

Good News!

OCTOBER
2011

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

Volume 18
Issue 10

Cooperative Ministries Offer Unique Opportunity



Trinity United & Sagrado Corazon unite to offer bi-lingual Sunday School at 11:00 a.m. between worship services.



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.

Pastoral Ponderings

COLORED PEOPLE

Some people shine. You know what I mean. They have a glow, a force. They seem to radiate energy. Others -- their very essence seems dull, like any sharpness has been worn down by loss, or disappointment, or day-to-day struggle. But in each of us, I believe, remains light and color.

October 7th was my Mom's birthday. When I lived in Michigan's Upper Peninsula I loved that date for another reason...it tended to be the peak of the fall colors, and they were stunning. I lived there for six years, including the first five of my marriage. The landscape was continuously changing, especially the colors - from the browns, blacks, and grays of naked forests, to the white of snow and ice, to the light green of early spring, to the darker, more varied greens of summer...to those brilliant oranges, reds, and yellows of the Fall colors. The full spectrum was stunning.

Now, I understand about chlorophyll and how those brilliant colors are present in the leaves all along, only hidden. But I still found it amazing, even startling as each year, beginning as early as August, there would be little dollops of color, on the tallest tree branches, which the cold winds touch first. The number of spots would increase, then there would be swatches of color, like a brush stroke, then whole hillsides would erupt in luminosity. These bright colors were always there, but were hidden.

In our midweek bible study we reread Jesus' parable on the final judgment (Matthew 25) and the sheep and the goats. You may remember the Son of Man comes and people are separated into two groups: the sheep - who have cared for the hungry, the thirsty, the prisoner, and the sick; and the goats - who have not. It can be seen as a basic morality tale which encourages us to be "good" by serving others. And we can feel guilty because of all the things we're not doing. But that's not the radical message of the passage. That's found in the **why**. The reason we are supposed to care and help is because found in each person in need is the Son of Man himself. Jesus is present - the light of the world, even in the darkest places.

What would it mean if we saw Christ present in each one we encounter? I'm not advocating some fairy tale understanding, that every person is kind or good or godly. No, in fact I believe we are all sinful, capable of righteousness but often falling short. But we are also all forgiven, as much as we turn to God for mercy. And we are capable of amazing compassion and creativity and community - light. And pure light contains all the colors of the spectrum. All our colors united together - hidden, revealed, transformed by the one who can still bring brilliance from our faded leaves.

In Christ — Pastor Rich

END TIMES

Bible Study Proves Popular

Eighteen curious souls have been meeting every Wednesday from 10:00 - 11:15 a.m. to explore what the Bible really says about the End Times, Jesus' return, the books of Revelation and Daniel. So far topics have included "What Jesus said about the End Times," and "Theology of the Rapture and the Apocalypse." This study will run through October and welcomes other curious Georges and Richs.

Northern Lake County CROP Hunger Walk 2011 Sunday, October 16 — 10K Walk

Registration: 12:30 p.m. at St. Anastasia Roman Catholic Church, Waukegan. Step-off anytime after you have registered. Contact **Ken Endress** (847-746-2148) to become a sponsored WALKER or to SPONSOR a walker.



Church Council

This month, Trinity United council meets one week later on **Tuesday, October 18th at 7:00 PM** in the Library/Conference Room. Members and guests are welcome to attend.



Movie Night Returns

Trinity's popular Movie Night resumes on **Saturday, October 15th** at 5:30 p.m. in Larson Hall. A light supper will be served before the movie. More information will follow in the worship bulletin announcements.

Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday, **October 2nd**, at 4 pm in the Janet Morrison Picnic Center located in Bowen Park, 1917 N. Sheridan Road in Waukegan, Trinity will join with other downtown churches in a traditional "Blessing of the animals." Participating congregations include Christ Episcopal, First Congregational, St. John's United Church of Christ and First Methodist. Following a brief ceremony of thanksgiving for the welfare of all animals, families of participating congregations and the general public are invited to present their securely caged or leashed pets to receive an individual blessing from one of the members of the clergy. Refreshments for all will follow.

Remembering all the Saints

More is being planned this year in conjunction with All Saints Sunday, including a "Book of Remembrance" that all members will be encouraged to write in, listing loved ones who have died. The names from this book, which will be available on all Sundays in October, will be remembered on All Saints Sunday (**November 6**).

Also Pastor Rich has offered to meet members at the graves of their loved ones for a short prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance. Contact the church office for more information.

October Lessons & Themes

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

October 2

PENTECOST 16
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 9

PENTECOST 17
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16

PENTECOST 18
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
1 Thessaalonians 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22

October 23

PENTECOST 19
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 30

REFORMATION SUNDAY
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36



Hunger Facts:

Over 1 billion people are hungry worldwide.

- ◆ That's one out of every seven people in the world.
- ◆ Each day almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes — one every five seconds.
- ◆ People are hungry in the United States, too. If all 36.2 million Americans faced with food insecurity stood in line at a food pantry in New York, the line would stretch to Los Angeles and back. Twice.

A Long Life Assured

Do you ever feel like the person who exclaimed, "God put me on Earth to accomplish a certain number of things, and right now I'm so far behind, I'll live forever!?"

**October
Loose Offering
Designated for
CROP Hunger Walk**





Notes from Josh

Our October readings include two stories of the Pharisees -- sort of the legalistic strawmen of the Gospels -- trying to trick Jesus with words. In the 22nd chapter of Matthew's Gospel, these church leaders ask Jesus whether it's right to pay taxes, and what he considers the greatest commandment of the Law. Jesus offers wise answers, and his message is clear: God's Kingdom can't be constrained by human law. As former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee once said in a political debate, "Jesus had the good sense never to run for public office."

That said, God's Word often calls us to actions that fly in the face of the political and economic mainstream. In the holiness code of Leviticus 19, Moses tells the Israelites that they shouldn't be too thorough at harvest time: "Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner." And though Martin Luther was against large scale communism (with a small "c"), he also spoke out against companies that hoarded goods in order to raise prices, a practice that increased profits but harmed the poor. God's hand often leads us to tamper with the "Invisible Hand" of the marketplace.

We hear a similar admonition in "Let Us Go Now to the Banquet", a hymn that comes to us

from the political turmoil of 1970s-era El Salvador. In this vision of heavenly Eucharist, hymnwriter Guillermo Cuéllar writes:

*God invites all the poor and hungry to the banquet of justice and good
Where the harvest will not be hoarded so that no one will lack for food.*

When he wrote this hymn, Cuéllar lived in a country on the brink of civil war. The government was murdering its citizens and torturing protesters. But Cuéllar's music remains cheerful, and his song encourages citizens to live out their heavenly citizenship in the world:

*May we build such a place among us where all people are equal in love.
God has called us to work together and to share everything we have.*

Our nation's problems aren't as abject as those El Salvador has faced, but they're still plenty big. As we enter a long campaign season that's sure to be entertaining and dispiriting in equal measure, may this hymn remind us that our true calling is greater than anything our politics can imagine.

THE WORSHIP & MUSIC TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, October 4th** at 7:00 p.m.
THE RESOURCE TEAM MEETS **TUESDAY, October 4th** at 6:00 p.m.

October 'Toon



Up to the task

When work — or life — gets difficult, we may think back to childhood. Things were a lot easier and our problems were much smaller when we were young. Or were they?

The challenges we faced back then may seem small and insignificant now, but they surely didn't feel that way at the time. Somehow we endured each challenge — and grew as a result.

The next time you face a difficulty, remember this: The task before us is no greater than the power behind us. And there is power behind you. "For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30).

Circle Schedule

Abigail Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Janet Elsbury's home on **October 25** at 7:00 PM

Deborah Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, **October 18** at 7:00 PM

Rachel Circle meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Marilyn Hall's home on **October 19** at 7:30 PM

Rebekah Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Betty Nelson's home on **October 12** at 1:00 PM

Sisters of Eve meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month, **October 4** at 7:00 PM

OCTOBER CIRCLE RESPONSIBILITIES:

Hostess — *Sisters of Eve*
Devotions & Visitation — *Abigail*
Service — *Rebekah*
Clean Kitchen — *Rachel*



The Continuing Conversation

When no one else is around, do you talk to yourself?

When he was alone, the 17th century Christian monk known as Brother Lawrence carried on conversations with God. Lawrence was the cook for his religious community. He practiced the presence of God while he prepared meals. Describing his experience of work and prayer, he said:

"The time of business does not ... differ from the time of prayer, and in the noise and clatter of my kitchen, while several persons are calling for different things, I possess God in the same great tranquility as if I were upon my knees."

With God's help, our prayer life can bring a similar tranquility to our busy days.

Trinity United
COOL Food of the Month:
Canned Fruit



Trinity United Women

Ty Rohrer of the Waukegan Historical Society will present the program, "Prominent Women of Waukegan" at the **Monday, October 3** meeting of Trinity United Women of the E.L.C.A.

We meet at 7:00 p.m. in Larson Hall. Please come and bring a friend to the program and the fellowship afterwards.

Trinity's Seniors

Explore Lamb's Farm

Trinity's SAGES (Senior Adults Going Everywhere Sharing) will next meet **Thursday, October 20** at Lamb's Farm in Libertyville 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.

Upcoming events:

November 17: Outing to the Mar's Cheese Castle

December 15: annual Christmas luncheon at Ray Radigans

January 19: Pasty lunch and movie at church. See Pastor Rich if you have questions.

Make A Difference

Star Hospice, serving Lake County IL and eastern McHenry County IL, are currently looking for volunteers for its Fall training. Volunteers are a vital component of the Star Hospice team. They provide support and relief to families, and companionship to hospice patients to increase their quality of life.

Current volunteer opportunities include:

- Patient visits and companionship
- Running errands for patients and families
- Office help
- Special projects

For more information, please contact **Barb Bailey** or **Jamie Edwards** at 847-360-2220.

HEALTH QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Contact Carole Johnson, RN, BSN, Volunteer Parish Nurse
Email: carolejohnson3@sbcglobal.net

Is the Bible the Inspired Word of God? *By Jason Carlson and Ron Carlson 5/25/11*

During a question and answer session at a recent speaking engagement, a university student asked me, "Why do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?" Now this is a very interesting question; and probably one of the most important questions any Christian could ask themselves. What is so special, so unique about the Bible that Christians believe it is literally the inspired word of God?

In answering this student's question, I encouraged him to consider the following facts about the Bible:

First, the Bible is not just one single book. This is a more common misconception than many people realize, especially with people who do not come from a Judeo-Christian background. Rather than being a single book, the Bible is actually a collection of 66 books, which is called the canon of scriptures. These 66 books contain a variety of genres: history, poetry, prophecy, wisdom literature, letters, and apocalyptic just to name a few.

Second, these 66 books were written by 40 different authors. These authors came from a variety of backgrounds: shepherds, fishermen, doctors, kings, prophets, and others. And most of these authors never knew one another personally.

Third, these 66 books were written over a period of 1500 years. Yet again, this is another reminder that many of these authors never knew or collaborated with one another in writing these books.

Fourth, the 66 books of the Bible were written in 3 different languages. In the Bible we have books that were written in the ancient languages of Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic; a reflection of the historical and cultural circumstances in which each of these books were written.

And finally, these 66 books were written on 3 different continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe. Once again, this is a testament to the varied historical and cultural circumstances of God's people.

Think about the above realities: 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents. What's more, this collection of books shares a common storyline- the creation, fall,

and redemption of God's people; a common theme-God's universal love for all of humanity; and a common message-salvation is available to all who repent of their sins and commit to following God with all of their heart, soul, mind and strength. In addition to sharing these commonalities, these 66 books contain no historical errors or contradictions. God's word truly is an amazing collection of writings!

After I had shared the above facts with this student, I offered him the following challenge: I said to him, "If you do not believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, if you do not believe that the Bible is of a supernatural origin, than I challenge you to a test." I said to the student, "I challenge you to go to any library in the world, you can choose any library you like, and find 66 books which match the characteristics of the 66 books in the Bible. You must choose 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, written on 3 different continents. However, they must share a common storyline, a common theme, and a common message, with no historical errors or contradictions." I went on to say, "If you can produce such a collection of books, I will admit that the Bible is not the inspired word of God." The student's reply was almost instantaneous, he emphatically stated, "But that's impossible!"

"But that's impossible!" It truly is impossible, for any collection of human writings. However, the Bible passes this test. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 different authors, over 1500 years, in 3 different languages, on 3 different continents, with no historical errors or contradictions. The entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, bears the mark of Divine inspiration.

The next time you encounter someone who asks you why you believe the Bible is the inspired word of God, try sharing this challenge with them. Better yet, don't wait until you're asked, just go ahead and share this challenge with a friend today. You don't even have to mention the Bible up front, just ask them if they think it would be realistic to assemble such a collection of books. After they say, "But that's impossible!" you've got a ready-made opportunity for sharing the truth of God's word with somebody!

He's Coming Back

There's a better land I know
 Where I'm longing to go —
 Free of sadness and pain
 Jesus built it I heard
 And believing the Word —
 I know He's coming again
 Friends and love one's we'll see
 And join in great jubilee —
 Around the table of the Lord
 Ever to sing and shout
 All sorrow and pain cast out —
 Where we'll be in one accord
 He's coming back some day
 Come what may
 And then receive us —
 We who are His own
 At the great White Throne
 Find all trouble leave us —
 We'll meet the others there
 Our Saviour's glory share
 As through Eternity He'll reign —
 We'll join in the chorus
 As He goes before us —
 And His praises sing.

Praise God! — Nancy Mathis

Trinity's Newest Member



CHILD OF GOD

Lyra Caroline Langhoff
 Baptized September 18, 2011
 Born August 3, 2011
 Parents Josh & Lea, brother Zack
 Aaron Dashiell & Hanna Langhoff, sponsors
 Thomas & Marilyn Dashiell and
 Donald & Susan Langhoff, grandparents

October Birthdays

Nelson, Amy	10/1
Oldfield, Matthew	10/5
Smith, CJ	10/6
Morrison, Joie	10/11
Ivey, Ruta	10/14
Ben-Carew, Bernard Jr.	10/20
Hellickson, Bonnie	10/22
Harmon, Sally	10/23
Nelson, Joshua	10/24
Smith, Owen	10/24
Grudt, Joseph	10/25
Gustafson, Richard	10/26
Douglas, Dorothy	10/27
Blomquist, Willard	10/28
Slettum, Irene	10/28
Collinson, Sylvia	10/29
Morrison, Melissa	10/31

October Anniversaries

Kenneth & Catherine Nelson (17)	10/8
George & Bonnie Hellickson (45)	10/22
Patrick & Yesenia Cole (2)	10/25
David & Char Rautanen (48)	10/26
Ross & Judy Salyer (39)	10/28

Sympathy & Prayers to

Joe & Desi Cole, family & friends on the recent death of Desi's brother, John G. Wynn Jr.

Richard Nelson, family & friends on the death of Richard's brother Dennis.

Congratulations to

- Pastor **Sue Ellen Grudt** who was recently called as associate Pastor to Christ Lutheran Church in Vernon Hills. May God bless her new ministry.
- **Vincent Johnson** who will be the 54th Book of Golden Deeds honoree awarded by the Exchange Club of Waukegan on October 11, 2011.

**November
 Newsletter Deadline is
 October 20, 2011**



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2011-2012 CHURCH COUNCIL

Nancy Bjerstedt, president
John Hansen, vice president
Helga Larsen, secretary

Bernard Ben-Carew	Bonnie Hellickson
Joe Cole	Bob Johnson
Ben Gehrt	Allen Layburn
Marilyn Hall	Terry Oldfield
	Gene Sanderlin

MINISTRY STAFF

Richard A. Grudt, *Pastor*
224-610-9702 — pastorgrudt@yahoo.com

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.