

November 2011

Dear Friends of Trinity,

***In all things, give thanks!***

It might not appear as true, but it really is true that we can give thanks for everything in our lives. You might not be able to understand the reasons for the many things that happen in life, but it might be easier to seek opportunities instead. Everything (meaning *everything*) that happens has hidden opportunities embedded within. So you *can* give thanks, not only for your joys and blessings, but also for your sorrows and struggles.

In this season of Thanksgiving, and as the Day approaches, we do give pause as a nation to express our gratitude to God for the many freedoms and the abundance He has given us. But do we also bring to mind the many challenges and adversities we've experienced? They are also a part of our lives for which we can be thankful. In *all* things, give thanks!

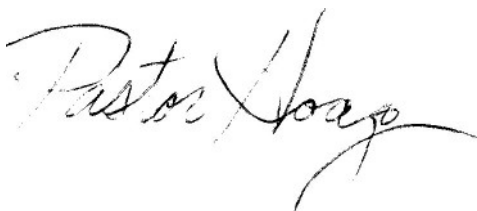
It's difficult to think about it, but perhaps some of the edge can be taken off when we realize that our God is at His best when we are at our worst. St. Paul never hid his weaknesses. In fact, he elevated them as a demonstration of God's power. When he was weak, then he was strong. Where did he get that idea?

Well, he got it from none other than Jesus. When was Jesus the strongest he had ever been in his life? Wasn't it when he was on the cross? Wasn't it when he was at his weakest? Wasn't it when he was most vulnerable? You may not be able to fathom it, but it is the clear witness of Scripture! As it was for Jesus, so it is for us. When have we been the strongest we've ever been? Isn't it when we've been the weakest? Think about it!

Weakness is strength because it is always vindicated. The cross is vindicated in the resurrection. St. Paul's difficulties were vindicated in the spread of the Word of God to the ends of the earth. Because of that he proclaimed, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise...giving thanks ***always and for everything*** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Ephesians 5:15, 20

I join all of you in giving thanks to God for everything, and I wish all of you a very Happy and Pleasant Thanksgiving celebration!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Hoag". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "In Christ,".

Pastor Hoag

# NOVEMBER 2011

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday School revision is going strong. Hopefully you will have noticed that the bulletins now will contain a short synopsis of the lesson so you can reinforce that during the week. For those without a child in Sunday School, if you have a chance to ask a little one about their lesson, please take the opportunity to reinforce the learning as well. That's WHY it is in the bulletin!

Our Christmas Program has arrived, and work will begin shortly. Stay tuned for information regarding this favorite time when the children share with us their wonderful telling of the Christmas story.

## SALAD LUNCHEON

The Chancel Guild Salad Luncheon was held on October 5th.

The women of Chancel Guild would like to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon. It was a success and approximately \$740 was raised to the glory of God. Thank you also to the ladies of Women's League for their generous donations of dessert items. It was quite a sweet table! Thanks again to the ladies of Chancel who contribute their delicious salads and valuable time to make this event a success every year!" The women of Chancel Guild would like to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon. It was a success and approximately \$740 was raised to the glory of God. Thank you also to the ladies of Women's League for

their generous donations of dessert items. It was quite a sweet table! Thanks again to the ladies of Chancel who contribute their delicious salads and valuable time to make this event a success every year!"

## CHANCEL

6 – Sharon MacFarlane & Sally Jackson  
13 – Sally Jackson & Deb Nick  
20 – Deb Nick & Judi Donovan  
24 – Thanksgiving  
    Judi Donovan & Jeri Sandt  
27 – Jeri Sandt & Kay Purnell

Our next meeting is November 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses are Rita Larson and Jan Prospero.

## WOMEN'S LEAGUE

**No November meeting. This is to give you cookie bakers extra time in the kitchen. The phone calls are already starting to come into the church office making sure that this event is still on!**

**More information will be forthcoming regarding our Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, but we wanted you to reserve the date now!**

Our Cookie Walk is a huge success because of everyone who bakes for us. Some members of Women's League are unable to bake this year and so they have donated baking supplies for anyone who would like to bake or to bake extra. Many of you bake already, and we really appreciate it. Our Cookie Walk is out only fundraiser and the monies are used for church projects and missions.

There is a labeled box of dry ingredients in the gym and butter and eggs in the refrigerator. Please help yourself. There are some cookie recipes, but you may use your own if desired. Thank you to both donors and bakers!

**ANNUAL COOKIE WALK**, sponsored by Women's League is being held on Saturday Dec. 3rd from 8:30- noon. We welcome any donations of Christmas cookies, homemade candy and other bakery goods from members of our congregation. Trays will be available beginning 11/20. Bakery goods can be dropped off Friday, December 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. or Saturday a.m.

## Wanted:

Resale items for the craft table at the Cookie Walk. Any gently used item appropriate for gifting, etc. Children love to shop here for inexpensive gifts.

You may drop them off in the gym on a back table labeled for these items. We will collect them from 11/1- 12/2. Thank you for always helping to make our Cookie Walk a success.

If you want to start thinking about gathering things for the Salem Stocking Stuffers, here is the list:

Crossword books	Hats	Socks
Alarm clocks	Markers	Perfumes
Blankets	Tissues	Powder
Calendars	Wallets	Checkers
Pen/pencil sets	Watches	Movies
Electronic Games	Tags	Bibles
Note Cards	Frames	Ribbons
Slippers w/soles	Walkman	Bows
Scarves/mittens	Hosiery	Lap
Desk		

## MORNING STAR

Our serving dates for November are on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

If you are able to serve, please sign-up on the appropriate sheets in the hallway or contact Judy at 815 462 1374.

## SOCI AL M I N I S T R Y

Annual Christmas Party will take place on Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:45pm. Pizza, drinks and desserts will be served at 5:45. Please sign up on the hall table for both attendance and dessert donations. Children will enjoy the Moon Jump, games and prizes supervised by congregation youth. Pastor Hoag will lead caroling in the church at 7:15. All are invited and encouraged to attend.

Daybreak Giving Tree will soon be set up, complete with donation envelopes, to be placed in the accompanying box. These donations will supplement gifts selected for Morning Star Patrons. Trinity Congregation has once again been granted the opportunity to provide Christmas gifts for six persons at Morning Star Mission. Each person has submitted a shopping list, comprised of everyday needs and "wished for gifts." Our shoppers may purchase either one section of gifts or the entire list. Social Ministry will reimburse all monies spent, with donations from the Morning Star Donation Tree. If you desire to be a shopper, please contact Ginny DeCarlo (815 485 2001) for you patron's name and instructions.

Thanksgiving at St. Matthew's: Please place all food donations in the designated box at the driveway entry, especially holiday dinner items. St. Matthew's expects up to 150 guests at Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>'s dinner.

Ice Cream Social Pictures, spread on the gym table, are available "for the taking." Exhibitors have "first call" to claim their display photos; all persons may select any other pictures. Left-over photos will be destroyed after 11/30.

Please sign Virgil's November card, located on the coffee table in the seating area. He's so thrilled to receive mail.

Social Ministry will meet Monday, November 14, at 7:00 pm at Midge Meents' home.

## TRINITY PRAYER CHAIN

Trinity Lutheran has a Prayer Chain that is available to anyone for prayer support by fellow members. These prayers may be for personal, congregational, community, governmental, and all other needs. All requests are kept confidential. Ginny DeCarlo (815-485-2001) to request a prayer. The Bible says, "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." James 5:16b. If you are interested in being part of the Prayer Chain, or would like more information please give Ginny a call. You can also call the office at (815) 485-6973). We would be happy to provide you with all the information. Please consider being part of this worthwhile endeavor. You can make a difference.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans - Chapter News

Away in the Basement - Thrivent is offering a discount on tickets to this latest play from the Church Basement Women at the Rialto on December 1. See the poster on the bulletin board at church.

## STAINED GLASS REPAIRS COMING SOON.

Church Council approved repairs to the large stained glass window in the

choir loft. It will soon be visible from Cedar Road. So, as you drive by on your travels, keep an eye out for the Gentle Shepherd.

## TPCG

The next meeting of the Trinity (Portable) Crafting Group will be Friday 11/11 from 5-11 pm in the gym. While the group began life as a papercrafting group, we welcome anyone with a portable craft. If you can carry it; bring it! Especially at this gathering, we are asking for all of you who have Cricuts to bring them and any CHRISTMAS cartridges. Yup, another service project. As usual, the cost is \$2 and a snack to share. Those without Cricuts – any donation of things for Christmas cardmaking would be welcome.

## Craft/Vendor Fair

As the newsletter goes to press, the craft/vendor fair is still a few days away, BUT the numbers have been overwhelming. We have had to turn away participants and limit it to 40!!! We are using both the gym AND the Fellowship Hall area downstairs. Thank you, thank you, thank you to one and all who have helped make this such a huge success for the youth. Perhaps we will be able to put up the amount raised on the website or in future bulletins.

## Youth Lock-In

Details are scarce, but for now, keep the day after Thanksgiving available for a lock-in here at church. Details will be in the bulletins and Pastor will probably post on Facebook and/or Twitter.

Daniel and Susan Willenborg will be embarking on a trip to Mexico to work and assist at an orphanage missionary.

Borrowing straight from our own Lutheran Service Hymnal on pg 305, may we offer:

“Almighty God, You have called Your Church to witness that in Christ You have reconciled us to Yourself. Grant that by Your Holy Spirit we may proclaim the good news of Your salvation so that all who hear it may receive the gift of salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.” May God watch over and protect Daniel and Susan while they are gone from us.

## Envelopes

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2012, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Kim, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. Request sheets are on the table in the hallway. You may also contact Janice at 815 485-3558.

## Fair Trade Fair

Saturday, 11/5 from 12-7 and Sunday 11/6 from 8-2 St. Jude's will be hosting a Fair Trade Fair in co-operation with Ten Thousand Villages. For more information you can contact either St. Jude's at [www.stjudes.org](http://www.stjudes.org) or Ten Thousand Villages at [www.evanston.tenthousandvillages.com](http://www.evanston.tenthousandvillages.com)

## Financial Secretary' and Treasurer' 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report:

Financial Secretary's & Treasurer's 3rd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2011 General Fund Budget of \$198,127 at its Annual Meeting on January 30. The Budget is 2.5% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2010. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover higher operating costs, i.e., benefits, building maintenance, insurance and other necessities. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor – after no increase last year. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity's ongoing needs.

During the quarter, all due bills were paid. Contributions budgeted for Missions and LCCF, through September, were remitted to Synod. General Fund receipts were slightly below those in 2010, however, normal operating expenses have been running below budget. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was \$35,590.37 at September 30. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

# NOVEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Farneti	1
Debbie Aiken	3
Nicholas Myers	3
Anna Marie Pigney	3
Jana King	4
Rob Romadka	4
Jaynie Olsen	6
Stuart Renwick	6
Bill Studer	6
Ellen Guenther	7
Joshua Baxa	9
Jennifer Paul	9
Jacqueline Rohner	9
Garrett Aiken	10
Cody Grady	10
Megan Harbin	11
Layla Teare	11
Sharon Cundari	12
Michael Bay	13
Jeffrey Baxa	13
Lydia Friedrich	13
Nick Varju	13
Daniel Willenborg	13
Linda Hubrich	15
Jennifer Pfeifer	16
Cheryl Baggs	17
Kim Blecke	17
David DeForest	19
Sydra Seville	20
Jennifer Studer	20
Kip Pavlovich	22
Hunter Sherman	22
Karen Lamoureux	23
Suzanne Jablonski	24

Michelle Hoag	24
Marge Dykstra	25
Kayla Baggs	26
Paul Eichhorn	27
Amanda Koehler	27
Jennifer Mudrock	27
Steven Tinker	28
John DeForest	30
Melissa Gappa	30

## NOVEMBER

### ANNIVERSARIES

Bill and Sally Jackson	2
Adolf and Katharina Fandl	5
Troy and Christy Schultz	9
Matthew and Tina Taylor	9
Ken and Carol Oldendorf	13
John and Mary Farnetti	16
Dale and Noreen Bormet	20
James and Sandy Jeffries	23
Ed and Judy VanderVeen	25
Bill and Rosemarie Dudeck	28

# November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	3 Property 7 pm Contemporary Rehearsal 7 pm	4	5 Contemporary Service 5 pm w/ Comm Fair Trade Fair
6 8 am Worship 9:15 SS/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship w/ Comm Fair Trade Fair	7 Chancel Guild 6:30 pm MorningStar 3:45p	8	9 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	10 Contemporary Rehearsal7 pm	11 TPCG 5-11 pm	12 Contemporary Service 5 pm
13 8 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 SS/Adult Ed 10:30 Worship/Baptism Church Council 7p	14 Social Ministry 7 pm	15	16 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm	17 Contemporary Rehearsal7 pm	18	19 Contemporary Service 5 pm w/ Comm
20 <b>COOKIE TRAYS</b> 8 am Worship 9:15 SS/ Adult Ed 10:30 Worship w/ Comm SS Teacher's Meeting after 10:30 service	21 MorningStar 3:45	22 <b>Newsletter articles due</b> St Matthew's serves their Thanksgiving dinner	23 Choir 7 pm	24 Thanksgiving Worship 10 am	25 Youth Lock In	26 Contemporary Service 5 pm
27 8 am Worship w/ Comm 9:15 SS/Adult Ed 10:30 Worship/Baptism	28 Preschool Board Meeting 7pm	29	30 Bible Study 8:30 am Confirmation 6 pm Choir 7 pm			