Trinity TIDINGS
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA

ELCA

NOVEMBER 2026

Holding Both



Most of us have someone we miss. And if we're honest, most of us don't miss them in a simple way. Maybe it's a parent, a grandparent, a spouse, a friend. When their name comes up, the memories show up all at once. There's the good stuff, the stuff that made you who you are. And there's the harder stuff, the stuff that never really got settled. Sometimes you smile and wince in the same breath. Nobody warns you about that part of grief.

I know that one well. When I remember my dad, I remember the challenges we had. We had our share. I also remember everything he taught me, and I wouldn't be who I am without it. Both are true.

Somewhere along the way, a lot of us picked up the idea that remembering someone well means filing off the rough edges. That being thankful means pretending the hurt never happened. I don't think that's what God asks of us. Recently my family traveled to South Dakota. I'd been asked to officate a wedding, and we figured if we were going that far, we might as well make a vacation out of it. One of the things I most wanted my kids to see was Crazy Horse. Then we went to Mount Rushmore.

So in one setting, our kids were learning about the suffering Native Americans were put through. In the next, they were learning about the great things done. I'll be honest, I wondered if that was too much for one day. It wasn't. They handled both. They didn't pick a favorite story or act like one cancelled out the other. They just took it in. Kids are often better at this than adults are.

That's what November asks of us. On the first Sunday, we celebrate All Saints, a day to remember those who have gone before us. (If you're reading this before then, I hope you'll join us on November 1st for worship. If you're reading it after, I hope it was a good day of remembering.) Then at the end of the month, we gather around tables for Thanksgiving and name all that we're thankful for.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

INSIDE:

November Events at Trinity
Children's Ministry
Thanksgiving Worship
Looking Ahead to Advent
Giving Tuesday at Trinity
Council Highlights / Memorials

Worship
Sundays at 9:00 am
Onsite & Online

STAFF:

Pastor	Adam Teske
Children's Ministry	Chelsea Farniok
Music Ministry	Hannah Rosholt
Office Manager	Robyn Behrens
Financial Secretary	Gail Cassidy
Financial Administrator	Mary Jech

Trinity Lutheran Church
513 Madison St SE | PO Box 1177
Watertown, MN 55388
phone: 952-955-1891
email: trinityoffice@trin.org

www.trin.org

Office Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 am - Noon

What's Happening AT TRINITY LUTHERAN?

All Saints Sunday
Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On Sunday, November 1, 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.

PASTOR ADAM CONTINUED

Remembering doesn't mean blocking out the bad. Being thankful doesn't mean I forgot the hurt.

We can hold both.

That's actually where the church has always lived. We gather at a table where we remember a cross and a resurrection in the same breath. The saints we name on All Saints weren't perfect, and neither are we. God loved them, and God loves us. That good news is big enough to hold the whole story.

So this November, remember the people you miss. Tell the funny stories and the hard ones. Then say thank you, and mean it, even if it's complicated.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Adam



Community Thanksgiving Service
Wednesday, November 25 | 7:00 pm
Watertown Evangelical Free Church

Before your calendar fills up for the holidays, come together with friends and neighbors to give thanks to God. Join us for the Watertown Community Thanksgiving Service on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, hosted this year by Watertown Evangelical Free Church (509 Jefferson Ave SW). This service will include worship leaders from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Watertown Evangelical Free Church, Peace Lutheran Church and Trinity Lutheran Church.

OWLS
OLDER, WISER LUTHERANS
Thursday, November 19 | 10:00 am

The Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) invite you to join us this month for a special service project rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries! Many mission hospitals and rural clinics across the globe face severe supply shortages, making clean rolled bandages essential for daily wound care, securing IV lines, and dressing injuries. Come enjoy fellowship, conversation, and meaningful hands-on work as we prepare these rolls for patients in under served communities. All bandage rolling supplies will be provided. Coffee and cold beverages will be provided—just bring your own mug, a personal snack, or a treat to share with the group!

Children's Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Our Children's Ministry is having a wonderful time growing in faith and learning about God's Word! We are currently exploring the story of Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden, discovering more about God's creation and His love for us.

A big thank you to everyone who helped and participated in Trunk-or-Treat! We are so grateful for all the time, creativity, and support that made this event so much fun for our children and families. Your involvement helps make our church community such a special place!

This Month at a Glance

November 1: Sunday School Class
November 8: Sunday School Class
November 15: Sunday School Sings in Worship
Service Project: Bake Walk
November 22: Sunday School Class
November 29: No Sunday School (Thanksgiving)



Bake Walk for the Food Shelf

Sunday, November 15
10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall

This is a wonderful opportunity for our children to serve people outside our church walls by raising money for Gather & Grow Food Shelf in Watertown. For $1 per ticket, you can participate in the Bake Walk for a chance to win a sweet treat made or contributed by our Sunday School families and other members of Trinity.

Want to contribute a Bake Walk Prize?

Sign up to donate a baked good item (homemade or store bought) at www.trin.org under EVENTS—we are grateful for your support in making this event a success!



Decorating Trinity for Christmas

Sunday, November 29
Join us after worship on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, to help decorate Trinity for Christmas! There will be fun, easy jobs for all ages. Lend a hand and help deck the halls for the season!

Poinsettia Sale

Order by November 29
It's time for Trinity's annual poinsettia sale! Stop by the Welcome Center for a paper order form or visit trin.org/poinsettia to order online.

Advent Suppers & Worship Services

Wednesdays, December 2, 9, 16
Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 pm
Worship at 7:00 pm

Join us for a light meal in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a "Holden Evening Prayer" Advent worship service.



Saint Lucia Tea Open House

Saturday, December 12
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for Trinity's Saint Lucia Tea Open House to enjoy traditional Scandinavian refreshments, festive holiday cheer, and a food drive supporting the Gather & Grow Food Shelf. We need your help to make this celebration a success! Please consider signing up to bake, decorate, or serve at the event by visiting the Trinity Welcome Center or registering online at **www.trin.org/lucia**.

Congregational NEWS

MEMORIALS

in memory of

Beth Malo
General Fund ~ $50

Todd Gulbrandson
General Fund ~ $25

Thank You, Gail Cassidy!

For more than 30 years, Gail Cassidy has been the person who makes sure the church's money is counted, recorded, and where it's supposed to be. Gail handles every bit of it with care, accuracy, confidentiality, and a quiet faithfulness that most of us never see.

Gail has asked that we begin looking for her successor. She doesn't have an end date in mind, and we're not rushing her out the door, but the Church Council agreed to start the search so the transition can be thoughtful and unhurried, with plenty of time for Gail to share what she knows.

We're looking for someone to fill an Accounts Receivable position. If you know someone who is detail-oriented, maintains confidentiality, and wants to serve the church in a meaningful way, send them our way. Interests can be brought to Pastor Adam, Council President Adam Rowan, or to Gail directly.

Gail, thank you. Thirty-plus years of faithful service is a gift to this congregation, and we'll have more chances to say so properly. But, for now, know that we're truly grateful.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

October 20, 2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary
September 2026

Beginning balance 9/1/2026:
-$ **39,288.84**

Operating Fund inc:	$ 26,630.44
Operating Fund exps:	$ 33,368.32
Net balance (Sept.):	-$ 6,737.88

Operating Fund balance as of 9/30/2026: **-$ 46,026.72**

2026 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by $51,173.18.

Capital Improvement Expenses:
None

Cash Summary:

Old National Bank:	$ 30,805.15
(includes $1,653.02 Sept. federal withholding)	
Citizen's Capital Fund:	$ 61,226.36

Comments

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to $1,597.26.
- September Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to $1,060.73 (down about $210 from August).
- Income was up slightly in September while expenses were closer to average.
- Fall programming started with budgeted expenses for Sunday School, TrinFest, and Music.
- Yearly lawn maintenance costs amounted to $1,414.60 ($450 in September).
- Coffee maker repaired twice this year $645.02 ($389 in September).
- Republic sanitation costs went up to $305 in September.

M/S/C Nancy Stello, Kevin Beck, carried

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Adam shared that he and his family feel very welcomed at Trinity! Time has been spent establishing staff meeting routines and worship planning processes. Pastor led the Worship & Music Ministry Team quarterly meeting. He has been engaged in many activities including Confirmation, and the Meet & Greets!

OLD BUSINESS

- Job descriptions are being updated by Pastor Adam and President Adam, with input from staff.
- Motion was made to publicly post the part-time position of Financial Secretary/Accounts Receivable for Trinity to replace Gail Cassidy, who has fulfilled that role for 35+ years!

M/S/C Nancy Stello, Jim Sandquist

NEW BUSINESS

- **Missionary Support** Pastor Adam will present Council with new missionary support options in November.
- **Audit Committee** President Adam will contact potential candidates.
- **Deficit Management** Council discussed possible options including procuring a line of credit, or an internal loan as needed, along with increased stewardship.

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday at Trinity in Partnership with thrivent

Tuesday, December 1

I'm a pastor, not a math guy. My wife had to teach me how to easily calculate a 20% tip. But even I can follow this one.

On Tuesday, December 1, Thrivent Financial will match gifts made to Trinity through their giving page, up to dollar for dollar. That's like finding a twenty in your winter coat, except you get to put it there on purpose.

Our goal is $10,000. The match comes from a shared $3 million pool and is figured after the day ends, so a full match isn't guaranteed. But it's real, and it's one day only.

What a gift like that keeps going:

- A quilt for every baby we baptize and every graduating senior, stitched by hand on Tuesday mornings.
- Outreach Visitors bringing communion, conversation, and letters to members who can't get to church.
- Help for our Watertown neighbors: the Giving Garden, the Gather and Grow food shelf, storage space for Love INC, and snacks and warm clothes for kids at the elementary school.
- Youth who show up on Wednesday nights, serve on mission trips, and pack meals for Feed My Starving Children.
- A truly open communion table, baptisms for anyone and a church family to walk with you through weddings, funerals and all of life's important moments.
- Coffee in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday. Yes, that counts. Ask any Lutheran.

None of that runs on good intentions alone.

How to give:

1. On December 1, scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/TrinityThriventGivingDay2026
2. Donate any amount. You don't need to be a Thrivent member.
3. Set a reminder on your phone right now! The match only applies to gifts made through the Thrivent giving platform on December 1.

Ten thousand dollars sounds big, but we are a lot of people who have never been short on generosity.

Thrivent will match eligible online gifts up to one-to-one from a $3 million pool shared by all participating organizations. Final match amounts are calculated after Giving Tuesday, and a full match is not guaranteed.



Huge Success: $746 Collected in Noisy Offering!

During worship throughout the month of October, Trinity collected an incredible **$746.13** in coins and bills through our Noisy Offering! This gift was donated to Watertown-Mayer Elementary School in support of the Royals Room, which ensures students in need have access to healthy snacks and essential school supplies. Thank you so much for your noisy generosity and amazing support of our local students!

Confirmation Mentor Program

Walk Alongside Trinity's Youth

Looking for an easy, high-impact way to support our youth? We're looking for friendly mentors to pair up with our Confirmation students during Advent and Lent. You don't need to be a Bible scholar—just someone who is ready to listen, share a bit of your own story, and encourage a young person as they explore their faith.

If you're interested in being a mentor or want to learn more, please reach out to Pastor Adam at pastoradam@trin.org. Let's support our youth as they grow in faith together!

Last Month in Pictures

There's so much goodness happening at Trinity! From our Confirmation service and OWLS gatherings to Trunk-or-Treat and our youth collecting food for the shelf, we're spreading God's light in such fun and meaningful ways.









































TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA | www.trin.org

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **ALL SAINTS DAY** **Worship (C)** 9 am **Fellowship** 10 am **Sunday School** 10 am Happy Birthday Pam Olson Gail Singsank Gail Sommerfeld	2 **AA Meeting** 8 pm Happy Birthday Jim Hendricks	3 **Quilters** 9 am Happy Birthday Curt Nelson	4 **Prayer** 12:30 pm **Handbells** 5:30 pm **Confirmation** 6:30 pm **Worship Choir** 6:30 pm **Worship Band** 7:30 pm	5 **Housekeepers** 9 am Happy Birthday Cody Brabec Graham Stutsman	6	7 Happy Birthday Claire Herman Chloe Matson Jacob Matson
8 **Worship** 9 am **Fellowship** 10 am **Sunday School** 10 am Happy Birthday Willow Bottem	9 **Apostles** 8:30 am **Priscilla Circle** 2 pm **AA Meeting** 8 pm Happy Birthday Allyson Thomson	10 **Quilters** 9 am **Finance Committee** 6:30 pm	11 **Prayer** 12:30 pm **Handbells** 5:30 pm **Confirmation** 6:30 pm **Worship Choir** 6:30 pm **Worship Band** 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Bill McCain Wesley Vogel	12 Happy Birthday Deb Anderson	13 Happy Birthday Joy Bolea Robin Durkin	14 Happy Birthday Gus Bottem Bruce Wingert
15 **Worship (C)** 9 am **Fellowship** 10 am **Bake Walk** 10 am Happy Birthday Kari Brueggemeier Shirley Hirsch	16 **AA Meeting** 8 pm Happy Birthday Lori Sieling	17 **Quilters** 9 am **Council Meeting** 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Milo Rosholt Kasen Schmidt	18 **Prayer** 12:30 pm **Handbells** 5:30 pm **Confirmation** 6:30 pm **Worship Choir** 6:30 pm **Worship Band** 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Robyn Behrens Rodney Domjahn	19 **OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans)** 10 am	20 Happy Birthday Reese Otto	21 Happy Birthday Cate Drahos
22 **Worship** 9 am **Fellowship** 10 am **Sunday School** 10 am **Worship & Music Team Mtg.** 10:15 am Happy Birthday Susan Jerde	23 **Apostles** 8:30 am **AA Meeting** 8 pm	24 **Quilters** 9 am	25 **Tidings** 9:30 am **Prayer** 12:30 pm *No Confirmation Class* **Community Thanksgiving Service** 7 pm (at E Free Church) Happy Birthday Mike Empting Jackson Hastings Maxwell Hastings	26 **THANKSGIVING** *Church Office Closed* Happy Birthday Jeff Larson Chad Semeja Evan Singsank Dana Vraspir	27 *Church Office Closed* Happy Birthday Loren Bottem Penny Koets	28 Happy Birthday Nikki Hunkins Avery Olson
29 **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **Worship** 9 am **Fellowship** 10 am *No Sunday School* **Christmas Decorating** 10 am	30 **AA Meeting** 8 pm Happy Birthday Josh Oak					

(C) indicates a Communion Sunday

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

513 MADISON ST SE | PO BOX 1177
WATERTOWN MN 55388
www.trin.org

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Don't Let It Get Under Your Skin

Holidays are meant to bring joy, yet they can easily become stressful. A careless comment, an unmet expectation or a simple misunderstanding may lead to hurt feelings and family tension. Before long, a small disagreement can grow into an argument that overshadows the celebration.

In moments like these, remember the wise teacher who chose to let slights and insults pass. He explained, "I have only one skin, and it covers me very well. I don't let anyone else get under it."

This holiday season, choose patience, extend grace and protect the peace around your table.

www.churchart.com