

# Trinity Tidings

November 2023

Trinity Lutheran Church and School

Matthew 20:28 "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Reformation commemoration services are now concluded and before we know it, it will be Advent. It seems we are all busier than ever. Thinking about such things, I am always drawn back to the Cross of Christ and how our life of faith plays out in this hectic world. In light of that, my mind keeps wandering back to Martin Luther and what he wrote about the Christian life of service...

Luther wrote, "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." Perhaps those two sentences appear at first to be contradictory. What Luther was trying to help us understand is that we, as Christians, are called to freedom from an obligation to serve, but that we are called to the freedom to serve joyfully. This call to joyful servanthood is understood and often scoffed at, simply because we have confused servanthood with servitude.

Servitude conveys the idea of bondage and even slavery. Servanthood, on the other hand, connotes voluntary service, joyful giving of ourselves, a willing choice to help others, and selfless commitment.

One who is involved in servitude serves unwillingly out of a sense of fear and has no hope of entering into a different state, while one involved in servanthood lives in an exalted state, a healthy and uplifting climate of helping others. Even though challenges must be overcome and problems may abound, the joy of servanthood is the overriding experience.

How do we get from a state of servitude to a state of servanthood? This transition is made when we properly understand the Word of God which clearly defines servanthood by explaining Christ's purpose in coming to Earth: "...the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:28). Jesus has lived the perfect life of the servant in our places, so we no longer are constrained to try to "measure up" to what God expects. The law never saves nor enables us. It only shows us our shortcomings.

When we look at Christ, though, and how he lived his earthly life and what he has done for us, we are freed to respond with heartfelt, sincere, loving service to those he has placed around us. The acts of service we render are the same; the motivation and attitude are what make the difference. Through Christ, we are elevated to the exalted state of servanthood.

At Trinity it is our fervent prayer that we see our lives as being in "service" to God, not in servitude to the congregation or to men. We have many opportunities to serve and will be calling on many in the near future to help, utilizing our God given talents and abilities (and trust me, you have them) to the glory of Christ and in service to Him.

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Todd

## NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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School Board Minutes

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## Trinity Tidings

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## Principal

Emily White



**GIVING TREE:** Are you able to bless a child in Madison, a seminary student, or seminarian Drew Oswald and his family with a gift this Christmas? The GIVING TREE will be going up mid-November because we want you to have plenty of time to shop for a gift. A gift/gift card valued at approximately \$30 is suggested. Contact Lisa Wolken (841-5874) or Ruth Oswald (992-1951) with questions. Thank you for helping share the love of Christ this Christmas. And look for the GIVING TREE soon!

### **Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid October 18, 2023**

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid met October 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. with 5 members present.

Annie Rumsey led our group with singing hymns and opening prayer.

The September minutes were read and approved.

The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$1,707.79. There were no unpaid bills.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Annie and Margo reported on the Fall Retreat held in Battle Creek. Sheryl Ties from Jesus our Savior Lutheran Preschool in Winnebago was the guest speaker. Members were asked to prayerfully consider running for a District Office and we were reminded that we can still collect stamps.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

It was decided to send Pastor Todd \$50 for Pastor Appreciation Month.

A motion was made and seconded to show appreciation to all volunteers in our congregation by hosting a fellowship after church on November 19th following the service. We will offer baked goods and fresh fruit.

The November 15 lunch for the school children and staff will consist of baked ham, macaroni and cheese, carrots and celery, and fruit snacks.

#### **MISSION PROJECT:**

For our October mission project, \$100 will be sent to Orphan Grain Train.

Our next meeting will be November 15.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Jurgens, Secretary

### Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart!

Our Father in heaven has claimed us as His own. By the shedding of His Son's blood, by His death for our sins and His resurrection for our justification, God the Father has received us back into His family. By water combined with His Word, promise and name, the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us. We belong to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is in us, and we are in Him. And being in Him, all things are ours. In Him, we are richly and abundantly blessed.

Our true treasure and wealth is that we belong to the most holy Trinity and everything that is His belongs also to us: righteousness, peace, eternal life. Even our temporal treasures are gifts from His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy.

We receive our treasures from Him, and thus, as good stewards of His varied grace, we manage them in such a way that they may be returned to Him. We bring them to Him, hallowed through prayers of thanksgiving and God's Holy Word, as a sacrifice. Thus all our possessions, as gifts from God, are also sacrifices to Him, from which we eat to nourish our bodies and share with our family, neighbors and fellow Christians, with the poor and even our enemies, as holy things given by our holy God. His temporal gifts are blessings to and for us, and bring blessing upon us even as they are pressed into His service for His kingdom and the souls that receive them.

Thus we place all that we have into God's hands. He never fails to remember us and pours out the fullness of His promises upon us. We give thanks for all that He has done, is doing and will continue to do. We give thanks by not taking for ourselves, but giving to all even as our heavenly Father has given to us.

As we prepare for Thanksgiving celebrations, may we all give thanks continually for all that we are and all that we have because of God's providential care. And may we be all the more diligent in bringing everything that we have received from God to Him, so that He may bless it and employ it for the good of all — even for us. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance.

LCMS Stewardship Ministry: [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)

"You may say to yourself, 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth."  
Deuteronomy 8:17-18

### More About LWML

You may have seen mite boxes around.

In 1942 women from 15 districts met in Chicago and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was formed. The purpose of LWML was to develop greater mission consciousness among women through missionary education, missionary inspiration, and missionary services. All mission gifts (mites) collected locally would be designated as 25% for national projects and 75% for district projects.

The first national mission grant of \$15,000 was given to Christ the Chapel for the Deaf in Cleveland, Ohio (1943-1945 biennium). During the next 80 years, the available dollars of grants steadily grew and the number of grants supported increased for the 2023-2025 biennium, 31 mission grants were selected by the delegates with a mission goal of \$2,350,000! The top mission selected for the 2023-2025 biennium was Orhan Grain Train Servant Center in Norfolk for \$100,000!

Find out who else will be receiving mission grants in future Tidings!

**Trinity Lutheran School  
School Board Minutes  
Monday, September 18, 2023**

**Present:** Mrs. White, Diane Cattau, Kristen Orlowski, Kristen Wolken, Rod Zessin

**Absent:** Jean Blank

**Guest:** Pastor Kollbaum, Sara Knapp

**Minutes:** Reviewed and Approved.

**Financial Report:** Reviewed and Approved.

**Parish Ed Report:**

We had our first junior youth event with another one planned for next week.

High School youth meets once a month.

**Old Business:**

Background checks – In progress

Consider tuition increase and assistance program for 2024-2025 – Discussion was held.

**New Business:**

Finalize new year school budget - Tabled

**Principal's Report – August 2023**

**Calendar:**

September 18-22 – MAPS testing

September 19 – Volleyball at St. Paul, Norfolk

September 20 – School nurse visit

September 26 – Volleyball vs. Christ, Norfolk (at LHNE)

September 27 – Early Dismissal – Discuss MAPS results

September 30 – Volleyball tournament at Christ, Columbus

October 5 – Volleyball at St. Paul, Norfolk

October 6 – Plum Creek Literacy Festival

October 10 – Volleyball at Zion, Pierce

October 12 – End of 1<sup>st</sup> quarter

October 13 – 16 – No school (Teachers' Conference)

My first TECH 21 class began last week. I will be traveling to Seward once a month during the school year for this class. I am the last full-time staff member to participate in this class.

Mrs. Grubb has transitioned well into her role as a paraprofessional in the three classrooms. It has been a blessing to have her help working with students who struggle and helping do extra practice with all students – like math fact practice and spelling tests.

PTL met on September 7<sup>th</sup> for their initial fall meeting.

A new AD needs to be found for basketball season. We have been advertising in the school note.

The girls had their first games on Thursday with a triangular in Pierce and then a tournament in Battle Creek.

Joan had the piano tuner come and tune the piano in my room on the 6<sup>th</sup>. The piano sounds wonderful!

**Other:** None

**Next Meeting** – October 11, 2023 @ 6:00 pm.

**Lord's Prayer** – Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Diane Cattau



Nov 2	Michael Orlowski, Elsa Sommer
Nov 3	Zolana Doupnik-Costello, Jason Witzel
Nov 4	Alyssa Meyer
Nov 5	Enjoli Donner, Tessa Helgoth
Nov 6	John Ertzner, Chelsey Hartner
Nov 8	Melissa Jones, Cori Nathan, Arlo Zessin
Nov 9	Randall Schlueter, Harlow Schroeder
Nov 10	Linda Church
Nov 11	Chet Bickley, Niko Gronenthal, Adrienne Orlowski, Jace Ray
Nov 12	Michaela Steffen
Nov 19	Chad Clausen, Morgan Holdorf
Nov 20	Tami Fredrickson
Nov 22	Abigail Kollbaum
Nov 23	Tolson Johnson, Jordynn Willer, Dennis Witzel
Nov 27	Kipp Kolm, Scott Sjuts
Nov 29	Johnny Orlowski III, Maklyn Rakowsky
Nov 30	Heather Drahota, Savanna Koss, Sarah Masters



## November Baptism Anniversaries

Nov 1	Gladys Christiansen
Nov 2	Jesse Orlowski
Nov 3	Diane Cattau, Haley Dittberner, Kyndall Holdorf, Breylin Witzel, Tayzlee Witzel
Nov 4	Trenton Ganskow, Angela Lich, Ruth Oswald
Nov 6	Angela Nathan
Nov 7	Dexter Anderson, Kamdyn Anderson, Lucile Ray
Nov 8	Jake Klein
Nov 11	Lisa Wolken
Nov 14	Kaitlyn Millan
Nov 17	Jim Knapp, Elsa Sommer
Nov 19	Morgan Holdorf, Janel Klawitter, Tessa Helgoth
Nov 20	Michael Hoffart
Nov 21	Marilyn Ray
Nov 22	T.D. Hartner, Jason Witzel
Nov 24	Michaela Steffen
Nov 27	Jan Fullner
Nov 28	Kay Albus, Lucy Nathan, Dennis Witzel
Nov 29	Duane Zessin
Nov 30	Sarah Masters

## November Wedding Anniversaries

November 1, 2003  
November 19, 1983  
November 27, 2010

Jim & Kristy Knapp  
Steve & Kathy Hintz  
Warren & Jean Blank

## **November Volunteers**

### ***Elders on Duty***

Terry Busteed  
Don Knapp

### ***Acolytes***

5	Adalynn Carnes
12	Elsa Sommer
19	Dylan Sprague
22	Jacob Knapp
26	Camryn Dickes
Dec 3	Chanel Schroeder

### ***Ushers***

5	Parker Bickley/Kyndall Holdorf
12	Alex Carnes/Savanna Koss
19	Konner Kasik/Zack Nykodym
22	Gracelyn Knapp/Wyatt Zessin
26	Kenton Knapp/Emerson Scott
Dec 3	Kerria Wright/Parker Bickley

### ***Countryside Home Volunteers***

5	Al & Mary Sorensen
12	Lyle & Sue Jurgens
19	Margo Dawson
22	Merlin & Ruth Oswald
26	Al & Mary Sorensen
Dec 3	Don & Donna Knapp

### ***Altar Guild Servants***

Nov	Charlie Rakowsky/Marilyn Ray
Dec	Sharon Wright/Bev Wolverton

### ***Screen Team***

4	Vicky Demmel
5	Sheila Koss
11	Lareesa Greunke
12	Pam Busteed
18	Sharon Wright
19	Vicky Demmel
23	Sheila Koss
25	Pam Busteed
26	Sharon Wright
Dec 2	Vicky Demmel
Dec 3	Sheila Koss

### ***Scripture Readers***

5	Roger Acklie
12	Scarlet Blank
19	Karen Freudenburg
22	Regan Kucera
26	Brenda Oswald
Dec 3	Brian Oswald

### ***Greeters***

Nov	Don & Donna Knapp Merlin & Ruth Oswald
Dec	Regan & Dawn Kucera Arland Claus