

TRINITY *news*

NOVEMBER 2019

VOLUME 25 ▪ ISSUE 11

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street
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Spring Grove, MN 55974
507.498.5291
www.trinitysg.org



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



Instagram
trinityyouth203
trinitylutheransg

Office hours:

Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Wed: Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship
10:15 a.m. Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Sunday School

Listen live on KVIK 104.7 FM
www.kvikradio.com

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Scott Solberg, Choir Director
Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band leader

HOLIDAY CHEER AT TRINITY

November and December are filled with many activities and events at Trinity. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss a favorite event!

- ♦ **Sunday, November 3**, is **All Saints Sunday** when we commemorate all the saints who've gone before us.
- ♦ **Sunday, November 17** is our annual "**Bag-a-Buck**" fundraiser during worship. At 3:00 p.m., **Luren Singers** will present a concert in celebration of Sons of Norway Valheim Lodge's 90th Anniversary. All are welcome! Freewill offering. Reception following in Fellowship Hall.
- ♦ **Sunday, November 24**, is **Christ the King Sunday** when we celebrate the end of the church year.
- ♦ **Thursday, November 28**, we'll celebrate **Thanksgiving** at 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Midweek Advent services** will be Wednesdays, **December 4, 11, and 18** at 7:00 p.m. These will be short (20-25 minutes), contemplative services that help us prepare for Christmas.
- ♦ **Monday, December 9**, 7:00 p.m. is the Spring Grove High School Winter Band Concert (at the school).
- ♦ **Monday, December 16**, 7:00 p.m. is the Spring Grove High School Choir Concert held at Trinity.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 15** our **Sunday School kids** will present their **Christmas program** at the 9:15 a.m. service.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 22** our **Trinity Choir** will present their **Christmas Concert** at 7:00 p.m.
- ♦ Our **Christmas Eve services** will be **Tuesday, December 24** at 3:00 p.m. and a candlelight service at 8:00 p.m.
- ♦ Our **Christmas Day service** will be **Wednesday, December 25** at 10:00 a.m.
- ♦ **Sunday, December 29** is a **Servant Sunday**. We will worship with **Lessons & Carols** and celebrate all what we are thankful for – special ones, cherished activities, and bountiful financial support. Bring your extra holiday treats to share with your Trinity family during fellowship hour!

For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

Romans 3:22b-25a

Dear friends in Christ,

This passage from Paul's letter to the Romans is traditionally read on Reformation Sunday, along with Psalm 46. It is because of reading and studying this text that Martin Luther formulated the doctrine we in the Lutheran Church call "justification by grace through faith." Let's break it down.

Justification. The action of being made right in the sight of God (because we can't do it on our own).

Grace. The gift of healing from sin because of the actions of Jesus on the cross (because we can't receive it on our own).

Faith. Belief that this is possible (which we have with the help of the Holy Spirit).

On Reformation Sunday, eight young people affirmed their baptism at Trinity. During their years in confirmation classes, they learned many things (I hope). But what they learned most of all (I hope) is that the only thing they really *need* to know is the first part of Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed:

"I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in true faith."

This is most certainly true. It is true for our new confirmands. It is true for you.

God bless you indeed!

~ *Pastor Elizabeth*



Holy God, strengthen these children as they stand before you proclaiming their love for you and their commitment to live the baptismal vows that were spoken for them years ago. Fill their souls with the power of your Holy Spirit, so that through faith, you will live within their hearts forever.
Amen

2019 Trinity Confirmants

Front row: Bekah Leafblad (Director of CYF Ministry), Cierra Blaskowski, Jonah Udstuen, Ava Olerud, Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier.

Back row: Julia Halverson, Kylie Standahl, Reid Bjerke, Brielle Neeley, McKenzie Fisch.

Fellow classmates and 2019 Wilmington Lutheran confirmands—Carson Girard, Olaf Johnson, and Hattie Sanness — affirmed their baptism on October 13.

FLOAT FUNDRAISER The Scholarship Endowment invites you to their Annual Fundraiser — Spring Grove Soda ice cream floats on **Sunday, November 3** during Fellowship. Freewill donations are greatly appreciated to help the Scholarship Endowment raise money that will go toward scholarships for our graduating high school seniors as well as graduates who are attending college. Please join us so we can continue to support the young adults of our congregation!

BAG-A-BUCK RIGHT HERE AT TRINITY IN NOVEMBER! Deer season opens in the woods the first weekend of November and here at Trinity we will Bag-A-Buck for the Houston County Food Shelf. **Sunday, November 17**, we will pass metal buckets during offering. As the buckets come down the row, we encourage everyone to put a "buck" (or any amount!) in the bucket. Checks can be made out to the Houston County Food Shelf. These cash donations almost triple in value when the Food Shelf does the purchasing! Thank you for your heartfelt contributions. ~Care Ministry Team

LET US MAKE YOUR THANKSGIVING PIES! Trinity youth are excited to make your Thanksgiving pies this year! This fundraiser supports youth activities at Trinity. The pies will be available to pick up the evening of Wednesday, November 27 from 6-8 p.m. An order form is on the back of the newsletter and can also be found at the entrances to the sanctuary. **Order forms are due by Sunday, November 24.**



LOOKING FOR UNIQUE, HOMEMADE GIFTS? SHOP AT THE TRINITY BOUTIQUE!

WELCA'S Boutique is set up in the Fellowship Hall and ready for shoppers! WELCA members have many talents and have made items that are now available for purchase in the Boutique. Shoppers can leave their money in the box near the Boutique. Checks can be made out to WELCA. Anyone who makes an item may drop it off at the church office. Items will be marked with a price for anyone to purchase at any time. Questions? Contact Gift Shop coordinators Yvonne Krogstad (krogstad@springgrove.coop) or Jacque Wennes (jacquewen@aol.com).

THIRST DAY IS NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:30 P.M.: CONVERSATION CARDS!

Apparently the Thursday of MEA Weekend isn't the best time to have Thirst Day. So we're going for a do-over. I recently received a set of "conversation cards" with questions that provoke meaningful conversations. So for our November Thirst Day evening, we'll pick a few cards from a hat and have 5-10-minute conversations about each. Sample question: "What three things are you most thankful for this week?"

Remember Thirst Day is always the third Thursday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. and the "B" in "BYOB" stands for ... Bible ... book you'd like to share ... topic that challenges your belief ... or idea that makes you feel blessed. Oh, and you should bring a beverage as well. If you're thirsty for conversation about the Bible and topics of faith, I hope to see you at the parsonage for "Thirst Day" in November.

P.S. If you're shy, you don't have to answer any of the questions. Just show up for great fellowship!

3:16s YOUTH GROUP is a group for 9th–12th grade youth that meets every week on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Bekah's house. We discuss questions the youth have about their faith, the church, God, world events, and everything else! After discussion, we have a time of fellowship — playing games (ping pong, air hockey, board games), doing homework, practicing yoga, and of course....having FUN! Bring a friend — you don't have to be a Trinity member to attend. If you have any questions about 3:16s, please contact Bekah, at the church office 498-5291 or bekah@trinitysg.org.

MIDDLE SCHOOL GAME NIGHT for 7th and 8th grade youth. Have fun and fellowship and play GAMES at Bekah's house!! Bring a friend, you don't need to be a Trinity member to attend. Game Night dates: November 8, November 22, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.

COUNCIL

OCTOBER 9, 2019 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Motions approved:

- To approve adding Directors and Officers insurance to our current insurance policy.
- To allow the use of Trinity's Federal Tax ID# by the Syttende Mai Norwegian Food Stand, as required by the bank.
- To approve Judy Tollefsrud, Barb Arnold, and Jessi Strinmoen to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- To continue with the Silver Plan C benefit package for another year and continue with the \$1,200 per year in additional HAS coverage.
- To give six weeks of paid time off for maternity leave to fulltime employees, not including vacation/PTO time.

Updates:

- Karr Tuckpointing Company of Vinton, IA has begun the tuckpointing project. They are finding some issues with the soft brick, so it is taking more time (in addition to the weather delays).
- The Facilities Planning Team will have a third interview with CRW from Rochester on October 30.
- Accepted the Council's decision to charge rent to Beary Patch Preschool for the use of Trinity Center (for cleaning and utilities).
- Clarification was given to the Ad hoc Committee for their task: to discuss the pros and cons of keeping or selling Trinity Center.
- Mission in the World will again coordinate the Alternative Giving Opportunity, offered between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Next Meeting: November 13 at 7:45 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

Complete minutes are on Trinity's website, at sanctuary entrances, and in the office.

TIDBITS

THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES AND YOU The construction industry is booming in SEMN and there is high demand for skilled construction workers. You may already have the skills needed to be successful. Join us to find out more about the building trades training programs and employment opportunities. Nate O'Reilly, President of the Southeast MN Building & Construction Trades Council, will facilitate the meeting. November 14, 1:00-3:00p.m. at Giants of the Earth Heritage Center. Registration is appreciated in advance. Please contact Dee Slinde, 507-951-7092, or dslinde@wdimn.org.

WE ARE BLESSED Our heating/AC system has been paid in full! We thank everyone who donated to this project. Thank you to WELCA for making the final payment. We are very, very thankful to everyone!

THANK YOU FROM SUNRISE CARE FACILITIES: "Thank you for your generous donation to Sunrise Care Facilities. It is greatly appreciated. We, staff, and residents are grateful!"

BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE EARTH Trinity is switching communion cups to "Thee Friendliest Cups on the Planet." These communion cups will look the same but are made of PLA (polylactide) biopolymer derived from corn (grown right here in the Midwest!) and are 100% renewable, 100% compostable, and 100% biodegradable. In a commercial composting facility, degradation can occur in as little as 90 days. In regular trash, these cups should breakdown in 6-24 months as opposed to conventional polystyrene plastic that takes hundreds of years to degrade.



Remember to change your clocks back Saturday night November 2 before you go to bed or we'll see you extra-early Sunday morning!

PHOTOS

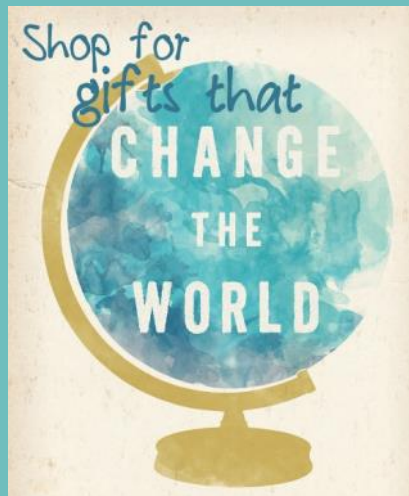


▲ **Tuckpointing** — this project is nearly complete!

◀ **Habitat for Humanity—Spring Grove build** — On Friday, October 20 it was a Women Build day. Can you spot Pastor Elizabeth? The project is moving along, it's looking more and more like a house! Interested in helping with the project? Contact Steve Nelson, 507-421-2212.



Trinity's 2019 Alternative Giving Opportunity Kick-off — December 1



Pick up an Alternative Giving Shopping List & Catalog at the church entrances or Fellowship Hall on **December 8, 15, and 22**. Also available in the office or online, www.trinitysg.org.

Browse the catalog to learn about the various giving options. With each project purchased, you will receive a complimentary card along with an insert describing the project.

Begin to make a difference
in someone's life today.
Spend Less. Give More.
Worship Fully.

**Make Your List.
Check It Once.**

- Won't collect dust
- No batteries required
- No wrong sizes or colors
- Makes a difference in the world

The Perfect Gift.



◀ **Special Music** — many musicians volunteer their time and talents to provide music during worship. *Thank you!*

- 1) Rachel Storlie (organ), Loren Esse (trumpet).
- 2) Willy Leafblad (oboe), Rachel Storlie (piano).
- 3) Addison Deschler (flute on left), Bekah Leafblad (flute on right).



▼► **Helping others** — Layettes were assembled and packaged along with many school kits, quilts, and blankets and taken to Minneapolis by Steve and Bev Nelson. The boxes were loaded into train cars and will be distributed by Lutheran World Relief. *Thank you for your support of these projects!*





▲ **Trinity U: Living with a Disability** — Angie Halverson shared with Confirmation youth some of the challenges her son, Evan, faces as he lives with a disability. The youth participated in several hands-on activities to simulate challenges those with disabilities face. For example, the youth had to pick out clothes and get dressed while wearing a blindfold. They also maneuvered a wheelchair through an obstacle course and learned how to use a power link and switch that ran a blender.


▲ **Trinity U: Youth Handbells** — Willy Leafblad is teaching Confirmation youth about how to ring handbells and how to read handbell music.

TRINITY U — WHAT IS IT? Trinity U offers people of all ages the opportunity to gather for education, faith development, and mutual growth — youth, parents, grandparents, friends...**EVERYONE is welcome!** The purpose of Trinity U is to create a relational confirmation program where students (and other members) understand that they can live out their faith in everything they do with their lives. Catalogs are available at sanctuary entrances, in the office, and on our website. Please register ahead of time. Registration form is on the website or stop in the office for a paper form. Questions? Contact Bekah.

NOVEMBER CLASSES

Making a Mala and Sticking to it!—November 13 from 6-7:30 p.m. Taught by Angie Halverson. A mala is a bracelet that aids you in your prayer life. Come make a mala and learn how to use it in your daily life!

TED Talks—November 3, 10, 17 at 11:30 a.m. Taught by Bekah and Willy Leafblad. Each class will begin with watching a TED Talk and continue with discussion about how these topics can relate to our daily lives and our faith lives.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 All Saints Sunday 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School 11:30am Trinity U: TED Talks | 5 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR | 6 1:00pm Release Time (1 st), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells, Worship Team 6:00pm Confirmation Core w/meal, FH 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir, 3:16s | 7 5:30pm Education Team, MR 7:00pm Finance Team, GR | 8 7:00pm Middle School Game Night | 9 9:30am Praise Band practice | 5:00pm Worship/Communion, Holy Baptism  Time to "fall back" an hour! Remember—change your clocks tonight! |
| 10 9:15am Worship/Praise Band 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Stewardship 11:30am Worship at Tweenen Care Ctr; Trinity U: TED Talks | 11 9-11am Living Well with Chronic Conditions, GR 9:00am Deborah Circle 5:00pm Support Team, GR | 12 9:30am Adah Circle 1:00pm Release Time (2 nd), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 6:00pm Trinity U: Making Mala 7:00pm Handbells 7:45pm Council, GR 8:00pm Choir, 3:16s | 13 9:30am Adah Circle 1:00pm Release Time (2 nd), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 6:00pm Trinity U: Making Mala 7:00pm Handbells 7:45pm Council, GR 8:00pm Choir, 3:16s | 14 12:00pm Newsletter Info due | 15 12:00pm Newsletter Info due | 16 5:00pm Worship/Communion |
| 17 9:15am Worship/Communion, Bag-A-Buck offering 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School, Outreach, Property 11:30am Trinity U: TED Talks 3:00pm Luren Singers Concert | 18 7:00pm Hannah Circle | 19 2:30pm Phoebe Circle, GR | 20 12:30pm Release Time(3 rd), TC 5:00pm Youth Handbells 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir, 3:16s | 21 9:30am Communion at The Manor 2:00pm Newsletter mailed 7:30pm Thirst Day, parsonage | 22 7:00pm Middle School Game Night | 23 |
| 24 Christ the King Sunday 9:15am Worship/Communion 10:15am Fellowship 10:30am Sunday School | 25 9:30am Communion at Tweenen Apartments 10:30am Communion at SG Assisted Living | 26 2:00pm Thanksgiving service at Tweenen Care Center 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s | 27 2:00pm Thanksgiving service at Tweenen Care Center 7:00pm Handbells 8:00pm Choir 8:00pm 3:16s | 28 Thanksgiving 10:00am Worship office closed | 29 office closed | 30 |

FH = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)

MR = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)

GR = Gathering Room (in basement near men's bathroom)

TC = Trinity Center

VOLUNTEERS — Thank you for all that you do!

| | NOVEMBER 3 All Saints | NOVEMBER 10 | NOVEMBER 17 | NOVEMBER 24 Christ the King | NOVEMBER 28 Thanksgiving |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| LECTOR | Fred Arnold | Carolyn Olson | Rob Gross | Milly Halverson | Jen Solberg |
| ACOLYTE(S) | August Allen Olivia Wennes | Isaac Vick | Haley Ellingson Ben Udstuen | Alison Frydenlund Claire Solberg | |
| COMMUNION SERVERS | Roxie & Bob Finnesgard Bill Fried | | Doris & Kim Sherburne Ruth Johnsrud | Bekah & Willy Leafblad Judy Bratland | |
| COMMUNION BREAD | November 3 & 17: Marilyn Sylling; November 24: Sue Wiste | | | | |
| ALTAR GUILD | Linda Pierce (chair), Paula Karlsbrotten, Judy Roble, Rose Stadler, Lorilyn Dehning, Danielle Myhre | | | | |
| FELLOWSHIP HOSTS | Scholarship Endowment Float Fundraiser | Nolie & Kim Kapplinger, Jan & Al Lochner | Dennis & Linda Williams, Linda Pierce, Marilyn Sylling | Bonnie & Dave Solberg, Sharon & Dale Buxengaard | |
| 498-AMEN | November 3-16: Karen Gray November 17-30: Terry Holland | | | | |
| USHERS | Lonny Tweeten (captain), Jeff Engen, Rick Tisthammer, Bill Fried, Stewart Storlie, Justin Landsom | | | | |

HAVE YOU...moved? ...changed phone numbers? ...changed email addresses? Let the office know! Thanks!

LET US KNOWIf you have a loved one ill or hospitalized, have a new baby, would like a pastoral visit, or if any pastoral need arises.

ELECTRONIC VERSIONS..... Would you like to receive the newsletter electronically instead of a paper version? Just let us know in the office! We also send a weekly email....would you like to receive it? Let us know!

FOLLOW TRINITY ON SOCIAL MEDIA: Facebook: *Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove*
 Instagram: Youth account = *trinityyouth203* Trinity Church account = *trinitylutheransg*

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Pies for Thanksgiving
Made by Trinity Youth**

Order your pies by November 24!



- Cost is \$12 per pie (\$16 for pecan)
- Pies are to be picked up on Wed., Nov. 27 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Please place your orders by Sun., Nov. 24 so we can have supplies ready to make the pies on November 27!

Complete the order form below with the quantity of pie, your name, your phone number, and your total:

_____ Pumpkin _____ Cherry
_____ Blueberry _____ Pecan (\$16 each)

TOTAL # OF PIES: _____ **TOTAL \$:** _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Orders must be placed by **Sunday, November 24** at the Trinity office by: calling 498-5291 or returning this completed form and payment to the church office.

**All proceeds will go toward the Trinity youth activities.
THANK YOU!!!**