

November 2020

Pastor's Page

Friends in Christ,

As the Holiday season approaches, I hope that all of you are able to identify things in your life that you are thankful for. I believe that cultivating an attitude of gratitude is even more important this year. With everything that has happened, there is so much to still be grateful for. I realize now, more than ever, why the Apostle Paul always spoke words of grace and peace to those he wrote to even when things weren't going well. I know that I am grateful for family, meaningful work, a wonderful staff to work with, and a supportive and faithful community of faith to be a part of. Hopefully you have experienced God's continued blessing in your life during these difficult times.

As most of you know, based on recommendations from the safety team, we will be postponing in-person worship for the time being due to the rapid increase of Covid-19 infections in our area. This decision was not made lightly. We hope to resume services as soon as we are safely able to. In the meantime, we are continuing to find meaningful ways to connect with all of you, as well as figuring out ways we can safely provide the physical connection that I know all of you are longing for. For now, our youth ministry is happening online. We have at home Sunday school lessons, Zoom confirmation and Edge meetings, and various at home family faith formation activities taking place right now. Again, we know that none of this is ideal, but it is the best we can do right now.

I am so grateful for all of you. Please continue to keep our community in your prayers, especially those who have been personally affected by Covid-19. I leave you with these words of encouragement from the apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthians.

So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

God Bless,
Pastor Jon



Our Thanksgiving Eve service will be available on facebook and YouTube the evening of Wednesday, November 25

Catholic Charities Dining Services is participating in a public food distribution of frozen meals for seniors 60+ on Saturday, November 14 from 9:30-11:30 am in the Access Church parking lot. They will provide packs of 10 frozen meals for seniors during this drive-through, no contact distribution. There is no fee for these meals; donations will be accepted.

Someone else may pick up the meals. They will need the name, address, phone number and birth date to complete the registration form. If you would like these meals, but are unable to pick them up, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and leave Julie a message, and we will get meals to you.



Vikings Vittles Packing

We are in need of people to pack Viking Vittles bags at 10 a.m. Wednesday mornings at church This usually takes about 45 minutes if there are 2 people per table. We prefer that only people in the same household pack at a table.

Masks are required. We use an online signup form and signup is for a table.

Go to SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/CPhKcVP> and select the week you would like to volunteer for. When signing up for packing food bags, you sign up for a table and can have up to 4 people from the same household helping. No registration or password is required. If you prefer, contact Mary Twitchell at 320-630-5040 and she can sign you up manually.

TRINITY TIDINGS

Trinity Lutheran Church



Children & Youth Ministry News

Children's Ministry

We are so grateful for the new ways youth and family ministry is continuing at Trinity. We have a lot of fun activities planned for November and December Sunday School at Home kits! All of the Sunday School youth will be getting their own pumpkin to keep for our November "Grateful Pumpkin" community project where they'll write one thing they are grateful for each day in November.



In December, we will be working on an Ornament Community Project. One to decorate a Christmas tree at the church, and one to keep. We will also be focusing on the Advent season in December with crafts/activities, an Advent calendar, Nativity Sticker Set, and Advent lessons. Check your emails for kit pick up details the first week in November to ensure you'll have everything you need for the rest of the year. We'll continue to post weekly videos on Sunday mornings in our Facebook group. Thanksgiving Blessings to all of the Trinity families! We are grateful to walk on this faith journey together!

EDGE Youth Ministry

We are especially grateful for the ways youth and family ministry is continuing at Trinity. EDGE has moved to online meetings for the time being. EDGE youth and families will be joining in with the Ornament Community Project with Sunday School families to help decorate one of the Christmas trees at the church. We're excited to see everyone's creativity come together! We'll also be starting an Advent Devotional from the first chapters of Luke on the theme, "Do Not Be Afraid." We'll look at holding hope, bringing peace, practicing joy, and choosing love. Thanksgiving Blessings to all of the Trinity families! We are grateful to walk on this faith journey together!



From your Council Chair—An Attitude of Gratitude

Thanksgiving will soon be upon us and as I type, we are having our first measurable snow. Although that does push the envelope, I have been doing a lot of thinking about all I have to be grateful for - family, friends, good health, retirement, a warm house, a safe community, the spectacular fall colors we have just enjoyed. The list goes on and on. I am especially grateful for my Trinity family and our shared passion for the gospel.

In 1st Thessalonians 5:18, Paul says "give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." He does not say give thanks FOR all things, but IN all things. After my initial list of things to be thankful for, I decided to stretch myself and think specifically of Pandemic things for which I am thankful. I am sure all of you have been looking for things you have learned and to be thankful for as well --more time with family, the dedicated work of health care providers and other essential workers, availability of most supplies we need, access to internet to stay in touch and stream worship and creative ways to gather together with friends and family to name a few. The list was longer than I had anticipated and is still growing. In the midst of a "year like no other", I am grateful for you, my faithful Trinity family, and the ways that we continue to share in mission, ministry and care for others. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do.

The CDC may have decided that it is not safe to gather together for worship in person, but think of the many "house churches" that have sprung up because of that. I know it is not the same as gathering together in person, but it is the safe thing to do. Just as many of us have decided not to host extended family (just immediate family) gatherings for Thanksgiving, the council has voted to approve the Safety Team's recommendation not to gather together in person for worship until further notice. Disappointing, yes, but the loving thing to do. Patience is not something I am good at and perhaps that is one of the many lessons I am to learn during these months. Please be patient with yourselves, others and with your Trinity family. We will gather again when the numbers are down and we can do so safely. Again thank you for all you have done this year and will continue to do as faithful followers of Jesus.

Thankfully yours

Ann Tanko, Council Chair

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Income and Expenses

Month Ending September 30, 2020
Trinity Lutheran Church, North Branch, MN

| <u>Income</u> | Sept Actual | Sept Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Unified Giving | \$24,682 | \$30,456 | \$255,250 | \$274,103 |
| Loose Offering | \$162 | \$708 | \$3,449 | \$6,374 |
| Other Income | \$0 | \$46 | \$4,980 | \$9,913 |
| Rent | \$0 | \$292 | \$2,210 | \$2,627 |
| Phoenix Operating Reimbursement | \$1,612 | \$1,958 | \$19,627 | \$17,624 |
| Total Regular Giving | \$26,456 | \$33,460 | \$285,516 | \$310,641 |
| | | | | |
| <u>Expenses</u> | Sept Actual | Sept Budget | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
| <u>General Expenses</u> | | | | |
| Ministry Support | \$26,297 | \$28,609 | \$244,484 | \$251,852 |
| Church Property | \$8,134 | \$6,121 | \$60,028 | \$65,477 |
| Stewardship | \$0 | \$108 | \$668 | \$974 |
| Learning & Youth | \$123 | \$825 | \$1,916 | \$5,425 |
| Worship | \$268 | \$491 | \$1,629 | \$4,425 |
| Witness & Service | \$0 | \$17 | \$0 | \$151 |
| Sub-total General Expenses | \$34,822 | \$36,171 | \$308,725 | \$328,304 |
| | | | | |
| <u>Mission Support</u> | | | | |
| Synod Support | \$2,429 | \$2,429 | \$21,863 | \$21,863 |
| Missionaries | \$188 | \$188 | \$1,688 | \$1,688 |
| Iringa Church Tanzania | \$92 | \$92 | \$825 | \$825 |
| Sub-Total Mission Support | \$2,709 | \$2,709 | \$24,376 | \$24,376 |
| | | | | |
| Total Regular Expenses | \$37,531 | \$38,880 | \$333,101 | \$352,680 |
| | | | | |
| Total Net Income | -\$11,075 | -\$5,420 | -\$47,585 | -\$42,039 |
| | | | | |
| September Income was \$5,774 under the September Budget | | | | |
| September Expense was \$1,349 under the September Budget | | | | |
| | | | | |
| YTD Income is \$25,125 under the YTD Budget | | | | |
| YTD Expense is \$19,579 under the YTD Budget | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Net Income is \$-11,075 for the month | | | | |
| Net Income is \$-47,585 for the year | | | | |
| | | | | |
| YTD Phoenix Rent Received | \$127,753.02 | | | |
| | | | | |
| Mortgage Balance as of 9/30/2020 | \$308,137.18 | | | |

The church office is closed for the 'Stay at Home' order. Staff are working remotely, and can be reached by email or voicemail. See the back page of the Tidings for staff contact information.

See our website www.trinitynorthbranch.org **to give electronically** on a one-time or recurring basis. Select the date and frequency (one time, weekly or monthly) and designate the amount and fund (Unified, Building, Viking Vittles, Memorial or Other.) Changes can easily be made at any time.

Offering can also be mailed to Trinity Lutheran Church, PO Box 447, North Branch, MN 55056.

Worship Notes for November 2020

November's themes focus on the end—the end of the church year, the end times, and the end of our earthly lives. The readings include topsy-turvy language and vivid images of judgment. But for listeners from all times and places who see with the eyes of faith, they also provide solid ground for hope.

Where Jesus is, there is hope for the faithful. On All Saints Day, November 1st, which falls on a Sunday this year, in the first reading from Revelation we hear from those “who have come out of the great ordeal,” who are imaged as worshipping around the throne. We stand on the shoulders of saints and martyrs and beloved friends and family who have died, who for us have demonstrated the blessedness of those Jesus names in his Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). For the rest of the month, while facing uncertainties, distress, and failure, we might pay heed to Paul's admonition to the Thessalonians to “encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

On November 22nd, we celebrate Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year, alongside images of the last judgment from Matthew's gospel, we lift up examples from our community where we have delighted to serve others and, in doing so, serve the Christ in our midst. Our faith is active in love and service to each other. We are called to care for the poor and for the whole kingdom.

The church starts a “new year” on Sunday, November 29th, with the first Sunday of Advent. The message at the heart of the Advent season is that God is about to come among us, not as an angry judge but as a human. This is the good news upon which we linger and for which we patiently prepare.

Sunday, November 1st/All Saints Day

All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape in many northern regions, the readings call us to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete.

Revelation 7:9-17 The book of Revelation is written to seven churches in western Asia Minor during a time of great oppression. Today's reading is a response to the question asked in 6:17: “Who is able to stand?” The writer gives the faithful the assurance of God's protection and a vision of victory.

Psalm 34:1-10, 22 Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD; for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

1 John 3:1-3 A saint is one who has been set apart by God for God's purposes. God, out of divine love, set us apart to be the children of God. Our holy hope is that we shall see God as God really is.

Matthew 5:1-12 In the Beatitudes, Jesus provides a unique description of those who are blessed with God's favor. His teaching is surprising and shocking to those who seek wealth, fame, and control over other.

November 8th/Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Amos 5:18-24 In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, no light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

Psalm 70 You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

Matthew 25:1-13 Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times. *(continued)*

Online Worship Services

One of the ways we have tried to stay connected is by including videotapes of a variety of individuals and families from our congregation reading scripture, leading the Lord's Prayer or sharing special music. Getting to “see and hear” other members of our congregational family is a highlight of the online worship service for many.



Please let Deb know if you'd be willing to participate in this way in our online worship services. Email her at: daulich@trinitynorthbranch.org and she will put you in the schedule and help you make your recording happen. Most people record their videos in their own homes/yards using their cell phone. If that isn't possible, we can arrange for another way to enable you to participate.

Thank-you for your continued support of the worship life at Trinity Lutheran!

Worship Notes for November 2020 continued

November 15th/Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times, Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

Psalm 90:1-12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 25:14-30 Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

November 22nd/Christ the King/Last Sunday after Pentecost

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. This day we celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

Psalm 95:1-7a We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Ephesians 1:15-23 In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

November 29th/First Sunday of Advent

Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist's plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling down from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear open the heavens and come.

Isaiah 64:1-9 This lament comes from a people who have had their hopes shattered. The visions of a rebuilt Jerusalem and a renewed people of God, spoken of in Isaiah 40-55, have not been realized. Instead, the people experience ruin, conflict, and famine. This lament calls God to account—to be the God who has brought deliverance in the past.

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

1 Corinthians 1:3-9 As the Christians in Corinth await the advent of Jesus, Paul reminds them how the Lord has already enriched them through spiritual gifts and will continue to strengthen them until the coming day of the Lord.

Mark 13:24-37 Jesus encourages his followers to look forward to the day when he returns in power and glory to end all suffering.

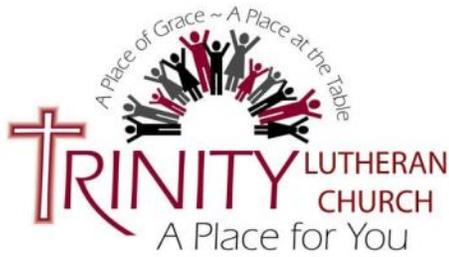
Worship
with us
from
HOME

Our weekly worship services are recorded in advance, and available at 6:00 am each Sunday on our facebook page and YouTube channel. They may be viewed any time, but if you'd like to watch "together" with others, tune in at 9:00 am!

Like Trinity Lutheran Church on facebook, and comment on our posts! Updates, Bible Study and weekly worship videos are posted frequently!



If you do not have email, and would like to receive a bulletin by mail each week, please call the office at 651-674-7047 and leave a message for Julie to add you to the mailing list.



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Mailing Label

November 2020

Partners in Ministry: The People of Trinity

Church Office: 651-674-7047 Church Fax: 651-674-7048
Church Office Hours: no scheduled hours at this time
Sunday Worship: available at 6 am Sunday mornings on our
facebook page and YouTube. See our website for links.
Church email: office@trinitynorthbranch.org
Church website: www.trinitynorthbranch.org
Pastor Jon Yurk Cell: 612-231-2111
pastor@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 12
Sue Danielzuk, Church Administrator
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Marie Ray, Director of Youth & Family Ministries
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Sarah Krosschell, Sunday School Coordinator
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Deb Aulich, Director of Worship and Arts
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Cheryl Immel: Financial Recorder
cimmel1@trinitynorthbranch.org
Tyler Olson: Sr. Choir Director
tolson@trinitynorthbranch.org ext. 15
Outreach Committee: Outreach@trinitynorthbranch.org

Roger Anderson, David Nelson, Rick Olson
Custodial & Cemetery Staff
Todd Fisk, Church Treasurer
Office Help: Judy Weiss 674-2710
Sharon Fairbanks 674-7311
Missionaries: Dr. Stephen Swanson family –
Tanzania
Our Sister Congregation in Tanzania—Pawaga

Church Council Members:
Ann Tanko, Council Chair
Linda Born, Council Vice-Chair
Dennis Aulich, Lucas Edson,
Kristen Johnson, Rosanne Johnson,
Erin Judson, Gary Porath, Vicky Trampe,

If you have an email address, but are not receiving our emails, please forward your email address to Julie at jmorgan@trinitynorthbranch.org. We are sending information and updates weekly via email, and want to reach as many people as possible. Thank you!