

# Trinity **SONRISE** News



*Trinity Lutheran Church*

*on the Sunrise Side of Michigan*

*2022*

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## **A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR AZZAM**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A Happy and Blessed Christmas, and a Joyous and Peaceful New Year.

First, I would like to thank all of you for your cards, your gifts and your encouraging words throughout the year and most recently this Christmas season.

Next, I would like to thank you for your patience and your continued care and support for those most vulnerable among us, by observing the seating arrangements in the sanctuary, etc. We are all looking forward to when the Covid-19 infection rates fall to a level safe for all and we pray the Lord that we will see that happen in the months, not years ahead. Please continue to use safe practices when it comes to distance, touching, and masking. Hand sanitizers, clean pens and the like are still available. Please take your Sunday Bulletins Home, do not put back on the stack.

As there have been many opportunities to show your generosity this last year, thank you for doing so, once again. As we help one another within and outside the congregation, the love of Christ shows through.

The Bells of Glory have also brought joy to our congregation in playing for worship and in their Christmas concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>. It was good to hear them ringing again, to see familiar faces and some new ones too.

There will be one worship service on Sundays through March. Two services will resume the First Sunday of April. Worship will be at 10:30 with Bible Class at 9:15. Confirmation Classes will continue the first 2 Sundays of Each month at 12:30.

You may have noticed new faces in the congregation as you have begun to worship in person again. Since we will be worshipping all together in one service through March, it will be an excellent opportunity to introduce yourself to these folks if you have not already: Milton Clouse, Lynette Broxson, Janet Ovcjak, Tom and Judy Neumeyer, Rev. Dennis and Barbara Neigh, John and Cheryl Beyerlien, Tor and Rachele (Kuhlmann) Imsland, and Sheryl Frink. If I have missed any of you, please let me know.

Again, wishing all of you a blessed, happy, and healthy 2022.

Pastor Timothy and Kathy Azzam

## Why Christmas is on December 25<sup>th</sup>?



Nowhere does the Bible speak of a particular date when Jesus was born, so the question has been asked, where did we come up with December 25 and January 6. Here is your answer:

According to **Andrew McGowan**, Dean and President of the Berkeley Divinity School at Yale and McFaddin Professor of Anglican Studies at Yale Divinity School, there are two theories: one extremely popular, the other not so much (though far more ancient).

“The most loudly touted theory about the origins of the Christmas date(s) is that the date was borrowed from pagan celebrations:” Saturnalia, for example. “There are problems with this popular theory,” Andrews continues, “most significantly, the first mention of a date for Christmas (c. 200) and the earliest celebrations that we know about (c. 250–300) come in a period when Christians were not borrowing heavily from pagan traditions” as they were under great persecution at the time.

**“Strange as it may seem, the key to dating Jesus’ birth may lie in the dating of Jesus’ death (at the time of the Passover)”** “Around 200 C.E. Tertullian of Carthage reported the calculation that the 14th of Nisan (the day of the crucifixion according to the Gospel of John) in the year Jesus died was equivalent to March 25 in the Roman (solar) calendar. March 25 is, of course, nine months before December 25; it was later recognized as the Feast of the Annunciation—the commemoration of Jesus’ conception. Thus, Jesus was believed to have been conceived and crucified on the same day of the year. Exactly nine months after his conception, Jesus was born, on December 25.

This idea appears in an anonymous Christian treatise titled *On Solstices and Equinoxes*, which appears to come from fourth-century North Africa. The treatise states: “Therefore our Lord was conceived on the eighth of the kalends of April in the month of March [March 25], which is the day of the passion of the Lord and of his conception. For on that day he was conceived on the same he suffered.”

Augustine, too, was familiar with this association. In *On the Trinity* (c. 399–419) he writes: “For he [Jesus] is believed to have been conceived on the 25th of March, upon which day also he suffered; so the womb of the Virgin, in which he was conceived, where no one of mortals was begotten, corresponds to the new grave in which he was buried, wherein was never man laid, neither before him nor since. But he was born, according to tradition, upon December the 25th.”

In the East, too, the dates of Jesus’ conception and death were linked. But instead of working from the Hebrew calendar, the easterners used the 14th of the first spring month (Artemisios) in their local Greek calendar—April 6 to us. April 6 is, of course, exactly nine months before January 6—the eastern date for Christmas. Bishop Epiphanius of Salamis writes that on April 6, “The lamb was shut up in the spotless womb of the holy virgin, he who took away and takes away in perpetual sacrifice the sins of the world.” Even today, the Armenian Church celebrates the Annunciation in early April (on the 7th, not the 6th) and Christmas on January 6.

Thus, we have Christians in two parts of the world calculating Jesus’ birth on the basis that his death and conception took place on the same day (March 25 or April 6) and coming up with two close but different results (December 25 and January 6).

Connecting Jesus’ conception and death in this way will certainly seem odd to modern readers, but it reflects ancient and medieval understandings of the whole of salvation being bound up together. One of the most poignant expressions of this belief is found in Christian art. In numerous paintings of the angel’s Annunciation to Mary—the moment of Jesus’ conception—the baby Jesus is shown gliding down from heaven on or with a small cross (see photo above of detail from Master Bertram’s Annunciation scene); a visual reminder that the conception brings the promise of salvation through Jesus’ death.

# STEWARDSHIP

## Stewards Living with Purpose

In the book of Psalms, King David wrote, *“The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me”* (Psalm 138:8). In spite of David’s sinful life and the difficulties he had with Saul and Absalom, the Lord fulfilled His purpose for David. Just as God had a purpose for David, so He has for us as well. Have you given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we understand that we were created for God’s purpose, not ours.

One important purpose God gives His people is to care for His creation and His people. We are given the honor to be His stewards. Stewards care for all that God entrusts to us according to His will. As His stewards, we understand that He is the creator and owner of all things. When we responsibly care for the earth and provide for His people both physically and spiritually, we honor God as His stewards,

God’s Word reminds us that by nature we are sinful fallen people who are spiritually dead and unable to accomplish the purpose that God has designed us to do. The Apostle Paul tells us that *“We once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us...made us alive together with Christ...”* (Ephesians 2:3-5). The only way we can do anything to please Him and to live with a God-pleasing purpose is to be recreated by the Holy Spirit and to be converted into new people in Christ (2 Corinthians 5).

As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus Who *“died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised”* (2 Corinthians 5:15). In our lives as stewards, we can, with God’s help, put Him first in all things. *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). When we serve, let us serve *“by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ”* (1 Peter 4:11).

Thomas Carlyle, an historian and author, wrote, *“The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder—a waif, a nothing a no man.”* We need purpose in order to have meaning for our lives. We are blessed because in Christ we have purpose for living. May we all thank God that He has given us faith and wisdom to understand that our purpose in life is to give Him glory, honor, and service.

-Bill Davis, Stewardship Chair



**GIDEONS**  
INTERNATIONAL

### January Mission of the Month – Gideons

The Gideons are lay persons (not clergy) who are members in good standing in an evangelical or Protestant church. Essentially, they represent local churches as missionaries whose sole purpose is winning the lost through providing them the Word of God. Today, they distribute over one million Scriptures throughout the world every week—that’s more than two copies per second. Whole Bibles are left in hotels and motels, and New Testaments are provided to middle schools, high schools, colleges, prisons, hospitals, nursing homes, military facilities, doctor’s offices, and fire stations—all at no cost to those receiving the Bibles. All donations to the Gideons go for the printing and transportation of Bibles—many to countries where traditional missionaries cannot go.

If you already support a mission, please continue to do so by designating that particular mission by name on a Mission envelope.



Joan Abney, Dori Dopp, Wayne Fortney, Chris Gresens,  
 Ron Kaiser, Rev. Dean Muhle of Hale,  
 Nancy Weidenfeller



**Homebound:**

Alice Dettmer – Medilodge

**Military:**

Alex Anderson (Navy)  
 Jason Cooper  
 Courtney & Karina Pierce (Army)  
 Marc Stiller (U.S.A.F. – Sherman)



Jaxson Thomas Ounan, son of Matthew and Christal Ounan, was brought into the loving arms of our Savior through the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, December 26, 2021. May God bless Jaxson and keep him in his loving care.

**Schedule  
 change**



**SERVICE TIME**

**Effective December 26, 2021**

**One Service**

**at**

**10:30 a.m.**

(through March 2022)

**Bible Study  
 at 9:15 a.m.**

**Bible Study Opportunities**



- Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m.
- Tuesday Morning Women’s Bible Study meets in-person at 9:30 a.m. in the Sunday school wing
- Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.
- Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. – meets in-person in Sunday School wing. Please use the side entrance.



## Altar Guild Schedule for 2022

January – Sue Welther  
February – Jonalee Engstrom  
March – Teri Westburg  
April – Henrietta Fortney  
May – Sue Welther  
June – Carolyn Lindhorst

July – Teri Westburg  
August – Jonalee Engstrom  
September – Henrietta Fortney  
October – Teri Westburg  
November – Jonalee Engstrom  
December – Sue Welther



## T.L. C.W. News

Trinity Lutheran Church Women (TLCW) meet the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. All ladies are invited and encouraged to attend. The January meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

TLCW is selling greeting cards for 50¢. Christmas cards are currently available for purchase on a table in the fellowship hall. You can put your money in the cash box on the display case.

## Worship Anew



Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. produces a weekly, 30-minute Lutheran broadcast worship service called Worship Anew. Their mission is to share Christ's love through ministry and media. The program is designed for shut-ins as well as those who are unable to attend in-person services. Each service includes music, scripture readings, prayers, and a pastor delivering a message that is designed to feel one-on-one to the viewer. Each program is closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

Weekly programs are distributed in three ways: first, through the purchase of airtime on local TV stations and the TCT network cable satellite broadcast station, second, a DVD subscription, and thirdly, through webcasts that can be found and viewed on its homepage at <https://worshipanew.org/>

Worship Anew reaches thousands of people each week across the nation and around the world. The TCT Television Network in Oscoda can be found on Charter Communications 19, Direct TV Channel 377, Dish Network Channel 49, WAQP Channel Digital 49.1, 49.2, 49.3, IPTV and Roku.

## Thank You!

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Angel Tree Adopt a Family Project. \$790 was collected to purchase clothing, juice, and snacks for the family. A two-seat stroller and a baby carrier were also purchased for the family, as well as a toy for each of the eight children. In addition, two fully prepared Christmas meals were purchased. The family was truly touched by the generosity of our congregation. We are blessed to have such a caring church family!



### Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-3098

People of Hope ... Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ

#### **Beyond the Walls with Jesus** **February 5, 2022 | Our Savior, Lansing** **8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

*"Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (1 Peter 2:12).*

It is difficult to live honorably as a child of God when the Church is increasingly marginalized and ridiculed. Join us on Saturday, February 5, 2022 at Our Savior, Lansing to consider how our faith can shine as we engage with the culture outside the walls of the church.

#### **Speakers**

Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer  
Rev. Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer  
Rev. Dr. Theodore J. Hopkins  
Mr. Greg S. Baylor, JD  
Rev. Brian D. West - Facilitator  
Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier - Moderator

#### **Register Online**

at [michigandistrict.org/theological22](http://michigandistrict.org/theological22)

**\$20 General | \$15 Student**

See event page for Livestream details.

#### **Compassion Ministry**

In support of Michigan District "Great Compassion Ministry," the Theological Conference will partner with Our Savior Food Bank and the Flint Mission Network. A list of needed items is available online at: [michigandistrict.org/theological22](http://michigandistrict.org/theological22).

## Church Extension Fund Grant Approved

Trinity was blessed to have its Technology Grant request from Church Extension Fund approved. We plan to purchase:

- New computer tower for the church office
- A new, faster lens for the video camera
- Credits for automated calls through the Calling Post system

The phone numbers and email addresses we have on file for everyone have been put into the Calling Post. We plan to send out automated phone calls and/or emails to members of the congregation when calls need to be made, taking some of the burden away from our elders. However, the system is only as good as the information put into it. Please check the list of names and phone numbers on the table next to the office door. Let us know if your contact information is incorrect or missing. Your help is greatly appreciated.

## Church Directory

We would like to update the church directory, and would appreciate a photo of you and/or your family for inclusion in the directory. You can email a photo to:

[churchoffice@trinityoscoda.org](mailto:churchoffice@trinityoscoda.org) or you can bring in a photo for us to scan.

Please check the list of names and phone numbers on the table next to the office door. Let us know if your information is incorrect. Your help is greatly appreciated.





**Sunday, January 23, 2022** prolife groups from across the country will mourn the loss of more than 61 million unborn children since Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton were decided in 1973. The most recent statistics show 29,669 abortions were performed in Michigan in 2020, and there have been 1,304,705 abortions in Michigan since statistics were first kept in

1980. Pastors, churches and life organizations use this day to bring awareness to the attacks that are daily waged against human life through the abortion industry.

One of the best ways we can protect unborn lives is by bringing into the light the darkness of abortion and supporting local Pregnancy Help Organizations who daily reach women and families with messages of hope and life. Harbor Lights Pregnancy and Information Center, 310 Newman Street, East Tawas, serves our community.

The March for Life in Washington D.C. began as a small demonstration following the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision and grew to be the largest prolife event in the world. The 49th annual March for Life will be held on Friday, January 21, 2022. Join Michigan prolife groups on a bus trip to Washington, D.C. to march side-by-side with the hundreds of thousands of Americans taking a stand for the most vulnerable members of our human family. More information is available at the Michigan Right to Life website: [rtl.org](http://rtl.org).

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR



## Bell Choir Notes



Thank you to all who came out to Trinity Bells of Glory Christmas Concert on December 12<sup>th</sup>. We thoroughly enjoyed being able to play our bells for you! The bell choir hopes to be able to play in church each month during the coming year. In addition, we plan to hold a concert this summer. All members of Trinity Bells of Glory are happy to be playing again and we truly appreciate the support of the congregation!

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Roger Tack	1/1
Cole Gerow	1/4
Jimmy Luthmann	1/5
Sharon Endicott	1/6
Samantha Garrison	1/6
Adam Travis	1/8
Ann Dawley	1/10
Shane Kapus	1/10
James Manning	1/11
Bradley Gresens	1/13
William Gresens	1/16
Henrietta Fortney	1/17
Arnold Kreuzwieser	1/17
Jonathan Dettmer	1/20
Janet Ovcjak	1/22
Karen White	1/23

Gary & Mary Jo Richter	1/7
Tom & Judy Neumeyer	1/24
Gerald & Karen Abee	1/27
J.D. & Chris Hock	1/28
Ed & Susan Pisarski	1/30

## 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
- David Golm – 989-724-5679
- Roger Tack - 989-293-8050
- Ron Weidenfeller - 724-7701



**Church Council Meeting**  
**Thursday**  
**January 13, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**



**Elders Meeting**  
**Tuesday**  
**January 4, 2022**  
**2:00 p.m.**

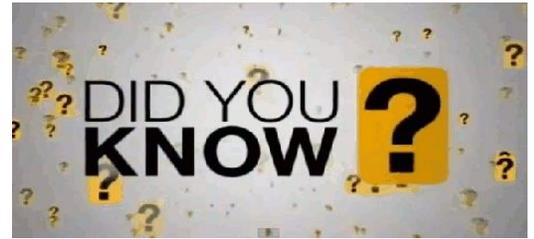
### CHURCH FUNDRAISER – SPARTAN NASH DIRECT YOUR DOLLARS PROGRAM



Through the Spartan Nash Direct Your Dollars Program our church can earn \$1,000 per year simply by collecting \$150,000 in eligible receipts from Family Fare or any of the more than 160 Spartan Nash owned retail stores or fuel centers in nine states. A container is provided in the fellowship hall for collecting your receipts.

# QUIZ

1. What object that God gives to Moses allows him to perform signs and wonders?
2. What did King Solomon ask for from God?
3. What does Paul say may "abound more and more in knowledge and in all judgment?"



The first ever New Year celebrations took place back in 2000 BC, which is ages ago. The Mesopotamians started this tradition of celebrating New Year.

New Year's Eve ranks fourth on Americans' list of favorite holidays, with 41% of the population calling it their favorite.

## HUMOR



## DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the February Newsletter is January 16, 2022.



- Answers to Quiz**
1. Mathias
  2. Wisdom
  3. Love