling down on us and saying, "Well done thou good and faithful servant".

With 792 tickets sold and profits of \$7,472.23, we are so blessed!

The profits this year will be divided as follows —
 \$1000.00 to Auburn Area Food Bank
 \$3236.12 to Building for the Future
 \$3236.11 to The Fund for the Storage Room

This is amazing! But even more amazing is:

1. People working together!
2. The smiling faces and fellowship!
3. The love of God shown through each and every person who worked, attended, and volunteered!

Thank you once again to all the workers! Without you none of this would be possible!

All Glory to God, and Blessings to Trinity!



Operation Christmas Child

A HUGE thank you to panther students, families & our congregation at Trinity for supporting our mission this past quarter. The students were able to collect 142 boxes to send overseas to children in need this Christmas season. Each classroom also wrote a note or letter with the words of Jesus to share his love with everyone. Each classroom collected over 5 boxes to contribute to that total number, and our offerings were a huge help as well. The offerings & door offering from the church that was collected went towards the shipping cost of each box.

Wednesday at chapel each classroom brought their boxes into the gym where Pastor Schian was able to give a blessing and a prayer over the boxes as we close out our mission. The boxes will be delivered to a drop-off location this weekend and shipped off to the larger collection locations in the United States before being shipped overseas.

Thank you all again for your support and for being a part of our mission! Stay tuned for what our next mission is for the second quarter!

-Ms. Steffey, Mrs. Tomaszewsky, and Mrs. Parsons



Announcements-continued

WORSHIP With US This Holiday Season

Advent Worship
 5:30 p.m.
 November 30th
 December 7th-14th

Christmas Eve
 3:00 p.m.-Children's Service
 5:00 p.m.-Christmas Service
 10:00 p.m.-Candlelight Service

Christmas Day
 w/Communion
 10:00 a.m. Sunday, December 25th

New Year's Eve
 w/Communion
 5:30 p.m.

New Year's Day
 w/Communion
 10:00 a.m.-Sunday, January 1st

Food Bags for Christmas



Once again Trinity is working with Auburn Area Food Bank to donate 100 bags for Christmas Dinner for the needy in the area.

The bags will be distributed November 27th in church and collected by December 14th.

- Items we will need to have in the bags are:
- (2) Cans Turkey Gravy
 - (1) Box Instant Potatoes
 - (1) Large Box Stuffing Mix
 - (1) Box Jiffy Pie Crust Mix
 - (1) Can Pumpkin Pie Mix
 - (1) Large Can Evaporated Milk
 - (1) Can Cranberry Sauce
 - (1) Large Can Fruit Cocktail
 - (1) Large Box Jello - Any Flavor.

Thank you so much,
 -Stewardship Committee

ADVENT DINNERS

December 7th

Baked Potato Buffet



December 14th
 Soup Supper



Time
 4:15 p.m.-5:15 p.m.

Free Will Offering

All proceeds to benefit the 7th & 8th grade Washington D.C. class trip.

MITE BOX SUNDAYS

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.

Boy Scout Eagle Project By Scott Reno



Built by Scott Reno as his Boy Scout Eagle Project Troop 323, Freeland MI



Have you noticed the new bench that sits in the grove? We would like to thank Scott Reno for selecting Trinity to be the recipient of his Boy Scout Eagle Project. The bench is a wonderful addition to our beautiful grove.



We would also like to thank the Trinity Monitor Athletic Booster Club for their donation of \$250 to Scott to help fund a portion of this project.

Announcements-continued



LIVING NATIVITY

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, 8220 E. Holland Road (M-46) in Saginaw will host its 26th annual "Living Nativity-A Journey to Bethlehem", on Friday, December 2nd from 7-9pm, and Saturday, December 3rd and Sunday, December 4th from 6-8pm. Experience the sights and sounds of Bethlehem on that blessed night when Jesus was born. This is a free 30 minute outdoor walk, so dress for the weather. Fellowship and refreshments will follow in the school.



On the first Christmas, in a tiny town, the greatest miracle the world has ever seen was taking place: the God of the universe came to Earth as a simple baby. And the world was changed forever. On December 11 at 3:00pm, join the Brass, Handbells, and Choirs of Valley Lutheran High School at St. Michael's Lutheran Church - 3455 South Van Buren Road, Reese, MI - as we celebrate the Savior who was born in a manger. We hope you will join us!

With the defeat of proposal 3, it is only a matter of time before abortions clinic start to pop up all over. With a handful of sidewalk counselors for our Saginaw clinic, we need more help to let women know we love them and there are other options. Please consider joining us for our next Sidewalk Advocates for Life Training.



Sidewalk Advocates for Life training will take place at Valley Lutheran High School (3560 McCarty Rd in Saginaw) on Saturday, Dec 3rd from 8:30 - 3:30. Cost is \$15 (includes lunch and workbook). Our training will include a quick trip over to the abortion clinic in Saginaw so bring a coat. Please register by emailing winterbess@gmail.com no later than Thurs, 12/1 if interested in attending.

Save the Date
 6th Annual
Wild Game Dinner & Auction
 March 4, 2023

An Evening of Christian Fun & Fellowship
 Sponsored by
 Trinity Monitor Athletic Club



Valley Lutheran High School (VLHS) is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director. The Executive Director will serve as a Christian role model for students and the community, provide the School with long-range, visionary Christ-centered educational leadership, develop and maintain positive relationships with the community, constituents, parents, and donors, and provide financial and administrative oversight for VLHS. We would like to fill the position by the start of the 2023/2024 school year.

Applicants may send a resume with references and a cover letter to Valley Lutheran High School, c/o Julie Neumann, 3560 McCarty Rd, Saginaw, MI 48603 or by e-mail to jneumanncpa@yahoo.com. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. For further information call or text Julie Neumann, Call Committee Chair, at 989-245-9095.

