

November 2020

THE TRINITARIAN

THE NEWSLETTER OF
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
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Bible Classes and Sunday School 9:00 AM
Divine Service 10:15 AM

NOVEMBER 2026 VOLUME 61 No. 11

FROM THE PASTOR

Thanks Be To God

(1 Thessalonians 5:18) Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

God's word can at times feel difficult to understand. What is meant by giving thanks in all circumstances? Are we meant to give thanks for affliction and sickness? Do we accept life's hardships as the tough love of Our Father in heaven? When we look closer at Paul's letter to the church at Thessaloniki we understand his words are a farewell intended to encourage Christians in faith. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks always. Count yourselves as blameless before the coming of the Lord. These are what Paul wants every Christian to remember, because he too understands the calling of the Gospel is not an easy undertaking, but a necessary one.

What was true of Christians in Paul's day remains true of our own. We sin, we suffer and we die. We need a savior. If our lives were without suffering then we would have no cause for a God, but because we found in Christ, not even our present aches and infirmity may separate us from life in the Spirit. Therefore, give thanks to God! Our joy is not over the testing or the miseries. These were not God's gift, but upon He who is the gift of God, Christ the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Those unshakable gifts of Christ's salvation and resurrection belong to all Christians of every age. So we are to give thanks, not so God would finally make good on His promises, but because even now you are being equipped through Word and sacrament with a saving faith which will never see you surrender to cancer, to surgery or old age. Whatever the condition of our bodies or our minds, be comforted that the Spirit burns bright within you and will see you to the resurrection to come. On that day our thanks will be heard at the sound of the trumpet and when every eye is drawn to the return of our Lord. On that day the gifts of heaven shall go out and the worries of dark ages will pass forever. Amen.

In His service,
Pastor Simon

BOARD OF ELDERS

There may be some of us who remember a TV commercial for a fast food chain where a female senior citizen starts shouting out **"Where's the Beef?"** Well, "beef" is also slang for a complaint. Sometime we disagree with something here at Trinity, but may hold it to ourselves such that, if it is valid, it may not be addressed and necessary corrective action not be taken. Each member has been assigned to an elder. If you have a "beef" let your elder know and you may be assured that it will be addressed and any appropriate corrective action taken. Then the only **beef** will be that on our dinner tables.

Dick Dommers, Elder

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ASSISTIVE LISTENING

At the request of some of our members the elders are looking into purchasing an Assistive Listening system to provide members with better hearing of the worship service. As you can imagine there are multiple systems with a wide range of costs available to make this happen.

We need your input to help us decide what we need. If you think you would utilize such a system, please provide Bob Klose with the following information:

1. If you wear hearing aids, what is the model or type?
2. Do you have a smart phone capable of downloading apps?

Bob Klose, Head elder

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EVANGELISM

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER MISSION: Every two months our congregation chooses a mission to support with our offerings, and for November and December that mission is the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation does something beautifully simple: it translates Lutheran books — the Small Catechism, Bible storybooks, devotions — into the languages of the world, and gives them away free to churches, pastors, and missionaries. In more than 30 years they have published over 1,500 titles in more than 150 languages. Think about that: a child in India, a new believer in Turkey, a family in Peru, each holding God's Word in the language they pray in.

As your evangelism chair, I love this mission because it is evangelism at its most basic — putting the story of Jesus into hands that have never held it. We talk about telling our story to one person; the Lutheran Heritage Foundation tells it to whole nations, one translated page at a time.

Our mission offerings these two months help print and ship those books. Every gift, large or small, becomes a catechism in someone's hands, a Bible storybook on a child's lap.

When you give this November and December, picture that child opening a book about Jesus — in words she understands — for the very first time. That is what your offering does.

EVERY SAINT HAS A STORY: November 1 is All Saints' Day — and this year it lands on a Sunday, so we will celebrate it together in worship. When we hear "saint," most of us picture the heroes of the faith in stained glass. But the Church has always confessed something simpler: a saint is a sinner saved by grace. The saints are not only in the windows — they are in the pews, at your kitchen table. One of them may be reading this right now.

Every one of us has a story about how the faith reached us — a grandmother's prayers, a neighbor's invitation, a pastor's steady preaching. Someone once cared enough to tell us about Jesus. That is evangelism, plain and simple: one saint passing the story to the next.

So here is my November challenge, from your evangelism chair: tell your story to one person. Not a sermon — just your story. Thanksgiving puts gratitude on our lips anyway — why not let it put the Gospel there too? The saints who came before us kept the story going by telling it. Let us do the same.

TRACT OF THE MONTH: Concordia Publishing House's pamphlet "What About Stewardship?" (from the popular What About...? series by Rev. Dr. A.L. Barry) addresses this directly. The resource highlights that stewardship is not simply a church fundraising program; it is a joyful, whole-life response to God's grace. When we faithfully manage our time, talents, and resources, we build the very foundation that allows our church to reach out to our neighbors with the love of Christ. Copies of this pamphlet are available in the narthex—I encourage every family to pick one up this Sunday from the spinning rack in the narthex!
— Merry Zumwalt, Evangelism Chair

THANKSGIVING HYMN SING SERVICE



A special occasion for prayer and song will be held on Wednesday, November 25th, beginning at 4pm. Pastor Simon will lead a brief devotion in the sanctuary, followed by a hymn sing with guest organist Garrett Anderson. Let us sing a glad song to the Lord and give thanks for all His blessings!

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TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL THANKSGIVING DINNER

Join us for a time of fellowship and Thanksgiving!



Thursday, November 26
12:00–3:00 p.m.



Please sign up by November 12.
Turkeys will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish and/or dessert to share.
We look forward to celebrating Thanksgiving together as a church family!

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75th Trinity Lutheran Church Anniversary Committee

The committee met on Wed, Oct 21. As previously announced the 75th anniversary celebration will be on Sunday, November 7th, 2027. Tentatively, there will be the church service followed by a catered meal.

A theme was chosen, “One Body, Many Parts: United in Christ” based on Ephesians 4:16. ‘From whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself in love.’

Several projects were set in motion. Diane Kline will be designing a banner to commemorate the anniversary. Susan Kelly is working on a letter to send to Pastors’ Heithold and Bergman to invite and ask them to save the date. Stacy Johnson and Cindi Anderson have agreed to help with decorations.

During this coming month, there will be a display in the church of past and present pictures of our church. Each month we will try and highlight different aspects of our church.

We still need help with pictures, stories, previous member contacts, any ideas that you might like to see incorporated into our anniversary celebration. There are forms in the narthex that can be filled out if you have any ideas or might like to help in some way. There are envelopes in the survey container for photos or forms.

Thank you in advance for everyone's help! We would like to make the celebration as inclusive as we can with the church's history through the past 75 years with a view of our present and future.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 18th at 10:15am in the Great Room. Come join us. Vicki Leonard

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Trinity Stewardship Ministry
God Chose You

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit…" John 15:26

Jesus' words are clear that God does the calling and choosing. The wonderful thing is that we do not need exceptional talents and abilities. When Jesus chose His 12 disciples, he picked ordinary and diverse people who were not of the elite. He chose some fishermen; a tax collector and one was known as political activist – Simon the "Zealot." ***(Luke 6:15)***.

There is no doubt that God gave each person at Trinity, regardless of age, gifts to serve Him and the Churches' Mission.

(1 Corinthian 12:4-6, Ephesians 12:6-8) tells us "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives abilities to **ALL** for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way to every person for the good of all."

When everyone in the congregation uses his or her gifts to serve God's Church becomes a powerful force for good, a strong witness for Jesus, and a mighty army to combat Satan's attacks!!

The Stewardship ministry will be giving each person at Trinity a **"Ministry Interest"** handout to completed and returned by November 15.

The purpose is to:

1. Glorify and serve our gracious God for His Grace given to us through Jesus Christ.
2. Help us to see the many avenues of serving the Lord and the Mission and Ministry of Trinity Lutheran Church.
3. Help each of us to evaluate how to be better stewards of the gifts God has given us.
4. Give "Ministry Interests" information to Pastor Simon, the Board of Directors, and the various ministry chairs and committees, etc. So, they can better meet the needs and interests of God's people at Trinity.

Yes, this process will need your prayerful and thoughtful considerations.

Let us all help make Trinity Lutheran be an "Every Member in Ministry" church.
In Jesus' name,
Lola Ableidinger, Stewardship Chair

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual Congregational meeting will take place on Sunday, November 15th after the service. We will vote on the 2027 budget and election of new officers. Current officers and committee chairs will deliver their annual reports. There

CONSTITUTION: There is a list of current members who have signed the constitution on the table in the Narthex. If your name does **not** appear, you must sign and date the attached sheet in order to be able to vote in the election. **You must be at least 18 years old and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in order to be eligible to sign the constitution and vote**. New members need to sign the constitution. There are also copies of the constitution provided for you on the table.

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THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKETS

All donations will be accepted through November 22, 2026
Leave donations on the table in the Great Room

Trinity LWML is sponsoring Thanksgiving Food Baskets for 2026. This year we will be helping five families. Below are ideas to help you do your shopping for the Food Baskets. This list is just to help you get started, feel free to add your own items, but please, all donations should be shelf stable.

Money donations can be placed in the offering plate, Mark the envelope "Food Baskets" If You have any questions, please see Cheryl Richey.

Food Suggestions: Instant Mashed potatoes, canned yams, marsh-mellows, canned or dried beans, canned vegetables, canned soup, stuffing mix, broth (chicken & beef), pie crust and pie filling, pasta and pasta sauce, canned chicken, ham & tune, peanut butter and jelly, macaroni & cheese, crackers, sugar, flour, oil, muffin/cake/brownie mix, apple sauce/canned fruit, cereal, jell-O, pudding mix, bottled fruit juice, shelf stable milk, dish soap, paper plates, paper towels, napkins.

EDUCATION REPORT OCTOBER 2026

The Education Committee met on Sunday, October 11th after church service. There were four members present. Old Business The committee members were updated on the proposed budget for 2027. No changes were made from last year's budget so the members agreed on the proposed budget. The committee suggested Cindi Anderson's name be put on the ballot for Director of Education. Cindi said she would do it. Sue Kelly updated everyone that three Thanksgiving baskets would be given to three families from the school district, one from Stepping Stones Preschool and two from North Elementary. Books will be purchased to be put in each of the baskets for the children. The books will be paid for with Memorial Funds. New Business The committee members reviewed what the Board of Education duties are in the church Constitution and By-Laws. It was suggested that we add to it about our organizing various family engagements throughout the year. Everyone agreed. The members also decided which of the Arch books would be purchased for the Thanksgiving baskets and to go along with the Children's Gift Tree gifts. Two new ideas were

brought up by different committee members to try doing in the new year and future years. The first idea was to start the Youth Group meetings back up in the new year, once a month after confirmation class. The second idea was to host a Youth Gathering for the other youth groups in our circuit. There was no other business to be discussed so the meeting was adjourned.

Yours in Christ,

Susan Kelly. Director of Education

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Now Thank We All Our God

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 Thessalonians 5:18

An old English preacher once said, "A grateful mind is a great mind," and the Bible agrees. There are 138 passages of Scripture on the subject of thanksgiving, and some of them are powerfully worded. Colossians 3:17 says: "And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." 1 Thessalonians 5:18 adds, "In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Unfortunately, few hymns are devoted exclusively to thanking God. Among the small, rich handful we *do* have is "Now Thank We All Our God." The German Christians sing this hymn like American believers sing the "Doxology," yet it's loved on both sides of the Atlantic and around the world.

It was written by Martin Rinkart (1589-1649), a Lutheran pastor in the little village of Eilenberg, Saxony. He grew us as the son of a poor coppersmith, felt called to the ministry, and after his theological training began his pastoral work just as the Thirty Years' War was raging through Germany.

Floods of refugees streamed into the walled city of Eilenberg. It was the most desperate of times. The Swedish army encompassed the city gates, and inside the walls there was nothing but plague, famine, and fear. Eight hundred homes were destroyed, and people began dying in increasing numbers. There was a tremendous strain on the pastors, who expended all their strength in preaching the gospel, caring for the sick and dying, and burying the dead. One after another, the pastors

themselves took ill and perished until at last only Martin Rinkart was left. Some days he conducted as many as fifty funerals.

Finally the Swedes demanded a huge ransom. It was Martin Rinkart who left the safety of the city walls to negotiate with the enemy, and he did it with such courage and faith that there was soon a conclusion of hostilities, and the period of suffering ended.

Rinkart, knowing there is no healing without thanksgiving, composed this hymn for the survivors of Eilenberg. It has been sung around the world ever since.

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices

------"Then Sings My Soul"
Robert J. Morgan

NOVEMBER 2026 STEWARDS FOR CHRIST

ELDERS

Nov. 1 Bob Klose
Nov. 8 Matt Clark
Nov. 15 Bob Klose
Nov. 22 Dick Dommers
Nov. 25 Matt Clark (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 29 Bob Klose

TELLERS

Nov. 1 Susan Kelly & Sandy Klose
Nov. 8 Bob Klose & Joyce Macon
Nov. 15 Yvonne Steeby & Becky Worley
Nov. 22 Wilma Jaecks & Vicki Leonard
Nov. 29 Dick Dommers & Merry Zumwalt

HOSTS

Nov. 1 Bob & Jan Thede
Nov. 8 Merry Zumwalt & Irvin Torres
Nov. 15 Larry & Bev Vam Duyn
Nov. 22 Robert & Stacy Johnson
Nov. 29 Cheryl Sandenaw & Wilma Jaecks

SOUND TECH

Nov. 1 Vicki Leonard
Nov. 8 Sheri Cortez
Nov. 15 Matt Anderson
Nov. 22 Jim Kline
Nov. 26 Vicki Leonard (Thanksgiving Eve)
Nov. 29 Sheri Cortez

USHERS

Nov. 1 Tom Blackmon, Jim Fladhammer Larry & Bev Van Duyn
Nov. 8 Susan Kelly, Norbert Sanchez Glen & Christine Schlehuser
Nov. 15 Luke Haines, Robert Johnson, Trey Johnson, Tammy Thede
Nov. 22 Cameron Maltz, Gerald Moore Irvin Torres, Cody Zumwalt
Nov. 29 Volunteers

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MUSIC

Michael Cortez

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE

Diane Kline

NOVEMBER ALTAR COMMITTEE

Robin Haymes
Susan Rentschler

NOVEMBER FLOWERS

Nov. 1 Bob & Susan Kelly
Nov. 8 Lola Ableidinger
Nov. 15 Jim & Diane Kline
Nov. 22 Robert & Stacy Johnson
Nov. 29 Vicki Leonard



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

14 - 7 = _____ Father
10 + 9 = _____ heavenly
10 + 5 = _____ blessed
2 - 1 = _____ Praise
7 + 7 = _____ has
11 + 11 = _____ every
12 + 12 = _____ blessing
10 + 10 = _____ realms
13 + 13 = _____ Christ
8 + 8 = _____ us
8 + 9 = _____ in
5 + 5 = _____ Lord
10 + 11 = _____ with

10 + 15 = _____ in
6 - 3 = _____ to
12 - 6 = _____ and
6 + 6 = _____ Christ
18 - 9 = _____ our
22 - 11 = _____ Jesus
1 + 1 = _____ be
7 + 6 = _____ who
2 + 2 = _____ the
10 - 5 = _____ God
4 + 4 = _____ of
9 + 9 = _____ the
10 + 13 = _____ spiritual

"_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
1 2 3 4 5 6

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____,
7 8 9 10 11 12

_____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
13 14 15 16 17 18

_____ _____ _____ _____
19 20 21 22

_____ _____ _____ _____."
23 24 25 26

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."