



January 2024 Monthly Newsletter

Adult Sunday School 7:45 AM
Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
Youth Group, Sunday School, Connections
10:00 AM
Confirmation Class 10:30 AM

All Church Meeting - Sunday, January 7

Please join us on Sunday, January 7 in the sanctuary after the 9:00am service for an all church meeting.

Topics to discuss:

- Organizational structure of Trinity Church as we move forward in the Global Methodist denomination
- Opportunities for service in various positions within that structure
- Opportunity to offer your services by volunteering for a position that you feel you would like to serve in
- Discussion of small group ministries that have started in the last six months and the chance to give your input on whether you'd like to be included in those ministries

Please come with an open mind and generous heart as we look for ways to serve our community as Christians and as disciples.

John Muentner -Lay Leader

New Year's Resolutions You Can Keep

- 1) Start a gratitude journal - keeping track of things, people, and events you're grateful for throughout the year can help to improve your mental and physical wellness.
- 2) Make time for family - Make a conscious effort to carve out one-on-one time with your family, whether it's by planning monthly family dinners or simply FaceTiming once a week to check in.
- 3) Practice mindfulness - don't worry about the past or future, but simply do everything you can to be grateful for what you have in the moment, where you are in life, and who you are right now.
- 4) Cook something new each week - variety is the spice of life, so why not try something new and healthy.?
- 5) Join a club – maybe one at church? Expand your social circle and get involved in a new endeavor. You may even make a new friend along the way.





Dear Beloved Trinity Methodist siblings in Christ,

As we step into the new year, we find ourselves reflecting on the past and envisioning the future. Often, this transition is marked by New Year's Resolutions, a tradition that symbolizes our desire for change and improvement. However, as I shared in my sermon on June 25, 2023, titled "*God of the Harvest?*", these resolutions or changes need not be confined to the start of a new year. They can be made at any time, especially when they align with our journey of faith and repentance.

This year, let us focus not just on personal resolutions, but on the broader question of our faith: Do we trust in God's faithfulness? Are we ready to embrace whatever plans He has for us, even if they challenge us? The message from Isaiah 13 resonates deeply here, reminding us of God's support and urging us to trust in His plans.

Reflecting on "*God of the Harvest?*", based on Matthew 9:35-38, we are reminded of the abundant opportunities and responsibilities bestowed upon us as followers of Christ.

We have witnessed incredible growth and engagement in various ministries and initiatives, such as the Trinity Shoebox Project, the Thanksgiving meal, the Food Pantry, the Women's Christmas Tea, the distribution of Christmas gifts to the shut-ins, and our ongoing Women's Bible Study. We have also seen the birth of new ministries, including the Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Adult Sunday School, Meal Ministry, Prayer Group and Bible Study, and the revitalization of our Youth Group.

I am profoundly grateful for our church leaders, staff team, and volunteers who tirelessly dedicate their gifts in service to God. Their commitment has led to a high level of discipleship among our church members, for which I am immensely thankful.

As we look forward to entering into this new year, below are scripture readings and sermon titles we will reflect on this month:

January 07, 2024: Mark 1:4-11, "Baptism in the Holy Spirit"

January 14, 2024: John 1:43-51, "Come and See"

January 21, 2024: Mark 1:14-20, "How Do You Respond to Jesus' Call?"

January 28, 2024: Mark 1:21-28, "When Jesus Is Present in Church"

As we move forward, let us seize the opportunities that lie ahead. We are called to live faithfully, deepen our church's vitality, and engage more in life-giving and life-changing volunteer services. We must strategize to invite more people to our church, develop our Hospitality Ministry, assess the spiritual needs of our church and community, and explore viable options to strengthen our ministry.

As instruments of God's will, let us remember Jesus' three ways given to us: praying, sending, and going. In whatever challenges these may present, we can trust that God is preparing the way ahead of us. Through our collective efforts, we can spread the joy and message of Jesus' Great Commission.

May we continue to be laborers in God's harvest, bringing the message of Christ's love and hope to those around us. Let's rejoice in what God has opened for us this year and anticipate with faith and joy what He will reveal in the days to come.

Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with blessings!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Mulongo Mpoyo



Welcoming Newcomers to Trinity Methodist Church
Submitted by Kathy Drexler

Are you noticing some new faces at our worship services?

We have several new families walking into our Sunday morning services. Some of them have stated they are checking out Trinity because they looked at our website and Facebook page and they see that we have disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church.

Think back to the first time you walked into Trinity. Why did you walk in our doors? What were you looking for? What brought you back to worship the second and third time?

If someone new is sitting near you in the pew, please introduce yourself, ask their name, and tell them how happy we are to have them join us. If you are comfortable, there are some additional things you could do after the service: introduce them to Pastor Mulongo as we exit the sanctuary, walk them to the coffee and goodies, talk with them at a cafe table, introduce them to some other church members, answer their questions.

If you are uncomfortable doing anything more, that's ok, your kindness in the pew will be noticed. A new Welcoming Committee at Trinity is being formed. More information is certainly to follow regarding how Trinity will welcome everyone.

The book, **"Beyond 30 Seconds, Developing A Welcoming Congregation"** by the United Methodist Communications, list four important key points:

1. Welcoming shows others the hospitality of God.
2. **Welcoming requires understanding that people are looking for God even when they don't know what they seek.**
3. Welcoming means helping people connect with ways to express their unique gifts through the church beyond worship.
4. Welcoming implies accepting everyone, regardless of whether we believe the same things or have differences.

Pastor Mulongo plays a crucial role in leading our worship services and sermons, where he **shares God's Word and love, inspiring us all. Equally important is our collective responsibility** as a congregation. Together with Pastor Mulongo, we strive to extend the love of God beyond the pulpit through our hospitality. We work as a united community, welcoming both newcomers and long-time members alike, ensuring that everyone experiences the warmth and love of God in every aspect of our church life.



New Ministry Has Started!
Romans 12:13 Meal Ministry
“Share with God’s People who are in Need.
Practice Hospitality”

Behind the scenes this Fall, we have developed a more formal way to provide meals for those in need in our congregation. Our church body has come together in the past to help those in crisis or ill health. This is simply a way to be more organized and more intentional about caring for the Body of Christ.

We envision that would be able to assist families with meals, or perhaps simply fresh-baked chocolate chip cookies, at times such as: crisis, surgery, death in family, new baby, adoption, deployment, outreach to new neighbor or new attendee, shut-ins, elders, those on our prayer list. Think big and think creatively for ideas on how we can minister to people in this way!

Doug Kindschuh is our coordinator, with a team of cooks and helpers behind him. If you become aware of someone in our congregation who could use some extra help, please contact Doug, or Pam Wellso, Deb Zinniel, Cheryl Meyer. Forms are available hanging on the kiosk in the Connections room. Forms should be given to Doug, Pam, Deb or Cheryl personally to ensure follow-up. (Forms are not required but will help the process.) This ministry also works in conjunction with the Caring Ministry, headed by Betty Menzer.
Serving in Jesus’ name, for His Glory. Amen!



Women’s Bible/Book Study

***New study starting
February 1, 2024***

The Women’s Bible/Book Study group just concluded an excellent study by Beth Moore called Chasing Vines: Finding your way to an immensely fruitful life. The study focused on the verses found in John 15 where Jesus says, “I am the vine, and you are the branches”, but took us to many scriptures used throughout the Bible where the analogy of the Vine and

Branches is used. In order for us to be fruitful as followers of Jesus, the Vine, we need to start with having all the best vines, soil, environment and nutrients. Sometimes we’re hit with bad weather or rocky soil that might trip us up, but the Vine uses the difficult stuff of our lives to make us stronger and to strengthen our roots. Pruning? We need to be pruned to produce more fruit. God desires that we get rid of the ugly parts of us that hold us back from serving and living our lives like Jesus. Manure? Maybe our Christian life has been stagnant, unfruitful. God will use the tough times of life to enrich your soil and bring you back to fruitfulness. Pestilence? Satan will do whatever he can to spoil our fruitfulness for God. We will be tempted, we will sin, we will make mistakes. This is then the time to turn to God, read scripture, abide in Him, with every ounce of strength you have.

How does a vine grow best? By being attached to a trellis. When we imagine a cross-shaped trellis, with the vine firmly attached, we get a picture of how we need to stay connected to Jesus and understand what His death on the cross means for us. Abiding.... Staying strongly attached to Jesus so that we can grow strong roots, weather the storms, produce much fruit in our lives and by connecting with people in our sphere, serving and using our time and resources for His Glory, sharing the joy of abiding in Christ.

Our group experienced a new connection with each other. We enjoyed an atmosphere filled with love, laughter, tears and vulnerability. Will you join us for this awesome time of study, fellowship and growing closer to God?

Our next study will be starting on Thursday February 1, at 9 a.m. Sign up for the study in the Coffee Connections room; books will be purchased for you.

We will be reading Your Powerful Prayers: Reaching the Heart of God with a Bold and Humble Faith, by Susie Larson. The author hopes we will learn to pray more persistently, humbly and boldly, to overcome hindrances to effective prayer, and to combine reverence, expectancy and a tenacious hold on God’s promises. Yes, there might be overlap with what we are learning at the monthly prayer meetings, but we want prayer to be a top priority at Trinity Methodist Church!



Trinity Holiday Outreach Project

The Christmas gifts from Trinity's Mission & Outreach activity were delivered to Hope Health & Rehabilitation Center mid-December. Each resident and tenant received a handcrafted wooden angel, a bottle of Suave Body Wash, and a bag of candy treats. What a great way to share a tangible expression of our love for our senior friends during the holiday season!

Thank you to the Caring Ministry Team, led by Betty Menzer, for delivering the gifts to the church members they visit thru their ministry. Special thanks to Dan and Pam Dewhurst for handcrafting the wooden angels. And a shout-out to Amy Unferth for adding the bling and greeting. Also, many thanks to all who donated body wash! This gift is especially appreciated by the staff. Your generosity provided several extra bottles to share as needed throughout the year.



Laverne Senn



Christmas Cards

If you plan to discard, please consider donating the front covers of your Christmas Cards to the Trinity Shoebox Project. A note of hope and love will be inscribed by volunteers on the blank side and the cards inserted into our shoeboxes. Please drop in the OCC barrel at any time.



Speaking of volunteers... Would you be interested in a self-paced project over the winter in which you would share your time to inscribe a note to the shoebox recipient on the collected Christmas cards? If so, please contact Heidi Zingsheim or Amy Unferth to assemble the count you desire. A sample note would be shared but your creativity is endless. A heartwarming activity for all ages! Thanks for considering!



Wool Project Yarn... Lots of it!

In September Heidi acted on a lead and reached out to a yarn company in Nebraska... yes, Nebraska! This company, named Brown Sheep Co., responded to a request to assist our crafters by donating a case... yes, a case!... of wool yarn. They provided 30 skeins of worsted yarn (85% wool/ 15% Mohair) in a rich, beautiful Bing Cherry color. Lila already got a jump-start and has confirmed only 2 strands are needed to make a loom knitted hat. Crafters... please stop in the library and take a few skeins and give it a try with your favorite project. Can't wait to see what you create!

Shoebox Project... "Hey baby, it's cold outside!"

Take your mind off the chill of the season by trying a new project that will warm your heart! Soon you can enjoy the magical view of the winter landscape outside your window while crafting for a child that will truly appreciate your homemade gifts. A few ideas to keep active this season are listed below...



Purses, Purses, and More Little Purses!



Attention knitters, crocheters, and sewers! We depleted our inventory of little purses at our packing events this fall... so many girls have received this special gift! If you are looking for a winter project, we could sure use more of the wonderfully handcrafted purses... shape, color, or style of your choice.



Felt Hand Puppets!

These adorable hand puppets are simple to make! They are stitched entirely by hand, using the whip stitch around the felt edges, straight stitches for the eyes, and the stem stitch for the muzzle/mouth lines on faces.

Instructions are included to make a lion, monkey and tiger. Finished puppets are approximately 8 1/4" x 8 1/4". The only materials you will need are felt and sewing thread/embroidery floss.

Contact Heidi for PDF pattern, if interested.

Simply Sewn Bow Hair Ties!

Do you ever wonder what to do with those cute fabric scraps you've been saving? Bow hair ties! Get started on this really quick and easy project by downloading the free sewing pattern thru the link below. These bow ties would make great shoebox gifts or surprise the young sweet-hearts in your life!

You'll need two 5" x 5" fabric scraps, thread, an elastic hair tie, and about five minutes, tops. (Well, that's what they said but no pressure, take as long as you need.) Have fun with this!



<https://oliverands.com/free-patterns/bow-hair-tie>

Who's in the Pew?

Ever wonder who you're sitting next to at church? Want to know a little more about them and their faith journey here at Trinity? If so, this "new" contribution may answer a few of your burning questions.

Read on to find more out about **"William C. Buske."**



1) Tell me a little about your childhood. Where are you from, etc.

I was born in Watertown, WI. and then raised for nine years on a small farm in Oconomowoc. When I was nine, my family moved to Lebanon, WI. We lived there until I graduated from Hustisford High School.

2) Tell me about your family now.

My wife Shari and I have four children.

- Jeff and wife Nikki live in Columbus, WI . They have two children—Jaden is a recent UW Madison grad and Ella is a Junior at Columbus High School.
- John and his wife Lisa live in Colen, CO. John just completed 20 years in the U.S. Air Force working as a fighter pilot. They have three children. Cam is a college graduate, Kate is a Junior at Golden High, and Owen is in 8th grade.
- Pete and Casey live in Theresa, WI. They have a daughter Nora, who is a Junior at Lomira High and a son, Brett. Brett has two girls, Maci & Chelsey.
- Ann and her husband, Nate live in Brownsville. They have one daughter, Scarlett.

3) What is your favorite thing to do?

I love to golf, even though I'm poor at it. I, also like to visit with people.

4) What is the biggest lesson you've learned in life?

- Try to treat people as you want to be treated.
- Help out without being asked.
- Give or share and it will be returned to you in many ways.

5) What is your biggest blessing/s?

My wife, my family, my church, and the Lions Club.

6) What is your favorite memory?

My favorite events were family gatherings when I was a child. Both of my parent's came from large families. I loved the July 4th celebrations, Thanksgivings, and Christmases when we were all together.

7) What brought you to Trinity?

In the Spring of 1988, we moved from Mayville to Theresa. Our children were now going to school in Lomira. We visited Trinity in the Spring of 1989. After our visit, Pastor Clapp made a home visit. That was it!

8) What do you want to see more of at church?

Personally, I would like to see more effort to get and keep our youth involved. I do see more volunteers getting involved. Thanks.

I, also, enjoy music .

9) What is your involvement at church (committees, activities)?

Church Council Chair (Second Round)

Trustee

Disaffiliation Fund Raiser

Volunteer on various committees

10) Want to talk to Bill about any church matters? Give him a call at 920-948-2532. He's looking forward to hearing from you.

A Christmas Tea





Prayer Concerns

- Mary (sister-in-law of Pam Hilker) she's stable, tumor is shrinking, next checkup will be an MRI - if ideal criteria achieved, may be able to go in front of liver board in March 12/20
- Robert Hartzheim, brother-in-law of Victor & Lois Jewson, diagnosed with a rare nerve disease (Myasthenia Gravis)—prayers needed for treatment option 12/12
- Lori Heimann, friend of Sarah Kretschmer's sister, undergoing testing for colon cancer 12/12
- Victor Jewson heart, left shoulder/arm /diabetic issues 11/29
- Donna Klein, Mary Kiehnau's mother, mini strokes 11/12
- John Cull, broken wrist and head injury from car accident 11/12
- David Menzer (Fred's Brother) some results have been positive, still awaiting other results 11/21
- Mike Skelton Parkinson's and other health issues—determining next steps 11/21
- Kathy Skelton (wife and caretaker of Mike) needs prayers for strength/resilience 11/21
- Gene Junger, arthritis and retinal vein occlusion of the right eye 10/18
- Glen Stewart (neighbor and good friend of the Alf family) lung cancer 09/10
- **Lorna O'Donovan** diagnosed with stomach cancer 08/31
- Jolene Emmer (Mike & Janice Emmer's daughter in law) sepsis 2
- Corey Rubusch hodgkins lymphoma 1/26

For Prayer Requests please contact Jill in the church office by email, phone or through our website www.trinitylomira.org When making your request please remember to keep us updated often as to the condition of the individual who needs prayers, so that this may be shared with those who are praying. Also please inform us if someone is ready to be removed.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mila Reitz
- 5 Kevin Beck
- 7 Gwen Hinz
- 9 Vicki Schneider
- 10 Lorna O'Donovan
- 11 Mikayla Klein
- 13 Tom Klein
Colton Renderman
- 15 Roger Clark
Mary Kiehnau
Mitchell Wroblewski
- 18 Daniel Riehbrandt
- 19 Shari Buske
Mark Hodny
- 21 Penny Beck
Mark Dahlinger
- 23 Chad Alf
- 25 Randy Faber
- 27 Chris Kuen
Augie Luedtke
- 31 Kathy Mintner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 6 Bob & Fran Coulter
- 14 Bill & Michelle Large
- 21 Gene & Dorothy Hake
- 24 Victor & Lois Jewson
- 28 Kevin & Penny Beck



Mug and Muffin dates have been set for the first half of the year. Ladies, please put these dates down on your calendar:

- January 20
- February 17
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18

All meetings will take place at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring homemade/store brought muffins to share and a craft project to work on.

The February Newsletter Deadline is Jan. 25th. Please have all articles to the church office by noon that day. Thank you!

Golden Club

Gwen Hinz turns 97 on January 7th!
11 S. Adams Street
Apt. 203
Denver, CO 80209

Lets send her lots of Happy Birthday wishes!



TMC will be hosting a Blood Bank on Monday, February 5th, starting at noon. You can sign up online at redcrossblood.org

TMC Budget Totals
Year to date needed to meet budget

\$239,139.00

Received through 12/17/23

\$198,336.59

Budget Shortfall

\$ 40,802.41



TRINITY MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will coordinate their dates this winter and spring to match Mug 'N Muffin. Please note the following dates on your calendar:

- January 20
- February 17
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18

See you there@ 9:00am!



The next Prayer Group Meeting is on January 9 @ 6:00P.M. Pastor Mulongo will lead this group and the focus will be on prayer in the Bible.

Adult Sunday School 7:45 AM
 Worship Services 9:00 AM
 Coffee Connection/Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 AM
 Confirmation 10:30AM

January 2024 TMC-Lomira

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	4	5	6
7 Communion Sunday 10:00 am All Church Meeting	8	9 6:00 pm Prayer Group Meeting	10 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	11	12	13 10-11:00 am Food Pantry
14	15	16 6:00 pm Church Council Meeting	17 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon	18	19	20 9:00 Mug and Muffin 9:00 Men's Group
21	22	23	24 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	25	26	27 10-11:00 am Food Pantry
28	29	30	31 6:00 pm Choir 6:30 pm AA & Al-Anon 7:00 pm Bell Choir			

Mulongo Mpoyo, Pastor

Church Office: (920) 269-4411

Cell (414) 690-5796

Office Hours Tues.-Thurs. 9AM-1PM

Or by Appointment

Email:

revmpoyomm@yahoo.fr

churchofficerumc@gmail.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 AM

Church Office Hours:

Tues-Thur 9AM-1PM

**Trinity Methodist Church
300 Church Street
Lomira, WI 53048
Return Service Requested**