

THE TRINITY LUTHERAN
February 2025 Newsletter



Annual meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

The retiring council members are:

Nancy McClenathan
Becky Holstrum
Babbs Pitts
Brooklyn Diel
Autumn Ryden – Youth Representative

The seated council members are:

Chuck Sanders
Mark Scherer
Karyn St. Pierre
Autumn Ryden
Brooklyn Diel
Justin Ryden – Youth Representative



PLAY IN THE PARK

Members and friends of all ages, let's meet in Trinity's Park (Fellowship Hall) the third Saturday of each month at 5:00 p.m.. Join us on Saturday, February 15th.



COME JOIN US FOR People of Faith.

We meet the first Thursday of every month at 10:00 a..m. The meeting this month is on February 6th.

LECTORS, ACOLYTES, & SUNDAY SCHOOL

TEACHERS: Please head to Sign-Up Central to get your names on the lists! Thank you for serving & caring.

COFFEE HOUR: We have coffee and donuts every Sunday morning immediately following the worship service. Please join us downstairs for refreshment and conversation. Everyone is welcome!



COME JOIN US FOR THE BROWN BAG SUPPER on Thursday, February 27th at the Olney Public Library.

WE WILL BEGIN HAVING THE ANNOUNCEMENTS at 8:55 (five minutes before the start of the service). If you have an announcement, you can either send it to Pastor Kathi or be early to make that announcement in person.

PLEASE CALL JOHN SCHERER (618-354-0774) or email him (scherer@wabash.net) if you have a PRAYER REQUEST. If you wish to receive prayer chain notifications, please sign up at Sign-up Central in the narthex.

Good Samaritan always welcomes unexpired nonperishable food items such as canned beans, canned vegetables, dry spaghetti etc. If shopping is not convenient for you, please remember that monetary donations go a long way as Good Samaritan is able to purchase in bulk from the USDA and Feeding America. Bring or mail your donations to Trinity and they will be delivered to Good Samaritan.

Shampoo (not conditioner) is especially needed

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Mark Scherer
- Chuck Sanders
- Karyn St. Pierre
- Autumn Ryden
- Beth Saler, Council Secretary
- John Scherer, President
- Kevin Scherer
- Angela Slagley
- Brooklyn Diel
- Justin Ryden ~ Youth Representative
- ~ Church Treasurer

STAFF:

- Pastor ~ Rev. Kathi Boland
- Pianist ~ Keegan Tucker
- Choir Director ~ Andrew Flynn
- Sunday School Coordinator ~
- Altar Guild ~ Steve Berry
- Church Secretary ~ Rhoda Slichenmyer
- Financial Secretaries ~
- Custodians ~ Paul's Janitorial Service

WEEKDAY CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Board Members

- Bob Crum, Treasurer
- Sandy Britton, Secretary
- Mike Kurtz, President
- John Scherer

TRINITY PRESCHOOL

- Director ~ Ashley Powden
- Teacher ~ Brookelyn Mitchell
- MMO ~ Ashley Powden
- Brookelyn Mitchell

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

- Prayer Chain~ John Scherer
- Convalescing Meals ~
- Funeral Luncheons ~ Carol Diel, Sharon Kurtz
- Fellowship ~
- Learning ~
- Memorials & Special Gifts ~ Sarah Kincaid
- Property ~
- Service ~
- Stewardship ~
- Witness ~
- Worship ~
- Finance ~
- Youth~

GROUPS: Remember When ~ Rosemary West



FEBRUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAYS!

3	Addison Ryden	22	Ethan Mehl
3	Autumn Ryden	23	Lynsie Weiler
3	Gracie Warren	23	Jim Thomas
4	Leslie Warren	25	Janet Dawson
8	Avery Mehl	26	Mary Jane Hanes
10	Drake Holdren	26	Mary Jane Slinkard
12	Larry Cartmill	27	Linda Miller
14	Thelma Schwartz	27	Martha Johnson
18	Owen Petty	27	Daniel Warren
20	Gary Cowan		
20	Don Kincaid		

SPECIAL CARE MEMBERS (as of 2/01/2025)

Patricia Roberts	Stonebridge, 1304 N. East St. Olney
Don Fritschle	Stonebridge, 1304 N East St., Olney, IL 62450
Tressie Anderson	Brookstone Estates, 1110 N. East St. Olney, IL 62450 618 395-6105

AT HOME MEMBERS:

Audrey Scherer	600 S Christy Ave. Sumner, IL 62466	618 936-2169
Gary Cowan	1525 Cypress Rd. Olney, IL 62450	618 838-2300
Esther McCormick	6281 North IL 130, Olney, IL 62450	618 395-3033
Loran & Bev Budde	5548 East Gadde Bridge Lane, Olney, IL 62450	618 395-2818

December 2024 Income/Expense

Total December, 2024 deposits.....	\$32,266.25
Total December, 2024 expenses.....	\$14,947.14

Our Mission Statement
Trinity Lutheran Church strives to reach and welcome all with the love of Christ



February 2025 Newsletter

“Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything (without weakening).” 1 Corinthians 13:7, Amplified Bible.

The month of February can be celebrated for many reasons. One of them of course is the date that is smack dab in the middle of the month, Valentine’s Day. It is the date here in the Western Hemisphere when love is celebrated. Love is a great thing to celebrate – but there are many kinds of love to celebrate. The first kind of love we learn as babies onward is storge. This is the kind of devoted love which families have for one another, and it is a love that usually comes naturally for us, as a parent cares for a child and wants them to feel secure and do not expect anything in return. As children grow, they learn to love themselves because their family has loved them. This is the basis upon which the Golden Rule (“Do unto others as you would have them to unto you”) operates. If you have learned love from parents and family members, then you have a healthy self-love and want good things for yourself in life, and in turn want good things for others as well.

When we make church life a priority, that is an outgrowth of storge love. It can be described as the love between church members and all members of the body of Christ. This sibling kind of love can also be called phileo in the Greek language; it is the affectionate love of friendship. Phileo is why we send get well cards to our members; it is why we love and remember for our homebound members; and it is why we pray for each other – we care deeply about what happens to each other and to all members of the church worldwide. It is the reason we pray for the church and the world in our Prayers of Intercession. This strong affection for others also applies to the kindness between friends, as when Jesus wept at his friend Lazarus’s grave (“See how He loved [phileo] him!” John 11:36). This is the base upon which a good marriage is built as well. When a couple has friendship between them, even when their fiery, sexual love (eros) may burn less, this home base of phileo love keeps them together.

And yet, Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:31 that he wanted to tell us about the greatest kind of love of all, a love that we can celebrate every day and month of the year: agape love. This is the love which Christ has for the church, and it is the reason He gave His life for each of us: “God so loved (agape) the world that God gave the only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Agape love can be found in many places throughout the New Testament. The most beautiful description of love can be found in 1 Corinthians 13. I highly encourage all of us to read this chapter throughout the month of February and use these words to help us grow in agape love for each other and the world which God so agapes.

MAY GOD COMFORT Michael Ray Powell, who died Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at Springfield Memorial Hospital. Michael was the father of Matt Powell of Trinity.

MAY GOD COMFORT the family of Mary Lou Sager who passed away Tuesday, December 24, 2024 at

BridgePointe Health Campus of Vincennes, IN. She was a long-time member of Trinity. Private services are being held at Cunningham Funeral Home of Bridgeport.

MAY GOD COMFORT the family of Carolyn Sue Anderson who passed away Thursday, December 26, 2024 at Stonebridge Memory Care. Visitation was held on Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at Kistler-Patterson Funeral Home in Olney, IL. with funeral services following at 11:00. Interment was at Haven Hill Cemetery.

MAY GOD COMFORT the family of Deloris H. Williams, age 91, who peacefully passed on January 24, 2025, in Olney, Illinois. Deloris and husband Loren were members of Trinity. Funeral Services for Deloris will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11:00 AM at Meyer Funeral Home in Olney, Illinois. A visitation for friends and family will be from 10:00 AM until service time at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow in Haven Hill Memorial Garden Cemetery, Olney, Illinois.



THIS MONTH THE CHURCH LIBRARY IS FEATURING A BOOK

ENTITLED, HAVE A LITTLE FAITH by Mitch Albom. This nonfiction book is the story of Mitch's relationships with an elderly Jewish rabbi and a Detroit pastor in an inner-city church. As Mitch and the two men explore issues, Mitch discovers there are remarkable similarities between the two faiths; both men are comforted by believing in

something bigger than themselves. This book will be displayed in the narthex during February and is available for check out.

REMEMBER OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED! Each week we are collecting (one per family, as you are able), a bottle of shampoo for those who come to Good Samaritan.. Thank you.

PLASTIC RECYCLING IS ON-GOING! The Girl Scouts are still collecting clean, flexible plastic for recycling. There is a specific list of accepted plastics in the narthex, but in general, clean and dry food storage bags, store bags, bubble wrap -- anything like those examples can be brought to church and turned in using the labeled bin in the narthex or given to Larry or Beth Saler since it's their granddaughter's project. The Scouts are very grateful for the support given so far. To date they have collected close to 500 of the needed 1000 pounds of plastic. It all adds up!

CALLING ALL BOOKWORMS. We are starting a casual book club. All are welcome. First Sunday of the Month during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. Starting 2/2/25, the first book is Octavia Butler's Parable of the Sower. You have to secure your own copy of the book. Any questions, see Jill or Babbs.

PLEASE let the office know if you have received an award so that we may celebrate with you!

9th Grade High Honor

Justin Ryden

Savanah Ryden

11th Grade Honor Roll

Ethan Mehl

Honorable Mention

Autumn Ryden

12th Grade Honor Roll

Kylie Holdren

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BLESSING TO THIS CONGREGATION by reading God's words during the service, please go to Sign-Up Central and put your name on a few lines for the upcoming year! Thank you for serving in this way.

COMMUNION: Gluten free communion wafers are available if needed. Let Pastor Kathi know when you go up for communion.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS: Join us this Sunday, February 2, as we install the new council members. There will be a reception downstairs immediately following the service.



Bowling for the Kids ~ Bowlers Needed

5 Member Teams

(The funds raised will be supporting the non-profit youth mentoring agency of Richland County.)

One Weekend ONLY

February 22 & 23

Each bowler with \$40 in donations receives:

Free T-shirt, Pizza & Drink, & prizes

Sign up Today!!!

Register by calling the Mentor Richland County office at 618 392-3863

Trinity Lutheran Church Council minutes January 14, 2025

Present: Babbs Pitts (president), Kevin Scherer, Brooklyn Diel, Autumn Ryden, Angela Slagley, Nancy McClenathan, Matt Powell, John Scherer (vice president), Pastor Kathi Boland, Beth Saler, Mike Kurtz

Pastor Kathi opened the meeting with prayer and with Dwelling in the Word study.

Mike Kurtz gave the financial report. Most funds remain stable. There were several generous offerings and donations made in December. Mike anticipates however the first worship service in January being online only may have an impact on January donations. John Scherer moved the acceptance of the finance report; Kevin Scherer seconded. Motion passed.

Mike announced that after several decades as treasurer he will resign as of January 31, 2025.

He and Sharon will help with the transition to whomever becomes treasurer. The council expresses its thanks to Mike and Shon for their generous service.

Weekday Children's Ministry: Mike announced that Ashley Powden has started as the new preschool teacher. The downstairs printer and wifi are going again. The yearly breakfast had a slightly smaller turnout this year, probably because of the bad weather just before the breakfast. Despite that the current income from the breakfast is \$1,887.00 with more contributions expected. Mike hopes for a total net gain of \$2,000.00

Generous contributions from the congregation are helping keep the preschool alive.

The preschool board will do the brunch for the congregational meeting.

The minutes of the December Council meeting were approved on a motion from Pastor Kathi and a second from Angela Slagley.

Pastor's report for December was approved with a motion from Beth Saler and a second from Nancy McClenathan.

Comments from members: Members have expressed appreciation for the efficient and rapid

snow removal at Trinity.

Learning committee: There have been many positive comments about this year's Christmas program.

Property committee: Several trees have been damaged by recent wind. Decisions are being made about how best to deal with them.

Pastor Kathi raised the question of whether the administrative assistant should be excused from coming to Trinity on a snow day. There was discussion. No action was taken. See addendum below.

Incoming council members: Members being nominated include Chuck Sanders, Autumn Ryden, and Justin Ryden (youth representative). Other names may be forthcoming.

The auditing committee needs to be activated. Babbs will speak to several members about helping with this job before the annual meeting.

Other business: Beth Saler spoke about the Storybook program which has had no activity since 2019. Several Storybook team members are recommending that the bank account be closed and the funds in it (nearly \$400) be transferred to our youth program. Books should be made available to members and to the preschool with extra books being sold at Pools with that income also going to the youth program. The council agreed with this proposal by consensus. There was a brief discussion about the Fritschle award. We have a potential of three applicants this year.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Saler, secretary

Addendum to the minutes adopted by council through email and telephone communication:

Memo of understanding regarding dangerous weather / road conditions for all personnel:

The council of Trinity Lutheran Church understands that while it is most efficient for office work to happen in the building it is not always safe for people to come to Trinity. Bad road conditions can be the result of winter weather or warm weather flooding, to name some examples.

Safety comes first.

The council has confidence that our personnel understand their jobs and will do their utmost to fill those jobs, either from the office or from home (with pay) if necessary.