



Trinity Lutheran Church
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Arkdale, WI 54613

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**Bi-Annual
Congregational
Meeting
January, 26th
following 9 am
worship service**



All voting members are encouraged to attend!

Trinity Lutheran Church

PO Box 65, Arkdale, WI 54613

Office hours: Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm

(608) 564-7920 Website: arkdaletlc.org

Pastor Terri's email: pastor@arkdaletlc.org

Office email: churchoffice@arkdaletlc.org



January 2025 From the Pastor's Pen



Dear friends,

Yes, Christians are supposed to act in love and respectfulness. We are not to be garish and selfish, however meekness (being willing to accept and submit to the will and desire God) does not mean we are doormats to those who would abuse us.

Jesus says in Matthew 10:16 **"I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves."** We need to be aware of when and where we can help and serve – safely. AND also aware there are those who don't care that we are doing good or that we are good people; these people target good people to persecute and to take advantage of our 'good nature' to take our money and our identity. Sad but true. So, **be savvy.**

This is a new year and scammers are trying new ways to take advantage of us and try to steal our hard-earned money and identities. Here are some ways they will try:

1. Fake Fraud Alerts: "We're Contacting About Your Account..." Scammers pose as your bank or a well-known company, like BMO, UPS or Amazon. You might receive a text or email about a "suspicious transaction." If you respond, they'll call you, pretending to save/protect your account. Then comes the plot TWIST: they'll either ask for your login info or tell you to transfer money to a "safe" account. Spoiler alert—it's their account (not your banks, not yours either), stealing your password & login info. Don't call them, don't use the number they provide. UPS doesn't text you about packages in a warehouse. If you think it is your bank contacting you, hang up & contact your bank directly using the number on the back of your own card – Stay calm, I know it's vexing, but Do Not click on or use the number or email/text that they sent to you.

2. Fake invoices and Subscription Renewals. I get these a lot, saying that my subscription renewed for xyz and my PayPal or Amazon account was charged \$399.99. If you don't have PayPal or an Amazon account, then you know right there it's fake. Don't click on it. Instead go direct to your account and check. I checked my accounts and there has been no such charge. So, do not click on that invoice; do not call them. The scammer wants you to click on that invoice and try to get you to "confirm" your information and login and password. Do not do it. It is not rude to simply hang up; I give you permission. Do call your own bank and check.

Bonus Tip: Set up alerts for your credit card and bank transactions. You'll spot any real charges immediately and can address them before it's too late. Also set up secondary authentication (2FA) on your accounts, such as a code sent to your phone or email. So even if they got a login and password, they wouldn't get that text or email confirmation with a pin. I know it takes a bit more time – but you and your money are worth a few extra minutes. *(continued on page 7)*

REMINDER: Committee reports for the January annual meeting report are due by January 6. Please email committee reports to churchoffice@arkdaletlc.org.

Thank You to all of the Worship and Churchwide Assistants for January, 2025!

	Acolytes	Lector	Ushers	Liturgist	Camera
Jan. 5	Raylee P. & Ava N.	Garret Gould	Crystal M Nawrot & Hank Sauer	Mike W.	Jameson N
Jan. 12	Izzy N. & Kendel Q.	Lloyd Waller	Lloyd & Darlene Hovorka	Roxie I.	Ashtin Q.
Jan. 19	Avery & Ellie C.	Mike Willis	Marge Edwards & Garret Gould	Tom G.	Merrik M.
Jan. 26	Connley & Elaynna M.	Sandy Pheiffer	John Stormoen & Tom Guzman	Sandy W	Davion H.

	Greeter	Comm. Asst.	Bulletin Sponsorship	Fellowship Hosts
Jan. 5	Becky Oleson	Mindy H.	Cathy & Rich Westover	Barb Albrecht & Kathy Kuss
Jan. 12	Marge Edwards	Danna P.	Tom & Gretchen Wetzal	(still need volunteers)
Jan. 19	Becky Pease	Karen G.	Jim & Jody Allen	(still need volunteers)
Jan. 26	Penny Ross	Darlene H.	Lloyd & Darlene Hovorka	(still need volunteers)

	Counters		Snow Shovelers
Jan. 6	Penny Ross & Sharon Guzman	Jan. 6-12	Hank Sauer & Garret Gould
Jan. 13	Sharon Guzman & Nancy Sauer	Jan. 13-19	Kurt Mikolite & Bill Wahlen
Jan. 20	Nancy Sauer & Marge Edwards	Jan. 20-26	Tom Guzman & Ray Groskinsky
Jan. 27	Marge Edwards & Dana Henriksen	Jan. 27-Feb. 2	Glenn Quinnell & Bob Goodhue

Monthly Volunteers

Altar Guild: Dana Henriksen, Lead & Mary Jo Meyer

Food Pantry: Susan McIntosh

Garbage: Dave Janssen

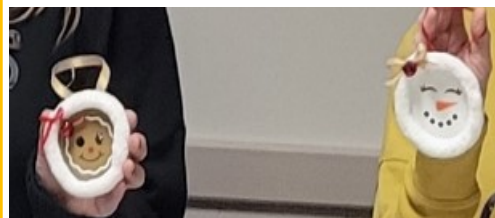


Thank You!

PARTICIPATE IN ANY OR ALL OF THE MONTHLY CRAFT NIGHTS

Do you enjoy crafting in the company of others who share your hobby? Do you appreciate someone bringing all of the materials, coming up with the ideas, and leading the project? You are in luck! Crafting Night is just what you want! For a suggested donation of \$10 a month for materials, everything is ready for you! Each month there is a new and different type of project.

We craft on the **first** Wednesday of every month at 5:55 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Come one month, or every month. Simply let Danna know as soon as possible for each month, so enough kits are prepped and available for everyone attending.



January's project will be a **diamond art** activity. No experience necessary.

Check out the pictures of our past projects. November: Gingerbread and snow people ornaments and December: gnomes.



3. Fake Charity Calls: "Won't You Help?" You may get an email or a phone call seeking assistance for a charity or a medical situation, children needing medical what have you, disaster victims. Unfortunately, not all **charities** are legit. Google them or ask me to look into it - before you consider sending money. I get a call every year from a guy asking for donations for the Sheriff's department – it is not for our Sheriff department. I called the Sheriff and asked. Scammers pocket your "donation" helping themselves to our funds. If its 'urgent' and needed 'immediately' consider these words as red flags. The scammers playbook has them preying on our compassion, creating a sense of pressure – stop. Be wise.


They have ways to make it appear to be a phone number you know or an email from your contacts. My mother called me the other day all upset – She'd received an email from me saying I had something urgent and sad news to tell her and to email her back. IT WASN'T ME. IT WASN'T MY EMAIL – yet it appeared to be my email. I'm glad she stopped and called me first. Careful, careful my friends. Most of our loved ones if they need to tell us something or need help will call us directly themselves. ~Caution one scam is someone calling on behalf of your 'grandson' or loved one needing money urgently – Don't do it. Call your loved one direct or call their parents to confirm. **Do not** buy gift cards/money orders what have you to send to anyone. Just don't. Not even if it appears to be someone you know.

4. Crypto Goldmine or Fool's Gold. Red flag: "Watch your money grow"; run away. They tempt with flashy success stories, fake testimonials, and charts that scream, "You're missing out!" Once you've handed over your cash, it's game over. No investment is risk-free, and anyone guaranteeing a huge return is lying. It's as simple as that. If an offer feels too good to be true – it isn't.

Again if an offer feels too good to be true – it isn't. These wolves will use slick websites, fake reviews, your empathy and deep discounts to lure you in. Once they have your payment info, it's a one-way street to heartbreak. Extra note: TEMU/Shein and other sites may be legit, but the pop-ups with the spinning wheel of exclusive deals are spam – and may take you away from the original site. Another is when you see the box on a site that says free print click here' –don't.

If you are not sure, please call me or call the sheriff's department #608-339-3304.

My flock, I don't want you to become cynical or tainted, but I'm telling you all this because I love you, and I don't want you to fall victim. Just being targeted can make you feel distraught. So please remain committed to the Lord and use the wisdom he gives us to help us recognize a scam.

*What Joy is ours,
Pastor Terri* 



Church One-Liner: One thing about a church, you're never too bad to come in and you're never too good to stay out!

If you were scammed Do not be ashamed; take action. Don't delay. 1. Stop contact with the scammer; hang up, do not reply. 2 Secure your finances. Check your credit cards, bank etc. Report potentially compromised bank account, credit or debit card information to your financial institution(s) immediately. 3. Change account passwords, including anything using the same passwords. 4. Check your computer, make sure your anti-virus is running and free of malware and keylogging software. 5. Report the scam. Don't be embarrassed. Reporting helps protect others. Have ready the emails, texts & call log, and contact local law enforcement. Contact the Federal Trade Commission 1-877-382-4357. If identity theft is possible contact www.identitytheft.gov or call 877-438-4338. Consumers can also [file a complaint with Consumer Affairs](#) if they have a dispute with a business regarding a transaction. Reporting to the Better Business Bureau (the [BBB Scam Tracker](#)) can help others become aware of scams that may be circulating in your local area.



Once again, the **TLCW Bake Sale** was a huge success! Many thanks to all of the dessert bakers, lefse makers, platers, sellers, transporters, and buyers! Every hand and heart involved make this event an anticipated, well-supported annual holiday tradition and fundraiser! P.S. Begin saving Christmas trays for next year's sale.

Special thanks to all who helped at our Christmas Eve worship services. In one joyous evening, several volunteers served as ushers, acolytes, lectors, liturgists, greeters, communion assistants, altar guild members, choir singers, organists, camera and screen operators, and bulletin sponsors. In addition snow shovelers were on hand should the need arise. Your assistance is so very much appreciated!

Thank you to Krista Pavelec, Carrie Easterly, Pastor Terri, the Sunday School teachers, and the parents for leading the youth in their Christmas message. Bravo, students, for shining brightly in your wonderful performance of the skit, "New Star."



What do sweet potatoes wear to bed?

Their YAMMIES!

Speaking of yams, for the month of January let's fill the food pantry cart with canned vegetables.

*Thank you for your generosity!
The ATLCW*



Thank you Ray Groskinsky and Tom Guzman for hanging the Christmas banner and placing lights on the Ramp Hill wall. Thank you to Pat & Kathy Murphy for sharing and placing several decorations, including those at the parking lot entrance. Thank you to the entire talented decorating crew of Karen & Gary Meunier, Penny Ross, Pat & Kathy Murphy, Gretchen Wetzel, Ray Groskinsky, Kurt Mikolite, Mary Ann Schneider, Tom & Sharon Guzman, and Lloyd & Darlene Hovorka for decking the halls and other indoor areas. What a beautiful holy and festive scene for the season!



Thank you to all who directed Thrivent Choice Dollars, Kwik Trip Rewards, and Raise Right Rebate Earnings this year to Arkdale Trinity Lutheran Church! These donations help support our church & ministry.

Ginger's Holiday Sweet Potatoes shared by Sandra Swisher-Pheiffer in *Recipes and Memories* cookbook in loving memory of her mother, Ginger Swisher.

- 3 lb. sweet potatoes (canned may be used)
 - 3/4 c. light brown sugar (reserve 2 tbsp.)
 - 1/2 tsp. each of cinnamon and nutmeg
 - 1/4 tsp. salt
 - 3 tbsp. butter
 - 1 c. milk (skim or no-fat evaporated milk may be substituted)
- Preheat oven to 400°. Grease 1½ qt. casserole dish. Cook potatoes in boiling salted water. Peel and mash. Stir in all remaining ingredients (except reserved sugar). Turn mixture into prepared dish and sprinkle with reserved sugar. Bake for 30 minutes.

Abbreviated Unapproved Council Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2024

Present: Sandy Willis, Mike Willis, Carrie Easterly, Leif Pedersen, Dana Henriksen, Marge Edwards, Cathy Westover, Kris Peterson, Garret Gould, Pastor Terri Skildum

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by President Garret Gould.

Approve agenda: agenda amended to add under New Business: 2. Dishwasher 3. Local Benevolence. Motion to approve amended agenda by Mike/Carrie. Carried.

Opening devotion by Pastor Terri was from Philippians 2:3-5; discussed humility, followed by prayer.

Approve Nov. Council Minutes: Motion to approve the official copy of minutes made by Mike/Leif. Carried.

Approve Nov. Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve by Marge/Carrie. Carried.

Review Budget to date: the budget was reviewed for year 2024 and reviewed for year 2025 budget proposals.

Pastor's report: 11 shut-ins visited. At Rest: 2 private memorials. At the Font: 1 baptism; 2 more families trying to schedule for January. FYI: Pastor is trying to schedule hip replacement, possibly the end of January.

Approve new Associate Members: Dennis and Sarah Wright (keep voting membership with other church). Motion to approve by Mike/Marge. Carried.

Next Council Meeting will be January 6, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

Old Business:

Budget 2025 Update: updates made during the review of the budget for the upcoming Congregational mtg.

Dessert Extravaganza: plans finalized.

Annual Audit: Committee will meet January 5, 2025

Annual Meeting Agenda: Garret will finalize the agenda

Method of Announcements: a suggestion was made to have the liturgist do general announcements first and then let individuals follow. No definite action taken.

Phones: discussion on updating the phone system. It was referred to Leif to take to the property committee for research and information.

New Business:

Building Security: Pastor reported that police have notified her that doors have been left unlocked. We need to identify all key holders and remind all that the doors need to be checked when leaving the building. The office will try to get an accurate list of current keyholders.

Dishwasher: The dishwasher was left unclean resulting in a bad odor in the kitchen due to improper shutting down and cleaning of the machine. Mike W. has since cleaned it thoroughly and will draw up a clear list of procedures to shut down and make sure all filters and screens are cleaned and post it on the dishwasher.

Local Benevolences: A motion was made by Marge to give \$500 to the Food Pantry and \$500 to Faith in Action. After discussion on the motion, Marge amended the motion to \$500 to Hope House and \$500 to Faith in Action. Seconded by Kris Peterson. Carried.

Committee Reports:

Education Committee: Sunday School is getting ready for their Christmas Program

Property Committee: The shoveling schedule is set.

TLCW: Lefse and cookie sale are upcoming.


Care and Creation Committee: need to reschedule the next meeting.

Council excused Pastor Terri from the meeting to discuss Salaries for the budget. An annual raise of 3.2% (COLA) is recommended by the Synod for salaries. Council will recommend that the Synod recommendation be used for the 2025 Annual Budget. Personnel Committee also needs to meet for Pastor evaluation.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m., closing with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted in His service,
Sandy Willis, Sec.

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:55pm Craft Night HAPPY NEW YEAR! DAY 	2	3	4
5 9-Worship 10-Fellowship & Education 10-Audit	6 Annual Reports due 3:30 Bible Study 5:30 Council	7 8:30 Quilting	8 6 pm Choir & 5th-9th grade Game Night	9	10	11
12 9 Worship 10 Fellowship & Education	13 Newsletter items due 3:30 Bible Study	14 8:30 Quilting	15 6pm Choir & Confirmation	16	17	18
19 9-Worship 10-Fellowship & Education 10-Endowment & TLCW Mtg.	20 3:30 Bible Study	21 8:30 Quilting	22 6pm Choir & Confirmation	23	24	25
26 9-Worship 10-Fellowship & Education 10-Bi-Annual Mtg	27 3:30 Bible Study	28 8:30 Quilting	29 6pm Choir & Confirmation	30	31 	

Winter Stewardship Ideas: Stewardship is the responsible management of something that God has entrusted to our care, such as woodlands. Consider *cutting wild grapevines from good-quality trees, checking stream flows & removing obstructions and debris, creating habitat for quail/pheasants or another species, and addressing invasive plants/trees.*



Bible Moment: 1. What name is mentioned 7,000 times in the Bible? 2. What name is only mentioned once? 3. Here's a riddle from Judges 14:14, "Out of the eater came something to eat. And out of the strong came something sweet." The original hearers had 3 days to guess its meaning. Try to guess who said it and what was meant by it before looking at the answers.

KFC - Kids For Christ

- ★ Confirmation & Sunday School resume January 6th.
- ★ Summer Bible Camp registration is OPEN!
- ★ Wednesday Confirmation classes are at 6pm for 7 & 8th graders.
- ★ Thanks to all who made our Christmas Program so wonderful!! Stars for all of you!
- ★ On January 26, NO classes because of the annual meeting; a movie for kids will be in the narthex.
- ★ Bible Note: While squirrels are not mentioned in the Bible, they can be examples of Christian traits such as prudence, wisdom, being prepared, hard work and caring for God's creatures.

★ **Activity:** DIY Squirrel/woodpecker feeder: Squirrels love peanuts & black oil sunflower seeds, along with left over apples slices and walnuts – no salted food. Need container. 2 pieces of string about 20

inches or wire. Make sure container can drain, punch holes in the bottom if needed (pic 1); pictured is a dollar store pencil holder. Make 4 holes around the top. Take a string & put each end through 2 of the holes and pull up the string (pic 2). Do the same with the other string and then bring all four ends up together and tie a knot (pic 3). Fill with peanuts and hang (pic 4).

★ **Table Talk:** If you could ask a squirrel one thing, what would it be? Do you think you have anything in common with a squirrel?

★ **Prayer:** Dear Lord, as winter is here, I worry about squirrels and birds and the like. Remind us to help them for we are much alike. We eat. We sleep. We all have feet. And you O lord, are our maker. Amen.

Bible Answers 1. Jehovah. 2. Lydia. 3. Samson gave the riddle to his wedding guests, based on his eating of a lion, discovering honey in its carcass.

