

Trinity **SONRISE** News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The year 2020 is upon us. Can we drop the first 20 already? If you remember, the millennium bug, the crisis that would occur when calendars rolled to the year 2000, was supposed to wreak all sorts of havoc on life as we know it. Your personal computer would become inoperable (a few did), you would no longer be able to program your VCR (if you ever learned how), and on a more serious note, airplanes that relied on antiquated computer systems not programmed to have their clocks roll over would possibly fall from the sky. So in order to make such a thing never happen again, referring to the year as simply 56 (a good year), 78 (another good year) or 99 could never happen again, we are now all forced to include 4 significant digits when referring to a year. The class of 20 will forever be the class of 1920 and from now on, every class before the Lord returns will be the class of _ _ _ _.

I also muse at the turn of the year that for quite some time, the current year is no longer preceded by the notation AD as a base line date. Anno Domini, the year of our Lord, is no longer coined by those who gave us the millennium bug. Now each year since the birth of Jesus is marked with the letters CE following, that is, Common Era. Heaven forbid that someone who does not believe in Jesus should have to refer to each year as an anniversary of when God's only begotten son appeared on earth. Some never did.

According to WebExhibits.com there are some 40 calendars currently being used around the world today, the most common being the western calendar (based on the work of a Catholic Bishop named Gregory the Great), but other calendars start and end on different days. They observe leap days differently and some have no reference to Jesus whatsoever. The Chinese, the Indian people, Islamic folk, and the Jews do not reference Jesus. The Ethiopians do but their calendar is based on Coptic Christian History. The Persians (Iranian), and other Muslims have their own calendar, based on you know who, as well as the Balinese, and Bahai, to name a few. None of the people who use these other calendars have had to throw a bone to those offended by the name of their Gods or have had to satisfy some politically correct agenda. I just find it all a reason to go, "hmmm" this time of year.

So, we drop AD for non-Christians, we add the 3rd and 4th significant digits to solve the millennium bug and save airplanes from falling out of the sky, and we still don't know what time it really is around the world. I have 3 clocks in my office, I wear a Fitbit and a watch, and I can read what time it is on my phone and computer. Two of the clocks are always suspicious, one loses time whenever the battery gets weak, the second is persistently wrong, because it does not sync with the world clock but vehemently sticks to the time in which I set it. My watch is also accurate, but analogue, so at best it is an approximation. And my computer, phone, and Fitbit are accurate to a fault, unless they glitch.

There is one time, however that does not change; that time is Now. Jesus said, Now is the time of salvation. Now is the time to repent. Now is the time to believe that Jesus, 2020 years ago, give or take, entered the world and became our substitute, our sacrifice, and our savior. If you do not believe that by now, then no calendar or clock is going to fix that. Today, this minute, is the time to repent...for only God knows the Day, the hour, the moment of our Savior's return and the Day of our Salvation. Amen

In Christ,

Pastor Timothy Azzam



Remember talk to God in prayer! God wants to hear our needs, our problems, our thanks, and praise. God is always there, ready to listen to our prayers and give us answers.



I am available at any time to pray or visit with you when you are in need. If you are ill, unable to get out, or injured and desire prayer or a visit, please let me know. I make house calls, hospital calls, nursing home calls, or I will meet with you in my office if you desire.

Additionally, if you know of someone who could benefit by a visit, remind them to call the pastor or ask for their permission to call on their behalf. It takes the same amount of effort to ask the person who has informed you about someone's illness to contact the pastor as it does to speculate as to whether he has or has not made a visit. Thank you for your co-operation.

--Pastor Azzam



Michigan District, LCMS presents
2020 Theological Conference
 February 1, 2020 | Our Savior, Lansing, Mich.



LEGACY:
Reclaiming A Lost Generation
 Ephesians 4:1-3

Speakers:

- Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton
- Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy
- Mrs. Heather L. Ruesch
- Rev. R. Gabe Kasper

General \$20
Student \$15

michigandistrict.org/theological20

Christians in general, and Christian families in particular, are under spiritual and cultural attack. As a result, more families are being broken and more individuals, especially the young, are leaving the Church. The typical fight-or-flight reactions can readily be seen: some churches and individuals embrace the flight response by isolating themselves, while others choose to fight by using Scripture and reason to point fingers.

The goal of this conference is to propose and examine a third response reflecting the apostle Paul's method of engaging the culture (and our relatives) by "speaking the truth in love." Our prayer is that we all develop the capacity to engage the culture as we also seek to retain our young people through healthy interactions under the blessing of our Lord.

Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton is a former missionary to the Philippines. He served over the years as professor of world missions, pastor, and district president. He retired in 2018.

Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy is President Emeritus of the Minnesota South District of the LCMS. He also served as Vice- President of the LCMS for 6 years. His parish experience includes pastorates in Minnesota and Oregon.

Mrs. Heather L. Ruesch is a well-respected life issues educator and author of *Sexuality Mentality, Creating a Culture of Biblical Integrity* (CPH).

Rev. R. Gabe Kasper is the Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Michigan.

The registration includes lunch. You can register online at michigandistrict.org/theological20.



- 1/1 Roger Tack
- 1/4 Cole Gerow
- 1/5 Jimmy Luthmann
- 1/6 Sharon Endicott
- 1/6 Samantha Garrison
- 1/8 Adam Travis
- 1/10 Ann Dawley
- 1/10 Shane Kapus
- 1/11 Jim Manning
- 1/13 Ella Durfee
- 1/13 Bradley Gresens
- 1/16 William Gresens
- 1/17 Henrietta Fortney
- 1/17 Arnold Kreuzwieser
- 1/19 Shirley Frink
- 1/19 Carol Urquhart
- 1/20 Jonathan Dettmer
- 1/23 Karen White

Happy Anniversary



- 1/7 Gary & Mary Jo Richter
- 1/12 Nancy & Robert Perry
- 1/26 Mike & Judy Hohf
- 1/27 Gerald & Karen Abee
- 1/28 J.D. & Chris Hock
- 1/30 Ed & Susan Pisarski

Elders		
January 5		Rodger Wenzel
January 12	Communion	Roger Tack
January 19		Charlie Rainey
January 26	Communion	Ron Weidenfeller



Altit Flowers

Flowers may be ordered to beautify our chancel area. Flowers are \$22.00.

Please make checks payable to TLCW and place in Kathy Boschma's mailbox (the treasurer for TLCW).

Ushers	
January 5	Henrietta Fortney Kathy Azzam
January 12	Fred Rogel Greg Pancost
January 19	Mike Hohf Bill Davis
January 26	Bruce Welther Mike Welther



GREETERS NEEDED!

If you would be willing to serve as a greeter, there is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. Please sign up so that we can get greeters scheduled for the New Year!

Know the Elders

The Board of Elders concerns itself with the wellbeing and spiritual life of our congregation and pastor. Pastor Azzam and your Elders are happy and eager to hear from you!

They may be reached at:

- Pastor Azzam - 739-4820
- Mitch Davis, Jr. - 989-820-1469
- Charlie Rainey - 724-6704
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701
- Rodger Wenzel - 724-6800

STEWARDSHIP

Eternal Treasures

An old epitaph reads, "What I gave, I have; what I spent, I had; what I kept, I lost." Obviously, this person had much wisdom. He realized that, during his life, only that which was given to the Lord had any lasting value. The things he had purchased while alive were used up and gone, and the possessions he owned at death were of no good to him then.

Speaking to this subject, Jesus said in Matthew 6:19-21, *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Jesus said that treasures on earth would not last. The cars we buy will become dented and end up in the junkyard. The clothes we wear will wear out. Jesus said that we are to store up treasures in heaven or as the epitaph reads, "What I gave, I have."

Jesus tells us how to store up treasures in heaven. *"Sell your possessions and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail..."* (Luke 12:33). This is a radical call to use our goods not only for ourselves but also to help other people. Giving to those in need is a way that we store up treasures in heaven. What are these treasures? Well, what is the only thing that goes to Heaven? Is it gold and silver? Maybe stocks and bonds? How about that car or mansion? No! The treasure is people! God is blessed and honored through our faithful giving. Through our giving, the Gospel is preached and taught, and souls are saved.

In a quote from Joe Seaborn we read:

In a real sense, giving to the cause of Christ is nothing more or less than laying aside eternal investments so that when we stand before Christ in heaven, we have gold, silver, and precious stones that we have been laying at His feet all along. The crown that we talk about laying at His feet will just be one more thing that we give, our final offering, in a long string of offerings that began long before.

May God grant us the wisdom and then the strength to store up for ourselves treasures in heaven rather than treasures here on earth.



Chris Exnowski, Wayne Fortney, Dick Jones, Lou Kuhlmann,
Bill Ruckel, David Thomas, Jr., and George Wright

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge
Richard & Phyllis Fitzgerald
Yvonne Kreuzwieser – Oscoda Fields

Military:

Jason Cooper
Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)
Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)
Nathan Boettge (Marines – Fortney)

It pleased the Lord to call to his eternal rest the soul of Robert Schauwecker on Saturday, December 7, 2019. Please keep his family in your prayers. The funeral was held on Tuesday, December 10th at Buresh Funeral Home.



Trinity Lutheran Church Women

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

Advent by Candlelight was a beautiful evening of remembering God's word through the birth of His son. Guest speakers, the Tessaros, gave a wonderful presentation of their efforts in Nigeria. The presentation was very informative and educational and quite an eye opener. We thank them for their dedication to our Savior and the people of Nigeria. It was a shame more people didn't support this wonderful evening of Love, it was disappointing when so much time and planning went into this event and only 28 people attended. Trinity Lutheran would like to thank Sue Manning and Donna David for their beautiful music that was enjoyed by all.



TLCW NEWS

Mark your calendars for the TLCW meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00 a.m. We will be making chrismons for our Christmas trees for next year. Please bring any patterns or ideas you may have. Carol Wenzel has devotions and an update of the Michigan convention which will be held in Gaylord in July. Remember if schools are closed, our meetings are cancelled.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who supported our Angel Tree this year. All kits were taken to Wellspring in Mio, MI where they were received with many thanks to our congregation. Thank you to Joann & Greg Pancost, Kathy & Pastor Azzam, Janalee Engstrom & Carol Wenzel for purchasing pajamas and packing up all the bags. I asked Wellspring what they could use, so we will be having another collection of journals and large print word search books in February.

--Henri Fortney



POINSETTIAS

MANY THANKS to all of you who ordered poinsettias to decorate our church for the Christmas Season!

Gerald & Karen Abee

In memory of John & Connie Stutzman and Jerry Abee

Bill Davis

In honor of the Birth of Jesus

Wayne & Henrie Fortney

In memory of Rick Robb and Marsha Robinson

David Golm

In memory of Parents

Nancy Kreuzwieser

In memory of Adam & Lena Kreuzwieser & Karen Johnson

Lou & Miriam Kuhlmann

In honor of the Birth of Christ

Jim & Susie Manning

In honor of the Birth of Jesus

Nancy Perry

In honor of the Birth of Jesus

David Wagner

In honor of the Birth of the Savior

Thank You!
THANK YOU!

THANK YOU Pastor Azzam & Kathy, Ron Weidenfeller, Steve Rehahn, Mitch Davis, Dave Wagner, and Bruce Welther for their help getting the float ready for the parade and for participating in the parade.

--Roger Tack

THANK YOU to all who volunteered to teach Sunday School this fall!

THANK YOU to Donna, Susie and Sue for your dedication to Trinity Lutheran Church – we appreciate your hard work!

THANK YOU to everyone who donated to the Angel Tree.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Advent soup suppers by bringing in food, organizing, or cleaning up afterward.

THANK YOU to all who attended the Advent soup suppers.

THANK YOU to Dave Wagner for organizing decorating the church for Christmas, and to everyone who helped with decorating! The decorations looked amazing!

THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Advent by Candlelight Program.

THANK YOU to Bells of Glory for the wonderful winter concert.

THANK YOU to everyone who brought in food for the F.I.S.H. food bank.

Thank You!

Wayne Fortney would like to thank everyone for all the get-well cards and birthday cards this Past month. God's Blessings to all of you!

Happy New Year
2020

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY – JANUARY 19, 2020

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY

"God already thought of us before the creation of the world. Not one of us is extra. All of us are desired by God."

- Dr. Jose Costevelli -

LIFE CHOICES



January 19, 2020 will be **SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY** – a day to celebrate God’s gift of life, commemorate the many lives lost to abortion, and commit to protecting human life at every stage. Pro-life groups from across the country will mourn the loss of more than 59 million unborn children since the infamous Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton court decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court justices. The most recent statistics show 26,716 abortions were performed in Michigan in 2018, and there have been 1, 247,737 abortions in Michigan since statistics were first kept in 1980.

We read in Psalm 139:13: “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

This is a special time to make a new commitment to speak up for the protection of human life from conception to life’s end.



HELP WANTED!

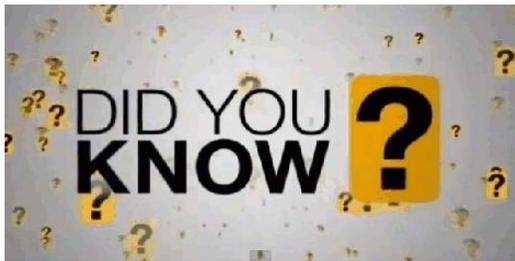


Help take down the Christmas decorations at our church. We will be taking down and packing up the Christmas decorations at our church on **Saturday, January 11th beginning at 10:00 a.m.** please stop by anytime that Saturday morning to help. Many hands make light work for everyone!



ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FOOD AND GAMES SATURDAY, JANUARY 18TH AT 12:00 NOON

Come out for a fun afternoon of food, fellowship, and games. Bring a dish to pass. Drinks and bread will be provided as well as cards and games. If you have any questions, call Joann Pancost or Kathy Azzam.



Goodbye is actually a contraction of the phrase "God be with ye".

The term "son of man" is used 81 times in the Gospels. Only Jesus used this term to describe Himself. No person in the Gospels ever called Him this.

QUIZ

1. Which gospel records the fewest of the miracles performed by Jesus?
2. Who went with Paul on his first missionary journey?
3. Which wood did Noah use to build the ark?

DEADLINE



The deadline to submit articles for the February Newsletter is January 19, 2020

HUMOR



Best Poem in the World

I was shocked, confused, bewildered As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven Who made me sputter and gasp -
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, The alcoholics and the trash.
There stood the kid from seventh grade Who swiped my lunch money twice.

Next to Him was my old neighbor Who never said anything nice.
Bob, who I always thought Was rotting in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine, Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, "What's the deal? I would love to hear your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.
'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue."
'Hush, child,' He said, 'They're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT! Remember, just going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car. Every saint has a PAST... Every sinner has a FUTURE! Now it's your turn... to share this poem. Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil... it has no point.

- Answers to Quiz:
1. Matthew
 2. Barnabas
 3. Gopherwood

Trinity Lutheran Church Calendar

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 10:30 am - Worship 9:15 am - Adult Bible Class 9:15 am - Sunday School	6	7 8 am - Men's Bible Class 9:30 am - Ladies Bible Class 10-12 Noon - P.N. Office Hours 10:30 am - Crafts & Quilts	8 7 pm - Adult Bible Class begins Study of Revelation	9 10 am - Bible Class 7 pm - Church Council Meeting	10 <i>Office Closed</i>	11 10 am - Take down Christmas decorations
Mite Box Sunday 12 10:30 am - Worship & Communion 9:15 am - Adult Bible Class 9:15 am - Sunday School	13	14 6 pm-Elders Meeting 8 am - Men's Bible Class 9:30 am - Ladies Bible Class 10:30 am - Crafts & Quilts	15 7 pm - Adult Bible Class	16 10 am - Bible Class	17 <i>Office Closed</i>	18 12 Noon - Potluck and Games
19 10:30 am - Worship 9:15 am - Adult Bible Class 9:15 am - Sunday School	20	21 8 am - Men's Bible Class 9:30 am - Ladies Bible Class 10 - 12 Noon - P.N. Office Hours 10:30 am - Crafts & Quilts 11 am - TLCW Meeting	22 7 pm - Adult Bible Class	23 10 am - Bible Class	24 <i>Office Closed</i>	25
DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 26 10:30 am - Worship & Communion 9:15 am - Adult Bible Class 9:15 am - Sunday School	27	28 8 am - Men's Bible Class 9 am - 12 Noon - Host Circuit Winkel 9:30 am - Ladies Bible Class 10:30 am - Crafts & Quilts	29 7 pm - Adult Bible Class	30 10 am - Bible Class	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	
<p>Secretary's Hours: Mondays & Thurs. 9 am - 2 pm Pastor's Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Church Ph#: 739-9292 Pastor's Home Ph#: 739-4820 (anytime, day or night) *P.N.(Parish Nurse) Ph#: 724-6800</p>						

