

# TRINITY *news*

NOVEMBER 2020

VOLUME 26 ■ ISSUE 11

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

203 East Main Street • PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974  
507.498.5291 • [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org)



Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove



**Instagram**  
[trinitylutheransg](https://www.instagram.com/trinitylutheransg)  
[trinityyouth203](https://www.instagram.com/trinityyouth203)



**YouTube**

Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove

### Office hours:

Mon - Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Sundays at Trinity

9:15 a.m. Worship  
10:15 a.m. Fellowship *Suspended*  
8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Sunday School  
via At Home packets

**Listen live Sundays on KVIK 104.7 FM**  
[www.kvikradio.com](http://www.kvikradio.com)  
and Facebook

### Saturday Worship

5:00 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturdays each month  
*Suspended*

### STAFF

Elizabeth Hermeier, Lead Pastor  
[trinitysr@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinitysr@springgrove.coop)

Lane Zaffke, Visitation Pastor  
[lane.zaffke@gmail.com](mailto:lane.zaffke@gmail.com)

Bekah Leafblad, Dir. Of Children, Youth  
and Family Ministry  
[cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com)

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Lorilyn Dehning, Bookkeeper  
[trinity.sgtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:trinity.sgtreasurer@gmail.com)

Gary Wilhelmson, Custodian  
Rachel Storlie, Organist/Pianist  
Willy Leafblad, Handbell Director  
Jean Ellingson, Pianist/Organist  
Linda Gjerdrum, Pianist  
Mark Udstuen, Praise Band Leader  
Rick Sundet, Technology Lead  
Scott Solberg, Music Coordinator

## WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER: LEADING BY EXAMPLE AND WITH LOVE

*“Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.” Psalm 90:1-2*

The Trinity COVID-19 Response Team\* met on Tuesday, October 27, via Zoom and agreed that with the current community spread of COVID-19 that it is best for our community to suspend in-person worship and most other Trinity activities for the month of November. We do this to lead by example and with love for the most vulnerable in our Trinity community, and for the community at large. All are welcome to attend worship on Sundays at 9:15 a.m. on Facebook Live or on the radio at KVIK 104.7 FM.



In addition, the following decisions were made regarding other Trinity activities during November:

- We will have drive-through communion in the parking lot on Sunday, Nov. 1 and Sunday, Nov. 15 following worship.
- We can safely have our All Saints luminaria celebration outside on the Main Street side of the church on Sunday, Nov. 1, from 5-7 p.m.
- Session 1 (week 5 of 5 classes) of our Confirmation program will conclude via Zoom and individual mentor groups on Nov. 4.
- The Wednesday Release Time program will continue to meet at Trinity Center in their limited-time, smaller-size school cohorts.
- Bekah is preparing “take-home” Sunday School materials for families for November and December.
- We will continue to host small family funerals in the sanctuary, with no visitation or fellowship. It is very important that COVID guidelines regarding masks and distancing be maintained at funerals.
- The AA group will continue to meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays to accommodate this crucial ministry during this time.

As this year’s Confirmation students have learned, the church can never be “closed” because we are the church. Our ministries continue in the form of worship, care, outreach, education, and mission. As the psalmist reminds us, God, God’s very self, is our dwelling place.

The Response Team will meet again in late November to evaluate current conditions in the surrounding community and make decisions about December Trinity activities. Thank you for your continued prayers for all those affected by COVID and for your ongoing support of Trinity’s ministries.

\*Response Team: Congregation President Saundy Solum, Pr. Elizabeth Hermeier, Pr. Lane Zaffke, CYF Director Bekah Leafblad, Marlene Deschler, Jean Ellingson, Gary Wilhelmson, Mary Zaffke, Rick Sundet, Anne Scheetz, and Rachel Udstuen

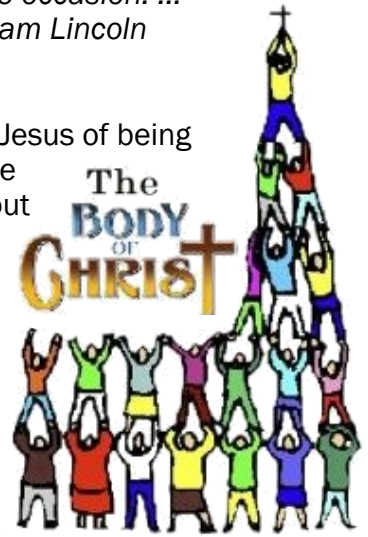
FROM OUR PASTORS

*"We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. ... A house divided against itself, that house cannot stand." Abraham Lincoln*

Beloved Body of Christ,

The crowds were getting restless and the scribes and Pharisees were accusing Jesus of being a "ruler of demons" because he was able to cast out demons as well as heal the sick and feed the hungry. That's when Jesus responded: "How can Satan cast out Satan?...if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand." (Mark 3:23b,25)

The scribes and Pharisees were always trying to draw lines in the sand between themselves and the followers of Jesus. Jesus, by his words as well as his actions, reminded them that to be in the Spirit of God is to be family, no matter your age or gender or race or origin. No lines in the sand. No sides. No divides. The Apostle Paul emphasized that core belief over and over in his letters to the young churches: We are one in the Spirit. We are the Body of Christ. Whatever differences we have, they are irrelevant compared to our shared belief in Christ.



Abraham Lincoln quoted Mark's gospel upon accepting his party's nomination to the Illinois Senate in 1858, garnering national attention and securing his ultimate rise to the presidency during the Civil War. His sentiments are as important today as they were 160 years ago.

"American politics is competitive, thrilling, frustrating – and infuriating. The stakes are high. Issues are important. Outcomes matter. This is why we care, and should care, about our politics. But do our politics have to be demonizing? Does it have to bring out the worst in us? Do our politics have to destroy the goodwill of our society? Is the dehumanizing of our fellow Americans something we should accept?" (braverangels.org\*)

There is an election on Tuesday. I'm sure this is no surprise to you. The pundits talk about it incessantly, there are yard signs everywhere, and the candidates for all levels of government are in the news. And it's important. But whatever happens next Tuesday (or in the days to follow), nothing can change our unity as the Body of Christ.

No sides. No divides.

The peace of Christ be with you all.  
~ Pr. Elizabeth

\*Braver Angels is at the head of a movement not just to depolarize politics, but to re-imagine what it means to be an American...to reflect the courage needed to bridge the divide. To learn more, go to [braverangels.org](http://braverangels.org).

The name Joel means "Yahweh is My God." When Moses asks what is God's name before the burning bush (Exodus 3), Yahweh is the name given. It means 'I AM WHO I AM' 'to be.' God's name is an action verb of creating or creation.

The book of Joel is believed to have been written right after the time of exile. It was a time of picking up pieces of Israel's faith and culture to live it out in everyday lives. Before the above passage in Joel, there are words of destruction and end of things. Now as the freed people of Israel are starting over, we have God speaking to people through dreams and visions, or what I would call the "what now" period. The purpose is for the people to acknowledge that God (Yahweh) is leading them into boundless possibilities! What now? Remember, God's name is an action verb.



As a nation and world, we are in the midst of destruction of Covid. Hopefully we are past the worst of it, but only time will tell. Some people are already engaging in dreaming dreams and seeing visions of what could happen. It is a time of being inspired and led by God (Yahweh) into what 'to be.' Remember God's name is an action verb.

~ Pr. Lane

**THANKSGIVING OFFERING** Each year the Care Ministry Team prepares Christmas Cheer baskets packed with food for families in Spring Grove. Last year they prepared baskets for 10 families, 13 single homes, and both Sunrise North and South. A blessing to take care of our neighbors. To make these baskets possible, the offerings given at Thanksgiving are used to purchase the items. Any offering placed in the Thanksgiving envelope or clearly designated for Thanksgiving will be used. Thank you for your support of this ministry!



**HIS WILL OUR HANDS** From our hands to do His will. How many hands does it take to accomplish these tasks? A LOT! Trinity Church has been blessed with items donated for layettes, quilts, and school kits. With the help of the Mission in the World team, WELCA was able to facilitate getting 253 layettes, 356 school kits, and 60 quilts to the train station in La Crosse on October 10. Gary Wilhelmson, who drove the trailer full of items, reported that youth from some nonprofit groups in La Crosse were amazed at the amount of items from one church. They formed an assembly line and had things to the rail car in about 20 minutes. Thank you all for whatever part you played in this mission of love.



The Love Day room remains a place for people to drop off items to be used by WELCA members in their endeavor to provide items for those less fortunate. At this time we could use t-shirts and jackets in good condition and ONLY in sizes 6 months to 24 months.

It is with concern and deep regret that WELCA has decided that the Fall Meatball Dinner is cancelled for this fall. The funds received from this event are typically distributed to other nonprofits and a primary purpose is to fund youth to attend Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village in the summer. Because Camp was cancelled this past summer, Trinity will have potentially 33 students this next summer so WELCA is asking if anyone is able to send a check to church in support of WELCA please do so. Make your check to WELCA so the office knows where to place the funds. Thank you in advance for all you do to provide these important services using your hands to follow HIS will. ~ Jacque Wennes, President of Trinity Church WELCA

**EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN** We as a congregation have a wonderful opportunity to pray for our members. We have a phone Prayer Chain and an **email Prayer Chain**. For the email Prayer Chain, you will receive an email from [trinitysgprays@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysgprays@gmail.com) with the information. All that you need to do is pray for the request, you don't need to pass on any info....it's the simple and amazing power of prayer! If you would like to be added to the email prayer chain list, please contact the church office, 498-5291 or [trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop).



Prayer requests can be made on behalf of someone; however that **person must first give their permission**. When a prayer request is made, **please include**: 1) how much information should be shared with the Prayer Chain members/what wording should be used, 2) if the request should also be in the bulletin prayer box and if so for how long, 3) if you are calling for someone, please tell us your relationship to them and confirm you have their permission.

**AT-HOME SUNDAY SCHOOL** Sunday School will not meet in person for the months of November and December. Instead, Bekah is sending out packets to Trinity families so that everyone can continue Sunday School at home and tailor it to their own schedules! Packets will include activities, coloring sheets, stories, puzzles and more! Tell your children to watch the mail for a postcard telling them about this new Sunday School experience!

**RELEASE TIME IS EXPANDING!** We are excited to announce that we are expanding the grade levels to which Religious Release Time is taught. In the past couple of years, as it was regaining its footing, we were just offering Release Time to Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. This year, we had the opportunity to add 4<sup>th</sup> graders to receive this education! We currently have 95 students attending Release Time once a month. In the coming years, we hope to expand the program to K-6<sup>th</sup> grade as it was a few years ago.

**HOUSEBOAT TRIP INFORMATIONAL MEETING** Trinity 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders (current school year) will be taking a houseboat trip on the Mississippi next summer, July 19-25. Bekah will host an online informational meeting on Sunday, November 15 at 11:00 a.m. for anyone interested in going. Space is limited on the houseboat, so if you are even a tad bit interested, you should plan on attending the meeting! Email Bekah for the Zoom link to attend or with any questions, [cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.trinitysg@gmail.com).

**COMMUNION LINENS** New Communion linens are needed. These linens, which include an embroidered table cover, paten cover, and chalice cover, cost about \$500. If anyone would like to give a donation to help cover the cost of the linens, please drop off or mail a donation to the church indicating what the gift is for. Thank you!

**SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT** Each year Trinity's Scholarship Endowment awards scholarships to Trinity members that are just graduating from high school through their fourth year of college. The students have to reapply each year. This fund has helped many, many students throughout the years.



**An anonymous donor has offered to match all donations 1:1 to the Scholarship Endowment through December 28, 2020!** What a generous blessing! Usually the Endowment holds a fall fundraiser, but due to the COVID situation, the fundraiser is postponed until sometime in 2021. The Endowment is grateful for donations made at this time so that they can continue their mission to help our students. If making a donation, please make checks out to Trinity Scholarship Endowment. Thank you!

**LITTLE FREE PANTRY** Do you know someone that needs a little help with food or toiletries? Please let them know that Trinity has a Little Free Pantry in the lower level – enter using the southeast door (on Main Street, closest to the parking lot), head down the stairs and the pantry is directly ahead. Please remember to use hand sanitizer prior to picking up items. A hand sanitizer dispenser is directly inside the door.

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## COMING IN DECEMBER....

**Reverse Advent calendars** – set up like a traditional Advent calendar except behind each “window” is a suggestion of a way that you can thoughtfully celebrate Advent with acts of kindness, food donation, supply donations, etc. Watch for more information as to when these will be ready.

**Thankful Gifts catalog** – looking for a unique gift that makes a difference in the life of someone? Perhaps it is bikes for doctors and teachers in Africa, or vaccinations for a child in India, or textbooks for students in Vietnam, or pigs, or chicks.....there are a wide variety of gifts that will make a true impact on someone's life. Catalogs will be ready in late November/early December.

## BLACK AND WHITE: THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL READS AND ASKS QUESTIONS

*On June 17, 2015, nine African Americans were killed during a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, SC. Police arrested 21-year-old white supremacist Dylann Roof (who grew up in the ELCA) the next day; he had attended the Bible study before he committed the shooting.*

*On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was killed in Minneapolis during an arrest for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, knelt on Floyd's neck for almost nine minutes while Floyd was handcuffed and lying face down, repeatedly saying "I can't breathe." Two additional officers restrained Floyd while a fourth prevented bystanders from intervening. During the final three minutes, Floyd was motionless and had no pulse. Chauvin ignored onlookers' pleas to remove his knee until medics told him to.*

These are just two of hundreds of stories about race in America. And truth to tell, the stories aren't always "black and white." But after George Floyd was killed, the Trinity Congregation Council felt called to begin a discussion about what it means to be church in a time of racial conflict. We started by reading "Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.," by Pr. Lenny Duncan.

Did you know that we – the ELCA – are the whitest denomination in the U.S.? What do you think it might be like to be a black person in this very white church? What are we doing to educate people about race in our church? What are we doing to facilitate better relationships? To facilitate inclusion and equity?

"Shifting demographics and shrinking congregations make all the headlines [about churches], but Duncan sees something else at work—drawing a direct line between the church's lack of diversity and the church's lack of vitality. Duncan gives a blueprint for the way forward and urges us to follow in the revolutionary path of Jesus." (Amazon)

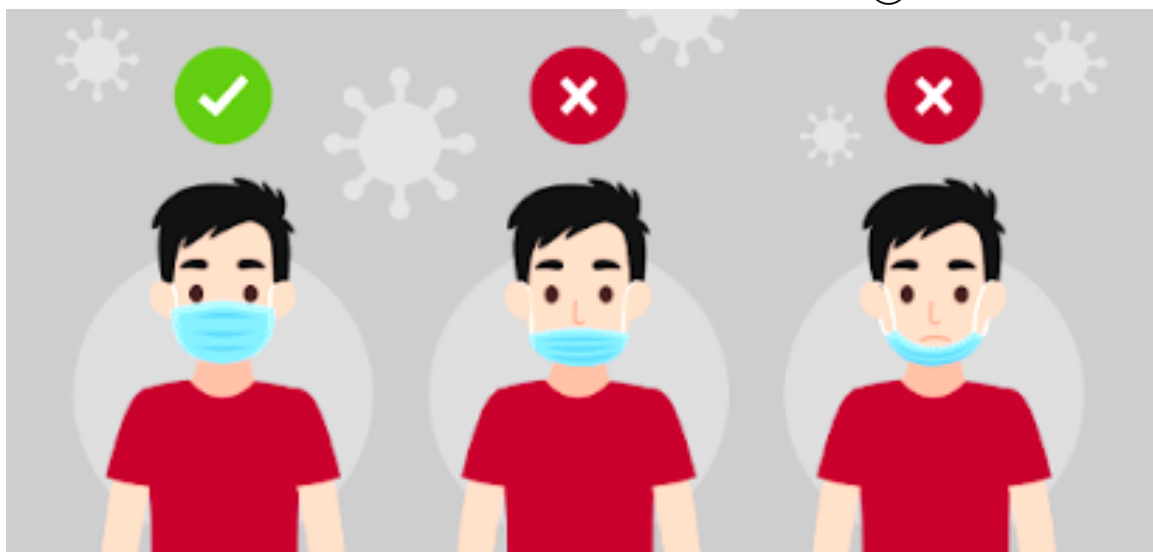
During the summer, the Congregation Council was reading and discussing this book while also updating the congregation's constitution, which could result in updating the makeup of the council itself after the Annual Meeting next year. That's when the question arose: Should Trinity create a new team whose mission is all about diversity and inclusion? What would the team look like? What would be its focus? Who would like to be a member?

The Congregation Council would like to hear from you! If you have ideas about this team, if you'd like to be a member of this team, please email Pr. Elizabeth at [trinitysr@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinitysr@springgrove.coop) or Congregation President Saundy Solum at [saundra.solum@wisc.edu](mailto:saundra.solum@wisc.edu). Let's continue the conversation together!

***This is how we care for ourselves and our neighbors.***

**Friendly reminder on how to wear a mask.**

And remember....they need washing, too! 😊



**Yes!**  
nose, mouth, chin  
covered.

**No...**  
nose not covered.

**No...**  
nose, mouth, chin  
not covered.

**OCTOBER 14, 2020 CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

- Received EDA Grant of \$2,585.52. Used to purchase fogger for disinfecting, 2-channel power amp, wireless system with bodypack, additional Zoom account, and other items for modern media services.
- Updates/improvements made at Trinity Center — replaced cement, fixed water draining problem, card key lock installed. Fire inspection completed and repairs done. Compressor for heating system needs repair.
- Discussion on creating an additional team (name not yet determined, possibilities: Equity Team, Congregation Climate Team, Diversity Team, Social and Racial Awareness Team). Goal: to bring attention to diversity in our community and world.
- September offering was short of budget. First six months of 2020, income is down 3.1% compared to 2019. Expenses for first nine months of 2020 were 6% higher than in 2019.

Motions passed:

- to approve bylaws
- to approve 11 confirmands and 7 new members
- to start an ad hoc Diversity Committee

**Next Meeting: November 11 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.** Complete minutes are on Trinity's website.

**DOING HOLIDAY SHOPPING? REMEMBER....TRINITY IS PART OF AMAZON SMILE**

AmazonSmile is a simple way to support a favorite charity (Trinity!) every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you! When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices and selection just like on Amazon.com with the added benefit that Amazon donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of the shopper's choice. There is no cost to the shopper for shopping through AmazonSmile and there is no cost to the charitable organization.

Here's how to shop through AmazonSmile....

- 1) Visit this website and it will automatically put Trinity as the charity that will receive the AmazonSmile donation: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/41-0724052>. Or you can simply go to: **smile.amazon.com** and search for "Trinity Lutheran Church" as the charitable organization you want to select.....make sure to look for Trinity from Spring Grove, MN.
- 2) Shop as usual! Tens of millions of products are eligible for donations. These products will be marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail page.

*Please note.....if you have previously chosen a charitable organization through AmazonSmile, you can easily change it to Trinity....you can take turns selecting your favorite organizations to receive the donation!*

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF TRINITY AND ITS MINISTRIES**

Thank you so much for your continued support of Trinity and our ministries during this time when we can't be together.

We have options to receive your offering during this time when we will not be gathering at the Trinity building:

- ▶ **ELECTRONICALLY:** via our website, [www.trinitysg.org](http://www.trinitysg.org). Click on the "Contribute" link on the ride-side of the page.
- ▶ **BY MAIL:** Trinity Lutheran Church, 203 E. Main St., Spring Grove, MN 55974.

Remember — **sponsorships for the radio broadcast** (\$100) or **Missionary for a Day candle** (\$40) can also still be done. Do you have a certain date in mind?

Give us a call, 498-5291, and leave a message or send us an email, [trinity@springgrove.coop](mailto:trinity@springgrove.coop).

*Thank You*  
FOR  
**GIVING**  
...  
**GENEROUSLY**

**FRIDAY EMAILS** On Fridays we send an email with news about the weekend and upcoming week. We've been trying a new method of delivery — through MailChimp. Please check your spam/junk/promotions folders to see if the email is “stuck” there. We are continuing to work on finding the best, most reliable method to get this information delivered to everyone. Please bear with us as we get this figured out. Thanks for your patience! If you would like to be added to the Friday email list, please let us know in the office.



**YOUTUBE** Did you miss a Sunday worship service? Would you like to hear a Bible story read to your children? Remember all of these things are available on our YouTube channel.....past worship services, Bible Stories with Bekah, and short videos on Telling the Trinity Stewardship Story. Lots of things to watch, check it out! [Click here.](#)



**STAYING IN TOUCH WITH OUR YOUNG ADULTS** Many young adults are away from home at college, in the military, or working. Or maybe they are at home but going to college. Trinity's Outreach Team would like to periodically send these young adults notes of encouragement or just a simple “hello we are thinking of you.” Do you have a young adult in college or military or in the workforce? Or are you one of those young adults? Please send us their mailing and email address so that the Outreach Team can send them a note, too. Thank you!



**THANK YOU** Our participation along with other congregations of the SEMN Synod in the summer initiative supporting campus ministries raised more than \$28,000 in support of what God is doing through Crossroads Campus Ministry in Mankato and Lutheran Campus Center in Winona. Thank you!

**LOOKING FOR A DELICIOUS HEALTHY MEAL? CHECK OUT SENIOR DINING!** Carry-out meals are available Monday-Friday. Call Annette at the Legion, 498-3385, from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. to sign-up for a meal, please give 24 hours notice. A donation between \$3.75-\$7.00 is requested, whatever you can pay. Delicious meals include such things as chili con carne, enchilada casserole, chicken pot pie, vegetable soup, porcupine meatballs, and more sides and dessert. Yum! You can also contact the Rushford SEMCAC office to sign up for meals, (507) 864-2786.

**NEED HELP WITH ENERGY BILLS? SEMCAC OFFERS AN ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** Eligibility based on household income. Call SEMCAC at (800)944-3281. Applications can also be picked up from Annette at the Legion from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays-Fridays.

## **HUMANITARIAN AID FOR REFUGEES, FEARED DESTROYED IN BEIRUT EXPLOSION, FOUND INTACT**

BALTIMORE, Sept. 24, 2020 — Three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid that included thousands of handmade quilts and baby-care items, which were reported as destroyed in the August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, have been found intact and are ready to be distributed to victims of the blast and refugees. Authorities assumed the containers were lost in the historic blast that killed more than 200 people and laid waste to parts of the city. It took several weeks for longtime Lutheran World Relief partner Anera to gain access to the port, locate the containers and check their contents. The contents of all four containers have been transferred to a warehouse and will be distributed to families displaced by the explosion, as well as to refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories.

“It’s an incredible blessing to realize that now these items are in exactly the right place at the right time,” said Melanie Gibbons, deputy director for outreach and engagement at Lutheran World Relief.

**ALCM (ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH MUSICIANS) VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL**

You are invited to participate in the creation of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Virtual Christmas Carol. The virtual carol being created is *Angels We Have Heard on High* arranged by Anne Krentz Organ. Visit <https://alcm.org/christmas-virtual-hymn/> for details on how to record your portion of the song. **All recordings must be submitted by Sunday, November 8.**

**ENJOY COFFEE? HERE IS A GREAT SOURCE TO PURCHASE COFFEE**

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has worked with coffee farmers and their cooperatives for years. Through this work, LWR has helped coffee farmers get quality coffee seeds, fertilizer and other materials to grow good quality coffee. LWR also helps cooperatives to provide more support and training to their farmers and access buyers willing to pay better prices. Through this work, many farmers around the world have been able to build stronger livelihoods with their coffee. Even still, market challenges remain.



LWR Farmers Market Coffee creates even more economic opportunities for farmers living in poverty around the world. Coffee farmers and their families not only benefit from the expertise and support of LWR, but also receive fair, stable, and predictable up-front prices, along with a share of the profits from the sale of their coffee. For every pound of coffee purchased, THRIVE Farmers also donates 80 cents back to LWR to continue reaching out to farmers all over the world. Farmers are paid a more than fair, stable, and predictable price and receive additional profits after the coffee is sold so they can provide for their families while continuing to invest in the quality of their coffee crops. To purchase, visit: [www.lwrfarmersmarket.org/coffee](http://www.lwrfarmersmarket.org/coffee)

**TAKE THE BETTER ANGELS SOCIAL MEDIA PLEDGE**

*Braver Angels* was inspired by the words of Abraham Lincoln, who not only called on Americans to summon the “better angels” of our nature – but called on us to find the *courage* needed to pursue a more perfect union, “with malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right.”

To meet the current moment, at this time of national crisis, we need more than civility. We need to challenge ourselves to work together when we disagree. [We need bravery](#). Based on the tried and true communication guidelines used in our workshops, we developed this Better Angels Social Media Pledge.



Pledge to follow these guidelines on social media. Pledge to do your part to promote civil discourse. Pledge to reduce polarization in America. (visit <https://braverangels.org/take-the-better-angels-social-media-pledge/> to see the pledge and learn more about this organization.)

- 1) I will post with a goal of clarifying my point of view, and not attacking the other side. I will focus on expressing the values, facts and experiences that have shaped my view, not attacking the other side.
- 2) I will be civil and respectful. I won't say things or use a tone that I wouldn't use in a face-to-face conversation in a public setting. I won't call people names or use labels (idiots, snowflakes, etc.) I will treat people as individuals, not stereotypes representing an entire group. I won't use a condescending tone. I won't escalate unconstructive and hurtful dialogue. I will try to keep the conversation going, not to shut it down. When needed, I'll take it “offline.”
- 3) I won't make blanket statements or over generalize. I will use facts and examples to explain my position. I won't make blanket “always/never statements.” I will qualify my statements and viewpoints to leave room to explore topics more fully (sometimes, in my experience, in this case, etc.).
- 4) I won't try to convert people to my “side,” I will encourage understanding and learning. (habits 2,3) I will acknowledge common ground and common values on both sides when I see it. I will ask honest (not loaded) questions. (Not questions that incriminate)
- 5) I will keep an open mind. I won't over simplify or fall into automatic “all or nothing” conclusions. I recognize most issues are very complicated, and good solutions require deep understanding and nuanced thinking. I know that an open mind is never 100% certain about everything. I will acknowledge my doubt, to myself and others, and engage with the goal of exploring different ways to see an issue or find a solution.





### Welcome to Trinity – Thorson-Olesen family!

Stephanie lived in Spring Grove until 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She said that she has always considered Spring Grove her hometown and is happy to have moved back last summer. Her husband, Niels, is from the Aalborg area of Denmark. “The Scandinavian heritage here made it immediately feel like home for him too,” Stephanie commented.

They have three children, Isabella (7), Olivia (4), and Thor (2). Stephanie is a Professor at Viterbo University and Niels works from a home office and an office in Eagen for DSV (international logistics).

One of the reasons they moved to Spring Grove was to be closer to family. “Thor was born with many health challenges. While he has grown out of life threatening conditions for the most part, repeated intubations have impaired his ability to speak. However, he is intellectually competent and can understand what is said to him.”

We are excited to have this family as part of our Trinity family!



◀ ▼ Preparing and packing layettes for Lutheran World Relief.

▶ Love Day means making and assembling quilts!





▲ Outdoor Sunday School games!

▲ Confirmation mentor groups get creative and meet outdoors.

▼ Nine Confirmation students and Barb Gulbranson helped Task Takers rake lawns.





**2020 Confirmation**

October 25 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

*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*



**2020 Confirmands**

Front row: Maggie Lile, Haley Ellingson, Nathan Solberg, Hunter Holland, Alison Frydenlund, Ella Wennes.

Back row: Lydia Solum, Caleb Griffin, August Allen, Tysen Grinde, Madilyn Ostern, Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier.





▲ Outdoor worship with the Blessing of the Animals and a fire pit to keep us warm!

► Baptism of Alden James Gartner.





Dear Friends in Christ,

We need your help! Our dad, Bishop Jim, will be retiring on December 31, 2020. As a pastor, he served four Minnesota churches and as Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod, as well as many other outreaches and committees, totaling thirty-nine years of spreading the love of Jesus. No matter which part of these ministries you were a part of you have had an impact on the life and ministry of our parents, Bishop Jim and Lynn Arends, and we thank you for that.

Since we are unable to have a big party with you all in attendance, we have a surprise alternative option. Let's send our ultimate storyteller off with your memories and stories. We need the silly, joyous, caring, loving, and any other memories you have as a part of Bishop Jim and Lynn's ministry with you. Please write letters, send photos, make a video, or anything else you see fit to send off Bishop Jim and Lynn into this exciting next chapter of life. For those of you who can share with us your memories and help us spread the word, we thank you for helping us surprise them in this way.

You may mail your memories to Rachel at the address below or email them to [memoriesforbishopjim@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesforbishopjim@gmail.com). We are looking to have them by December 1, 2020 in order to compile them and present them to our parents. Thank you, we look forward to celebrating our parents in this way with you. Remember, it's a surprise!

With joy and love,  
Adam, David, Rachel, and Andy Arends

Mailing address:  
Rachel Arends  
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church  
17205 County Road 6  
Plymouth, MN 55447

Email:  
[memoriesforbishopjim@gmail.com](mailto:memoriesforbishopjim@gmail.com)

## Volunteers

498-AMEN	
November 1-14	Karen Gray
November 15-28	Terry Holland
November 29-December 12	Jean Ellingson



### WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED TO TRINITY

- **498-HOPE (4673)**  
-short daily messages and updates
- **498-AMEN (2636)**  
-daily devotions
- **www.trinitysg.org**  
-news, updates, info
- **Facebook: Trinity Lutheran Church Spring Grove**  
-updates, music, worship, info
- **YouTube:**  
*Trinity Lutheran: Spring Grove*  
-video recordings of worship, Bible Stories with Bekah
- **Instagram**  
-photos, updates
- **KVIK 104.7FM**  
- Sunday worship service,  
- www.kvikradio.com



# November happenings at Trinity

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:15am Worship, Facebook Live 10:00am Drive- thru Communion 10:30am Worship Team 5-7pm All Saints Luminaria on Main Street	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 5pm AA	<b>4</b> 1pm & 2pm Release Time, TC 6pm Confirmation	<b>5</b> 6pm Education Team, Zoom 7:00pm Finance Team	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30am AA
<b>8</b> 9:15am Worship, Facebook Live	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5pm AA  5:45pm Stewardship Team, Zoom	<b>11</b> 1pm & 2pm Release Time, TC  6:30pm Council	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Newsletter info due in office	<b>14</b> 10:30am AA
<b>15</b> 9:15am Worship, Facebook Live 10:00am Drive- thru Communion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5pm AA	<b>18</b> 1:30pm & 2:15pm Release Time, TC 6pm Outreach Team 7pm Response Team, Zoom	<b>19</b> 5:30pm Facilities Planning, Zoom 7pm Staffing Team, Zoom	<b>20</b> newsletter mailed	<b>21</b> 10:30am AA 11am private Holy Baptism
<b>22</b> 9:15am Worship, Facebook Live	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 1:30pm & 2:15pm Release Time, TC 5pm AA	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Thanksgiving</b>  10am Worship, Facebook and YouTube  	<b>27</b> office closed	<b>28</b> 10:30am AA
<b>29</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:15am Worship, Facebook Live	<b>30</b>					

**FH** = Fellowship Hall (large room in basement)

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


**MR** = Middle Room (upstairs by offices)

**TC** = Trinity Center

*Trinity*  
Lutheran Church  
203 East Main Street  
PO Box 188  
Spring Grove, MN 55974

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Let gratitude be the  
pillow upon which you  
kneel to say your  
nightly prayer. And let  
faith be the bridge you  
build to overcome evil  
and welcome good.

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MAYA ANGELOU