



Monthly Monitor

November 2024

Thanks for All We Need

November is upon us and soon it will be time for the holidays. As I type this in my office, election season is still going on, but soon, that will be behind us and holiday plans will rise to the fore. As we look around in our society today, it is becoming more and more apparent that the true meaning of the holidays has been lost in the shuffle.

Are we still teaching our kids the real meaning behind Thanksgiving? Do our kids still know the story of Plymouth Rock? Do our kids understand that the first Thanksgiving was a meal of thanks that the pilgrims had with their Native American friends to celebrate all of God's blessings in their lives? I certainly hope so.

While I was thinking about this, I remembered a short story that I had recently read by the Christian author Max Lucado. The story is entitled, "Everything I need for Joy."

In the story Lucado talks about Robert Reed, a man blessed by God. But, Robert has cerebral palsy. Lucado says "His hands are twisted and his feet are useless. He can't bathe himself. He can't feed himself. He can't brush his teeth or comb his hair..... His shirts are held together by strips of Velcro." Despite all of these limitations, Robert Reed has graduated from college with a degree in Latin, ventured on five mission trips overseas, and became a missionary in Portugal. He'd position himself in a park every day to distribute flyers. After six years in the mission field, the Lord used Robert to bring 70 people to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Lucado said that he recently saw Robert speak. "Instead of asking for sympathy or pity... He held his bent hand in the air and boasted, 'I have everything I need for joy.'"



*Thank you God, for
all of Your blessings:
spiritual, physical and
material. Lord, teach
us to enjoy the joy of
giving, for it is the
greatest way of living.
Amen.*



This Thanksgiving ask yourself what gifts God has given you and give the Lord thanks for them. I would venture to guess, that in Christ, you, like Robert Reed, have all you need for joy. So this Thanksgiving, give thanks to the Lord and share your joy found in Christ. That truly is what it is all about.

-Pastor Kaiser

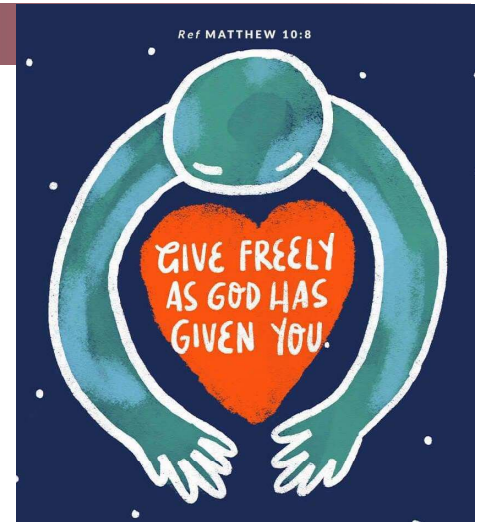
Called to Imitate God's Generosity

God's nature is to give. Giving reflects the heart of God. Unfortunately, our flesh, the world, and Satan prevent us from imitating God's generous nature. In our sinful state, we are selfish, self-centered people who are inclined to keep our money for ourselves rather than to give it.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God fills our hearts with a spirit of generosity. We stop seeing the money we have as just for our needs and entertainment. By grace, we understand that the money God entrusts to us has the potential to be used to support mission starts and missionaries so they can share the life-saving Gospel in this land and overseas. Our money has the potential to help those who are hungry and homeless. It has the potential to support our Christian schools and agencies. It supports the mission and ministry of our church. God uses and multiplies the money we give in many wonderful ways.

Through God-given faith and new attitudes, we see that our generosity is made possible by and rooted in His generosity. We are empowered to give because of God's generosity to us. Knowing that He does not limit His gifts to us and experiencing His generosity at work in our lives, we respond to His appeal to give generously. God's people live with an abundant perspective, trusting in His provisions. In Scripture, we see over and over again how God's people demonstrated their trust in His abundance. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, David, the Poor Widow, Zacchaeus, and Barnabas demonstrated their faith and trust. In 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up a collection for the Christian Jews suffering from famine in Jerusalem. Paul urges them to give generously because their generosity is rooted in God's ability to provide everything they need to be generous on all occasions. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). As our bounteous God richly bestowed on the Corinthians the capacity for generosity, He still does the same for us. In Jesus it is always more and never less. Even when things are tough, we will be given the opportunity to share, because God's sufficiency will provide.

When we give generously from loving and cheerful hearts, we bring joy to our Heavenly Father because we display His image and likeness. Filled with God's sufficiency, rather than our own, we become generous givers. Giving expresses our need for God, our trust in Him, and our gratitude to Him.



During this Thanksgiving season, it is easy for us to give thanks for our families, our homes, our clothing, and our food. These blessings are very visible to us. However, there are other blessings for which we should be thankful, but we may need to be reminded to give thanks because we sort of take them for granted. For example, when is the last time that you thanked God for the air that you breathe, the taste of fresh coffee in the morning, the aroma of flowers or the beauty of a sunset, the excitement from a college or pro football game, the joy of holding a baby? The list could go

on forever. This Thanksgiving, don't forget to thank God for His awesome love for us and also thank Him for empowering us to love others.



Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

November 2024

Trinity Lutheran School is a bundle of action and excitement! Many classes have been enjoying field trips once again this year.

Our Trinity sports teams have completed their fall soccer and volleyball seasons and I think it is safe to say there was a lot of growth and learning that happened. We look forward to what our basketball season has in store for us in the coming months. "B" basketball games will begin in November and finish before we break for Christmas. The "A" teams will be ready for their games in January and February.

We recently completed our fall Parent Teacher Conferences. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the families of our students a little better and continue to build solid relationships between our Christian school and families. Looking ahead, our teachers will be attending the Connections Conference November 24-26 in Ft Wayne, Indiana. We are sure to come away with an abundance of new information and best practices for educating our students in our ever-changing world. One key topic will be technology and our students.

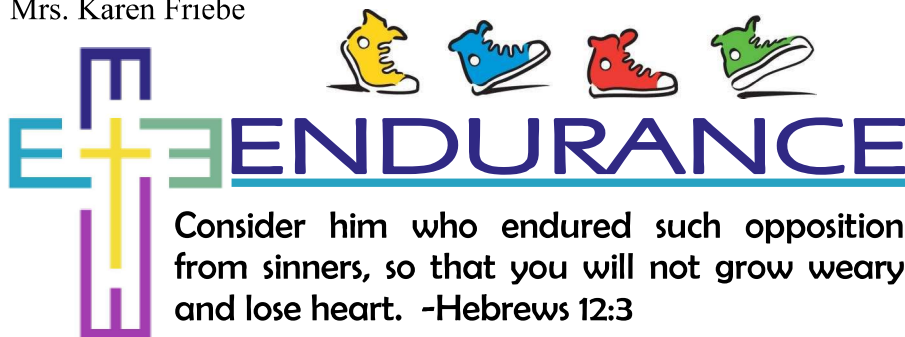
We welcome Mrs. Andrea Lewicki to our Trinity family as she is the new preschool teacher for our traditional preschool class. Mrs. Lewicki comes to us with decades of early childhood experience, a passion for our littlest learners and a heart for Jesus. Watch for an introduction letter in the next Monitor. Mrs. Setula has taken on the Great Start Readiness Program and is also our Early Childhood Director.

As I write this, all things HARVEST DINNER are ramping up. We are excited for the students and school families to be actively participating in preparations. I am anxiously awaiting the delicious smells that will fill the school at the end of the week - only to be outdone by the tastes of our annual Harvest Dinner!

Be sure to check out the "Trinity Times" student section as they continue to report on what's happening around our school. You will also find an invitation to our annual Veterans Day Celebration scheduled for Monday, November 11. This is always a great day that our school looks forward to and we hope that you do too!

In HIS Service,

Mrs. Karen Friebe



Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. -Hebrews 12:3



During National Fire Protection Month in October, the Monitor Township Fire Department visited the 2nd & 4th graders of Trinity. The kids got to sit in a fire truck, try on firefighting gear, and learn all about fire safety.



The Classroom Chronicles -continued



Trinity Lutheran School is now offering
FREE PRESCHOOL for qualifying families
through the Bay Arenac Intermediate School District



If you live in **Bay** or **Arenac** Counties, your child may be eligible for **FREE** preschool programs!

These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential

Head Start & Great Start Readiness Programs

- High quality preschool
- Full day learning
- Services for children with special needs

FOR MORE INFORMATION

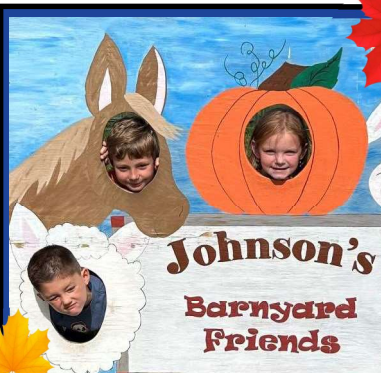
(989) 667-3209

www.BayArenacPreschool.com



PRAYER Angels

The power of prayer is beyond measure and we know comfort that can be found in having a strong prayer life. Our school is working to provide a prayerful connection across the parking lot. As a school, we pray regularly for our church and congregation. We are asking for volunteers to serve as Prayer Angels for our classes once again this year. We are looking for congregation members who will pray for a specific class (PreK, 2nd - 6th grades) on a daily basis. You are also encouraged to work with the classroom teacher to visit the class and develop a relationship as you are able or feel comfortable in doing so. Sandy Herzberger, Janice Feinauer, Laurie Arnold and Virg & Lugene McGuire have all served as prayer angels and I'm sure if you have any questions they would be happy to share their experience. If you are interested in being a Prayer Angel please contact the school or church office.



Apples & pumpkins, fields so wide, autumn joy,
lets take a ride. Laughter echoes, cider sips,
magic moments on fall field trips!



Announcements



The ladies of the LWML want to thank the members of Trinity for your support of the door offering for Phil's Friends collected last Sunday. A total of \$423.00 was collected on Sunday with an additional gift donated Wednesday evening. With this money we were able to go online to Phil's Friends Amazon Wish List and purchase 48 tubes of lotion, 40 puzzle books, 96 journals, 48 decks of cards, 48 pairs of socks, and 6 blankets. Using Amazon Prime Days, we were able to order these items to be shipped directly to Phil's Friends without having to pay shipping. This allowed us to select a few extra items. These items will be used to create comfort care bags to be sent out to cancer patients going through the very difficult time of cancer treatment. Please also remember to take some of the cards off the table in the back of church. Color them and return them to the table. These will be sent along with the care packages to let the cancer patient know someone is thinking of them. Thank you, Trinity, for your gracious support of the LWML and the Mission Grants that have been selected.

PASTORAL VISITS CONTINUE

To better get to know you, Pastor Kaiser would like to visit each household in the congregation at a time and date that suits you. Simply sign your name and number in the book on the table at the back of the church and Pastor Kaiser will reach out to you to schedule a visit, or call the office 989.662.6093.

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB NEWS

Our Athletic Booster Club continues to support our student athletes through their basketball seasons. Did you know that most of the schools in our league charge some type of 'Pay to Play' fee? We are one of the few schools that fully support our teams! Our support includes things like New Uniforms, Equipment, League Fees, Tournament Fees, and Referee fees (which have gone up tremendously).

Interested in joining this effort? Come to a meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm! You will surely be welcomed and our next meeting is November 12th.

Our next event that involves our precious volunteers is Fall Cleanup Day on Saturday, November 2 at 9:00am. Come help us button up the grounds and pavilion for the winter season. See you there!

ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

The ladies of the LWML/Friendship Guild will again be hosting their annual Advent by Candlelight evening.



Date: December 1, 2024

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Trinity Lutheran School Gym

Please plan to attend or plan to host a table. If you would just like to attend, you do not have to be asked to sit at a certain table. Just sign up on the list that you would like to come; we want all of the ladies to know that everyone is invited to come. We will always have seating available. Please also feel free to invite a guest to come with you. Sign up sheets will be on the table in the back of the church starting on November 3rd. This year we will have another enjoyable topic to help everyone prepare for the Advent Season. This year we will also have a dessert bar that any hostesses may contribute to or hostesses may just serve the guests at their own table. There will also be a coffee bar. If you have any questions, you may contact Nancy Klaus at 989-280-4913 or Jan Pickelmann at 989-295-7534.

LADIES, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!



**TRINITY
CARNIVAL**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 5 - 7 PM
INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN!
**WIN GAMES, EARN PRIZES,
ENJOY CONCESSIONS**

Games are 1-4 tickets each.
Buy tickets early & save!
Pre-Sale: \$1/5 tickets
At the door: \$1/4 tickets
Bounce House: \$5
Jump all Night!
**Concessions include pizza,
salad, nachos & more!**

Volunteers are needed.
Proceeds support Trinity's PTO.

Pre-Sale Tickets are available
in the School Office now through
the end of school on 11/8.



Save the Date

8th Annual Wild Game Dinner & Auction

March 1, 2025

**An Evening of Christian
Fun & Fellowship**

Sponsored by
**The Wild Game Dinner
Committee of Trinity Monitor**

**TICKETS GO ON SALE
JANUARY 20, 2025**

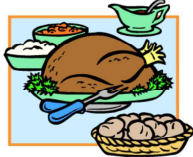
Food Bags for Christmas

Once again Trinity is working with Auburn Area Food Bank to donate 100 bags for Christmas Dinner for the needy in the area.

The bags will be distributed November 24th in church and collected by December 15th.

Items we will need to have in the bags are:

- (2) Cans Turkey Gravy
- (1) Box Instant Potatoes
- (1) Large Box Stuffing Mix
- (1) Box Jiffy Pie Crust Mix
- (1) Can Pumpkin Pie Mix
- (1) Large Can Evaporated Milk
- (1) Can Cranberry Sauce
- (1) Large Can Fruit Cocktail
- (1) Large Box Jello - Any Flavor.



Thank you so much.

-Stewardship Committee

Worship With Us This Holiday Season
2024

Thanksgiving Eve
Wednesday, November 27th
6:00pm

Advent Services
Wednesday, December 4th, 11th, & 18th
4:30pm & 6:00pm

Children's Christmas Service
Sunday, December 15th
3:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship
Tuesday, December 24th
4:30pm-Christmas Service
10:00pm-Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Worship w/Communion
Wednesday, December 25th
10:00am

New Year's Eve Worship w/Communion
Tuesday, December 31st
4:30pm

Giving Tree

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring this year's Giving Tree campaign. Tags can be taken from the tree beginning November 17th. Gifts are to be returned to church by December 8th.

This year the focus is on purchasing items for distribution at Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center (FFNRC). FFNRC serves foster families in the Great Lakes Bay Region by providing clothing, bedding, backpacks and toiletries to local foster children at no cost. FFNRC also provides training to families interested in becoming foster homes. FFNRC also puts foster families/children in touch with all the programs and resources available to them.

FFNRC is located at 1501 W Thomas in Bay City and is a 501-C3 non-profit organization.

For more information about Foster Families Navigation and Resource Center please visit www.fosterfamiliesnrc.org.



HOLIDAY Bazaars

November 2nd

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

5335 Brockway Road
Saginaw, MI 48638
9:00am-3:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Church

815 N. Grant Street
Bay City, MI 48708
9:00am-3:00pm

Monitor Twp. Hall

2483 Midland Road
Bay City, MI 48706
9:00am-3:00pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

2565 N. Miller Road
Saginaw, MI 48609
8:30am-2:30 pm

Ascension Lutheran Church

8695 Gratiot Road
Saginaw, MI 48609

November 9th

St. John's Lutheran Church

505 E. Carpenter Street
Midland, MI 48640
9:00am-3:00pm

November 16th

Valley Lutheran High School

3560 McCarty Road
Saginaw, MI 48603
11:00am-3:00pm

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1705 Nebobish Ave.
Essexville, MI 48732
10:00am-4:00pm



Valley Lutheran HIGH SCHOOL

The VLHS Booster Club Fruit Sale is going on now through November 8. Purchase your fresh oranges, grapefruits, or mandarins today! Contact a VL student, the VLHS office (989-790-1676), or order online at www.vlhs.com/fruitsale. Thank you for supporting the Boosters, who in turn support extracurricular activities at Valley!

VLHS Drama Department invites you to their fall production of "Alice in Wonderland", held November 7, 8, and 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Tickets are \$7/adult, \$5 student, \$24/family, sold in advance in the school office beginning October 28 or at the door as available.

Also on November 7 - come visit the Art and Science Showcase that highlights all our Biology and Art 1 students have learned as they've explored, researched, and investigated Michigan native plants and animals this fall. Open from 5:00 - 6:30 in the Fine Arts & Science hallways at Valley.

The VLHS Music Department will hold its Fall Instrumental Concert on Sunday, November 10 at 3 p.m. in the VLHS gym. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.



*Child & Family
Auxiliary*

Gift cards for Bay County Foster Children serviced by the Bay City Wellspring Office, to help purchase Christmas gifts, will be collected again this year. We are collection \$30.00 Walmart Gift Cards and/or \$30.00 checks made out to Wellspring Lutheran Child and Family Services. These gift cards and/or checks may be dropped off at the Wellspring office at 6019 Westside Saginaw Rd. in Bay City, The Economy Center at 408 Columbus Ave. in Bay City, or given to Kathie Colone by November 13th. Any questions call Kathie at (989)671-9650.

Harvest Dinner



Under New Management

Harvest Dinner 2024 was a huge success! The torch was passed to 3 amazing women who have on taken this challenge and succeeded with flying colors! Amy Samborn, Cortney Feinauer and Jessica Jeske rose to the opportunity last year when 2023 Harvest Dinner group was getting older and needed help. A number of obstacles were before them. But they took them head-on and were victorious. God has blessed Trinity with many new volunteers because of their leadership. A huge thank you to this younger generation for stepping up and making this long-standing tradition at Trinity a success and carrying the torch forward! God's Blessing to them and the Harvest Dinner!



Many heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers that made the 2024 Harvest Dinner a success. Please know you were prayed for and are appreciated so very much. The Lord

has blessed our church & school with some amazing people. You are what makes all the difference! Final numbers and funds raised will be shared in the near future.

-The Harvest Dinner Committee