

Good News!

NOVEMBER
2011

TRINITY UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
658 Grand Avenue, Waukegan IL 60085-4156

Volume 18
Issue 11

We thank God... a focus on blessing, gifts, and the stewardship of our resources

Coming to Trinity United Lutheran Church, Waukegan!

God is generous! Wonderful things are happening in our church. God's Word is being proclaimed and we are sharing our lives together doing Christ's work in this world. It is all about God's Grace!



Now let's see what God is doing!

Over the next month our congregation will think together about God's gifts and our Christian response to this amazing Grace. You are asked to come to worship each week.



On **Stewardship Sunday, November 20**, we will all be asked to make a financial pledge (estimate of giving) for the coming year. We will celebrate God's generosity! It is important for all of us to reflect on our personal giving to God's work in this Church. How can we grow personally and as a congregation in response to God's Grace? What is God calling me to give? How does my offering reflect my own belief in a generous God?

A "Thanksgiving meal" to celebrate God's generosity will follow worship...stay tuned, because we're still working out the details. But plan on delicious food and great conversation. You are warmly encouraged to attend.



Our stewardship ministry continues to focus on God. Your generous response will provide the resources to build our ministries together.

God is at work in this congregation, this community, the Metro Chicago Synod, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Gather your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

— 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 —

Pastoral Ponderings

A story on giving...

One day, while walking through the downtown, a man sees in a store window the most beautiful, the largest, most magnificent pearl he has ever seen. Instantly he knows he must have it. So he enters the store and an old guy enters from the door to the rear of the showroom. The man addresses the storekeeper, "I want that pearl. How much is it?"

The storekeeper says, "How much you got?"

"Well, I have \$300 in my pocket."

"Good, I'll take that. What else you got?"

"Well, I have a Chevy Suburban outside, low mileage, about 2 years old, paid off."

"Good, I'll take that too. What else you got?"

"Well, I have two CD's worth about \$18,000."

"Good," says the storekeeper, "I'll take those too. What else you got?"

This goes on and on. The man gives away his house, his property, even his family. Until finally the storekeeper says, "Okay, here. The pearl is yours."

The man turns to leave the store. But as he is walking out the storekeeper stops him and says, "Hey, you know what? that family of yours? I don't need a family. So I'm going to give them back to you. But remember, they are mine

now, not yours. You must take good care of them. And that house in Connecticut, well, I don't need a house so you can have that back too. Although it does belong to me, I just want you to care for it. And as for the CD's and the stocks and the Suburban and even this \$300, you can have it all back too. But remember, it is all mine. Take it. Use it wisely. Care for it for me."

So the man left with everything he had when he walked into the store plus the great pearl. But there was a big difference. He walked into the store owning everything he had. He walked out owning nothing. Instead, everything he had before was now a gift.

-- Juan Carlos

During November we will once again reflect on the gifts God has entrusted to us, and think about both stewardship and church budgets. In a short time you will receive a special letter asking for you to remember the gifts you've received from God. In response, please prayerfully fill out the enclosed cards with your commitment of time, talent, and money.

This is a critical time in Trinity's ministry. Thanks for your partnership in the gospel.

In Christ; Pastor Rich Grudt

We are indebted — to All the Saints

Luther once wrote, "If you believe the words of Christ, you are a saint as well as St. Peter and all the other saints; for, depend on it, Christ will not lie to you. Therefore if you do not say: I have as much as St. Peter and am as saintly as St. Peter, then you are ungrateful to your Lord Jesus." On **Sunday, November 6th** in worship we will remember all the saints, especially those who have gone on to be with their Lord this past year (since last All Saint's day), including: **Harry Barthelman, John Beales, Marie Roberts, and Sandy Sorenson.**

We will also give thanks for all those names listed by our members in our book of remembrance during the month of October. They are not "gone;" they are not "lost." We will remember the mark they made on our lives, and give thanks again to God for their blessing in our lives.

We encourage you to come and remember the witness of all the saints this weekend, as we lift up their faith and the hope we all share in Christ Jesus our Lord.



Church Council Highlights

Trinity United church council met October 18, 2011. Following are highlights of this meeting:

- Formed a Task force to start planning "Fun Fest 2012": Bernard Ben-Carew, Terry Oldfield, Gene Sanderlin, Nancy Bjerstedt, John Hansen. Members from the congregation and Sagrado Corazon will be added.
- Discussed the large water consumption and bill which the city has called to Trinity's attention. Gene Sanderlin and Bernard Ben-Carew will meet with the city representative and trace down the water lines and users.
- Asked the Resource Team to investigate and recommend changing our electrical supplier.
- Ministry teams need to submit their 2012 budgets at the November council meeting.
- Terry Oldfield and Bonnie Hellickson will be interviewing Trinity staff personnel regarding how they can improve their jobs such as with additional help, reducing conflicts and better interface with the council.
- Discussed the stewardship program and temple talks with the possibility of a potluck brunch on November 20.

Trinity United council meets **Tuesday, November 8th** at **7:00 PM** in Larson Hall. Members and guests are welcome to attend.

Giving Thanks with our Community

This year Trinity United will join with three other community churches for Thanksgiving Eve worship on **Wednesday, November 23** at 7 p.m. at Memorial United Methodist Church, 2935 Sheridan Road Zion, Illinois Besides Memorial United Methodist, we will be joined by St. Mark's Lutheran, Winthrop Harbor United Methodist Church, North Prairie United Methodist Church and Yorkhouse United Methodist churches. Trinity needs to provide one lay reader – see Pastor Rich if you can help. Offerings collected will be split between COOL and Love INC, and a joint choir will be featured. Please join with your friends as neighbors as we worship together, giving thanks for our many blessings.

November Lessons & Themes

The following information is provided for your personal study and reflection:

November 6

ALL SAINTS
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 13

PENTECOST 22
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 20

CHRIST THE KING
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 27

PENTECOST 19
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7m 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Our Vision

Trinity United is a **welcoming community** where everyone matters.

We are **centered in Jesus Christ** and the Holy Scripture, rooted in tradition and open to the future.

We value **vibrant, creative, and meaningful worship**.

We **value our partners in ministry** – other churches, local aid groups, and global service organizations – and seek to be known as a congregation that meets the needs of our neighbors.

**November
Loose Offering
Designated for
C.O.O.L. Ministries**





Notes from Josh

One of my favorite overlooked Frank Sinatra songs is the 1968 ballad “Cycles”. Sinatra portrays a guy who’s lost his gal and his job, and he responds stoically:

“There isn’t much that I have learned
through all my foolish years,
Except that life keeps runnin’ in cycles
– first there’s laughter, then those
tears.”

As humans, we seem to live inside various neverending cycles. We watch the seasons gradually bleed into one another, or the health of the economy rise and fall, and we often feel like all we can do is ride out the next change. Because we’re so attuned to these cycles, our Church’s calendar follows a similar, unending pattern. On November 20, Christ the King Sunday, we end the church year by looking ahead to Christ’s appearance in the Last Days, only to begin a new year the following Sunday, with the start of Advent, when we look ahead to Christ’s appearance in Bethlehem. The end of the year looks ahead to the beginning, the beginning flows inevitably to the end, and it all keeps happening over and over.

Except... the Church’s cycle is different from Frank Sinatra’s. (What a relief!) Our

cycle contains a great rupture – some theologians say a “scandal” – in the person of Jesus. On Christ the King Sunday, our Gospel lesson from Matthew recalls Jesus the King’s famous words, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.” When we feed, clothe, shelter, or befriend anyone (including down-and-out Sinatra types), we also do it to Jesus. This means that the infant we eagerly await at Christmas – “Immanuel”, “God With Us” – is already here among us. We celebrate his incarnation in our fellow human beings, even as we anticipate meeting him, as if for the first time. The Church Year is a cycle whose focus – Jesus – constantly breaks the cycle and makes it new.

Two of our November choir anthems invite us to meditate on this great cycle. Anne Krentz Organ’s “Come, You That are Blessed By God” sets Matthew’s words to a majestic melody. And Austin Lovelace’s setting of the Polish Advent carol “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” also looks ahead to Christ’s kingly reign. As we implore, “Now thy gracious kingdom bring,” we also ask that we might see that kingdom, here and now, in all the “least of these” that we meet.

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, November 1st** at 7:00 p.m.
THE RESOURCE TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, November 1st** at 6:00 p.m.

November ‘Toon



HEALTH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?
Contact Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Email: carolejohnson3@sbcglobal.net

Circle Schedule

Abigail Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, **November 15** at 7:00 PM
Deborah Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, **November 15** at 7:00 PM
Rachel Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month, **November 16** at 7:30 PM
Rebekah Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, **November 9** at 1:00 PM
Sisters of Eve meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, **November 1** at 7:00 PM

NOVEMBER CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Hostess — *Deborah*
Devotions & Visitation — *Rebekah*
Service — *Abigail*



Chili Supper Benefit Fund Raiser For C.O.O.L. Food Pantry November 17, 2011

\$6.00 per person (Carry out available)
Serving Time: 3:30 to 7:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
3350 N Delany Road, Waukegan

MENU

Chili, French Bread, Crackers
Coffee or Lemonade and Dessert
Questions? Call Lucille Tolonen 847-662-4417

All are encouraged to bring **canned goods and non-perishable food items** for the C.O.O.L. food pantry. Also, a jar will be set up to receive extra cash or checks (made out to C.O.O.L.)

**Trinity United
COOL Food of the Month:
Pasta**

Trinity United Women of the E.L.C.A.

Trinity United women meet Monday, November 7th at 7:00 p.m. for a general meeting. Pat from Pope's Florist will show designs and arrangements for the coming holidays. Bring a friend to the program and the fellowship afterwards.

S.A.G.E.S. Visits Mars Cheese Castle

Trinity's SAGES (Senior Adults Going Everywhere Sharing) will meet **Thursday, November 17** at Mars Cheese Castle for lunch and a tour. All SAGES events are open to all members and their friends. Sign up at church if you plan to attend.

Aebleskiver Day Saturday, November 5, 2011 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Carry outs available 847-336-4891
Redeemer Lutheran Church
620 Grove Avenue, Waukegan
Visit the Country Store for
Baked Goods & Crafts

COOL 5K
5K RUN & WALK // 11.26.11

COOL 5K Run & Walk November 26, 2011

**Old School Forest Preserve, Shelter C,
Libertyville IL**
To benefit COOL Food Pantry & Transitional Housing programs in Lake County
8:00 a.m. Registration; 9:00 a.m. Race
\$25.00 plus online registration fee. Sign up at www.getmeregistered.com.
Participants are asked to bring several items (or a bag full of) non-perishable food items to help stock the COOL Food Pantry.
Sponsored by St. James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest. Additional funding by Thrivent Financial.

I Million Meals to be Packed

“He judged the cause of the poor and needy; then it was well with him: was not this to know me, says the Lord.”
Jeremiah 22:16

Feed my starving Children (FMSC) is a Christian non-profit organization committed to feeding God’s starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals formulated specifically for starving children, and FMSC ships the meals to nearly 70 countries around the world thanks to the work of more than 416,000 volunteers.

Trinity United will volunteer to help pack these meals at the Lake County fairgrounds **Saturday, December 3**, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. This is not a difficult physical task – young and old alike are welcome to help. Please sign up in Larson hall. Please note: **ONLY 25 SLOTS HAVE BEEN RESERVED**, so sign up early. Volunteers are also encouraged to donate \$30 each for the cost of materials.

Finding Peace in This House

Saturday, November 12 at 7:00 PM
TICKETS ARE FREE *First come, first served.*
Refreshments will be served.
The First Christian Church
6080 Gages Lake Road, Gurnee IL

A person’s “house” can represent many things—a terror-filled home, a body that abandons you, a haunting past, or even a literal prison cell. Come hear the powerful true stories of six people struggling to find peace in their house...despite the shadows that lurk in the corners. *Finding Peace in this House* is presented by Erasing the Distance in collaboration with The Chicago School of Professional Psychology, the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, and the Chicago Office of Tourism and Culture. Erasing the Distance is a not-for-profit organization that sheds light on mental illness through theatre. Founded in 2005, Erasing the Distance has reached over 25,000 audience members with their unique theatrical productions designed to disarm stigma, stimulate dialogue, and ignite the healing process.

Have we forgotten God?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

Intoxicated with unbroken success we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole of the American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.

—Abraham Lincoln, 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation



**Turn your clocks back for
Sunday, November 6th**

Gratitude

Thanksgiving helps us to remember the things we have to be grateful for. It's our special time to give thanks... not just for the obvious, like food, but for the thousands of fortunate moments, the multitude of blessings that we receive each year. That's not always as easy as it sounds. We tend to remember the bad things much more easily than the good. Consider the following tips to make thankfulness an everyday habit. — a skill that will benefit you throughout the year.

Keep a gratitude journal. Don't write down negative things; only positive ones. For example, "I'm grateful that I made it through that heavy rush hour traffic safely." "I'm grateful that I got to see a beautiful sunset." **Think of all the good things that happened because something bad happened first.** For example, "If that slow driver hadn't pulled in front of me, I would have gotten a speeding ticket."

Don't focus on what you don't have. Focus on what you do have. For example: "I'm so fortunate to have a warm place to sleep in the winter." "I'm so fortunate to live in a safe neighborhood where I can take walks." "I'm so fortunate to be able to see the beauty around me."

Think about people you've known that have made you thankful for their existence. They can be family, friends or simply people that you've read about or seen on television. Imagine how many other people there are who might be equally as wonderful...you just haven't met them yet. **Think about people who have made life hard for you.** Now think about the things you accomplished because of them. Did you finish something because they said that you couldn't? Did their cruel actions make you vow never to treat others that way? Even the negative forces in your life can be hidden blessings, worthy of your gratitude.

Think about the animals that have given you joy: Dogs that love you with every inch of their hearts, cats that think your lap is the best place to nap in the whole world, birds whose songs uplift your spirit, and so on. **Think about the places that make you smile:** Your home, a wooded trail, an exciting city, a great spot from which to view the sky, a hill that you once rolled down. Give thanks for all these things.

Pass it on. True gratitude involves action. Lend a hand. Pitch in. Make a gift. Give your time. Listen. Give back as often as you can. Even a friendly greeting can make all the difference in the world.

Create your own opportunities for gratitude. Do you know someone who seems unhappy? Be ready with a smile and a kind word each time you see them. It may require patience, but eventually, they'll smile first when they see you. Your interactions with them will become pleasant. And guess what? You'll have a new reason to be thankful!

Let others know when they've done something that you're thankful for. An attitude of gratitude spreads like ripples from a tossed pebble, bene-fitting all it touches.

Remember that hard times make good times sweeter. Obstacles and challenges not only make you stronger, but they force you to explore out-side of the comfortable routine that you've settled into. Without challenges, there can be no progress. Without obstacles, there can be no achievement. Be thankful for the opportunities that they provide.

Giving thanks is a powerful tool that can dramatically improve your life and the lives of those around you. Make it a habit!

Gestures of Gratitude

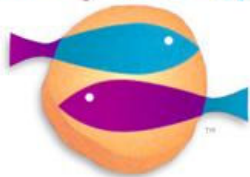
In 2005, a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines just east of the Farallon Islands, off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. When rescuers arrived, they determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.

The rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers: She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.

Sharing God's Gifts



The Bible According to Kids

Children say the funniest things about Scripture. Here are a few examples:

- "In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."
- "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients."
- "The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."
- "The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."
- "When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."



Create this festive sign, which will serve as a yearlong reminder to be grateful.

What you need:

- Hole punch
- Large piece of cardboard or cardstock
- Twine
- Twigs
- Glue
- Acorns, leaves (real or silk) and raffia

What you do:

1. Punch two holes in the top of the cardboard.
2. Thread twine through the holes and tie it in a knot (for hanging).
3. Using twigs, spell out "Be Thankful," "Thank God" or a similar phrase about gratitude. Glue the twigs onto the cardboard.
4. Decorate the sign by gluing on acorns, leaves and raffia.
5. Hang up your sign. Whenever you see it, think of something for which you're grateful to God.



Thanksgiving:

Thank you dear Lord
 For this day
 For the children
 As they run and play —
 Thank you for
 Our warm home
 Our clothes we wear
 For the places we roam —
 See Thy beauty everywhere
 Help us Lord to 'nare forget
 All you gave that we
 May live in peace and love
 Someday dear Lord with Thee —

Praise God! — **Nancy Mathis**

Sympathy & Prayers to

- ♥ Joe & Desi Cole, family & friends on the death of Desi's brother, John G. Wynn Jr.
- ♥ Richard Nelson, family & friends on the death of Richard's brother Dennis.

Five Kernals

The Plymouth Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in fall 1621, but by the next May, their food supply was depleted. The harvest of 1622 was a failure, and the Pilgrims often lived for days on just a few kernels of corn.

Amid a drought in 1623, the people sought divine intervention. After praying for nine hours on a hot July day, they were blessed with a two-week rainfall. Edward Winslow wrote, "It was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most quickened and revived." The Pilgrims never went hungry again.

Start a Thanksgiving tradition by placing five kernels of corn at each place setting. Point out a blessing that each kernel represents. For example:

1. God loves us.
2. God provides for all our needs.
3. God gives us friends, just as the Indians befriended the Pilgrims.
4. God hears and answers our prayers.
5. God is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Then have family members share five things for which they're grateful.

November Birthdays

Niemi, William	11/1
Sanderlin, Gene	11/1
Windberg, Jean	11/2
DeLa Pena, Vanessa	11/3
Cook, Patricia	11/7
Shaffer, Aaron	11/7
Shepard, Douglas	11/9
McKnight, Nariah	11/10
Mathews, Mary	11/11
Elsbury, James	11/12
Gehrt, Benjamin	11/14
Van Geem, John	11/15
Porthouse, Jacquelyn	11/16
Newborn, Danny	11/20
Rautanen, David	11/22
Jelovsek, Mildred	11/28
McCulloch, Linda	11/29
Johnson, Carole	11/29
Smith, Lara	11/30

November Anniversary

Thomas & Jacquelyn Porthouse (63) 11/6

Thank You

A special "thank you" to so many people who sent me cards, flowers and offered prayers for my recovery. It is very heartwarming to have so many friends. Thank you and God Bless You — **Ed Nelson**

New Baby!



Congratulations to

- ♥ Katie & John Szostak on the arrival of their first child, daughter **Logan Grace Szostak**, born October 2, 2011, 8 lbs. 1 oz. and 21 inches.

**December
 Newsletter Deadline is
 November 10, 2011**



**TRINITY UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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Waukegan IL 60085-4156

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2011-2012 CHURCH COUNCIL

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John Hansen, vice president
Helga Larsen, secretary

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Joe Cole	Bob Johnson
Ben Gehrt	Allen Layburn
Marilyn Hall	Terry Oldfield
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MINISTRY STAFF

Richard A. Grudt, *Pastor*
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Joshua Langhoff, *Director of Music Ministries,*
Organist & Choir Director

Lea Langhoff, *Bell Choir Director*

Judy Salyer, *Administrative Assistant*

Karen Varsek, *Treasurer*

Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, *Volunteer Parish Nurse*

Gene Sanderlin, *Maintenance Manager*



Come, Grow, Serve

Sunday 9:30 a.m. worship
(Communion — 1st & 3rd Sundays)

Sunday School 11:00 a.m.