

TRINITY

Tribute

November 2021 Newsletter

Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA
Cook, Minnesota

*"Through the active love and grace of God we as a body of Christ are called
to invite, welcome, and care for all."*

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held following the worship service on October 17. Three council members (Bill Conger, Julie Horihan, and Crystal Phillips) were elected, the budget for 2022 was approved, and Larry Kujala was elected as 2022 delegate for the Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry annual meeting. Copies of unapproved minutes can be found on page 4 and copies of the new budget is available from the office.

At the time of this newsletter printing, the congregational vote regarding the call of a Congregational Care Minister has not yet been held. A special meeting called by the Trinity Council will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2021, following worship. More details will be available soon!

Thanks to Deacon Brenda Tibbetts, who lead worship on Sunday, October 24, while Pastor Erika was on a well-deserved vacation. If you missed the service and have access to the internet, you can still watch it on the Trinity YouTube channel, Facebook page, or website.

Thanksgiving for Baptism



Worship at the Gazebo: the weather wasn't quite as cooperative, but our second summer service in the park was also well-attended and all seemed to enjoy the fellowship following the service. Thanks, Jody Bixby for the coffee and goodies.



THE DIRECTORY IS HERE and it turned out Great!

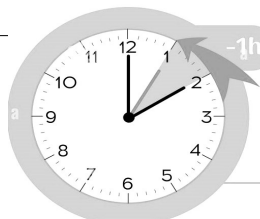
If you have not yet picked up a copy for yourself, a family member, or a Friend of Trinity, please do! The two-part (pictorial and address) finished product is available in the Fellowship Hall or in the office during regular hours (Tuesday-Thursday, 9 - 4).

Thanks so much to Julie Horihan for coordinating the project; Connie Stone and Becky Smith for capturing the true essence of Trinity's people; Mickey Maki, Lynn Polich, Jody Bixby, Lindy Wilenius, Elizabeth Storm, and Crystal Phillips for help with updates; Pastor Erika and Beth Sprouls for more eyes on the proof.



NOTICE: Pastor Erika will be out of the office the week of November 1-7, 2021. PrLiz Cheney will be available for pastoral care needs. Retired Pastor Ellen Taube will preside during worship on Sunday.

The Trinity office will be closed Wednesday, November 3, 2021. There will also be NO YOUTH ACTIVITIES on that day.



FALL BACK
Daylight Saving Time Ends
November 7, 2021



From Pastor Erika

By the time you read this it will be November but if the November weather is anything like the October weather we are having, it is just too nice to sit inside all day long!

Sitting outside in the evening or letting my dog out early in the morning with green grass and the beautiful falling leaves of yellows and reds and the quietness of the world, I can't help but feel the presence of God. The beauty of the world in the season of fall and even into early winter feeds my soul.

As I drive to and from places as see the beauty of this land lines of hymns come to my head, "Surely, the presence of the Lord is in this place" and "For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies;"

In the midst of the chaos that is our county, state, country, and world right now, what we all need is to have our souls fed. We all need to take time to set down the "side" we are on for whatever issue we are taking "sides" on. We need to take time to step back from the constant battling and the demanding of others to see that we are right and they are wrong. We need to find what feeds our souls, for if our souls aren't fed by God and all that God has and is given to us, the battles will continue to rage and our souls will wither.

I share this quote with you: "There are two places you need to go often...the place that heals you and the place that inspires you." B. Nicole @ Ground Growing.

If you put down your love or hate for masks, vaccines, and other issues, where are you right now? What is your core? How does your soul need to be fed? Where is your healing place and the place that inspires you?

There is a lot going on in the world right now. There are a lot of issues that you can pick a side on. There are times it is hard to have faith in God.

But God is here in this place. God is calling you to go to those places that heal and inspire you rather than the places that cause anger, pain and rash decisions. Find a way to find your soul and feed your soul.

See God, see the good, feed your souls,

Pr. Erika

Give to the Max – November 18.

It's the great Minnesota give together, and Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry needs your help to reach our goal of raising \$40,000 in one day. The success of this annual November day of giving is made possible by the generous donations of those who love Camp Hiawatha and Camp Vermilion. Your support keeps camp affordable for everyone!



Learn more at www.givemn.org/organization/Voyageurs-Lutheran-Ministry and watch the VLM social media pages for updates on this fun day of giving.

Bible Quest began fall sessions on October 6, 2021. After time off for MEA weekend, the kids returned on October 27 for a party with activities such as games, face painting, crafts, and of course, snacks. Thanks to Lindy Wilenius, Mickey Maki, Kim Marwick, Bailey Conger, Ivy Chaulklin, Kate Cheney and numerous confirmation students for assisting Pr. Erika with all the fun. NOTE: There will be no BQ on November 3rd.



Songs,
games,
and face
painting



Kim Marwick, Mickey Maki serving up snacks



Halloween Photo Booth Fun

Lindy Wilenius working with some of the kids



Council Meeting Minutes (Unapproved)
October 14, 2021

Present: council members: Bill Conger, Jody Bixby, Pastor Erika Foss, Bruce Garbisch, Mike Enzmann attended in person and Bob Walker, Deb Gordon attended via Zoom. Lynn Polich was absent. Also in attendance was Sue Carstens-bookkeeper/treasurer, Julie Horihan, Call Committee chair, and the candidate for the Congregational Care Minister.

Meeting: Called to order at 2:33 pm by President Bill Conger. Devotions and prayer were led by Deb.

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Pr. Erika, second by Jody. Motion carried.

Call process: Julie introduced the Candidate of Choice by the call committee, stating that this person came highly recommended, was highly qualified for the position, and that the person is a deacon. The candidate explained their qualifications and questions and answers followed. The council members introduced themselves to the candidate. A motion was made by Bruce, second by Mike, to recommend the candidate to the congregation for vote to hire. Motion unanimous. A motion by Deb, second by Pr. Erika, to accept the compensation package with the change of vacation from 28 days to 4 weeks (of regular work weeks) and to present this to the congregation for vote. Motion unanimous. Council will send a letter to all of the congregational members stating that we will have a “meet and greet” with the candidate for the congregation on Saturday, October 30, 2021, from 1-3pm in the fellowship hall, and that a special meeting will be held on Sunday, October 31, 2021, following worship to vote on hiring the candidate and to vote on the compensation package.

Secretary’s Report: A motion was made by Pr. Erika, second by Jody, to approve the previous minutes as written. Motioned carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Sue went over the reports and a motion was made by Jody, seconded by Pr. Erika, to approve the report as given. Motion carried.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor stated that we have 8 confirmation students and 25 Bible Quest attendees. She will be on vacation next week and that Pr. Liz Cheney will cover any pastoral needs. Pastor will be attending a continuing ed via video in early November. Pr. Erika is excited for the possibility of working with the new Congregational Care Minister.

President’s Report:

Building and grounds has been dealing with a leaking roof. We will be purchasing a new microphone for the sanctuary. He also thanked Bob and Deb for their service on council.

Old Business:

2022 Budget: Sue presented the 2022 Budget, stating that there is a 7.45% increase due to the new position of the Congregational Care Minister. A motion was made by Jody, second by Mike, to present the budget proposal to the congregation for vote at the annual meeting.

Van: Camp Vermilion said that they would take the van as a donation. We will ask them if, in return, that they offer 1 campership for use by our church.

Fire safe cabinet: Sue stated that a new 4-drawer fire safe cabinet will cost around \$2500 and that council had approved \$750 at last meeting. A motion was made by Jody, second by Deb, to order a safe from Range Office Supply to be delivered and installed and the cost needed. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee: We have one candidate, Crystal Phillips, who has agreed to run for council. Bill has agreed to run for a second term and he will ask around for someone to fill the third open position.

New Business:

Adopt A Highway: Lisa Simensen does not want to be in charge of this any longer so we will need to find a volunteer to do this.

Tree for Vida Anderson: Building and Grounds will talk to Sue (Irv) Gustafson about this.

Big Woods Transit: Pr. Erika said that Big Woods is picking up the Bible Quest kids at a cost of \$36/week

Agenda for Annual Meeting: A motion was made by Pr. Erika, second by Jody, to accept the agenda with corrections noted. Motion carried.

Questionnaire: Jody would like to send a questionnaire to church members asking how they feel about Trinity and what they would like to see different. She thinks that the decisions about how to worship should be decided by all and not just the council. She would like other council members to help decide what questions to ask. Bill said he would help and that we should discuss this further at next council meeting.

Funeral Policy: Pr. Erika presented a policy with cost suggestions. This will be tabled until next council meeting.

Announcements: None.

The next regular council meeting will be held on Monday November 15, 2021, at 6:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Deb Gordon, Secretary

**Annual Meeting Minutes of Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA (Unapproved)
Sunday October 17, 2021**

Packets were distributed. The meeting was called to order at 10:23 am by Council President Bill Conger.

Opening prayer was led by Pastor Erika Foss.

A motion was made by Liz Storm, second by Beth Sprouls, to accept the secretary's report. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Larry Lang, second by Rob Marwick, to accept the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried.

Bill gave a President's Report thanking everyone for their patience as we try to get back to normal while continuing to deal with the covid pandemic. He pointed out the positives such as finding new ways to worship, including the live streaming; that we are still financially stable due to the deep roots of support by the congregation; and the support for hiring of a new staff position, the Congregational Care Minister. He also thanked all the current staff for their hard work and thanked the two outgoing council members for their work the past two years.

Bailey Conger spoke for the Worship Team, giving special thanks and recognition to Mickey Maki who is retiring from the Bell Choir after 25 years.

Old Business:

There is still no action from the sellers regarding the Setter property.

New Business:

Council Elections: A motion was made by Liz Storm, second by Jane Kujala, to have a white ballot to elect the three open positions. Motion carried. A motion was made by Beth Sprouls, second by Vickie Lange, to elect Bill Conger, Julie Horihan, and Crystal Phillips to Council. Motion carried.

Budget Review and Vote: The 2022 Budget was presented by Sue Carstens, stating that there is a 7.45% or \$18,000 increase from the current year, mostly due to the hiring of the Congregational Care Minister. Question and answer period followed. Dale Horihan thought that the 1% staff increase was low compared to inflation. Pr. Erika said the Synod has suggested a wage freeze during the pandemic because of all the congregations that are struggling financially. A motion by Mike Enzmann, second by Mickey Maki, to accept the 2022 Budget as presented. Motion carried.

VLM Delegate: A motion was made by Lois Garbisch, second by Liz Storm, to elect Larry Kujala as the 2022 delegate. Motion carried.

Announcements: Bailey Conger said that Trinity had won a retreat at Camp Vermilion for up to 38 people because our raffle basket at the Bluegrass Festival sold the most tickets.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Gordon, Council Secretary



Esther Jowaski chatting with Pr Erika following the annual meeting.



President's Report

26-Oct-21

Shalom

The frost is on the pumpkin and deer season is on the horizon. The seasons are definitely changing in Cook as leaves turn color before dropping from the trees, and the snowbirds fly south. November usually is considered as only a month to get through so we can get ready for Christmas, but there really is a lot to do in November and we should not rush through it.

Important events in our church life in November include All Souls Day when we remember our brethren who inspired us and have passed from this life, Veterans Day when we remember the sacrifice of those who volunteered to serve our country and Thanksgiving. We should take the time individually to be thankful for our blessings every day, but Thanksgiving is a special day when we do this collectively as families, friends and a nation.

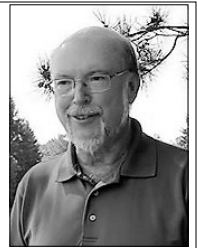
Some years it is harder to be thankful than others. We all have disruptions in our lives, and some are extremely painful and so raw that they can cloud our vision of all the blessings that we do have, and have had, to be thankful for. This has been a disruptive year for the good old USA, but even with all our troubles we are still living in one of the most blessed nations in the world. Let's pray and work to keep it that way.

To continue the change theme, there are seasonal changes at Trinity as well. We had two servants, Bob Walker and Deb Gordon, complete their terms on the Council, and two new servants, Crystal Philips and Julie Horihan, elected to new terms at the Annual Meeting on October 17th. Many thanks to all four volunteers.

We are also close to calling a new Congregational Care Minister as I write this. This is a major accomplishment for Trinity. I hear there are close to 1,000 openings in the ELCA at the moment. We are indeed blessed to find people trained in Christian ministry who are willing to serve us at Trinity when many churches are left wanting.

So as the temperatures dip and the snowflakes begin to follow the leaves as they fall to the ground, please take the extra time you spend inside to reflect on our collective blessings, and to pray for new blessings for those in need.

Peace and Understanding,
Bill Conger



Scripture Readings for November

November 7

God Speaks to Elijah
1Kings 19:1-18

Secondary Text
John 12:27-28

November 14

Amos: Justice Rolls Down
Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24

Secondary Text
John 7:37-38

November 21

Isaiah: A Child is Born
Isaiah 9:1-7

Secondary Text
John 8:12

November 28

Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14

Secondary Text
John 14:27



Deacon Brenda greeting long-time member, Gene Jenkins. Good to see you, Gene!



Leo Wilenius is always telling stories and making the kids giggle - - Ollie Simensen and dad, Garrett.

Summer Camp 2022 at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

It's never too early to start making plans for summer camp! Our summer schedule is in place, and registration opens November 1.

Camp Hiawatha offers Hockey Camp and Family Camp, along with a variety of one, two, and three-day programs for younger campers.

Camp Vermilion has week-long opportunities for all ages, including canoeing experiences both in-camp and in the Boundary Waters.

There is a little something for everyone during the summer with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. We can't wait to see YOU at camp!

Trinity Lutheran Church - Giving in Grace- Financial Report

General Fund

Budget Receipts	<u>9/30/2021</u>
Budget Expenditures	\$19,118.24
Checkbook Balance	\$17,629.31
	\$4,238.94

2021 Budget = \$242,105.79

Offerings Needed

Monthly = \$20,175.48
Sunday = \$4,655.88

<u>Income</u>	<u>Sept. Received</u>	<u>Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 17,945.00		\$ 161,563.00	
Loose Offering	\$ 1,098.24		\$ 8,461.37	
Church usage	\$ 75.00		\$ 450.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 19,118.24	20,175.48 **	\$ 170,474.37	\$ 181,579.32

<u>Mission Support</u>	<u>Sept paid</u>		<u>YTD Paid</u>	
NE Synod	\$ 787.50	\$ 787.50	\$ 7,087.50	\$ 7,087.50
VLM	\$ 125.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 1,125.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 912.50	\$ 912.50	\$ 8,212.50	\$ 8,212.50

<u>Expenses</u>				
Education	\$ 946.19	\$ 2,916.40	\$ 3,808.20	\$ 26,247.60
Wellness Ministry		\$ 12.50	\$ 35.90	\$ 112.50
Stewardship	\$ 105.04	\$ 125.00	\$ 992.28	\$ 1,125.00
Social Outreach Ministry	\$ 571.04	\$ 166.67	\$ 1,590.24	\$ 1,500.03
Worship	\$ 601.64	\$ 798.03	\$ 7,090.72	\$ 7,182.27
Church Operations	\$ 7,525.13	\$ 7,833.72	\$ 67,728.09	\$ 70,503.48
Pastoral Salary & Bene	\$ 6,967.77	\$ 7,377.33	\$ 66,235.87	\$ 66,395.97
Misc		\$ 33.33	\$ 435.00	\$ 299.97
Total Expenses	\$ 17,629.31	\$ 20,175.48	\$ 156,128.80	\$ 181,579.32

Growing In Grace(2)

Total loan	\$786,660.31
Current Balance	\$238,560.13
Pledged	\$278,377.00
Pledges Received	\$171,803.68 (64 giving units)
	61.30% thru 9/30/21

September

5-Sep	42
12-Sep	70
19-Sep	34
26-Sep	55

Attendance

Receipts for the month are BELOW budget by \$2,058.48. Receipts are BELOW budget for the year \$11,104.95.
Expenses are BELOW budget for the month by \$2,546.17. Expenses are BELOW budget for the year \$25,450.52.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Clark Brenna
Ray Pohto

Given by:

Martha Baker
Leo & Lindy Wilenius

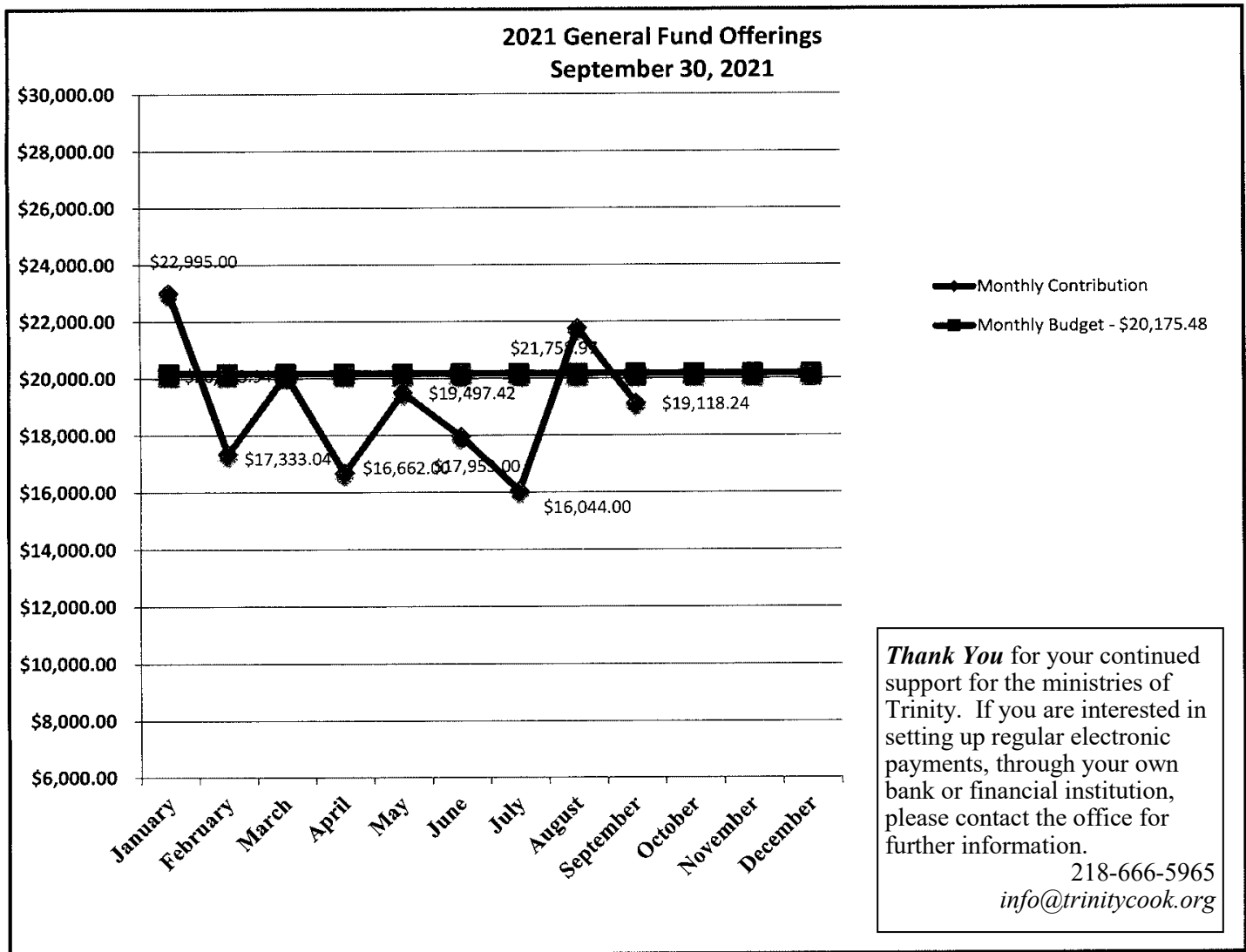
This QR code, when scanned, will take you directly to the new VancoMobile link.



<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Submitted-YTD</u>
World Hunger		\$1,270.00
Cook Food Shelf		\$2,980.00
Social Outreach Ministry	\$326.00	\$3,153.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		\$150.00
Lenten Offerings		\$2,780.00 given to Food Shelf

Submitted by Sue Carstens, Financial Mgr/ Bkbp

Giving in Grace



Looking for an easy way to support the Trinity ministry? Sign up for **AmazonSmile**, designate "Trinity Lutheran Church", and for every purchase you make, Trinity will receive a donation (**0.5% of eligible purchases - no fees, no extra cost**) quarterly. **Thank You** to all the online shoppers who have already designated Trinity for donations through AmazonSmile.

Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> for more information and to get signed up.

NOTE: We are listed as **Trinity Lutheran Church**. Please be sure you have chosen our site: search **Trinity Lutheran Church, Cook**, and it will show up as Cook, MN. Questions? Call Trinity's office at 218-666-5965

As of October 1, 2021, Vanco, our eGiving provider, is using a mobile app called **Vanco Mobile**, with which you can send one-time donations or set recurring gifts. If you presently have regular automatic giving set up you do not need to do anything. If you only have only used the **GIVEPlus** phone app occasionally, you will need to download the new up-graded app to your device. Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download **Vanco Mobile** for free! Once the app is downloaded, just enter "Cook" in the search box and Trinity's info will be there.



If you previously used the **GIVEPlus** app, you will need to upgrade to **Vanco Mobile** by January 31, 2022.

Lord, Hear Our Prayers:

Those needing healing and comfort:

Melissa Bauer, Donna Bergman, Shirley Bixby, Patty Carlson, Kevin Cairn, Donnie Gordon, Greg Lind, Bill Mault, Carol McCue, Squeak McCue, Mike McCue, Marian Nord, Bob Posch, Kenneth Tomlinson, and Louie Watt.

Lynn & Steve Polich and families as they continue to mourn Josh Polich.

Dave & Dawn Reing and families as they mourn the loss of Dave's father, Lloyd Reing.

- + Those in our community and the world still dealing with the loss and uncertainty of Covid.
- + People facing medical testing, challenges, & difficult situations
- + Those serving in the armed forces: Ezra Ahlgren, Carolyn Bergman, Alan Gustafson, Tristin Gilbert, Erik Lappi, Matt Root, Max Pearson, Markus Udovich
- + Those seeking Jesus Christ in their lives.



Anniversaries

1	Roger & Nancy Lindbeck
4	Gary & Patty Carlson
10	Bill & Joyce Fromel
16	Rick & Kay Lokken
25	Ray & Ivy Reinholtzen
29	Rick & Sue Aune

IT'S
Your
day

Birthdays

1	Rachel Pearson	19	Bruce Garbisch
	Kory Zallar	20	Lila Pearson
2	Bruce Anderson	22	Bill Sersha
4	Karen Woods		Bob Walker
15	Bill Woods	24	Laura Aune
17	Denise Twite	27	Sophie Arvila
	Darrel Lindgren		John Cin
18	Layla Vraa	28	Leo Wilenius
			Tom Ojanen

Advent will be here before long and planning has already started. Advent calendars will be available and packets for home devotional use are being put together and will be available to pick up from the office soon. Watch for more information coming in the next week or so.

The women of Trinity will be holding their monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 10, at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join the ladies for Bible study and business meeting. WELCA has been very active in LWR and just completed a full month of quilt tying.

Women of the ELCA

Finished quilts are donated to both the Salvation Army and a women's shelter in Virginia. Most of the rest of the colorful, finished product is available to see in the sanctuary for a short while before they are boxed up and taken to the Twin Cities.

See you in March!

Just a friendly reminder that our weekly offerings are what keep us going. Whether you join us in person or online, the ministry and mission of Trinity depends on your faithful giving. Continuing to send in your weekly or monthly offering is appreciated as we continue to navigate this pandemic and unprecedented time in which we continue to find ourselves.



Judy McGlynn & Marsha Zottola work together to tie one of 125+ quilts finished this month.


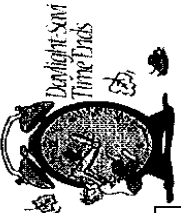

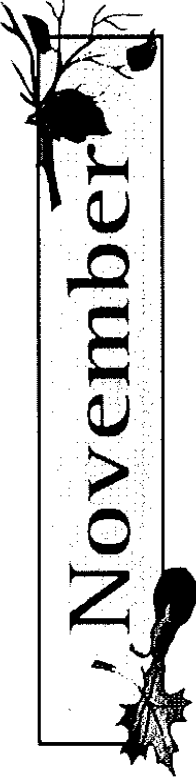
Trinity Tribute newsletter is available online! Links to the electronic version can be found at trinitycook.org and in *This Week at Trinity*. If you are not currently receiving the eblast (sent Thursday afternoons), please contact to the office to be added to the mailing list.

If you have had a recent change of address or no longer wish to receive a paper copy, please let the office know, as the post office does charge a fee for each automatic forwarding.

Mickey Maki will have more time on her hands from now on. After more than a quarter century playing hand bells with Trinity's Grace Notes, she has decided to step aside.

If you are interested in trying your hand at ringing, let Bailey Conger know. Substitutes are always needed and appreciated.



	TLC OFFICE CLOSED	Bible Study 9:30 am	TLC OFFICE CLOSED NO Bible Quest or Confirmation Grace Notes 5:30 pm		TLC OFFICE CLOSED	
Worship 9:30 am w/communion AA, Al-Anon 7:00pm	TLC OFFICE CLOSED BSA Troop 128 6pm	Bible Study 9:30 am	WELCA 9:30 am Bible Quest 2:30 pm Confirmation 6:30pm		TLC OFFICE CLOSED	
Worship 9:30 am w/communion AA, Al-Anon 7:00pm	TLC OFFICE CLOSED Council Mtg 6:30 pm BSA Troop 128 6pm	Bible Study 9:30 am Worship Team 3:30 pm	Bible Quest 2:30 pm Grace Notes 5:30 pm Confirmation 6:30pm		TLC OFFICE CLOSED	
Worship 9:30 am w/communion AA, Al-Anon 7:00pm	TLC OFFICE CLOSED BSA Troop 128 6pm	Bible Study 9:30 am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Noon	NO Bible Quest or Confirmation		TLC OFFICE CLOSED	
Worship 9:30 am w/communion AA, Al-Anon 7:00pm	TLC OFFICE CLOSED BSA Troop 128 6pm	Bible Study 9:30 am		<div data-bbox="1291 262 1485 1039">  </div>		

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
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November
2021

Trinity Lutheran Church Information

We believe there is no person or created thing which is outside the active love and grace of God shown so clearly in Jesus Christ. And through the active love and grace of God, we, as a body of Christ, are called to invite, welcome, and care for all. "

Pastor: Rev. Erika Foss
Music Director: Bailey Conger
Financial Manager/Bookkeeper: Sue Carstens
Secretary: Beth Sprouls



Sunday Worship 9:30 am

(Holy Communion Each Sunday)

Livestream Available on

Facebook & YouTube

Office Hours

Mondays by appointment

Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: 218-666-5965

Email: info@trinitycook.org

Website: www.trinitycook.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TLC.Cook.MN

YouTube: www.youtube.com

(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook)

The Trinity Tribute newsletter is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the Trinity Lutheran Church community.