

Trinity Tower



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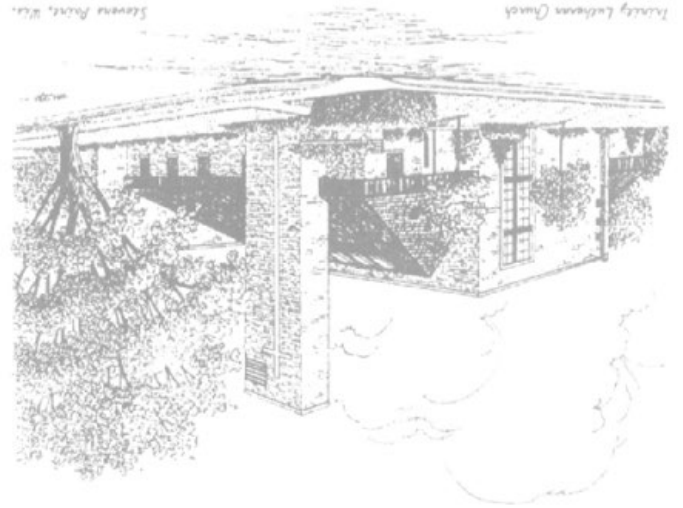
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FEBRUARY 2022



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In February, our attention turns to all the red hearts we see in stores and online. Valentine’s Day comes in the center of this month (just one day after Super Bowl Sunday, if that helps for anyone). It reminds us of our loving relationships and that we should all strive to be loving people. We seek to follow the lead of the third century priest, St. Valentine, who defied the Roman government in order to love his people.

At the beginning of this third year of pandemic, I can think of no better way to love our neighbors than to be vaccinated against Covid 19. I know that many—perhaps most—of you are. But, we all know of people who still refuse to do so. I’ll be doing a funeral for one of our members soon who, though he was vaccinated, still caught the virus from those who were less careful than he. I keep hearing that the omicron variation is putting a record number of children in hospitals. For all to be vaccinated is the very best way to defeat the pandemic. Becoming infected is another way to gain immunity. But, now we are hearing of people having Covid for a second time. Vaccinations are the surest way to protect yourself from a bad case of Covid and the best way to achieve the community immunity that is required to defeat the disease. We do it for ourselves. We do it for our neighbors. It is a great Valentine to the community to receive the vaccine and the booster.

If you know of people who are still not vaccinated, I hope you will encourage them to join us as we love our neighbors by receiving this medical gift.

One of the uncontrollable issues relating to the Covid virus is its ability to close down important businesses and ministries. We have recently had to close down our Day Care and Learning Center in order for students or teachers

to be quarantined. Each day the school is closed, we lose a few thousand dollars of tuition income. That, of course, is unsustainable. The church council is considering ways to mitigate these unplanned losses. You will be hearing about a number of measures we will take so that we can keep our school operating as a ministry of the church and a critical outreach to our community. One of these measures will be a special appeal fund-raising effort. Please see the article about it in this Tower issue.

Happy Valentine’s Day.

Pastor Clay Schmit

A Special Appeal for the Trinity Learning Center and Day Care

Due to unexpected Covid exposures, our school has had to shut down a number of times for short quarantine periods. The Church Council has approved a special fund raising appeal that will be held during February and March in support of this important ministry. Please watch for a congregational mailing soon that will explain the need and the plan in detail. Trinity has as strong record of generosity regarding these special appeals. We pray that, once again, together we can respond joyfully and generously.



“I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY”

We are all familiar with this hymn. I remember singing it in Sunday School and still love singing it today.

The third verse is “I love to tell the story; ‘tis pleasant to repeat, what seems each time I tell it so wonderfully sweet. I love to tell the story for some have never heard, the message of salvations from God’s own holy word.”

Each Sunday Pastor Clay and our Assisting Ministers read the lessons, but right now Trinity needs additional Assisting Ministers to help “tell the story.”

Can you help? Serving as an Assisting Minister once a month or less is so rewarding and you would be truly “telling the story.” If you are interested or have questions, please call me or Pastor Clay. We would love to help you “tell everyone the story of Jesus and His love.”

~Barb Taugner (715)544-0510

2 Assisting Minister Coordinator

LOOSE CHANGE SPARE-A-DIME

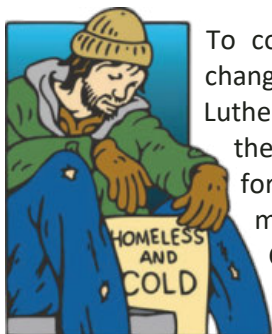


Loose Change for February 2022— Stevens Point Warming Center

Many of us have multiple options available when we are cold—warmer clothes, adding another blanket or even turning up the heat. Unfortunately, some in our Stevens Point community do not have such options. To help keep our community members warm, our February Loose Change/Spare-A-Dime donation will go to the Stevens Point Warming Center.

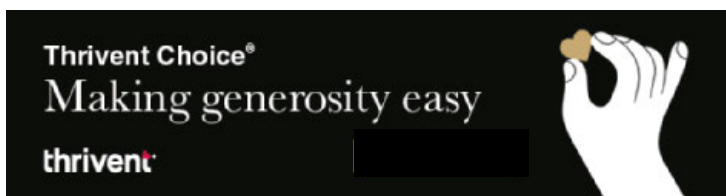
The Warming Center operates November through April. The next year’s demand is always greater than the last. The pandemic has created even greater challenges for those with few resources available to them.

Your spare change will be used to purchase important supplies that need frequent replacement such as socks, hats, gloves, pillows, and sleeping bags. With the Hope Center at capacity, the demand for a warm place to sleep is high. Please be generous with your coins to warm both hearts and bodies this winter.



To contribute, bring or mail your loose change or a check (payable to Trinity Lutheran Church with Warming Center in the memo). Tammy in our office will forward the donations from our members and friends to the Warming Center.

~Global & Local Outreach
Committee



Don't forget to direct Choice Dollars®

Grant funding from Thrivent Financial through its Thrivent Choice® program can help support organizations you care about. **Don't let Choice Dollars expire.**

Eligible Thrivent Financial members who have Choice Dollars available have until **March 31, 2022**, to direct any remaining 2021 Choice Dollars. Help support Trinity Lutheran Church. Go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice to learn more. Or call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” after the prompt.



GROCERY DONATIONS

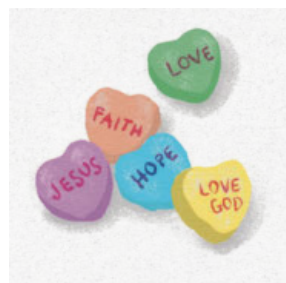
Operation Bootstrap

Our “Cash for Groceries” collection will go to Operation Bootstrap for the month of February. They are especially short on rice and cereal of all kinds. They can use all kinds of rice: white, brown, boxed rice meals, quick cooking, large and small bags. They are also short on various kinds of cereal: from cooked oatmeal and other flavors to favorite children’s varieties from Cheerios to Frosted Flakes.

Since we are not collecting the actual foods, just cash donations: what if each Trinity member would make a donation in the name of Operation Bootstrap to Trinity for the equivalent to the cost of a box of cereal and/or bag of rice for each member of his or her household? This would allow the Operation Bootstrap shoppers to pick out the kinds of cereal and rice that they can use.

God has generously blessed us with enough to eat, so that we can share with our neighbors. Thank you for all you do to see that all are fed.

~Janet Swiston, Global & Local Outreach



Care Packages for Trinity College Students

We will again be putting together care packages for Trinity members in college. We’re hoping to have these shipped and delivered before by early March. If your son, daughter or grandchild, who is a member of Trinity would like to receive one, please provide their name and address to the church office before Sunday, February 20th (or email Todd at tlcyouth@trinitysp.com).

If you would be interested in donating pre-packaged items to be included in these packages, please see Todd for more information. Any contributions are appreciated!



~Todd Lewis



God richly provides for our daily bread. Yet many still go hungry. ELCA World Hunger is the ELCA's collective response to hunger and poverty around the world and here in the United States. From health care to microloans, water wells to farms, food pantries to community gardens, the ELCA is committed to creatively addressing the root causes of hunger and poverty and building a world of justice in which all are fed. Thank you for your contributions.



The next Trinity Lunch Bunch is at noon Tuesday, February 15th at Mr. Brews Taphouse. 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

Jane Goudreau



The Stewardship Committee wants to begin sharing the many kinds of contributions that Trinity members make to our ministry and mission. The goal is to thank people and tell others what they have done. Enjoy our Thank and Tell Corner.

- ◆ Thank you to everyone that has signed up to sponsor altar flowers.
- ◆ Thanks to Jeff Martin for flying emergency supplies to Mayfield, Kentucky.
- ◆ Thank you to council members who are completing their terms of service - Jon Houtman and Diane Witte.
- ◆ Thank you to Matt Buchman for 3 years of leading our worship services.



From the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide:

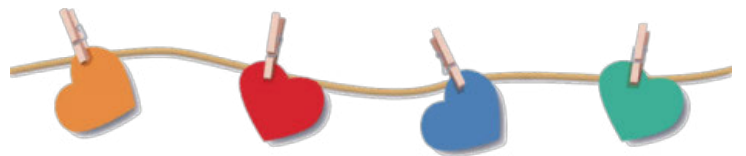
“For over 75 years, the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry has worked with caring people like you to share God’s love with families around the world.

From earthquakes to hurricanes, from global pandemics to extreme poverty, our world is full of challenges and suffering. Your quilts and kits are urgently needed to care for neighbors in need and show them that even in their most trying times, they are not alone.

The gifts you give through these projects are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. Thank you for your dedication, your generosity and your love for your neighbors!”

Our quilting days in February are: **Tuesday, February 8th and Thursday, February 24th 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 those in need around the world.

~Lois Hagen



Trinity Learning Center & Preschool will be offering an a.m. and p.m. session of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten in collaboration with the Stevens Point School District for the upcoming school year (2022-2023). Registration for 4K will be held sometime in February. Please check the Stevens Point School District for more information. The center does offer wrap-around care. If you would like a tour of the center or additional information about our 4K program/wrap around care, please contact Amy Kurkowski at 344-2227.



~Amy Kurkowski



TRINITY LIBRARY

This month has several selections from the 2022 new books.

Primary

Little Why (Pri Lam) and Be You (Pri Rey)

Both books are about being yourself and know that each of us is special in our own way. Nicely illustrated and written for young children.

Intermediate

Out in Left Field (Int Lem) and Rusfus M. (Int Est)

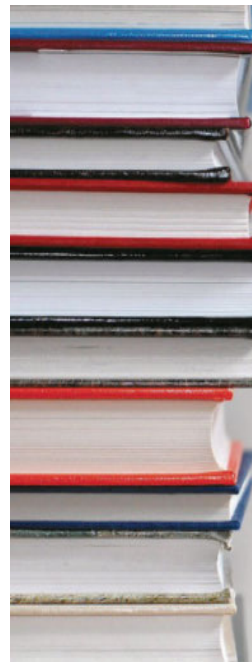
Don Lemna and Eleanor Estes write books for intermediate age young people. The books presented are from a series about the family and getting through the hard times. They use humor to tell the stories.

Fiction

The Last Chance Library (F Sam)

Freya Sampson writes about a 28 year old English librarian that ventures beyond her comfort level to save a special place in her community and her own life. A fun read that ends well.

~Jane Gjevre for Trinity Library Committee



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 Committee



To my Trinity friends, thank you for the beautiful poinsettia—I miss you all hope to be back soon. ~Betty Ryan

Dear Trinity Group, thank you for the beautiful flower for Christmas. Thank you Pastor Clay and Katie for their visits. Gail you send all the prayer books and drawings. Todd for bringing flowers. Love Ellie Bjorge

Thank you for the beautiful plant that Keith and Evelyn Widdel brought to my home. A wish to all to have a safe and healthy 2022. ~Doris Charlesworth



Disaster Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are urgently needed in your community to join the **Disaster Action Team**



Help your neighbor in their greatest time of need.

Home fires account for 90% of disaster responses. Compassionate and committed Disaster Action Team volunteers respond day and night to meet the immediate needs of their neighbors. Assistance given may include financial assistance for food, clothing and lodging, emotional support, prescription medication, and other critically needed items.


Both online and in person training opportunities are available. Register to become an American Red Cross volunteer today and help your neighbors turn tragedy into hope following a disaster. All training is provided free of charge.

Visit www.redcross.org/volunteer or use the QR code to start your volunteer application.

Questions? Contact lee.borofka@redcross.org



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FREE Income Tax Assistance

CAP Services' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free tax filing services for low- to moderate-income households. In 2022, all tax preparation will be provided through limited or no-contact methods.

Portage County residents should call **211** or **1-800-922-5590** from 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday, to request assistance.



Waupaca, Waushara, and Marquette County residents should call **1-800-660-5430** to request assistance.

Portage County tax preparation services brought to you through a collaborative effort with AARP Tax Aide, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Lincoln Center, Colangelo Foundation, St. George Wisconsin, Wis State Technical College, Beloit and Senior Volunteer Program, and United Way, 201.

FROM OUR CHURCH RECORDS THROUGH THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021

	12-MONTH BUDGET	ACTUAL
Envelope Offering	521,984.66	509,883.21
Loose Offering	5500.00	3,076.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	2,121.25
World Hunger	0.00	2,495.00
Seasonal Offering	10,750.00	7,089.75
Receipts (YTD)	541,242.66	524,950.60
Disbursements	565,310.50	529,936.83
Net (+/-)	(24,067.84)	(4,986.23)
Receipts (Month)		44,678.66
Disbursements		55,370.15
Net (+/-)		(10,691.49)

	12/31/20	12/31/21
Baptized Membership	1064	1020
Confirmed Membership	783	745

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.



Another way to support Trinity's ongoing Youth and Family programs. Are you an Amazon.com shopper? When placing your 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

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CHURCH OFFICE

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 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, February 1st 7:00 p.m.
 Trinity Website www.trinitysp.com
 Twitter @TrinityinPoint

CHURCH STAFF

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 Kelly Nielsen
 Barb Towey, Organist Emerita.....341-1825
 Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P Director.....344-2227
 East Central Synod website/e-mail.....ecsw.org

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 Jeff Martin, Past President.....341-9619
 Edye Ray, Vice President592-6607
 Donna Watson, Secretary.....341-7424
 Sue Acaley, Treasurer345-9935
 Kristen Bean, Building & Grounds340-5438
 Jon Houtman, Christian Education342-4491
 Roberta Holthusen, Christian Life & Growth341-0807
 Megan Espe, Communication.....830-9434
 Diane Witte, Global/Local Outreach.....295-0121
 Jeff Martin, Personnel.....341-9619
 Joel Lemke, Stewardship572-0259
 Amy Kurkowski, TLC&P344-2227
 Diane Witte, Worship295-0121
 Vacant, Youth & Family Ministry.....

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TOWER DEADLINE: February 15, 2022

3 FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																									
March 2022 <table border="1"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			1  10:00 am Whispering Pines Service 10:00 am Worship Committee Service Broadcast 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm Pack 9293 7:00 pm All Committee Night 7:00 pm GLO Committee	2 11:00 am Willow Brooke Service 5:00 pm Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 pm Confirmation Service Broadcast 95/984	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 10:00 am Riverview Lodge 11:00 am Northcrest Service 1:00 pm Dimensions Living Service 1:00 pm Wellington Place Service	4 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 am Northcrest Service 1:00 pm Wellington Service	5 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	6 5th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	7 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm Charity Circle 6:45 pm Troop 293	8 9:00 am Quilters 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm B & G Committee 6:30 pm Pack 9293	9 5:00 pm Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 pm Confirmation Service Broadcast 95/984	10 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 am Northcrest Service 1:00 pm Wellington Service	11 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	12 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	13 6th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	14 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:45 pm Troop 293 	15 TOWER DEADLINE 9:45 am Stevens Point Health Services 10:45 am Portage County Healthcare Center 12:00 pm Lunch Bunch at Mr. Brews Taphouse 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 1:30 pm Library Committee 6:30 pm Pack 9293	16 5:00 pm Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 pm Confirmation Service Broadcast 95/984	17 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 11:00 am Northcrest Service 1:00 pm Dimensions Living Service	18 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	19 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	20 7th Sunday of Epiphany 9:00 am Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	21 1:00 pm Joy Circle 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm Executive Committee 6:45 pm Troop 293	22 9:45 am Stevens Point Health Services 10:45 am Portage County Healthcare Center 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm Pack 9293	23 5:00 pm Online Worship-Facebook Live 6:30 pm Confirmation Service Broadcast 95/984	24 8:00 am Men's Bible Study 9:00 am Quilters	25 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	26 9:00 am Al-Anon Meeting	27 Transfiguration Of Our Lord 9:00 am Online Worship-Facebook Live and Website 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Worship	28 1:00 pm Service Broadcast 95/984 6:30 pm Church Council 6:45 pm Troop 293
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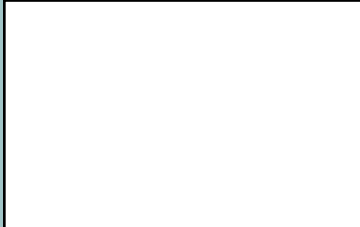
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