



TIDINGS

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN, MINNESOTA



Behold, I Make All Things New

Revelation 21:5

I'm not sure of any month that changes more from beginning to end than October. The first few days are usually warm and green, with just a hint of fall colors and smells in the air. But by the time Halloween rolls around, the green has been replaced with orange, yellow, and

red, and the warmth has been replaced by cooler temperatures, frost warnings, and maybe even snow!

Our lives are like that, too. Sometimes change comes slowly, it's almost invisible. Kids might grow an inch or two over a whole year, hardly anything to notice. On the other hand, in a short nine months a person can go from not existing at all to literally being born into a whole new life!

It's a time of change for Trinity Lutheran Church. Sunday School is back in session, choirs are singing, confirmation kids are gathering, and there is a new energy in the air. What about you? Is there new energy in the air for you? At work? At school? In your family? What's new this year? What's missing this year? What changes have come, whether fast or slow? And how are you adjusting to all of that?

In Revelation 21:5, our Lord says these words: "Behold, I make all things new." Old things pass away, new things come our way. And through it all, God is with us, holding us, leading us, guiding us into the new day. Thanks be to God for God's eternal presence!

~ God's Peace, Pastor Engholm



OCTOBER 2024

INSIDE:

Growing Together in God's Love
October Events at Trinity
Children's Ministry
Trunk-or-Treat
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Gather & Grow Food Pantry

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

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?



Our theme at Trinity for the coming program year is "Growing Together in God's Love." The question for the coming year is this: How are YOU going to be a part of this? The details may not be clear, but if you are willing to be intentional about being part of this project, please write your name on a leaf that will be in bowl next to the Barn Wall upstairs in the Gathering Hall. After you write your name on the leaf, stick it up on the wall as a statement of faith for the days ahead: YES, I want to grow together in God's love with the rest of the Trinity congregation!



Fall Cleanup Day at Trinity
Sunday, October 6
1:00 - 4:00 pm

We need YOUR help to keep our church looking beautiful! On Sunday, October 6, we'll be gathering to prune the shrubs and tidy up our church grounds. Let's come together, enjoy some fellowship, and make a difference. Please bring your work gloves, trimmers and pruners if you have them, and let's show that many hands truly do make light work! See you there for some fun, fresh air, and a chance to give back to our church community!



Youth Ministry Bake Walk
Sunday, October 6
10:00 am

Have a sweet tooth? Want to contribute toward the cost of high school youth group ministry events? Have we got an event for you! Please join us for a "Bake Walk" after worship on Sunday, October 6 in the Fellowship Hall. For \$1 per ticket, you can participate in a bake walk for a chance to win a sweet treat (made or contributed by our high school youth group and other members of Trinity). Proceeds will help defray the costs of upcoming Youth Ministry activities and events.

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.



Please join the Trinity OWLS (Older, Wiser Lutherans) for a Mystery Trip on Thursday, October 17. We'll meet in the Trinity parking lot at 10:00 am and carpool to a destination about 30 minutes from Watertown. Those who want to stay for lunch can find a place in the area to grab a bite to eat. Curious about our destination? Here's a hint: "O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home."

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Update



Have you ever been on a road trip? When we think of road trips, we might think of gas station snacks, singing along to our favorite songs, and taking in the sights — but when the Israelites went on a “road trip” of their own through the wilderness, it was a little less glamorous. Okay, it was a lot less glamorous. In this series, we’ll introduce kids to some of God’s “rules of the road”, from Moses and the ten commandments all the way to what Jesus called the Greatest Commandment — to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Together, we’ll discover that we can love God and others by putting God first, worshipping God, loving our families, and loving everyone.

This Month In Sunday School

October 6: Sunday School will begin at 10:20 am so that families can take part in the Bake Walk happening in the Fellowship Hall that morning.

October 13: Regular Class

October 20: No Sunday School (MEA Break)

October 27: Regular Class (and then come back to church between 1:00 - 3:00 pm for Trunk-or-Treat!)

Volunteer with Sunday School

Our Sunday School lessons are led by a rotation of wonderful volunteers and we can always use more help. Please contact Chelsea Farniok at cfarniok@trin.org if you’re interested in volunteering.



Trunk-or-Treat

Sunday, October 27

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Trinity families, friends and neighbors are invited to “trunk-or-treat” from vehicle to vehicle in the Trinity parking lot. There will be treats, apple cider, bounce houses, and fun for all ages! Start decorating your vehicle and choosing your costumes for an afternoon of fun at Trinity!

We are looking for volunteers to:

- decorate a trunk
- help with various event activities
- help setup / serve the food
- help with clean up after the event
- donate candy

If you can help with any of these items, please sign up at www.trin.org under **EVENTS**.



Noisy Offering

Make a joyful noise in October and support the Watertown-Mayer Royals Room!

The children of Trinity will collect loose change during worship services in the month of October. (Dollar bills will also be accepted, although they don’t make as much noise when dropped into the collection cans!) This special offering will go to the Watertown-Mayer Elementary School Royals Room, which provides healthy snacks and school supplies to students.

Congregational NEWS

PASTORAL ACTS

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

Sandra Jones

March 14, 1940 ~ August 29, 2024

Graveside Service on

September 13, 2024

Rite of Confirmation

Celebrate with the following students as they affirm their baptisms at their Rite of Confirmation service on Sunday, October 13.

Jackson Bauernfeind

Daniel Empting

Paige Erickson

Matthew Gallus

Abigail Lohmann

Audrey Neaton

Reese Otto

Olivia Salonek



Take a moment this month to reflect on Trinity's blessings and thank Pastor Jeff for his part in them.

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

September 17, 2024

FINANCIAL REPORT

Operating Fund summary August 2024

Beginning balance 8/1/2024:

-\$ 26,100.71

Operating Fund income: \$31,616.48

Operating Fund exps: \$29,256.48

Net balance (August): \$ 2,360.00

Operating Fund balance as of 8/31/2024: **-\$ 23,740.71**

2024 operating fund EXPENSES exceeded INCOME by **\$23,228.79.**

Building Fund expenses:

Internal loan payment: \$5,000.00

Mortgage loan balance: \$30,000.00

Cash Summary:

Bremer: \$58,028.49

(includes \$1,508.38 for Aug. federal withholding)

Citizen's Building Fund: \$100,178.48

Comments:

- 6% of operating fund income for benevolence to Minneapolis Area synod amounted to \$1,894.26.
- Xcel bill for fuel and electricity amounted to \$921.97 (down about \$165 from July).

M/S/C Nancy Stello / Ryan Ress / carried

GUEST SPEAKER

Guest Ken Johnson from Watertown Area Historical Society provided information about WAHS and their programs and services.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Jeff Engholm shared about the program year kick-off with the return of Sunday School, choirs, bands, confirmation, and coffee/treats after church in the Fellowship Hall. The new A/V equipment has been installed and training is taking place! We plan to host our first livestreamed church service on Sunday, September 29! New this year: "Fall Cleanup Day" will be Sunday, October 6 from 1-4 pm. "Trunk or Treat" will be Sunday, October 27th at 1:00 with more details to follow.

NEW BUSINESS

- Health insurance for Pastor Jeff was presented by Mary Jech and approved.
M/S/C Corky Ibeling / Nancy Stello / carried
- Discussion regarding the bell from Nylunda Church was tabled.
- The Council is working towards their goals set at their annual retreat.



Trinity is Now Livestreaming Worship!

Trinity has just taken one step deeper into the online world! At a special congregational meeting last fall, we decided to invest in new equipment that would enable us to livestream our Sunday morning worship services. By the time you read this newsletter, we will already have made the shift to this new way of broadcasting our Sunday services and widening the impact of our ministry. To be clear, we have been online since March 2020, when the pandemic forced us to move out of our building and onto the internet for worship. But since then, all of our services have been recorded in the middle of the week and played back on Sunday mornings. Now the people worshipping with us at home will literally be worshipping with us at home!

Many thanks to all who have supported this project with gifts of prayer and financial contributions. Thanks also to the members of our Audio Visual Team who have been guiding this project: Robyn Behrens, Jason Koets, Thomas McMahon, Dan Sieling, Dustin Stutsman, and Dana Vraspir.

Gather & Grow: Watertown Food Shelf News

The Watertown Food Shelf is now under new leadership and a new name – Angie Cruzan is the new director of "Gather and Grow". This new food pantry is still located at the same location, but it is now connected to the food pantry in Waconia. So it's actually ONE food pantry at TWO sites.

On Wednesday, October 9, you are invited to an Open House at Gather and Grow at the Watertown Community Center from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. And on Sunday, October 20, Angie will be joining us for worship to bring an update of how this new food pantry will continue to provide support for those in need in our community.



GATHER AND GROW **OPEN HOUSE**
Wednesday, October 9
5:30 - 7:30 pm
309 Lewis Ave S, Watertown, MN

Tour the facility, grab a treat and a lemonade, join in the kids activities, donate a food item. **Ribbon Cutting at 6:30 pm**



UPCOMING EVENT

Paint & SIP

Thursday, November 14
7:00 – 9:00 pm
Trinity Fellowship Hall

\$30 per person

Reservations Required. Please reserve your spot by November 7. Call the church office (952-955-1891) or sign up online at www.trin.org under EVENTS.

 **Join us for an evening of painting and socializing.**

You're invited to a Paint & Sip event that promises fun and creativity for all. No painting experience necessary! Enjoy a glass of wine and refreshments as you unleash your creativity. Local artist Emily Victory will provide step-by-step guidance, making it easy for you to create your very own masterpiece. All art supplies are included, so just bring yourself and a friend for a night filled with painting, socializing, and connecting. This 21+ event is the perfect way to unwind and tap into your artistic side. Don't miss out—reserve your spot today!

➤➤➤ Last month in Pictures

We kicked-off Trinity's program year with Sunday School classes, to-do lists for the Apostles, choir and band rehearsals, and preparations for the upcoming Rite of Confirmation service. Shine On!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Quilting 9 am Happy Birthday Lydia Fails Audrey Neaton	2 Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Youth Mtg. 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Chrissy Johnson Amanda Kohls Julia Salzsiedler	3 Housekeepers 9 am Happy Birthday David Olson Jeff Tronnes	4 Happy Birthday David Olson Jeff Tronnes	5 Happy Birthday Emily Hecksel Anita Huber Hal Pysick
6 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Bake Walk 10 am Sunday School 10 am Fall Clean Up 1-4 pm Happy Birthday Kristine Erickson Jackson Jones Alden Sandquist Cathy Vanderbilt	7 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Tracie Hill Matt Williams	8 Quilting 9 am Happy Birthday Ryan Hallermann Ethan McCleary	9 Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Gary Harding Ed Rundell	10 Finance Committee 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Patrick Essen Ronna Ritter	11 Happy Birthday Nicole Gohman	12 Happy Birthday Nicole Gohman
13 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Rite of Confirmation Worship 10:30 am Happy Birthday Steven Markgraf William Stenson	14 Priscilla Circle 2 pm AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Anna Barfknecht Joshua Guetzkow	15 Quilting 9 am Church Council Mtg. 6:30 pm Happy Birthday Laura Hagelin Luke Stutsman	16 FCA Breakfast 7 am Prayer 12:30 pm No Confirmation Class Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Eliot Fautsch Thomas Lindberg	17 OWLS 10 am Happy Birthday Isabela Christensen Jason Emmons Mary Paschke	18 Happy Birthday Rob Lohmann Val McCain	19 Happy Birthday Austin Barfknecht Elaine Beckstrom Stacy Guetzkow
20 Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am No Sunday School Happy Birthday Emmett Danielson Sawyer Ritter	21 AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Zackary Eliason Arlin Sieling	22 Quilting 9 am Happy Birthday Sarah Barfknecht Nick Neaton Joy Rundell	23 Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Jill Matson Nancy Stello	24 Tidings 9:30 am Happy Birthday Vivian Stenson	25 Happy Birthday Paul Christensen Jordyn Prigge	26 Happy Birthday Daniel Gjertson Matt Scanlon Leif Schmidt
27 REFORMATION SUNDAY Worship 9 am Fellowship 10 am Sunday School 10 am Trunk-or-Treat 1:00-3:00 pm Happy Birthday Dru Illies Dale Loehrs Marilyn Weiland	28 Apostles 8:30 am AA Meeting 8 pm Happy Birthday Allison Neaton Mary Sloan	29 Quilting 9 am Happy Birthday Scott Phearman Stephanie Semeja	30 Blood Drive 10 am Prayer 12:30 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Worship Choir 6:30 pm Worship Band 7:30 pm Happy Birthday Scott Phearman Stephanie Semeja	31 Downtown Trick or Treat 4 pm Happy Birthday Matthew Gallus		



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

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The Mess of Mercy

The reformer Martin Luther once dreamed that he saw Jesus approaching his door. Luther panicked, seeing that his home was an absolute disaster inside. "How am I going to let the Lord of Life, Jesus Christ, come into a mess like this?" he wondered.

Luther raced to clean up, but the mess only increased. As Jesus knocked, Luther was resigned. "Come on in, if you think you can come into a place like this," he told Jesus ... only to turn around and see that everything was now in order. All Luther had to do was let Jesus enter.

"Mercy is always a messy business," writes pastor Daniel Emery Price at 1517.org. That's true of the Reformation, just as it was when Jesus cleared moneychangers out of the temple. "There will always be those who condemn the mercy because of the mess," notes Price. "Reformation is always about clearing the path to God's radical grace."