



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



Flying Together in Faith

The month of November has arrived, and I'm watching the temperatures drop, the frost form on the pumpkins, and the geese fly south for the winter. Have you ever paid attention to how the geese fly in formation across the sky to make this long trip? I've heard they do that for a few reasons:

First, when they fly together in a "V" formation they reduce resistance for their journey. They work together in order to help the whole flock! Second, since the "lead goose" has to work harder than the rest, when that one gets tired it falls back and another goose takes the lead. They share leadership! Third, the geese honk as they fly. This doesn't really have anything to do with their "V" formation, but it has everything to do with encouraging each other as they fly. The geese cheer each other on!

What a great image for the church! Isn't that exactly what we do as we make our way forward in faith? First, we **WORK TOGETHER** in order to help everybody out. Second, we **SHARE LEADERSHIP** so that no single person has to do all the work. And third, we **ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER** as we move forward. I'm so grateful to be a part of a congregation that works together, shares leadership, and encourages each other in our many ministries to do God's work. Whether it's teaching our young people, working on the building, helping with worship, serving coffee on a Sunday morning, or simply reaching out with a helping hand, the members of Trinity are more than just "members" – we're partners in the ministry that we all share in Christ. Thank you for being a part of the Trinity flock!

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm



NOVEMBER 2024

INSIDE:

November Events at Trinity
Children & Youth Ministries
Thanksgiving Worship
Paint & Sip Event
Council Meeting Highlights
Missionaries Update

Worship
Sundays 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

Pastor	Jeffrey M. Engholm
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

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What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?



All Saints' Sunday Sunday, November 3

All Saints' Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On Sunday, November 3, Trinity Lutheran Church will

celebrate our newest Saints—those baptized in the past year, as well as our departed Saints who have been called to be with the Lord in the past year. Saints are all of us—as Saints are simply forgiven sinners. Thus, we rejoice in the righteousness we all share through faith in Jesus Christ.

Mission Cemetery Marker Dedication Sunday, November 3

Many of our Trinity members have been working diligently the past few months on the Mission Cemetery that sits beside the parking lot right outside the front doors of Trinity. They have cleaned up the markers, removed overgrown shrubs, and even installed a new stone and plaque in honor of all those who are buried there. Their hard work has been in preparation of a dedication ceremony that we are going to have right after worship on Sunday, November 3. On that day, All Saints' Sunday, we will honor these saints who have gone before us and who are now laid to rest on our grounds.

Many thanks to those who have worked on this project. Special thanks to Steve Hendricks for donating the stone, and to Terry and Todd Johnson for installing the plaque.

Note: There will actually be TWO brief ceremonies that day. In addition to gathering right after worship at 10:00 am, we will regroup again at 11:30 am and be joined by some members of the Watertown Evangelical Free Church as a way to honor their part in our shared history. Please feel free to gather for BOTH of these brief celebrations!



Growing Together in God's Love

In the coming year, our whole congregation is going to celebrate the fact that we are grounded in the presence of God. In fact, our theme for the year is "Growing Together in God's Love" and is based on Ephesians 3:17: "May Christ live in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love." Would you like to be a part of this project? If so, please put your name on a leaf and add it to the barn wall that sits upstairs in the Gathering Hall.

Sign your name as a statement of faith that says, "Yes, I want to grow together in God's love!"



Thursday, November 21 | 10:00 am

The Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) are playing "Winter BINGO" in November. Please bring a winter themed prize – like a hot chocolate kit, a winter-themed puzzle, fuzzy socks, or a seasonal ornament, movie or delicious treat. Gifts can be wrapped or unwrapped. All "older" and/or "wiser" Lutherans and friends are invited to attend and embrace the warmth and coziness of the upcoming season!

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Theme in November



Kids may not be absorbing the news cycle like adults are, but they are experiencing the news cycle through others around them. In November, Sunday School kids will have a chance to journey with a few prophets – Micah, Amos, Zephaniah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah – to discover news they can count on. Kids will learn that when things go wrong, they can choose what's right; when they worship God, they can be sincere; when times are tough, they can count on God; when they are lost, God will guide them, and that they can be faithful just like God is faithful.



Community Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 27 | 7:00 pm
hosted by Peace Lutheran Church

Before the holiday season becomes a whirl of activity, take time to give thanks to God for your many blessings. Worship with friends and neighbors at the Watertown Community Thanksgiving Service on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Peace Lutheran is hosting the service this year and it will include worship leaders from Trinity, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Watertown Evangelical Free Church, and Peace Lutheran Church.

Paint & SIP

Thursday, November 14
7:00 – 9:00 pm



Join us for an evening of
painting and socializing.

\$30 per person

You're invited to Trinity for an evening of fun and creativity for all—no painting experience necessary! Enjoy a glass of wine and snacks as you create your very own masterpiece with step-by-step instruction by local artist Emily Victory. All (21+) are invited to attend. Reserve your spot by November 7 at www.trin.org under EVENTS.



Trinity Youth: Who's Interested in Going to the BWCA?

Trinity's Youth Group is planning a trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in the summer of 2025. This trip will be open to incoming 9th graders through graduated seniors (+ any friends!) We would like to gauge interest so that we can obtain enough BWCA permits. If you are interested in learning more about the trip and possibly attending, please complete the BWCA interest form at www.trin.org/youth by December 15.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Donald Scanlon

November 3, 1942 ~ May 6, 2024

Graveside Service on

October 10, 2024

BAPTISM

Etta Horstmann

daughter of

Mason & Sarah Horstmann

Baptized on October 13, 2024

NEW MEMBERS

Bill & Karla Keller

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Sandra Jones

\$625 ~ Undesignated

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 15, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary September 2024

Beginning balance 9/1/2024:

-\$ 23,640.71

Operating Fund income: \$32,906.28

Operating Fund exps: \$31,887.22

Net balance (Sept.): \$ 1,019.06

Operating Fund balance as of

9/30/2024: -\$ 22,621.65

2024 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by \$22,109.73.

Building Fund expenses:

Internal loan payment: \$5,000.00

Mortgage loan balance: \$25,000.00

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$58,397.26

Citizen's Building Fund: \$76,933.62

Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area Synod amounted to \$1,971.90.
- Sept. Xcel bill for fuel and electricity was \$953.32, up about \$31 from Aug.
- Salary expenses were up slightly as part-time employees not paid in July and August resumed in September.
- Memorial plaque for the Mission Cemetery was paid from undesignated memorials.
- A final payment of \$26,731.85 was paid to Farber for the A/V update.
- A payment of \$3,870 was paid to AME Electric for expenses associated with the A/V update.

M/S/C Diane Holmes / Nancy Stello / carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

Fall programming, Confirmation Sunday, and Worship Choir and Praise Band have enhanced services. The October 6th Fall Clean-Up was a success. Pastor reported new A/V equipment is installed, livestreaming has begun with positive feedback.

OLD BUSINESS

Nylunda Bell Pastor reported that the prior inquiry received was only curiosity. Future plans for the bell is TBD.

A/V Project Great feedback is being received on the sound overall. We are evaluating the existing microphones for the band and choir. More people will get involved in training and running the equipment as we move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

River City Theater Determined fee for the rental; reviewed guidelines and suggested donations for rental use. Consistent with the church's guidelines for rental fees, "10% of participation fees collected" was agreed upon.

M/S/C Corky Ibeling / Nancy Pickering / carried

Mission Cemetery Corky Ibeling reported that cleaning of markers is completed. The Nov. 3rd dedications are planned for right after worship, and again at 11:30 am along with representatives from the Evangelical Free Church, who share the history of this cemetery.

Parking Lot Project After mortgage loan is paid off as targeted for February, celebrate that milestone and transition to capital fundraising for parking lot project. Plan to discuss this topic further at next meeting in November.



An Update from Trinity's Missionaries

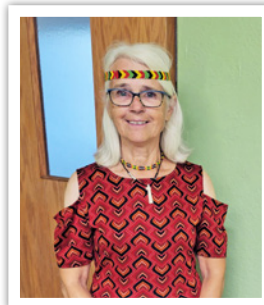
Andrew and Meredith, serving in Papua New Guinea (PNG), reflect on recent months in their missionary work. After a five-week home assignment in the U.S., they returned to PNG and are preparing for Term 4 at the seminary and their day to day life in PNG. During their time in the U.S., they visited family in Minnesota and Illinois, enjoyed quality time with loved ones, attended the ELCA Service and Justice Gathering, and made presentations at sponsoring congregations (including here at Trinity). Their Texas trip included visits with friends, doctors' appointments, and reconnecting with their former home.

Back in PNG, they participated in a "companion synod consultation" with Lutherans from PNG and the U.S., fostering cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration while they shared worship, meals, and discussions on being the church in their respective contexts. Despite challenges due to cultural differences, there was great joy in building genuine fellowship with fellow Christians from various nations.

Looking ahead, Andrew will resume teaching, Bea will continue school, and Hans will start preschool next year, giving Meredith time to take on part-time work at the seminary. They all look forward to celebrating PNG's Independence Day and are hopeful for a permanent move to their future home on the Martin Luther Seminary campus by year's end. Andrew and Meredith express gratitude for the prayers and support received and share prayer requests for their teaching, their family's health, and peace and stability in Papua New Guinea.

Support Our Missionaries

You can sign up to support the Ronneviks (\$25 per week) by adding your name on the calendar in the back of the sanctuary and dropping cash or check in the offering plate or to the church office. You can also give on Trinity's Online Giving page under 'Special Gifts'. Thank you for your support.



A special thank you to the Trinity OWLS for your donations to the ongoing missionary work of Linda Rupp in Kenya. She has sent the money donated to pay for books and games for the school children in Kenya.

Also, the teachers and students of Watertown-Mayer Elementary School would like to thank the Trinity congregation for the school and craft supplies that were donated in September. Your generosity is appreciated.



Gather and Grow Food Pantry: Most Needed Items

The Gather and Grow Food Pantry is in special need of the following items this time of year.

- Jars of Pasta Sauce
- Pasta Noodle Varieties
- Cans of Hearty Soups
- Peanut Butter
- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels

Donated items can be dropped off at Trinity's Donation Station at the main parking lot entrance. Financial donations can be dropped off in the church office or the offering plate. Thanks for your generosity during this holiday season.

➤➤➤ Last month in Pictures



Many thanks to the Fall Clean-Up Crew!



The Youth Ministry Bake Walk was a hit!



Worship Choir



Donating Quilts to Gather & Grow



Congrats to Trinity's 2024 Confirmands!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Liam Hembroff Pam Olson Gail Singsank Gail Sommerfeld	2 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jim Hendricks
3 ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Mission Cemetery Dedication 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Curt Nelson	4 AA Meeting 8 pm	5 Quilting 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cody Brabec Graham Stutsman	6 Prayer 12:30 pm FMSC 6 pm Gr. 6 Confirm. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm	7 Housekeepers 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Claire Herman Chloe Matson Jacob Matson	8	9 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Allyson Thomson
10 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Maggie Mueller	11 Apostles 8:30 am Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bill McCain	12 Quilting 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Deb Anderson	13 Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Joy Bolea Robin Durkin Jean Whittaker	14 Finance Committee 6:30 pm Paint & Sip 7 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Bruce Wingert	15 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Kari Brueggemeier Shirley Hirsch	16 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Lori Sieling
17 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Milo Rosholt Kasen Schmidt	18 AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Robyn Behrens Rodney Domjahn	19 Quilting 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm	20 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Reese Otto	21 OWLS 10 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Cate Drahos Caleb Fails Casey Fails Todd Leaf	22 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Susan Jerde	23
24 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am	25 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Mike Empting Jackson Hastings Maxwell Hastings	26 Quilting 9 am <i>Happy Birthday</i> Jeff Larson Chad Semeja Evan Singsank Dana Vraspir	27 Tidings 9 am Prayer 12:30 pm No Confirmation Class Community Thanksgiving Service 7 pm <i>Happy Birthday</i> Penny Koets	28 THANKSGIVING <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Nikki Hunkins Avery Olson	29 <i>Church Office Closed</i> <i>Happy Birthday</i> Adrian Eliason	30 <i>Happy Birthday</i> Josh Oak

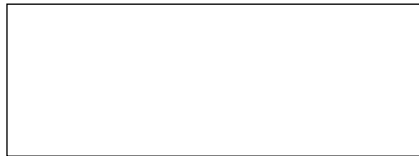


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In Awe of Everyday Joys

Maybe you've heard of making micro-resolutions for the new year. Similarly, health experts recommend becoming aware of — and thankful for — micro-joys we experience and encounter.

In *The Power of Awe*, Jake Eagle and Michael Amster describe the benefits of taking several brief A.W.E. breaks throughout the day:

- **A** is for **Attention**, as you focus on something that amazes you or seems valuable.
- **W** is for **Waiting**, as you pause to take a deep breath.
- **E** is for **Exhaling**, as you breathe out and feel joy and gratitude.

This simple practice reveals how profound the "ordinary" can be, thanks to the generosity of our extraordinary God.