

Trinity Tower



Our congregational bylaws require that we hold an annual meeting between January 15 and 31. They also allow for creativity in holding our meetings, including electronic means. Accordingly, the Executive Committee has set the following dates for our budget information meetings and our annual meetings, *all of which will be held via Zoom.*

Informational meetings

Noon on Sunday, January 16
6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 19

Annual meeting

10:15 a.m. on January 23

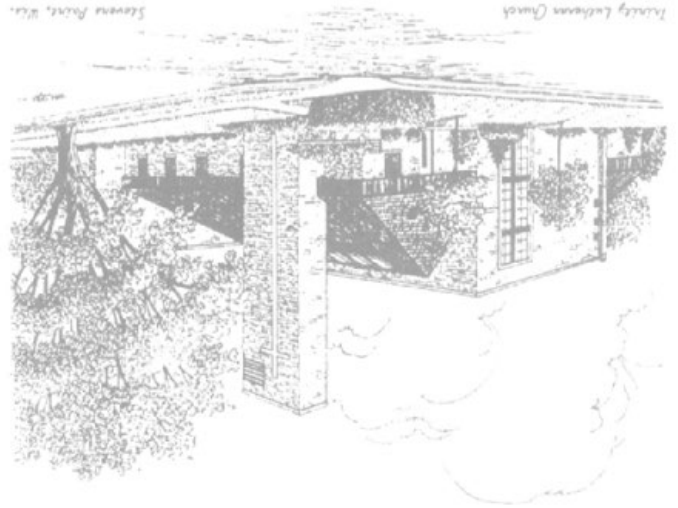
Watch for more information about how to participate in this important ministry event.

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JANUARY 2022



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PASTOR CLAY'S COLUMN



Happy New Year

But, what will the new year bring? While this is always a fair question, it is especially pressing upon us right now. No one could have imagined that the world-wide pandemic would have lasted this long, nor that after almost two years of combatting it with the best science and medicine in the world, it would still be on the rise in many states and nations. This has proven to be far worse than our best guesses—and we are left to hope and pray that we may one day return to normal.

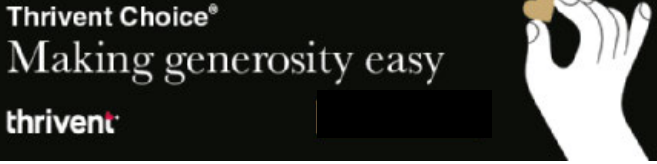
One of the big uncertainties is what shape the church will be in as the pandemic comes to an end. It was unthinkable a year and a half ago that all churches around the world would close their doors for an extended period of time. Every congregation had to reinvent itself as an online community. Every pastor and worship leader had to learn how to produce videos and live television style broadcasts. Even after re-opening church doors in the past nine months, we don't understand what impact our online ministry is having. We have been having between 200 and 300 visits to our worship services online each week. Sometimes that number has been over a thousand. But, it is impossible to tell what that really means. Perhaps a visitor stayed for 10 seconds, perhaps for an hour. Perhaps one visit represented one person on a phone—or six people gathered around a computer. Worship attendance numbers have become completely meaningless. Our own denomination has made a suggestion: count each Facebook visit as 2 people attending worship. If we were to do that and add that number to our in-person visits, our worship attendance would be 400-600 people. That is two to three times what it was before the lock-down. Can that be true? Is that real?

And, what will happen afterward? Every pastor I have conferred with is going to keep offering live worship broadcasts after the pandemic. We are intending to do the same. Will that mean that those who love to worship in their pajamas will continue to do so and not return to church? Will our large, beautiful church buildings quickly become like those beautiful empty cathedrals in Europe?

Again, it is impossible to foretell. I don't know what the pandemic will mean for our congregations or for our denominations. I only know one thing for certain—and that is because of one clear thing that Jesus said. In Matthew 16, while talking to Peter, he said, "On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." As a small sign of that, we have several people who have expressed a desire to join our congregation. This is normal, but a nice surprise during these particular days.

I also know that in the new year we all need to keep praying for our congregation and its members. And, we can each reach out to encourage one another to return to worship when it is safe to do so. I look forward to seeing you, whenever it feels right for you to return. I find myself also praying this prayer: "Thank you, Lord, for being present with us in all our challenges and for superintending the future of our congregation, our denomination, and the whole Church of Christ in the world."

~Pastor Clay



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During this special time of the year, we pause to reflect on all we are thankful for. Family, friends, faith... Thrivent offers clients multiple ways to show their thanks. Whether it be making a personal donation, directing Thrivent Choice Dollars® or leading a Thrivent Action Team. Take this opportunity to positively impact the work we do. Go to [Thrivent.com/generosity](https://www.thrivent.com/generosity) to learn more.



The next Trinity Lunch Bunch is at noon Tuesday, January 18th at Mama Elda's 1830 Plover Rd, Plover, WI 54467. To help us determine a number for the reservation, RSVP anytime either by email or phone that you will be attending.

Jane Flanagan
flanagan55@charter.net or 715-341-4989

LOOSE CHANGE SPARE-A-DIME



LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE TO CENTRAL US TORNADOES

On the night of Dec. 10, a devastating outbreak of more than 30 tornadoes swept through six states. Kentucky was impacted the most, with more than 70 people reported dead. Homes and businesses were destroyed, including a candle factory in Mayfield, KY. More than 330,000 people were without electricity across the state, and many still are without electricity.

Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with partners in the affected areas, including the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, to respond to immediate needs. Given the initial damage assessments, recovery will likely take years, and Lutheran Disaster Response is prepared to accompany survivors until the response is complete.



Make your check out to Trinity Lutheran Church, with LDR-US Tornadoes on the memo line. Donate your Loose Change or check in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mail it to Trinity Lutheran Church, or drop off your donation in the mail slot in door #2 on the west side of the church.

Thank you or your generosity!
Global and Local Outreach Committee

World HUNGER



Your ELCA Hunger Dollars at Work

ELCA World Hunger supports health programs around the world, where your gifts fund clinical care, maternal and child health, education of health professionals, and community healthcare workers as they provide early screenings and education in disease prevention.



GROCERY DONATIONS

During the month of January we continue to make cash donations to support Mobile Pantry. They support people who live in rural areas of Portage County. The numbers of people needing support stays fairly stable. Some of the residents have long term health issues and are home-bound. If they have a car they don't drive much because gas is expensive. Others are dependent on neighbors for transportation. Working parents often don't make enough money to feed a growing family. Mobile Pantry helps struggling families to get back on their feet and go back to work.

Your cash donations will go to replenish the shelves with the following items: household cleaning products, paper products, laundry detergent, personal care products, and common foods, especially peanut butter, jelly and cooking oil.

Your generous donations continue to support our rural neighbors. Thank you.

There are three ways to get your monetary donations to Trinity:

- 1- Include your donation in your offering envelope. (Write the amount in the box labeled "other.")
- 2- Or on the memo line of your check simply indicate the amount of your offering and where you would like it to benefit.
- 3- You can also do an online donation through GivePlus on our website.



Altar Flowers

You may sign up for 2022 Altar Flowers on the chart in the narthex, calling 715-344-2869 or by emailing trinity@trinitysp.com. Bev's Floral designs the beautiful floral arrangements each Sunday. The rate is \$40.00 per week.



It's has been wonderful to see how excited the children were with the snowfalls, Santa and all the Christmas events!

The highlights this past year for us have been:

- ◆ Getting our new playground. (Thanks for all your donations!)
- ◆ Getting new learning activities and supplies for the classrooms.



Our Biggest accomplishment this past year is going through our formal observation rating and earning the highest level of a 5-star rating!

Each day, we look forward to seeing all these little people who make coming to work so enjoyable! We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Amy Kurkowski
Trinity Learning Center & Preschool



Thank you for your letters, cards, phone calls, and your kind expressions of sympathy on the loss of my brother. Mark Kluck and family.

Thank you for your continued support of our local and church-wide organizations during November. Interfaith Food Pantry received \$220; ELCA World Hunger received \$215 and \$1460.88 was given to help Afghan Refugees settle into their new life here in the United States.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Last year, a total of \$2,221 was directed to Trinity from eligible members who have used this program. Our thanks go out to the participants who have so generously directed their Choice Dollars to Trinity!



In 2021 we made 253 mission quilts. That means we need enough sheets to make 253 backs. Thanks to Lands End for giving us five boxes of sheets for the new year. Then there is always Goodwill where we get lots of sheets and use Thrivent Action Team funds to purchase them. When the quilts are made the next step is packing them up. Thanks to Rogan's Shoes for all the sturdy boxes they give us for shipping the quilts.

We are thankful for all the gifts and talents of our members to use in service to share our love for others. We pray that God would bless the work of our hands and make us good stewards of His blessings that many lives and hearts will be impacted.

It is a new year and we are looking for more quilters. Stop by and check us out. See if what we do may be interesting to you. Many of our quilters are unable to join us again and we welcome those who are available - try something new in the New Year.

Our quilting days in January are: **Tuesday, January 11th and Thursday, January 27th from 9-3 p.m.** Coffee & treats at 10:30 and bag lunch at 12:30. Join us in the Chapel Area as we work together making quilts that bring comfort to the less fortunate.

Lois Hagen



Looking for more Tower Assembly Helpers.

This is something that you will be contacted for once a month, usually towards the end of the month. You will receive a phone call or email. If you are able to make the date and time you get together with a handful of other helpers and put tabs, labels and sometimes inserts in the Tower to prepare it to be taken to the post office. If you are interested having your name added to the list please let Tammy know at 715-344-2869 or tammykoch@trinitysp.com. Thank you for sharing your talents at Trinity.





**TRINITY
LIBRARY**

The library committee is looking forward to a new year with new books in the collection and readers to check them out. We have been meeting, most happily, in person in the library since July and are working diligently to catch up on all the library tasks that we were not able to accomplish since March 2020. Thanks to the active library committee members; Pam Enerson, Pat Gerbitz, Jane Gjevre, Roberta Holthusen, Wanda Lay, and Sharon Rothman for their good work. Also, for background support from committee members Kathy Bryer and Cathy Palmini. And for excellent office support from Doris Way and Tammy Koch.

Most notably, we added about 100 new titles to the collection that we either purchased or were donated during 2020. Late in 2021 we purchased another 20 titles. Many thanks to Sandy Orgish, Bea Berg, Kathy Bryer, Todd Lewis, Pat Gerbitz, Paul Watson, and any others who have donated books. We accept book donations for the Little Free Library as well as the indoor collection.

While circulation of books is understandably low for 2020-2021, more Trinity readers are finding and checking out books from the collection in recent months. Trinity's Little Free Library on the Ellis St. edge of our parking lot has been well-used for the past 2 years with a constant stream of books removed or added.

In the "let there be light" category, the library committee thanks Glen Bauer for replacing the old valence light bulbs with new, brighter bulbs. Now we will ALL be able to more readily find the books we're looking for!

We will continue to add new books every month. Please do look for good reading to be on display in the library area or on the library shelves. Both the online and paper author, title, and subject catalogs will be updated in the next month as well.

Happy New Year reading!

Sybil Strupp, for the library committee



2022 Spring Scholarships

were mailed out in December and should be applied to your student accounts.

2022-2023 Scholarship

Applications are available in the church office or on the Trinity Website under the Member Resources link and then click on Forms. Ottem and Rasmussen forms must be returned by April 30th. To qualify for Ottem, you must be a trinity member attending a Lutheran college or seminary full time. For the Rasmussen, you must be a full time student at a public or private college or technical college, and a member of Trinity.

Endowment and Memorial Gifts

Jim Byrne with LPI will be working on setting up the advertising for our Newsletter. Please consider advertising in our newsletter since the revenue from the ads is what will make our newsletter possible and at no cost to our church. The ads are also tax deductible. We also are offering new exclusive (only 3 per landing page) banner-sized digital ads on the landing page for the digital format newsletter at www.mycommunityonline.com.

Advertisements can be purchased for a business, or a sponsor ad can be purchased supporting Trinity Lutheran with a Last Will and Testament or community service organizations such as emergency pregnancy counseling. Please give these ideas some thought. We need and appreciate your help! If you are interested or want more information, you can call Jim at (651-895-4979). We also ask that you patronize the people who do take ads and help support their businesses.

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS



You will receive your Annual Contribution Statements for 2021 by January 31, 2022 in the mail. Thank you for your faithful giving.

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS THROUGH THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2021

	12-MONTH BUDGET	ACTUAL
Envelope Offering	521,984.66	469,839.31
Loose Offering	5500.00	1,987.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	2,121.25
World Hunger	0.00	2,230.00
Seasonal Offering	10,750.00	4,233.50
Receipts (YTD)	541,242.66	480,262.76
Disbursements	565,310.50	474,877.82
Net (+/-)	(24,067.84)	5,384.94
Receipts (Month)		45,275.16
Disbursements		38,978.86
Net (+/-)		6,296.30

	12/31/19	12/31/20
Baptized Membership	1076	1064
Confirmed Membership	789	783

If school is canceled due to the weather, Trinity Lutheran Church Office will be closed and any activities will also be cancelled. Listen to WSPT radio, or WAOW Channel 9 TV or check Facebook for cancellation information.

INCLEMENT
WEATHER POLICY



Another way to support Trinity's ongoing Youth and Family programs. Are you an Amazon.com shopper? When placing your upcoming Christmas orders visit www.smile.amazon.com instead and select Trinity Lutheran as the charity you support. It's quick and easy and 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items will be donated back to our ministry. AmazonSmile features the same selection of products, low prices and convenience as the regular site with the added benefit of supporting community organizations. Happy shopping!

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1410 ROGERS STREET - STEVENS POINT, WI 54481

CHURCH OFFICE

Phone..... (715) 344-2869
 Hours Weekdays 8:00 am-4:00 pm
 Answering Machine (715) 344-2869
 Fax..... (715) 344-9123
 Sunday Worship..... 9:00 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
 Wednesday Worship 5:00 p.m.
 All Committee Night Tuesday, January 4 at 7:00 p.m.
 Trinity Website www.trinitysp.com
 Twitter @TrinityinPoint

CHURCH STAFF

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 East Central Synod website/e-mail.....ecsw.org

CHURCH COUNCIL

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 Edye Ray, Vice President592-6607
 Donna Watson, Secretary.....341-7424
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 Jon Houtman, Christian Education342-4491
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 Diane Witte, Global/Local Outreach.....295-0121
 Jeff Martin, Personnel.....341-9619
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 Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P344-2227
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 Vacant, Youth & Family Ministry.....

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Tower Helpers:

Roberta Holthusen, Betty Scheppa, Shari Willer, Diane & Ralph Lavin, Bea Berg, Judy Spilde, Laurie Graboski-Bauer, Lois Hagen and Pat Gerbitz

TOWER DEADLINE: JANUARY 18, 2022

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 2nd Sunday After Christmas 9:00 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Worship	3 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 4:00 p.m. Worship Committee 6:30 p.m. Charity Circle 6:30 p.m. Church Council 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	4 10:00 a.m. Whispering Pines Service 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293 7:00 p.m. All Committee Night 7:00 p.m. GLO Committee	5 11:00 a.m. Willow Brooke Service 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	6 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Riverview Lodge 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Dimensions Living Service 1:00 p.m. Wellington Place Service	7	8 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting
9 Baptism Of Our Lord 9:00 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Worship	10 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	11 9:00 a.m. Quilters 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. B & G Committee 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293	12 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	13 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Wellington Service	14	15 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting
16 2nd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Budget Q&A Meeting Via Zoom	17 1:00 p.m. Joy Circle 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Executive Committee 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	18 TOWER DEADLINE 9:45 a.m. Stevens Point Health Services 10:45 a.m. Portage County Healthcare Center 12:00 p.m. Lunch Bunch at Mama Eida's 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 1:30 p.m. Library Committee 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293	19 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:00 p.m. Budget Q&A Meeting Via Zoom 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	20 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 11:00 a.m. Northcrest Service 1:00 p.m. Dimensions Living Service	21	22 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting
23 3rd Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting Via Zoom 10:45 a.m. Worship	24 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 p.m. Troop 293	25 9:45 a.m. Stevens Point Health Services 10:45 a.m. Portage County Healthcare Center 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 p.m. Pack 9293	26 5:00 p.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984	27 8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:00 a.m. Quilters	28	29 9:00 a.m. Al-Anon Meeting 11:00 a.m. Pack 293 (Boys & Girls) Pack Pinewood Derby
30 4th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 a.m. Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Worship	31 1:00 p.m. Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 p.m. Troop 293					

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