

Trinity SONRISE News



Trinity Lutheran Church

on the Sunrise Side of Michigan

2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Should Auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind? Is the question of every New Year's Eve crooner. The answer to this question, posed in Gaelic and English, is no. Every proper Scotsman will answer by raising a cup of kindness in loving memory of *Auld Lang Syne* what or who has now come to pass.

Though I don't remember ever actually singing these words as a child, I do remember Guy Lombardo and his Orchestra playing this song at the moment the ball dropped over Times Square, welcoming the new year on television. The song I remember singing, was one we sang in church entitled "Let Us All With Gladsome Voice; the last stanza of which included these words:

Grant us now a glad new year.

Amen, Jesus, hear us.

The hymn "Lasst uns alle" first appeared in 1620 in a sermon of Pastor Martin Hammer, who was a Pastor in Leipzig, Saxony. He ascribed its origin to a choirmaster named Urban Langhans, a Deacon from the previous generation. It first appeared in *Dresdenisch Gesangbuch Christlicher Psalmen und Kirchenlieder, Ander Theil*, Dresden, 1632. You may or may not be familiar with this hymn or this form, but it is has been included in every English edition of the Lutheran Hymnody of which I am aware.

As we consider 2021 and all that has taken place in the year 2020, the words of this hymn may be particularly appropriate, and I pray they are a blessing to you.

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| 1. Let us all with gladsome voice Praise the God of heaven, Who, to bid our hearts rejoice, His own Son hath given. | 1. Lass tuns alle fröhlich sein, Preisen Gott den Herren, Dr sein liebes Söhnenlien Uns selbst tut verheren! |
| 2. To this vale of tears He comes, Here to serve in sadness, That with Him in heav'ns fair homes We may reign in gladness. | 2. Er kommt in das Jammertal Wird ein knecht auf Erden Damit wir in Himmelsaal Grosse Herren warden |
| 3. We are rich, for He was poor; Is not this a wonder? Therefore praise God evermore Here on earth and yonder. | 3. Er wird arm, warden, reich Ist das nicht eit Wunder? Drum lobt God in Himmelreich Allziet wei Jezunder! |
| 4. Christ, our Lord and Savior dear, Be Thou ever near us. Grant us now a glad new year. Amen, Jesus, hear us. | 4. Oh Herr Christ, Nimm unser wahr Durch dein'm hei'gen Namen! Gib un sein gut neues Jahr! Wer's begehrt, sprech': Amen |

Thank you also for all the Christmas cards, gifts and good wishes for 2021. We hope and pray that it is a time of renewal and reconnection for you after a year of keeping a distance from family and friends.

Thank you also for your support of the various projects that the church sponsored to serve our neighbors and the community this past year: the Michigan Food Bank distribution, the household cleaning supply giveaway, the diaper giveaway, additional food giveaways, and the essential worker break project for Ascension St. Joseph Hospital workers.

You may also note that there has been a change in the video format for services recorded on DVD. Formerly they were in a format not suitable for all video players. The new format should work in your video player just fine. We will continue to make services available on Facebook for you to view at your convenience. They will continue in the future as well.

God bless you in the months ahead as we look forward to when we can all worship together in person . . . perhaps even in the same pew with our neighbor.

In Christ,

Pastor Tim and Kathy Azzam



*“You crown the year with Your goodness
and Your paths drip with abundance.”*

Psalm 65:11

Bible Study Opportunities

Bible Study



- Sunday Morning Bible Study at 9:15 a.m. – Saints and Sinners. When you call in for worship, please let us know if you plan to attend Bible Study. The room can accommodate 16 people.
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study online via Zoom – For more information contact Ron Weidenfeller at 724-7701.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets from 9:15-10:30 a.m. via Zoom – For more information contact Ruth Golm at (989) 724-5679.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 9:30 a.m.– please use the side entrance.

STEWARDSHIP

Prepared to Do Good Works

To the church in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul wrote, *“For we are [God’s] workmanship, created in Jesus Christ for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them”* (Ephesians 2:10). Our good works are not the cause of our salvation but its result. God not only encourages us to do our good works of service and outreach, He empowers us to do so. Even though on the outside we are jars of clay, we are capable of doing some amazing work because Jesus lives within us. In the words of Paul, *“I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me”* (Galatians 2:20).

On the outside, we are weak and fragile, but, on the inside, we have this surpassing power of Jesus. Having this power can be illustrated by the comic book character of Clark Kent, who appeared to be a normal newspaper reporter. But, when superpower was needed, Clark Kent would go into a telephone booth to remove his outer clothes and become Superman, who was unstoppable. As God’s helpers, we don’t remove our clothes and become the Superman character, but we are clothed with Jesus Who lives within us and makes all things possible.

As God’s co-workers, our outward appearance has little difference from other people, but inside we are unique because of our faith in Jesus. Through faith, we are able to tap into Jesus’ strength that makes it possible for us to accomplish the tasks that He gives us to do.

May God help us all embrace His call to do the good works that He has prepared for us to do knowing that Jesus is with us as we serve others and extend His kingdom.



January Mission of the Month The Gideons International



The Gideons International

The Gideons International is a body of believers dedicated to making the Word of God available to everyone and, together with the local church, reaching souls Christ. What began in 1908 as an Association of Christian businessmen placing Bibles in hotel rooms has evolved into an expanding mission to provide Scriptures to all people in nearly every facet of life. Today, the Gideons have taken more than 2 billion Scriptures in more than 95 languages to 200 countries, territories, and possessions across the globe.

You can use a mission envelope that can be found in your envelope packet or pick one up from the ushers stand at the back of the sanctuary. If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.

Orphan Grain Train †



Michigan is delighted to announce the ten-ton shipment of humanitarian goods from Michigan has arrived at its Panama destination. In late October volunteers at the Orphan Grain Train Center at Sebewaing loaded a 40-foot shipping container with 1,400 boxes of relief supplies, clothing and quilts, over twenty wheelchairs, four hospital beds, medical equipment and more. This past week the goods arrived with the Gospel message for people living in distressed circumstances. The supplies are currently being distributed by Casa de Refugio (House of Refuge) in Puerto Caimito, La Chorrera, Panama. This was all made possible through caring people who support with donated goods and funding the international humanitarian aim of Orphan Grain Train, your Christian volunteer network sharing personal and material resources domestically and around the world in Christ’s Name. Orphan Grain Train is a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Continued Recovery

Chris Exnowski, Wayne Fortney, Jan Groves, Delores Olson
Bill Ruckel, David Thomas, Jr., and George Wright

Homebound:

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge
Richard Fitzgerald

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 her eternal rest the soul of Beatrice Scheffler on Wednesday, December 10, 2020. Bea was a long-time member of Trinity and recently transferred to Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family.

It pleased the Lord to call to her eternal rest the soul of Phyllis Fitzgerald. Please keep Richard and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

It pleased the Lord to call to her eternal rest the soul of Carole Pavlak on December 16th. Carole died from complications of Covid-19. Please keep Jennifer Agtergael and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

We pray for families and friends who mourn their passing and ask the Lord to provide the peace that comes from knowing that all who die, trusting in Jesus are now with him in heaven.



MARCH FOR LIFE

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY (SOHLS) is commemorated each year on the Sunday before January 22, which is the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision. Each year we recognize the entire month of January as an opportunity to remember the many lives lost to abortion, and to renew our commitment to protecting life at every stage.

Join us on **Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the East Tawas Community Center**, 760 Newman Street as we march for the dignity of every human life! We will walk from the Community Center to Rushman Hall where we will have a prayer service at the Memorial to the Unborn, followed by fellowship and refreshments. For questions, please call Linda Hicks at (989) 984-7789 and leave a message. Hosted by Iosco County Right to Life.

Return to In-Person Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church returned to in-person worship on Christmas Eve. Please continue to reserve for service by noon on the previous Thursday by calling 739-9292. We want to be sure there is room for you. When you call in for worship, please let us know if you plan to attend Bible Study. We ask that you continue sanitizing your hands as you enter the building and wear your face coverings to protect yourself and others. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION! We look forward to seeing you!



Thrivent Caring Action Programs Support our Community

Pastor Azzam sponsored a Thrivent project to provide healthy snacks to all health care workers on all shifts at St. Joseph Hospital in Tawas City. This entailed about 300 people. Thank you to everyone that donated to this project to show our health care workers that they are appreciated!

Kathy Azzam collected boxes of food for those in need. We thank everyone that donated food to make Christmas a little bit brighter for our community members experiencing difficult times.

Henriette Fortney sponsored a project to provide hams to 17 families for Christmas.

Many thanks to all who support Thrivent Projects!



We Need Your Help! Key Positions on Your Church Council are Vacant

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Your Church Council NEEDS a President, a Vice-President, a Chair of Christian Education, and a Chair of Social Ministry. **Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these positions.** If you would like to know more or would be willing to serve, speak to Pastor.



Church Council Notes

- Audio CDs and video DVDs are available of worship services in the church entryway.
- New offering envelopes are available on a table in the fellowship hall. Please begin

to use your new envelopes on January 3rd.

• November income was \$3,301.50 below expenses, creating a deficit of \$9,884.64 for the fiscal year, which began in October. Part of this deficit can be attributed to the global pandemic and the fact that in-person worship services were suspended once again in November. Despite this deficit, the church remains in stable financial position thanks in part to the Payroll Protection Loan that was forgiven by the Small Business Association.

- Thrivent Action Team projects – healthy snacks and lip balm for front line workers and food baskets and hams for those in need.
- Christmas Eve services – 3:00 p.m. & 5:00 p.m. in-person in the church and 4:00 p.m. outside abbreviated service. Communion will be offered at all services.
- The LCMS proposed that the Convention be postponed for a year. Regional Pastor's Conference will be held on-line. Pastors will vote electronically in January regarding postponing the conference for a year. A 25% vote is needed to delay the conference.



Happy January Anniversary



- 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
- 1/20 Jonathan Dettmer
- 1/23 Karen White

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



Your 2021 offering envelopes are available to be picked up on the table in in the fellowship hall. **You should start using the new envelopes on January 3, 2021.**

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
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



**Tuesday, January 5th
6:00 p.m.**



Winter Weather is Here

For worship cancellations, call the church office 739-9292 and check the answering machine!



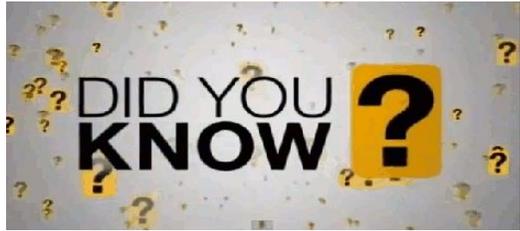
Church Council Meeting

**Thursday, January 14th
2:00 p.m.**



QUIZ

1. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented to the Temple as a baby?
2. Which Gospel mostly speaks on the mystery and identity of the person of Jesus?
3. How many people boarded Noah's Ark?



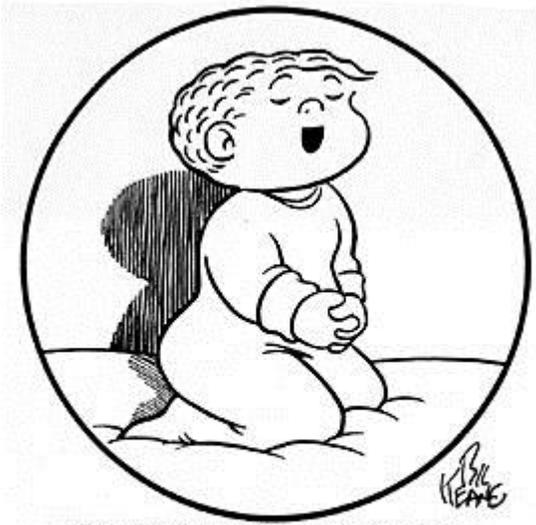
- Mahershalalhashbaz" is the longest word in the Bible. Found in Isaiah 8:3, The word Mahershalalhashbaz means "Swift is the Spoils, Speedy is the Plunder." The prophet Isaiah named his second son Mahershalalhashbaz.
- China is the largest producer of Bibles.
- There's a basketball court in the U.S. Supreme Court building.

HUMOR

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(See Genesis 3) 12-30-2013
REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?



"Our Father, who art in heaven, how did You know my name?"

DEADLINE



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

- Answers to Quiz:
1. Simeon
 2. The Gospel according to John
 3. Eight