



Monthly Monitor

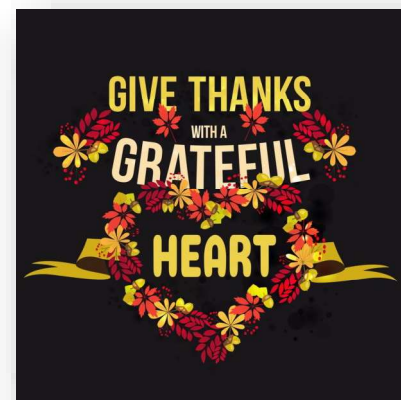
November 2023

Thankful from Beginning to End

One of my favorite memories as a kid is my family getting together on Thanksgiving day for dinner. All of my relatives from my mom's side of the family and sometimes some from my dad's side would get together and eat a great big meal that had been prepared specifically for us to enjoy. The kids would sit together at the kid's table, the adults at the adults table, and everyone would enjoy the wonderful meal. We'd talk about everything. How things were going, who was up to what, school, life, etc.

In my family, Thanksgiving is truly a wonderful day. It is a shame that days like that only come once a year, and grow less and less important to us as we go through our maturation process of moving from childhood to being an adult.

It is a pattern that has taken place in society and is replicated in most of our lives. Thanksgiving was originally intended as a holiday at the end of harvest time for family and friends to get together and give thanks to God for all of the gifts that He had blessed them with during the course of the past year. It was truly a celebration. Somehow, from the time of the pilgrims to today, Thanksgiving has lost much of that meaning in society. It is now a holiday to spend time with family and eat turkey, and watch football at best. To many, it isn't even that significant. It is just the holiday parked between two biggest holidays of the year: Halloween and Christmas.



This in some ways mirrors the faith-life of some Christians. Do you remember or have you ever heard a child saying their prayers at night? When they thank God for His gifts, it could take them half an hour or longer to tell God all that they are thankful for! They cover everything from the blankets they are sleeping under to each one of the toys they have, to their pets, to their clothes, to their food, to their bed, to their family; they are thankful for everything they can think of!

That seems to change as we grow older, doesn't it? When we do pray as adults, why do we most often focus on our wants and our needs and less on giving thanks? Just like with Thanksgiving, it seems like over time our focus changes from more on God to more on us. Why is that?

So what about you? How often do you pray and what do your prayers sound like? Where do your thoughts start in the morning when you wake up? Where do they end at night when you fall asleep? Ephesians 5:19-20 says, "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

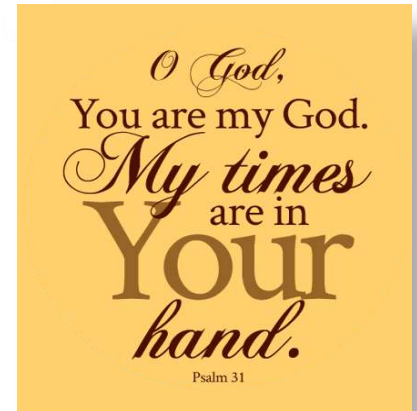
It is only through God's grace that we have *anything* in the first place. There is always so much to be thankful for, no matter the circumstance. I think when we find ourselves shifting more and more to an attitude of gratitude, we also, by God's Holy Spirit, find ourselves growing closer to God and each other. May this be so for you, not just this Thanksgiving, but each day forward in faith. Happy Thanksgiving!

-Pastor Kaiser



Controlling Time

In his letter to the people in Ephesus, the Apostle Paul exhorts them: *"Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil"* (Ephesians 5:15-16). Today is a very important day to make our lives meaningful. Yesterday is history, and tomorrow may never come. At some point in life, we start asking, "Where did the months and the years go?" Time is an irreplaceable commodity that God grants us, a precious period of opportunity for fulfilling the purposes for which we exist. Living as stewards, we realize the importance of time and use it properly. Wise use of time starts by living a life for Christ. If our time, energy, and focus are only on material wealth or other worldly successes, our time has been wasted.



While we must spend time providing for our needs, our life's purpose must be to do the Lord's work. Jesus, Who *"did not come to be served but to serve"* (Matthew 20:28), is our model. We are called to bring people to Christ and serve others using the gifts given to us by God, including our time. Ignoring God's plan for our lives will result in anguish and despair.

As God's stewards, we are called to be good managers of God's gifts, especially time, since it is irreplaceable. When we place our trust in God, we can say along with the Psalmist *"My times are in Your hand"* (Psalm 31:15). Knowing that our time is a trust from God, we will be prompted to use our time for the things that He would have us do. God, Who has given us time, will also guide us in using it wisely.

On the Lighter Side

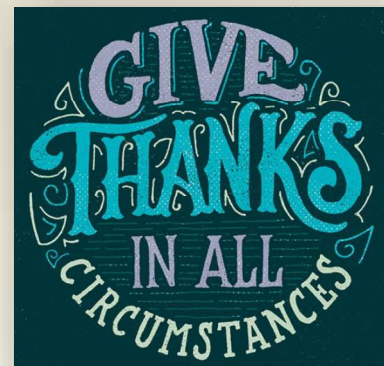
A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."



When he returned, he found a citation form a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

Stewardship Corner

Thanksgiving Day is a very special day of the year. Whether we are young or old, rich or poor, Christians join together in giving God thanks for His wonderful blessings. We are mindful of the Apostle Paul's Words, *"...Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ for you"* (1 Thessalonians 5:18). Thankfulness is an attitude of the heart and mind and is not necessarily dependent on the amount of food on our Thanksgiving tables or even the state of our general well-being. As Christians, we rely on our Savior for all of our needs, and we give thanks in both good and bad times.





Trinity Lutheran School

The Classroom Chronicles

November

Dear Trinity,

Can you believe we are already one quarter of the way through the school year? Our first marking period ended October 25th - just in time for Harvest Dinner! The first quarter mission project, Mission Central, was a lot of fun and has resulted in several new hairstyles around the school. Pastor will be hairless for a time, Mrs. Feinauer and Miss Gallagher will be donning some super vibrant wigs for a week and I will be embracing the gray. It has all been in good fun with the ultimate goal to raise money in support of the Sharp family in Uruguay. Watch for information in the church messenger about our 2nd quarter mission project, Michigan Right to Life.

Thank you to all the “Angels” who have agreed to be prayer partners with our classes. This is a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to *connect* with our school in the very best way - through prayer. I am hoping to have pictures of some “Angels in Action” for the next edition of the Monitor.

Our faculty will be traveling to Grand Rapids the weekend before Thanksgiving to attend the Professional Church Workers Conference. Trainings and activities are scheduled for us beginning Sunday evening and will end Tuesday afternoon. This is sure to be an amazing time of fellowship as so many Lutheran Church Workers gather together to learn from each other and focus on ABIDING in Christ Jesus. Thank you to the endowment fund committee for helping to finance a portion of this conference for our faculty.

Our volleyball and soccer seasons have finished, but our “B” Boys and Girls Basketball teams are already practicing and getting ready for their first games in early November. Big THANKS to our coaches who volunteer their time to make sure our students have this opportunity. Adam Wuerfel - soccer; Crissy Beethe - B volleyball, Nicole Tasior - A volleyball, Kirk & Cortney Feinauer - B boys basketball and Katie Wohlfeil & Cortney Feinauer - B girls basketball. Let's go PANTHERS!



As many of you know, our 6th grade teacher, Mr. Brendan Harrison, was again diagnosed with cancer earlier in October. He had a successful 9+ hour surgery called the Whipple Procedure on October 18th and is on the road to recovery. Mr. Harrison will be staying with family closer to Beaumont Hospital until Thanksgiving per the doctor's orders and we are hoping he will be able to return to school after Christmas vacation. Please keep Mr. Harrison in your prayers as well as his wife Kennedy and the rest of their family.



Hymn of the Month

This school year the students are going to be learning about, studying, and singing, a new hymn each month. The hymn that we will be learning/focusing on for the month of November is, "From All That Dwell Below the Skies". The text was written by Isaac Watts, who was a famous and influential British composer. The text is a paraphrase of Psalm 117.



1. From all that dwell the skies Let the Creator's praise arise; Alleluia, alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung Through ev'ry land by ev'ry tongue.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
2. Eternal are Thy mercies Lord; Eternal truth tends Thy Word. Alleluia, alleluia!
They praise shall sound from shore to shore Till suns shall rise and set no more.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
3. All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee. Alleluia, alleluia!
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forevermore:
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

We wish you a very blessed Thanksgiving full of family while you make special memories!

In HIS Service,
Mrs. Karen Friebe

2024
CONNECTED

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. John 15: 1-5



Announcements

Giving Tree

The Stewardship Committee is sponsoring this year's Giving Tree campaign. Tags can be taken from the tree December 3rd through the 16th. Gifts are to be returned to church by December 17th.

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.



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 26th in church and collected by December 10th.

Thank you so much.
-Stewardship Committee

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.



Advent by Candlelight

This year the ladies of the LWML/Friendship Guild will again be hosting an ADVENT BY CANDLE LIGHT evening at Trinity. It will be December 3rd, 2023 (the first Sunday in Advent) at 6:00pm in the school auditorium. You are invited to host a table or two of your friends and family. We will set up tables and chairs. You will be the hostess for your tables. You invite your guest and decorate as you want. (We can not have real flame candles.) Plan for a dessert for them after the program. Coffee and ice water will be provided. Sign up sheets will be in the back of church beginning November 12th. Please call Nancy Klaus at (989)280-4913 if you have any question.

Athletic Booster Club News!

Crew is needed for Fall Cleanup on Saturday, November 4th at 9:00 a.m. Many hands make light work, so bring your gloves and join us outdoors!



After 40 years, we have decided to try a different date for our Tournament/Pig Roast Weekend! We'll see if the 4th Saturday of August will work better for attendance and participation. Mark your calendars for AUGUST 23-25, 2024!

Holiday Worship Schedule

~2023~

Thanksgiving Service

7:00 p.m.-Wednesday, November 22th

Advent Services

4:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th

Children's Christmas Service

4:30 p.m.- Sunday, December 17th

Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

4:30 p.m.-Christmas Service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Christmas Day Service

10:00 a.m.-Monday, December 25th

New Year's Eve Service

9:00 a.m. Worship

4:30 p.m.-New Year's Eve Service





The mission of Orphan Grain Train is to bring Christ's love and compassion to people wherever there is a need we can meet. The Orphan Grain Train, Michigan Center located in Sebawaing receives, processes, and ships donated clothing, medical equipment, quilts, bicycles, and other humanitarian goods throughout the U.S. and around the world. Since beginning operations in 2019, Orphan Grain Train—Michigan has shipped humanitarian relief with the Gospel to Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Moldova, Georgia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Latvia, Malawi, and South Sudan with each shipment averaging 12 tons of supplies. Donations to OGT are received continually from churches and individuals near and far. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian care mission of 28 branch locations across the US shipping into 70 foreign countries and responding repeatedly to domestic disaster events with the concern of Christ. Visit ogt.org for further information and the Michigan "wish list." For further information contact Michigan branch manager Pastor Dave Reed (989-600-2264).

To facilitate the convenient donating of goods,
a barrel has been placed inside our Trinity School
hallway for
new or gently used clothing only, such as:

Clothing-Infant, Children's, Women's, and Men's
Shoes- Clean and Wearable
Underwear- New Only
Socks-Gently Used or New

Save the Date

7th Annual Wild Game Dinner & Auction March 2, 2024

An Evening of Christian
Fun & Fellowship

Sponsored by
Trinity Monitor
Athletic Booster Club



Fall Bazaars and Craft Shows

November 11

Valley Lutheran H. S.
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Midland
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

November 18

Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Essexville
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

SCHOOL MISSION PROJECT

During the first quarter Mission Central in Monona County, Iowa, was the school mission project. We specifically supported Pastor James Sharp who currently serves in Uruguay. Pastor Sharp and his wife, Angela, are friends of Pastor Kaiser. Students and families collected over \$1200 through chapel offerings and the penny war challenge. You may notice a few changes in hairstyles for Pastor Kaiser and Mrs. Friebe as part of the penny war challenge!



Here are a couple of events happening at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Hemlock

Divorced? Separated? Know someone who is?

When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially painful. We are hosting a "Surviving the Holidays" seminar which helps participants face challenges and discover: • How to deal with emotions • Helpful tips to surviving social events • Ways to help children through the holidays • Hope for the future. Join us for this encouraging seminar on November 12th from 1 to 3 pm. There is no cost. Call the church office at (989) 642-8188 for more information or to register. You can also register online at www.divorcecare.org/holidays/events/47402.

GRIEF SHARE

Surviving the Holidays is a helpful, encouraging seminar for people facing the holidays after a loved one's death. The seminar will be held on November 12th from 5 to 7 pm. There is no cost. Topics to be discussed include dealing with hard-hitting emotions, what to do about traditions, how to survive social events, and where to find comfort and strength. Call the church office at (989) 642-8188 for more information or to register. You can also register online at www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/47401.





Dear Veterans,

In gratitude for your service to our country, the students and staff of Trinity Lutheran School would like to invite you to join us for our annual recognition of Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10, 2023.

Please park on the east side (gym side) of our building. The buses and cars drop off students on the west side (between church and school), so it gets congested.

You and your adult guest(s) are invited to a special Pancake Breakfast in the gym. This will begin at 7:30 am.

At 8:15, following breakfast, our students and staff will join you in the gym. We would like to honor you and thank you for your service. You are welcome to wear your uniform or bring it to display. Please also bring any memorabilia you wish to show us.

Please return this RSVP to Trinity by **Thursday, November 2, 2023.**
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YES! We will be joining you for the Veterans Day recognition!

Veteran Name _____

Number of Additional Adult Guests _____

Branch of Service _____ Number of Years Served _____

When you return this RSVP, please include a photograph for our Slide Show. It will be returned to you the day of our program. If you have already shared a photo with us, we will use that again in our Slide Show.

Do you have a favorite memory? If so, please be ready to share it with the students and staff when the microphone comes to you at our program.