

From Pastor Jason's Desk

Embracing the True Spirit of Christmas: A Season of Love, Joy, and Giving

As the winter chill settles in and the streets are adorned with twinkling lights, the air becomes infused with a special magic that can only mean one thing – Christmas is approaching. Beyond the festive decorations and the jingle of bells, Christmas carries a profound and timeless meaning that transcends cultural and religious boundaries. It is a season that beckons us to reflect on the values that define humanity – love, joy, and giving.

At its core, Christmas is a celebration of love. It's a time when families and friends come together, sharing laughter, warmth, and cherished moments. The exchange of gifts is not merely a material gesture but a symbol of the love and thoughtfulness that binds people. In the hustle and bustle of daily life, Christmas serves as a reminder to pause, appreciate our relationships, and express our affection for those dear to us.

Joy radiates from every corner during the Christmas season. Whether it's the infectious laughter of children as they unwrap presents or the melody of timeless carols filling the air, there's an undeniable sense of joy that permeates the atmosphere. Christmas reminds us to find joy in the simple pleasures – a crackling fireplace, a steaming cup of cocoa, or a quiet moment of reflection. It's about embracing the present, finding happiness in shared experiences, and spreading the warmth of joy to those around us.

One of the most beautiful aspects of Christmas is the spirit of giving. Beyond the excitement of receiving presents, the true magic lies in the act of giving itself. It's about selflessness, generosity, and a willingness to make a positive impact on the lives of others. Whether through charitable donations, volunteering, or simple acts of kindness, Christmas encourages us to extend a helping hand to those in need, fostering a sense of community and compassion.

The story of Christmas, rooted in the biblical narrative of the birth of Jesus, embodies the essence of humility and the power of hope. It teaches us that even in the humblest of circumstances, a message of love and redemption can shine brightly. The nativity scene, with its depiction of a newborn in a manger surrounded by shepherds and wise men, is a powerful reminder that the most significant moments can occur in the simplest settings.

As the holiday season unfolds, let's strive to embrace the true spirit of Christmas. Let's prioritize love over materialism, joy over stress, and giving over receiving. In doing so, we not only enrich our own lives but also contribute to creating a world where the values of Christmas – love, joy, and giving – extend beyond the season and become guiding principles for the year ahead. May this Christmas be a time of profound meaning, shared with loved ones, and filled with the warmth of the true Christmas spirit.

Until Next Time,

Pastor Jason

Christmas love, Joy and giving generated by AI tool
ChatGPT 3.5 General Technology 11/14/2023 /
chat.openai.com/c/42fca90a-91e6-48b8-a934-9217b52aea9c.
This was done as part of the DWU Course requirements.



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**Administrative Council/Finance Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023**

The Trinity United Methodist Church Administrative Council meeting was held on Thursday, November 16, 2023, CMC, 5:30 p.m. Members present: Pastor Jason Christensen, Gary Linn, Sue Holloway, Bob McNeill, Cindy McNeill, Jim Wolff, Cheryl Wolff, Jane LaFollette and Lynn Larsen.

Gary Linn called the meeting to order and opened with devotion and prayer.

Jim Wolff, Treasurer, reviewed the Financial Report. He noted the \$10,000.00 from the church investments has been transferred into cash as per approval at the October meeting. We are \$22,000 ahead in the budget and are stable where we are at in the Financial Report. Sue Holloway moved/Cindy McNeill seconded to **approve the Financial Report** as presented. **Motion carried.**

Bob McNeill, Trustees Chair, reported the trustees have completed most of the little projects and maintenance work that needed to be done. All AEDs have been installed and training to use these machines will be soon. We have a new snowblower. There are a few big projects to be done including the flooring in the CMC and siding at the parsonage. The trustees will not have a meeting in December.

Pastor Jason was happy to report on the gathering that was held at the CMC on Veteran's Day. The program was put on by the VFW and the Auxiliary. We had a great community attendance, the Hymn Dingers played handbells, the meal was delicious, and the program was enjoyed by all. The live Nativity program will be held on Saturday, December 2. Theo Rogers is in charge of the food and drink for this event. The Advent study will begin starting on the last Wednesday in November in the CMC ending on Wednesday, December 20. A community Thanksgiving service will be held on Tuesday, November 21, at the Presbyterian Church. Blue Christmas will be held at our church on Thursday, December 21. On Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, two services will be held. The morning worship service will be at 9 a.m. and the Christmas Eve service will be at 4:30 p.m.

Jane LaFollette, Worship Chair, reported the newest recipe for gluten free bread that is served at communion seems to be working better than previous gluten free bread.

Lynn Larsen, Member Care Chair, informed the Council church members will be asked to send Thanksgiving and Christmas cards to shut-ins, and those who are residents in assisted livings and nursing homes.

Sue Holloway, Missions Chair, was very happy to report 1,925 Christmas cards have been sent to Adopt-A-Platoon to be distributed to troops serving in our military.

Cindy McNeill, Staff Pastor/Parish Chair, noted all the paperwork that needed to be filled out has been completed. The Move/Stay report form needs to be filled out.

Sue Holloway noted United Women in Faith will have a Christmas party on Thursday, December 7 with the Presbyterian women. Prior to that gathering the church women will be preparing cards to send to Adopt-A-Platoon.

CYC (Church, Youth and Community committee) plans to do another community project either in January or February.

Discussion was held on how we are going to distribute the Christmas Eve offering. Sue Holloway moved/Cindy McNeill seconded to **give 50% of the offering to the Lord's Cupboard and 50% will be given to the Lead-Deadwood School District to help pay for student lunches. Motion carried.**

Pastor Jason gave a report on the Dakota Wesleyan class he is currently taking noting he will complete this course in December. On January 4-5-6, 2024 he will take an online class.

The next Administrative Council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18, 5:30 p.m., CMC. There will be no December meeting due to the Blue Christmas service being held at our church on the same evening.

Pastor Jason closed the meeting in prayer.

Lynn Larsen, Recording Secretary

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023

1. Approved the October 19, 2023 Minutes
2. Parsonage - Update of Projects & Maintenance: open - LED ceiling lights for basement; replace siding (2024); seal brickwork (2024)
3. Church Building - Update of Projects & Maintenance: new vacuum purchased; repair and seal tower masonry (2024); AED to be installed
4. CMC Building – Update of Projects & Maintenance: continue investigating tile delamination; AED installed
5. Setup manager for live Nativity.

CHOIR SING

All are welcome to participate in the special music for worship service on December 24th. Please join in by arriving for practice on Dec. 24th at 8:20 am.

Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.
Psalms 100:2

Church, Youth and Community:

Veterans' Remembrance Celebration Pictures



Church Pictorial Directory

The church directories are here and in the office. If you had your picture taken, you will receive a free directory.

Please stop in the office to pick up your new directory.

CPR/AED CLASS

Lead-Deadwood Monument Hospital EMT's will be providing education on how to use the AED and perform CPR, and will be offering optional certification through the American Heart Association. Certification costs 20 dollars. Two classes will be offered either on Wednesday, January 17th at 6:00 pm or Friday, January 26th at 1:00 pm. Please see the signup sheet in the CMC or call the office. If you have further questions, please contact Carol Holdcroft (720-270-7331).

There's More to Christmas...Author Unknown
There's more, much more to Christmas than candlelight and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship that brightens all the year.

At Trinity United Methodist Church we know that spirit of friendship and we wish to share it with our community. We have several opportunities to do just that this Christmas season.

On Saturday, December 2, Trinity UMC will host The Living Nativity from 3:00 to 5:00. Women from the Coffee Break Bible Study are providing holiday cookies. Coffee and old fashioned hot cocoa with toppings will add to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

Thursday, December 7, United Women in Faith members will welcome the Presbyterian ladies and any women who wish to come for the annual Christmas potluck and program beginning at 12 noon. Come, bring friends! Cookie boxes for our elderly members will be prepared following the meeting. A Christmas giving opportunity sponsored by UWF for Trinity is taking place through the middle of the month. There is a mitten tree at the Christian Ministry Center on which you can place mittens, gloves, hats, and scarves to be given to the Boys & Girls Club. Adult sizes will be distributed in other ways in the community.



No Christmas season is complete without a Caroling Party. On December 10, Trinity UMC members and friends will meet at the CMC at 3:00 to go caroling followed by a potluck soup supper at 5:30. Everyone of all ages is welcome to attend the caroling, or the potluck only. Do come to one or both!

Missions and Outreach Ministry

Meals On Wheels: Our next delivery week is December 4 to December 8. Contact Sue: 605-920-7788. The route is smaller so takes less than an hour.

Adopt-A-Platoon: If you haven't heard, 9 boxes containing 1925 holiday cards were sent to Adopt-A-Platoon!! This couldn't have happened without the women from The Bible Study and United Women in Faith taking bags of 20 cards at a time since September. The last 240 were assembled by 25 during the service time during the Veterans' Day remembrance. It did take a village to accomplish this important task.

CYC: Church, Youth, Community: The Veterans' Day Remembrance was a huge success. We had 25 with 15 youth during the service time. There were 83 who ate and enjoyed the program. We are still getting people telling us how much they enjoyed the evening. The next CYC event will be after Christmas. Suggestions for service projects are appreciated.

Blue Christmas: We are hosting this year's service for those that find the holidays difficult due to loss and/or trauma. It is on Thursday, December 21st at 7pm.

FYI: The Community Christmas Celebration Dinner that is usually served on Dec. 24th in the CMC has been cancelled.



Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study meets throughout the year. This study is held on Saturday mornings at 7:30 am in the CMC. This is a dedicated group of men that welcome anyone who wants to attend. For information, contact the office or Syd DeVries at 510-910-3594.

Women's Coffee Break Bible Study will be meeting on Thursdays at 9:30 am in the CMC. They start with coffee, goodies and prayer, followed by the Bible Study which typically lasts about an hour. This is where they read passages of the Bible together and answer, discuss, share responses to the lesson questions. They end the meeting with prayer and prayer requests. All are welcome to join in this great time of study and conversation. Any questions can be directed to Shelli DeVries at 209-480-9974.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



All children are welcome to participate in Sunday School. The curriculum is based on the stories of Jesus. If you are interested in helping with our sweet young children, please contact the office at 584-1328.

Live Nativity

Saturday, December 2, 2023

3:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Indoors at the CMC

Serving refreshments and dessert.

Make a fun holiday craft.

Receive a goody bag.

Take a picture with our holiday background.

Special guest for children.

Advent Study

If you purchased a book for the advent study, the class will be held on the following Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, & 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the CMC.



Join us in sharing the light of Christ during our Christmas Eve Worship Service on December 24th, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Offering

This year during our Christmas Eve offering we will be focusing on sharing the light of Christ to our communities. Half of the offering will be given to the Lord's Cupboard and half will be given to the Lead-Deadwood School District to help pay for student lunches. Thank you for your generosity, compassion, and sharing the light of Christ to the world during this Christmas season!

Blue Christmas

In the midst of the Holiday Happenings there are times when we are feeling blue and it is hard for us to connect with the celebration of the season. You may have experienced a great loss of a loved one and this may be the first Christmas without them. We recognize the pain, grief, and challenge that come with this time of year. Please know you are not alone.

You and your family are invited to join us for

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Trinity United Methodist Church

7 South Main Street

Lead, SD 57754



Please remember our homebound members by sending them a greeting card



Doris Adamson
52 Dunlap Ave.
Deadwood, SD 57732

Orrin Aldrich
921 Addie
Lead, SD 57754

Betty Bender
122 Wall St.
Lead, SD 57754

Evelyn Berstch
Edgewood Vista
540 Falcon Crest Drive, Apt 135B
Spearfish, SD 57783

Peggy Cleveland
Friendly Horizons
7200 Freedom Dr., Rm 108
Summerset, SD 57718

Jean Dyer
Edgewood Vista
540 Falcon Crest Dr, Apt. 159
Spearfish, SD 57783

Chuck and Winnie Ferris
312 Main Street
Deadwood, SD 57731

Kris Foreman
PO Box 165
Deadwood, SD 57732

Judy Hink
Avantara Arrowhead
2500 Arrowhead Drive
Rapid City, SD 57702

Wayne Paananen
Fairmont Grand Assisted Living
409 East Fairlane Dr., Room 205
Rapid City, SD 57701

MILITARY:
Private Fredericksen, Jeremiah
Lima Company
School Infantry (West)
Box 555061
Camp Pendleton, CA 920255-5101

Christmas Caroling and Potluck

Please plan on participating in the caroling fun and help spread some Christmas joy to our church homebound members.

We will meet at the CMC and leave at 3:00 pm.

There will be a soup potluck following the caroling at approximately 5:30 pm.



We hope you can make it and don't forget to invite your family and friends to join us!

Please help us acknowledge our wonderful staff during this Christmas Season. A basket will be located on the table at the back of the sanctuary where you can place your cards and donations. Please join us in showing your appreciation for all the good work they do throughout the year. Our staff include: Pastor Jason Christensen, Secretary Norma Nodland, Administrative Assistant Holly Heisinger, and Custodian Stephanie Stevens. Thank you for helping show how much we appreciate them. —Staff/Pastor Relations Committee

December Events

- Dec. 2-Live Nativity, 3:00
Dec. 3-1st Sunday of Advent -Communion Sunday
Dec. 5-Hymn Dingers Practice, 3:30
Dec. 6-Advent Study, 6:00
Dec. 7-UWF Christmas Potluck, 12:00
Dec. 8-Spearfish Care Center Worship, 10:30
Dec. 10-2nd Sunday of Advent -Hymn Dingers Play for Worship -Caroling/Soup Potluck, 3:00
Dec. 13-Advent Study, 6:00
Dec. 17-3rd Sunday of Advent -Northern Hills Brass Play for Worship
Dec. 20-Advent Study, 6:00
Dec. 21-Blue Christmas Worship, 7:00 pm
Dec. 24-4th Sunday of Advent -Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 pm
Dec. 25-Christmas Day -Office Closed
Dec. 26-Newsletter Articles Due -Office Closed
Tuesdays 9:00 to 11:00-Pastor's Coffee Hours
Thursdays at 9:30 am-Coffee Break Bible Study
Saturdays at 7:30 am-Men's Bible Study

GOT MUSIC?

Are you looking to provide special music during worship service? We would enjoy hearing you sing, playing your instruments, sharing your musical talents, please contact the office.

Are you wanting to help with worship through song? Come practice with the praise team on Sundays at 8:00 am

I will sing to the LORD all my life; I will sing praise to my God as long as I live. Psalms 104:33

Contact Information for
Pastor Jason Christensen
Cell Phone: 605-490-2601
E-mail: broncopastor4@gmail.com

Pastor Jason will be holding coffee hours at Lotus Up on Tuesdays from 9 to 11 a.m. Please stop by for a visit.

He will honor the Sabbath on Fridays.

Worship Help Needed

It takes a village to have the church services go smoothly! We all have talents we can use to help make that happen, as an usher, praise team singer, furnishing flowers, media or fellowship provider. Please prayerfully consider helping. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church or you can call the office (584-1328) to volunteer. You can also sign-up online at leadtumc.com (under the worship tab).

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

Dec. 3-Karen Auchampach
Dec. 3-Carla Koepp
Dec. 7-Clancey Fisher
Dec. 12-Otto Hallberg
Dec. 12-Rocky Mattson
Dec. 12-Chris Heisinger
Dec. 13-Barb Mattson
Dec. 15-Jim Kirby
Dec. 19-Janet Christensen
Dec. 20-Chad Larsen
Dec. 21-Butch Oien
Dec. 22-Carolgene Peters
Dec. 26-Miranda Baumberger
Dec. 30-Cynthia McNeill
Dec. 30-Teah Pray

Anniversaries:

Dec. 1-Norman and Sharon Mason
Dec. 2-Otto and Jane Hallberg
Dec. 22-Terry and Jean Downing

SERMON SERIES:

- 12/03—Preparing for the Messiah—The Prophecy of a Savior
- 12/10—Preparing for the Messiah—Faith
- 12/17—Preparing for the Messiah—Peace
- 12/24—Preparing for the Messiah—Joy (9:00 am)
- 12/24—The Purpose of Christmas (4:30 pm)
- 12/31—Resolutions

Hymn Dinger Handbell Choir

The handbell choir will practice on December 5th. They will play during worship service on Sunday, December 10th.



Trinity United Methodist Charge Conference
November 12, 2023

Pastor Jason Christensen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Lee Ann Paananen was approved as secretary.

District Superintendent, Dan Bader spoke on the scripture, Philippians 4:4. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

What makes Vital Congregations? What are the reasons that we rejoice and how do we celebrate in our church?

Example: A young man in White River started Trick or Treat so others can eat.

Ways that we celebrate in our church include: Music, Live Nativity, Halloweenie, Christmas Mittens and Hats Drive, Biker Breakfast, AEDs.

Dan spoke of the importance of Lay Ministers and that there are no age limitations. He encouraged everyone to consider joining the lay ministry by completing the required courses of study.

The Bishop's offering is for Food insecurity and will pay for local food boxes for hungry people in the community and to pay for school lunches for children I need.

In Michael Becks book, Fresh Expressions of the Rural Church, he talks about understanding what it means to be the church and to invite others. Church can be held in abnormal places like a bar or a taco place. It doesn't matter where you are, you can celebrate and praise the Lord.

Conference wide bible study for Advent is Heaven and Earth and will be held by Zoom on Tuesday Evenings. Everyone is welcome to attend.

A Very Dakotas Christmas is a recording of snippets of church services, programs or music from churches across the Dakotas that is edited together to create one service available to all churches. Churches are encouraged to submit things that can be included.

Dynamite Prayer by Rev. Dr. Rosario Picardo and Rev. Sue Nilson Kibbey is the basis of the Conference Wide Breakthrough Prayer initiative. Any church that registers with at least 10 participants will receive the books at half price.

The conference wide Bible study for Lent will be on the book Multiplying Love by Paul Chilcote,

Churches can get grants for innovative ideas to keep their churches vital.

Everyone is encouraged to be welcoming and be the People of Hospitality. Remember to live in the example of Jesus. How are we evidence of Christ in the Community?

The Nominations report was reviewed and approved by vote.

Cindy McNeill discussed Pastor's salary for 2024 and made a motion to increase his salary by 3.4% and to pay for his benefits. Second by Sue Holloway. Approved by unanimous vote.


Sue Holloway gave the financial report. \$20,000 was taken out of operational savings to cover increased expenses including salaries and utilities. The financial report was approved by vote.

Dan Bader closed the meeting in prayer.

JOY

December 2023

HOPE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Music practice at 8 Worship at 9 Fellowship at 10 Communion Sunday 1st Sunday of Advent	4 SC Board 10:00 am Pastor PCL 11-2 Mahjong 12:00 pm Kiwanis 5:30 pm	5 Pastor Jason Coffee Hours 9-11, Lotus Up Exercise 9:30 Bells Practice 3:30 L-PEO 1:00-3:00	6 Advent Study 6:00, CMC	7 Pastor's Meeting 8-10 Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:30 am Platoon Cards 10:30 UJWF 12:30	8 Exercise 9:30 Worship Spearfish Care Center, 10:30	9 Men's Bible Study at 7:30 am
Meals on Wheels December 4 – 8						
10 Music practice at 8 Worship at 9 Fellowship at 10 Handbells Play Caroling 3-5 pm Soup Potluck 5:30 2nd Sunday of Advent	11 Pastor PCL 11-2 SC Potluck Noon Mahjong 12:00 pm Kiwanis 5:30 pm	12 Pastor Jason Coffee Hours 9-11, Lotus Up Exercise 9:30	13 Staff Meeting 10:30 Advent Study 6:00, CMC	14 Pastor's Meeting 8-10 Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:30 am SC Cards 1-4 pm	15 Exercise 9:30	16 Men's Bible Study at 7:30 am CMC Rental, Dance Perf. 6-8
17 Music practice at 8 Worship at 9 Fellowship at 10 Brass Band Plays 3rd Sunday of Advent	18 Pastor PCL 11-2 Mahjong 12:00 pm Kiwanis 5:30 pm	19 Pastor Jason Coffee Hours 9-11, Lotus Up Exercise 9:30	20 Advent Study 6:00, CMC Amer Aux 6-8 pm	21 Pastor's Meeting 8-10 Coffee Break Bible Study at 9:30 am Blue Christmas, TUMC, 7:00 No L/D School	22 Exercise 9:30 No L/D School	23 Men's Bible Study at 7:30 am
24 Music practice at 8 Worship at 9 Christmas Eve Service, 4:30 4th Sunday of Advent	25 Office Closed CHRISTMAS DAY No L/D School	26 Office Closed Newsletter Articles Due No L/D School	27 No L/D School	28 Pastor's Meeting 8-10 SC Cards 1-4 pm No L/D School	29 Exercise 9:30 No L/D School	30 Men's Bible Study at 7:30 am
31 Music practice at 8 Worship at 9 Fellowship at 10 1st Sunday After Christmas						

Trinity United
Methodist Church

111 S. Main St.
7 S. Main St.—Office
Lead, SD 57754

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

Trinity United Methodist Church

111 S. Main St., Lead, SD 57754

7 S. Main St. - Office

605-584-1328

Trinity United Methodist Church is a welcoming congregation where God can be found in worship, music, and fellowship. Children always welcome.

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNING AT 9 AM.

