

November 2014

Dear Friends of Trinity,

The Holidays of 2005 are quickly approaching. It is 2005, isn't it?

What? It's 2014? Yeah, I guess so. It says 2014 on the calendar but it seems like 2005.

How many of you still think the 1990s were ten years ago? The year 1990 was 24 years ago. That's almost a quarter of a century! One quarter of a century has passed by in only 10 years, or so it seems. *Tempus fugit* (Latin for "Time flies").

Time is not ours. Just look how quickly it passes. All we can do is watch it pass. We can watch with regret, or we can watch with gratitude and hope. Regret will not slow the clock down. In that case, neither will gratitude. But a sense of gratitude for time that has past will bless and sanctify time that is coming.

But the greatest blessing of our moments is what God gives to us. The coming Holidays are reminders that God has redeemed time to provide for His people. On Thanksgiving Day we bless God for His material provisions to sustain our earthly lives. On Christmas Day we bless God for the provision of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Both mark and celebrate the fact that the Eternal God provides for and sustains His earthbound creatures in temporality with eternal blessings.

Time may fly, but all in the hand of our Lord. For all things, temporal and eternal, are His. Even time.

I pray that you and your families have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

NOVEMBER 2014

Thanksgiving Day Worship Service is on Thursday, November 27th at 9:30 a.m.

Church Council elections for 2015 were held on October 25/26, 2014. Seven positions were open. The results of the election are as follows: Jeff McDonald, President; Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary; Phil MacFarlane, Director of Outreach (co-position); Dan Bay, Director of Property (co-position); Ed Tatro, Director of Spiritual Life (co-position); Jeanine Welsh, Director of Social Ministry; Judi Donovan, Director of Parish Education. Congratulations! Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday, November 9th at 7:00 p.m.

75th Anniversary - *We are hoping to tackle two significant improvements as part of*

our 75th anniversary. Both are long-needed improvements to our church, but both will involve a fairly large investment by our congregation. We hope to have a lift installed and we hope to raise enough funds to purchase a new organ for the church. We have received a number of memorial funds over the years for these projects, but we are projecting the total cost to be greater than what we have available. *We prayerfully ask that all members consider supporting one or both of these projects so that we can complete them both without incurring any additional debt.*

Members are encouraged to use their "Designated Offering" or "Debt-Reduction Fund" envelopes to help us raise funds for these projects, or you can write a check to Trinity Lutheran Church and state "Lift" or "Organ" in the subject line to designate a donation to this effort. Having just paid off our mortgage in January, we would love to remain debt-free at the conclusion of these two projects and we are hoping our congregation can come together to make that possible.

The next 75th Anniversary Committee will be meeting on Sunday, November 16th at 9:00 a.m.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

MorningStar Christmas Activities. We will, once again, place the Morning Star Giving Tree on the hall table, complete with envelopes for monetary donations, to be forwarded for this most charitable mission's works. Thank you, in advance, for your gifts in any amount.

Christmas Party. The 15th annual congregational Christmas celebration will be held on Sunday, December 7th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Pizza, desserts, salads and drinks will be served @ 5:45 p.m. Games, supplied & supervised by the Youth Group, will begin shortly thereafter. All congregation families are invited. **Please sign the designated sheet on the hall table, indicating your dinner donation.** We look forward to having many attend.

The next Social Ministry meeting will be Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. at Sue Kunce's home. We would love to have some new members on our committee. New ideas are always welcome. Please call the church office, or Midge Meents (815.485.6527) if you are interested or have questions. 815.485.6973.

Hayride The annual Know Farm hayride was cancelled, due to lack of interest. In this vein, we are asking that congregation members submit suggestions for future activities or events that would possibly interest participation by more people. Please place your ideas in the Suggestion Box, located opposite the church office.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE:

Due to the Cookie Walk on December 6th, there will be no meeting on November 25th.

The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. All proceeds benefit the needs of the church. **Baked goods from the congregation are needed and appreciated.** Trays for your cookies will be available in the gym. Baked goods for the cookie sale can be dropped off Friday, December 5th from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or Saturday morning.

Please note: Women's League will not be doing a "resale" table at the Cookie Walk. Please do not drop off any of those items at the church.

Women's League will once again be collecting the following stocking stuffers for Salem. Please drop of your donations by Sunday, December 1st. Please place these in the appropriate boxes by the hallway table.

Crossword books
Alarm clocks
Blankets
Calendars
Pen/pencil sets
Electronic Games
Note Cards
Slippers w/soles
Scarves/mittens

Hats
Markers
Tissues
Wallets
Watches
Tags
Frames
Bows
Hosiery

Socks
Perfumes
Powder
Checkers
Movies
Bibles
Ribbons
Lap Desk

CHANCEL:

The Chancel Guild members would like to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon on October 1st. We had approximately 160 ladies and men in attendance. Your support is appreciated. Our profit was \$1,200 and was given to Trinity's organ fund and lift fund, each receiving \$600. A special "thank you" to the ladies of Women's League who baked and served the delicious dessert items. It is always nice to have the Women's League and Chancel Guild ladies work together.

The next Chancel Guild meeting is Monday, November 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses: Janice Prospero and Debbie Nick. All ladies of Trinity are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

Chancel Schedule for November:

November 1 & 2: Debbie Nick, Doris Klemm
November 8 & 9: Ann Romadka, Allene Bachmann
November 15 & 16: Allene Bachmann, Kay Purnell
November 22 & 23: Kay Purnell, Denise Buchanan
November 17 - Thanksgiving Day: Denise Buchanan, Lois Dobbs
November 29 & 30: Lois Dobbs, Rita Larson

YOUTH NEWS

Thanks to everyone who came out to the craft fair! We had a great turnout and such a variety of wonderful crafts and items to peruse. The Youth thank you all for your support.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, November 9 – Diakonia at Valparaiso University for 7th – 9th graders. Leave at noon, back around 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Lutheran World Relief, experience hands-on learning about clean water, hunger, disease, and more. Cost is \$10. Email Michelle Hoag at hoagtmichelle@msn.com to register.

Friday, November 28 – Not Quite a Lock-In from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. for 7th – 12th grades. Sign up on the youth bulletin board.

MORNINGSTAR SERVING DATES:

Our MorningStar serving dates for November are **11/3** and **11/17** at 3:45 pm. November sign-up sheets are on the hallway table. Thank you to all the volunteers who serve each month.

Trinity Pre-School – AM and PM spots still available. Please tell your friend and neighbors. There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2014 the tuition per month is \$100 for two day students, and \$125 for three days students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2014. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 184.485.6973.

The next Pre-School Board Meeting will be held Sunday, November 16th at 9:15 a.m

Choir: The Choir has resumed their practices on **Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church balcony. They have already sung a few times in our worship services. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. New voices are always welcome.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 3rd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2014 General Fund Budget of \$193,951 at its Annual Meeting on January 26. The Budget is 1.1% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2013. The increase was tempered by plans to pay off the mortgage balance in 2014 using Endowment Funds. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor, the Secretary, Organist and Choir Director. 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. General Fund receipts were 5.8% higher than those received during the same nine-month period last year. Total General Fund expenses were around 3% over budget basically due to the effects of extreme weather early in the year on Snow Removal and Utility costs. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was paid off in January. 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.

ENVELOPES:

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2015, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Doris, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero's church mailbox. You may also contact Janice at 815 485-3558. Request forms are on the table in the hallway. Also, members who desire to discontinue us of envelopes, please contact Doris or Janice.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR NOVEMBER are on the hallway table. Stop and sign up to be a Greeter or a Reader.

Prayer Chain: Please feel free to contact Ginny DeCarlo or Pat Fuerst if you have a prayer request. You may call Ginny at 815.485.2001 (or email at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com) or Pat at 815.485.6441.

Sunday, November 23rd. In celebration of Marge Dykstra's 100th birthday, the MacFarlane family would like to invite the congregation for cake & coffee after the late service on Sunday, November 23rd.

Ray of Hope Al-Anon family Group will hold an Open Meeting on Friday, November 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 14700 S. 94th Ave., Orland Park, IL. Anyone interested in learning more about the disease of alcoholism is invited to attend.

Church office hours: Monday, 9-3; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4; Friday 9-12.

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Farneti	1
Lou Verchimak	2
Debbie Aiken	3
Nicholas Myers	3
Anna Marie Pigney	3
Jim Harbin	4
Jana King	4
Larry Miller	4
Rob Romadka	4
Jaynie Olsen	6
Stuart Renwick	6
Bill Studer	6
Delaney DePolo	7
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
Jennifer Pfeifer	16
Cheryl Baggs	17

Kim Blecke	17
Esmeralda Morales	18
Charles Domico	19
Sydra Seville	20
Jennifer Studer	20
Kip Pavlovich	22
Hunter Sherman	22
Suzanne Jablonski	24
Michelle Hoag	24
Marge Dykstra	25
Kayla Baggs	26
Amanda Koehler	27
Jennifer Mudrock	27
Isabela Opiola	28
Steven Tinker	28
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
James and Sandy Jeffries	23
Ed and Judy VanderVeen	25