

**Outreach:** Susie is working on Christmas cards for Rosebrooke and Villa; and the Parade of Trees.

**Property Committee:** Meeting scheduled for December 5, 2023.

**Worship Ministry:** No meeting

**TLCW:** see attached minutes.

**Endowment Committee:** see attached minutes, no new meeting scheduled. We will need nominations for the Endowment Committee membership at the Congregation Meeting.

**Landscape committee:** notice has been posted for meetings on the variance. Waiting on results of those meetings.

**Other:** Tailgate Party raised \$800.00- more discussion at the January meeting.

**The meeting was adjourned** at 7:01 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

**Submitted in His service,** Sandy Willis, Council Secretary

### Stewardship Moment

1. Going shopping or to the mall? Bring your own bags!
2. It can be tempting to buy cheap tchotchkes & gag gifts. But will they end up in the landfill after a good laugh?
3. Consider a gift this winter to one of our church outdoor ministries/Bible Camps on behalf of someone: Crossways Camping Ministries: 912 N Oneida St, Appleton, WI 54911 (Includes Pine Lake Camp). Lutherdale Bible Camp: N7891 US-12, Elkhorn, WI 53121. Sugar Creek Bible Camp: 13141 SCBC Road, Ferryville, WI 54628.

**The new pictorial directory will be arriving soon. Stayed tuned!**

**TLCW Harvest Dinner**—A dedicated group of ladies and good men prepared and served **307 meals** via the drive-thru on Nov. 7, 2023. We had proceeds of **over \$3,300** of which we distribute for some worthy projects in the congregations and in the community. We could not have had such a success without the help of Thrivent Financial, A-F County Market/Medford Co-op and numerous donations of containers, vegetables, pies, and monetary donations from members. Thank you to all those that volunteered to help in so many ways. Many volunteers stayed to serve both shifts. A HUGE THANK YOU to all those that came and purchased a meal and to the many volunteers-THANK YOU.

### Help Wanted

We need more **snow shovelers!** Teams of two take one week at a time and are on a rotational basis. Please contact the office if you can help. 608-564-7920.

**Salvation Bell Ringers wanted!** To volunteer to Bell Ring, call Jerry at 608-432-3235.

**December 24, 2023**  
**Eve Services 4:00 and 7:00pm**  
**Let us worship the newborn king!**  
*No 9:00am Service*

## **Trinity Lutheran Church**

PO Box 65, Arkdale, WI 54613

Office hours: M-Th 9:00-2:30pm

(608) 564-7920 Website: arkdaletlc.org

Pastor Terri's email: pastor@arkdaletlc.org

Secretary Amy's email: churchoffice@arkdaletlc.org



### **December 2023 ..... From the Pastor's Pen**

Dear friends, the Christmas season is upon us, and we are celebrating! The 3rd verse of the song 'Good Christian friends' has the message of Christmas: Good Christian friends rejoice, with heart and soul and voice, now you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one, and calls us all, to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save!

To celebrate Christmas one needs to believe what is completely unbelievable to many people, to accept God's will for our lives, and to place ourselves in God's service, trusting that our lives are in his hands, for Christ was born to save!

No matter what is going on around us, no matter if we feel stagnant or if we are anxious, and in spite of any trials that have come our way - we honor Jesus' birth. He came for us. He saves us from ourselves, forgives our sins, supports us in the midst of our personal storms and offers us life eternal in the Kingdom of God. Christ was born to save!

How you honor Him, is up to you. Some celebrate by decorating and gifting. This time of year, some donate their time to charities. Some stop on Christmas day to light a candle and pray. However you plan to celebrate, please make sure the first thing on your list is to include time to worship Christ our Lord.

I wish you a blessed and most merry Christmas!

**Pastor Terri**

**The three wise men came to the manger with gifts for baby Jesus. They bought gold and frankincense...**

But wait, there's myrrh!

*The gift of sharing is a blessing. Thank you for your continued support of our local food pantry. **MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

You are invited to this year's **Sunday School Christmas Program:** **'Twas the Night Before Christmas**, Sunday, December 17 at 9am. A Brunch will follow; please plan to stay. :) Come and hear the story portrayed by our youth. Bonus: One of the songs will be with the Church Choir!

### **Cantata & Dessert Extravaganza**

In appreciation for **all the volunteers** here at the church, the council will provide a Dessert Extravaganza on **December 6th** in your honor! The choir will perform a Cantata at 6:00 and the Extravaganza will follow in the fellowship hall.

**December Assisting**

**Snow Shoveling**

04<sup>th</sup>: John S & Hank S  
 11<sup>th</sup>: Kurt M & Tom B  
 18<sup>th</sup>: Tom G & Ray G  
 25<sup>th</sup>: Glenn Q/Hank S

**Sunday assisting**

03<sup>rd</sup>: Acolyte: Raylee P  
 Lector: Krista P  
 Usher: John S  
 Liturgist: Mike K  
 Camera: Davion H

10<sup>th</sup>: Acolyte: Kendel Q

Lector: Meagan G  
 Usher: Ed H  
 Liturgist: Sandy W  
 Camera: Izzy N

17<sup>th</sup>: Acolyte: Ava N  
 Usher: Hank S  
 Camera: Merrik M

24<sup>th</sup>: Eve 4pm  
 Acolyte: Avery C  
 Lector: Sandy W  
 Usher: Ed H  
 Liturgist: Mike W  
 Camera: Brayden H

24<sup>th</sup>: Eve 7pm  
 Acolyte: Raylee P  
 Lector: Lloyd W  
 Usher: Derek P  
 Liturgist: Tom G  
 Camera: Izzy N

31<sup>st</sup>: Acolyte: Mathias H  
 Lector: Sandy P  
 Usher: Derek P  
 Liturgist: Mike K  
 Camera: Molly B

**December Assisting Continued**

**Monday Counters**

04<sup>th</sup>: Monica W & Terri S  
 11<sup>th</sup>: John S & Sharon G  
 18<sup>th</sup>: Sharon G & Terri S  
 27<sup>th</sup>: John S & Penny R

**Food Pantry—Peggy Q**

**Garbage run-** Brian/Donna O  
**Altar Guild**—Darlene H, Chair  
 Lloyd H, Ray & Karen G

**THANK YOU MEMBERS**

Thank you to this year's **lawnmowing crew**: Tom G, Ray G, Hank S, Bob G, Rick O, Sari O, Tim M, Mary Jo M, Rich W, Glenn Q, Peggy Q, Brian O, Donna O, Greg S, Terri S, Bill W, Ed H, Rick S, Patrick M, Steve P, Kris P, Dennis M and Craig I. **Also thanks to** Darryl Craig with DC Lawn Care & Handyman Service for mowing the ramp hill.

Thank you to this year's **gardening crew**: Gary M, Karen M, Tom G, Sharon G, Lloyd H, Darlene H, Terri S, Donna O, Monica W, Kathy M & Deb W.

Thank you to Rich & Deb W for **trimming the bushes** around the building.

Thank you to this year's **fall clean-up yard crew**: Dennis M, Glenn Q, Ethan O, Brian O, John S, Ray G, Tom G, Rich W, Deb W, Karen M, & Gary M.

Thank you to this year's crew of taking all the church garbage & recycling to the **landfill**: Hank S, Brian O, Donna O, Les K and Steve P.

Thank you to Don Quinnell of Dellwood Plumbing & Heating for **winterizing the lawn sprinklers**.

Thank you to this year's **food pantry transportation crew**: Nancy D, Monica W, Peggy Q, John S, Penny R & Terri S.

**Advent Series: 'Hope When You Need it most'**

This is the season when we light the candles of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. This year, perhaps more than most, we need a little joy. When spirits are battered and the heart is bruised, when life is wearying and hope is fragile, joy can seem hard to come by. But joy is a strong disposition. Joy is both a gift and a spirit that is pursued. It is an experience of grace and also the fruit of discipline. This Advent we will rehearse once again the story that is the source of joy to the world, as well as joy to us when we need it most.

**December happenings...**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Please bring your aluminum cans for our youth!</b>		<b>Cans can be left on the trailer by the church garage.</b>		Check out the Bible facts of Christmas test on the narthex table!	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00 Youth shop for Veteran Home
<b>3</b> 9 Worship 10 Education 10 Fellowship	<b>4</b> 4:30 Bible Study 5:45 Council	<b>5</b> Cards for Veterans Due 6:00 -7:30 Cantata prac. 6:00 Property	<b>6</b> 8:30 Lefse making 6:00 Cantata & Dessert Extravaganza	<b>7</b> 9:30 Lefse Making	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9 Worship 10 Education 10 Fellowship	<b>11</b> 4:30 Bible Study 6:00 Cantata practice at A.C.T	<b>12</b> 8:30 Quilting	<b>13</b> 6:00 Choir	<b>14</b> 8:30-2:30 Drop off cookies 3 start plating cookies	<b>15</b> 9 Newsletter Articles Due 9 TLCW Bake Sale at A.C.T.	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:15 Youth meet for pro. 9 Youth Christmas Program 10:00 Brunch	<b>18</b> 10:00 Poinsettia info due to the office 4:30 Bible Study	<b>19</b> 8:30 Quilting	<b>20</b> 6:00 Confirmation	<b>21</b> 2:00 Poinsettia plant due to the church	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 4pm & 7pm Worship	<b>25</b> Merry Christmas!	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9 Worship	Office Closed					

**Our Kids are challenging you to send a "kid" to help a family in need!** Limited space to graze or dry land? This is the goat's time to shine! **Goats can go where other animals can't**, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain & climates. Fresh milk from a goat provides daily nutrition for families. Goats are incredibly quick to reproduce, providing families the chance to pass the gift on to others. One goat cost \$50, let's see how many we can send! Make check payable to the church & write "kid challenge" in the memo line. Thank you!

### Unapproved November Council Meeting Minutes - November 6, 2023

**Present:** Garret Gould, Sandy Willis, Mike Willis, Carrie Easterly, Marge Edwards, Kris Peterson, Marge Edwards, Danna Peterson, Derek Pavelec, Pastor Terri Skildum. **Absent:** Meagan Grabarski, excused.

**The meeting was called to order** by President Garret Gould at 6:04 p.m.

**Pastor Terri opened with devotions** from Psalm 107 and prayer.

**Review October 2023 Council minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes made by Mike Willis, second by Marge Edwards. Carried.

**Review October 2023 Treasurer Report:** Kris reported that it was positive for the month – no large dollar bills. The carillon repair was \$300.00. Motion made to approve the report made by Danna Peterson, second by Derek Pavelec. Carried.

**Review Budget to date:** Kris reported that income and expenses are on track.

**Pastor's Report:** Seven shut-ins were visited, and all shut-ins received a Halloween card. At Rest: none. At the Font: One. At the Altar: One upcoming in January 2024. Other FYI: Pastor did attend the synod's Fall Summit (Bishop's convocation) in October. The invite video posted has had over 930 views and shows up now on FB reels. Our FB page has had 852 page reaches, with 471 post engagements in October. Pastor will be taking November 20 off as a personal day. Sunday School Christmas program is December 17 at 9:00 a.m. Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024.

#### **Action Items:**

**Next Council Meeting** will December 4, 2023, at 5:45 p.m.

**Local Benevolence** – balance \$125: We received a request for donation from the Adams County Angel Tree program. There is also a need for Blizzard Boxes through ADRC. Danna Peterson moved that we split the \$125 between the two organizations, second by Marge Edwards. Carried.

**Review & Final approval of Policy manual and By-Laws:** Both were reviewed one last time. Motion by Mike Willis to approve the changes in both, second by Kris Peterson. Carried. Note: changes to By-Laws will be included in January Congregational Meeting for congregation to vote on.

**Tornado Shelter update:** Meagan checked with county agencies and Trinity is not on record with them as a shelter. We may remove the signage outside the building.

**Congregational Care of Creation Plan update:** A committee of Amy K., Tom Guzman, John Easterly, Mike Kuss, Kris Peterson, and Danna Peterson has formed. The Harvest Dinner will be eco friendly as well as other things we are doing to be more caring of the environment.

**Audit Team:** team will be Crystal N., Cathy Westover, Robin Hansen, with Kris Peterson. Books need to be audited the first week in January.

**Dessert Extravaganza:** December 6, 2023, after the Christmas Cantata. Council will provide and serve desserts in appreciation / recognition of all church volunteers. We will also serve the leftovers from the Tailgate Party on December 17, 2023, following the Sunday School Christmas Program for Fellowship hour.

#### **Other Reports:**

**Education Ministry:** Sunday School program is underway.

\*\* minutes continued on the back of newsletter \*\*

### ARKDALE TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

#### October 15, 2023 – Church Fellowship Hall

**The regular meeting of the Arkdale TLCW was called to order by President, Danna Peterson** at 10:14 am on October 15, 2023 in the church fellowship hall. Members present were: Susie Smith, Darlene Hovorka, Sandy Willis, Sharon Guzman, Dana Henriksen, Terri Soley, Sandy Pheiffer, Barb Albrecht, Mary Jo Meyer, Kris Bougie, Becky Oleson, Karen Janssen, Penny Ross, Marge Edwards.

**Motion was made** by Mary Jo Meyer, seconded by Becky Oleson to adopt the agenda as printed. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Sharon Guzman presented the devotion** talking about a church pastor in a church in Jerusalem and about issues that the Lutheran churches in that area have to deal with. She stated that the roots of the Lutheran Church in the Holyland is the homeland of our church.

**Motion was made by Kris Bougie**, seconded by Barb Albrecht to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2023 meeting as presented. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Motion was made by Sandy Willis**, seconded by Becky Oleson to approve the treasurer's report showing a balance of \$22,238.95. Terri reported spending \$499.00 on baby kits and \$548.81 on school kits. Much of the cost of the baby kits & school kits was covered by donations. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** Terri Soley reported that we needed to change the signature at the bank for the TLCW accounts. Amber Bruce is listed on the accounts and she is no longer a member. Motion was made by Sharon Guzman, seconded by Terri Soley to remove Amber Bruce from TLCW account at the bank. The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Sandy Willis, seconded by Barb Albrecht to add Penny Ross to the TLCW account at the bank. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### **Events/Updates:**

**Harvest Dinner:** Event will be held on November 7, 2023. Sign up sheets will be in narthex for work shifts and donations of pies. Cream pies will be discouraged as they are difficult to handle.

**Christmas Bake Sale:** Sale will be held on December 15, 2023 from 9 until sellout. It will be held at the ACT in Adams. Karen Meunier, Kathy Kuss, and Terri Soley will be chairpersons on Thursday night for plating. Sandy Pheiffer, Kris Bougie and Darlene Hovorka will be chairpersons for set-up at the theater.

**New Business:** None

#### **Reports:**

Social Media Report – None

Scholarship Report – None

Quilting Report – Quilt Sunday will be October 22, 2023 where quilts will be on display in the sanctuary and will be shipped out the end of the month.

\*\*minutes continued on next page\*\*

in the sanctuary and will be shipped out the end of the month.

World Ministry Report – Baby kits and school kits are ready to be shipped. We are thankful for everyone who donated and worked on these projects.

Fellowship Report

Kathy Kuss will chair the Fellowship group and needs the help of all of the congregation. The Quilters will take the month of November and the Council will take December to serve. We are still looking for groups to sign up for the remainder of the church year.

**The next meeting** will be February 11<sup>th</sup> after service.

**The meeting was adjourned** with the Lord's Prayer at 10:47 pm.

**Respectfully submitted**, Darlene R. Hovorka, Secretary - Arkdale Trinity Lutheran Church Women

### Christmas Cards for Veterans

Time is counting down to help send cards to the veterans at the home in Kings, WI. There are cards on the narthex table. Once signed, please seal or fold the flap in & return no later than **Dec. 5th**. This will ensure enough time to get mailed to the home & distributed to the veterans.

### In case of bad weather

Machine messages at church (608-564-7920) & at Pastor's home (608-339-6536) will announce if service is canceled. Channel 9 out of Wausau will also be contacted & it will be posted on Facebook. When in doubt, stay at home where it's safe & warm.

### KFC – Kids For Christ

★ **All youth** -Program practice December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 10am. **Play your instrument or sing**. Talk to pastor Terri about performing before the Christmas program or during or even another Sunday. **The SS Christmas Program** is Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> 9am. Kids come at 8:15am. Stay for Brunch following.

■ **Confirmation Youth** shopping for Veterans Dec.2,10am @ Dollar Tree/Family Dollar. Contributions accepted!

★**No Classes** Wed. Dec. 6, 13 & 27<sup>th</sup>. **No classes** on Sunday Dec. 24 & 31<sup>st</sup>.

★**Bible Verse**: "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths & lying in a manger." Luke 2:12.

★**Activity**: Graham cracker Nativity scene. Cover a cookie sheet w/ tinfoil. Use graham crackers to build a stable; use frosting for glue. Use candy you have: gumdrops, liquorish, tootsie rolls, marshmallows, candy canes, to make the manger people & animals (toothpicks & tinfoil are useful).

★**Table Talk**: What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? Have you ever thought about chickens possibly being near the baby Jesus? What other animals may have been in the barn/manger?

★**Bedtime Prayer**: Lord, you put the stars & planets all around in the galaxy, they're so wonderful! And they led the wisemen to you, thank you! And more than that, thank you for your Son, Jesus, who came to love me & save me. Amen.

### TLCW Bake Sale & Lefse

Attention members! It's time to get out your recipes & get ready to bake! The **Lefse prep & making** is Dec. 6th @ 8:30am & Dec. 7th @ 9:30am. Help is needed! Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can help.

**On Dec. 14th, cookies can be dropped** off at the fellowship hall from 8:30-2:30pm.

There is also a sign-up sheet in the narthex, if you are baking, please let us know what you are bringing so we have a variety of goodies.

**Cookie plating** will be in 2 shifts: 3-5pm & 5pm-finish on Dec. 14th. We are looking for drivers to help get all the goodies that evening to the theatre in town after 6:30pm.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

On **Dec. 15th** from 9am-until sold out, the **Christmas Cookie Bake Sale** (plus Lefse, no pre-sales!) at the Adams Community Theatre in Adams takes place.

We are seeking donations of gently used Christmas/Winter themed plates/platters.

Please leave these in the fellowship hall. **Thank you!**

### LWR Kit Update

A **huge thank you** to everyone who contributed to the success of our Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit projects in 2023: those who donated money & supplies, those who put quilts & kits together, those who boxed them up for shipment, those who loaded & transported our donations to the truck in WI Rapids on Oct. 28th, and those who donated money (\$185 total) to offset LWR's shipping expense! This year's totals: **22** quilts (4 more than 2022); **90** personal care kits (60 more than 2022); **204** school kits (16 more than 2022); and **70** baby care kits (matched 2022 total). **Your generosity is very much appreciated by people all over the world who have been impacted by natural & manmade disasters!**

### The Glory of Christmas is Just Around the Corner!!

Arkdale TLC and Friends are looking forward to presenting a new cantata this year: The Glory of Christmas, by Lloyd Larson.

It's a joyful piece that beautifully tells the timeless Christmas Story in music & readings.

The choir will be joined by several community members as well as additional members from our congregation. And of course, by our wonderful Readers. We'll also be joining the Sunday School children for a special selection as part of their Christmas program.

Performance dates are: Wednesday, December 6th at 6:00pm at Church & Wednesday, Dec.13th at 6:30pm at Adams Community Theatre (our Music Ministry program)

### Ramp Hill and Canopy Update

The Adams County Board of Adjustment met & approved the variance to allow us to build the wall on our property survey line. The Strongs Prairie Town board had previously indicated no objection to this design. We've received the brick & block for this project saving us a 5-10% price increase in 2024 cost. We plan to start this project as soon as weather permits next spring. Property Works will do the excavating & build the terrace wall. Brothers Concrete will pour the foundation & wall as well as do the flat work & steps. Kingdom Stone will install the brick & stone.

Fund raising continues, we've raised \$54,078 so far. The ramp hill is the 1<sup>st</sup> phase at a cost of \$100,000. The canopy foundation is included in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase but funding has not been raised for this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase. Please consider a donation, your gift is tax deductible.