

November 2020

Dear Friends,

Things are sure different. I'm loathe to call it a "new normal" because I truly think that this is still temporary. But it is very strange territory we're navigating. We have never had to change our habits and behaviors to such drastic extent before. Activities to which we've been accustomed have had to be curbed or avoided all together. The displeasure is palpable. Speaking for myself, I would love to see the church pews without blue tape on them and the hymn racks filled with hymnals and Bibles once again. I would love to see a worshiping congregation without face masks and lifting its voice in jubilant song, once again singing the canticles of heaven.

Until then, we continue doing what is prudent for the sake of our loved ones and friends: wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, washing our hands, and avoiding crowded places. We will be better off if we keep the health and safety of others in mind. We will come out the other side of this. It's hard. It's exhausting. But we mustn't give up. Our labor is not in vain.

Given all of this there is still plenty to be thankful for: clothing, food, shelter, family, friends, and God with us. God has not abandoned us and never will. It is against His nature to utterly forsake all that He created. Remember that He gave His Only Son to assure us of that. Jesus, without sin, walked in this world with healing and hope. He put together what was broken. His good news goes out to the ends of the earth and into our hearts and makes a dwelling place of us for the Holy Spirit. And this is true always, pandemic or no pandemic. We are eternally His treasured possession!

God richly bless and keep you. Don't forget to reach out if things get rough for you. I will listen to you, commiserate with you, and share good news with you. We can encourage one another.

In Christ,

Pastor Hoag



NOVEMBER 2020

**“We Give Thanks”**

Our Father in Heaven, We give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food Prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life, The freedom to enjoy it all  
And all other blessings. As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength to carry on and try to live as You would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father. *(Harry Jewell)*

**Please join us for our Thanksgiving Day Worship Service  
on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**



**CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE HELD ON OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>. The officers for 2021-2022 are:** President: Robert Blecke; Secretary: Kim Blecke; Financial Secretary: Tammy Doerrer; Treasurer: Tim King; Director of Outreach: Bob Blecke; Director of Parish Education: Judi Donovan; Directors of Spiritual Life: Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing; Directors of Property: Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz; Director of Youth Ministry: Michelle Hoag. Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



**CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2021, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Judi, the church secretary, or place in Tammy Doerrer, Financial Secretary, church mailbox. Request forms are on the table in the hallway.

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Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Judi or Tammy.

Members using church envelopes may pick up their 2021 envelope boxes on the table in the hallway. Envelope boxes not picked up in December will be mailed the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January.

Great appreciation to members who pick up their envelopes rather than having them mailed!

Questions – contact Tammy 815 263-8800 or Judi, Church Secretary

Thanks! Tammy Doerrer, Financial Secretary.

**UPDATE**

Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

We held elections on October 18th and I want to thank Bob Blecke for agreeing to serve as council President starting in 2021. Bob has been a long-standing member of the council on our outreach committee and he has used his engineering background to our collective benefit in that role by studying trends and by measuring our social media statistics for us. As you can imagine, that took on considerably greater importance once the pandemic forced us to close our doors as online church was the only option we had for several months. We're lucky to have Bob serving on council and he will make an excellent President. Please see below for a note from him about his goals for the coming year.

I do know that Bob is not looking to serve in this role beyond the upcoming term, so we will continue to seek a council President as we weigh our options for the future of Trinity. I know you've heard my pleas about this before, but I want to encourage you to consider serving on church council. My own experience in being a member of this church has been greatly enhanced over the last 10 years by serving on council. There is no need for the engagement to last that long, but I served willingly and happily for five terms. I gained a new appreciation for the business side of running the church and I feel I am better off for it. We have had some truly exceptional people serve on council over the years, so I really want to encourage those who have not served in this capacity to consider a term on council. You may bring a fresh perspective to council that hasn't been considered before. At a minimum, you will gain a better understanding of what goes into keeping the church going and it truly is a great group to serve under. If you just want to see what council is about - with no strings attached - come and see a meeting in person and see for yourself what is involved. Meetings are virtual at this time, which is even easier. You just need an internet connection and we can get you login details for our monthly meetings, which occur at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month. Please reach out to Pastor Hoag, Judi Donovan, me or any other member of council with questions about this.

It has truly been my pleasure to serve on church council for the last decade and I look forward to my ongoing membership at Trinity. As I have mentioned before, we have our sights set on eventually calling Valparaiso home and we plan to eventually transfer out once that transition is complete. But our time table remains uncertain at this point, so stepping down from council was just a step toward that end

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goal. For the time being, we will remain active members and I hope to serve a pivotal role in Easter breakfast in our new kitchen in 2021! I will see the current term through to completion and plan to be available to assist in whatever means necessary.

**A note from President-elect, Bob Blecke:**

Good morning to the Trinity Family. As Jeff noted above, I have accepted an invitation to lead Council in the coming year. A life-long Lutheran, 40+ year resident of New Lenox, and 20 years at Trinity, I am a retired Engineer and Project Manager, and offer that skill set during this time of transition. While maintaining the excellent work of the council under Jeff McDonald, my challenge to Trinity for 2021 are threefold: Keeping us together and viable through the ongoing pandemic challenges; attracting new people to serve on council and committees; and finding effective new ways to grow membership. But these cannot be done solely by a President, or a Council. It must become part of each of our daily practice of being members of this very special Trinity family. God's blessing in the close of this year, and into the New. See you soon.

**Trinity Lutheran COVID Usher and Duty Schedule:**

October 27, 2020

Our previous schedule with two Sunday services provided for two ushers per service. Having adapted one service per Sunday during COVID precautions we will alternate the usher schedule until conditions change as we continue to pray the pandemic improves.

For the **new** 10:15 Service the Usher schedule for November will begin with the regularly scheduled 10:30 Ushers serving.

1st Sunday: Bret Carr and Paul Krol

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Anthony Lopez and Tom Buell plus Tommy when available.

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Jeff McDonald and Mike Lyman

4<sup>t</sup> Sunday: John Buell and Phil McFarlane

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Jeff Lorenz and Paul Krol

Usher duties during COVID Include:

1. Encouraging mask and social distance as congregants enter, get seated and proceed to communion. [One Usher at parking lot entrance and one usher in narthex before the service.] 2.
2. Pastor will safely administer communion. One usher should walk down the center aisle to let congregants know when it is safe for them to proceed to communion socially distanced. [Avoid a long line]

3. Count and record attendance and communion participants noting the numbers in the usher notebook.
4. Assist with safe exiting, pastor will dismiss beginning with the back pews
5. After dismissal check that all windows and doors are closed, the lift locked up and lights are off.

December Usher Schedule:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday: Tom Kaun and Larry Wennlund

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Tim King and Ed Tatro

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday: Mike Gardner and Gary Purnell

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Steve Toman and Randy Varju

As previously practiced, if you cannot attend on your Sunday please contact an usher on the list. We also have alternates who have assisted in the past: Biff Aiken, Robert Stark, Bob Jackman, Duncan Bachman and Bill Jackson.

Respectfully submitted, Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing, Worship and Spiritual Life Directors.



## Member Updates

### **Transfers In:**

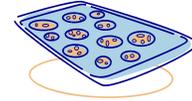
Kimberly Burbank and daughters

### **Bible Study**

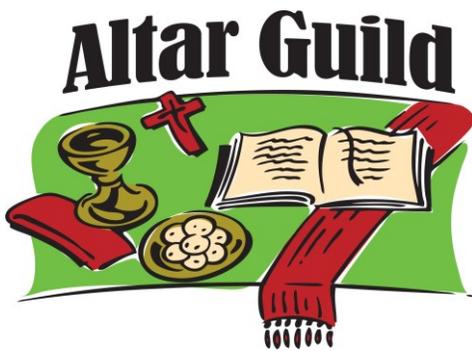
### **Weekly Groups:**

**Wednesday Morning Bible Study – 8:30 a.m. Please join us in person or online.**

**Thursday Evening Bible Study – 7:00 p.m. Please join us in person or online.**



The Annual Cookie Walk will be cancelled this year. We hope to resume this wonderful event next year!



### **CHANCEL GUILD**

The next Chancel Guild meeting is Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. We will be decorating for the upcoming holidays. 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 – Sally Jackson/Debbie Crawford  
November 8 – Debbie Crawford/Robin Krol  
November 15 – Robin Krol/Rita Larson  
November 22 – Rita Larson/Denise Buchanan  
November 26 Thanksgiving – Denise Buchanan  
November 29 – Denise Buchanan

### **Altar Flowers:**

November 1 – Marnean Briese in Memory of Lois Ashley  
November 8 – The Donovan, Simon, and Beaudry Families in Memory of Dorothy Beaudry  
November 15 – Ed & Judy Niemann-VanderVeen in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary  
November 22 – Rich & Jackie Rohner in Memory of their son Ronald  
November 29 – The Al McCullough Family in Honor of Thanksgiving

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## POINSETTIAS FOR THE CHANCEL

What a sight with the altar covered in poinsettias! Would you like to place a poinsettia or two in the Chancel for Christmas? The poinsettias can be picked up after the Christmas Day Service. Order forms will soon be on the table outside the general office, by the flower chart and on the hallway table. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) or 815.485.9017 or the church office 815.485.6973.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Chancel Guild members would like to thank those who sponsored a weekend this last year. We thank you for your flexibility considering the impact Covid-19 restrictions had on church attendance and our flower orders. We pray life will return back to normal in 2021. **A new 2021 Altar Flower Calendar has been posted.** You can find it in the glass case hanging on the wall across the old office. If you would like to reserve a weekend for **2021** in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings, please fill out a sponsor sheet. Sponsor sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the calendar. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Purnell at [purnellk51@hotmail.com](mailto:purnellk51@hotmail.com) or (815) 485-9017

## YOUTH NEWS



Thank you to everyone who helped or attended the Craft and Vendor Fair. We had another successful fair which raised funds for youth programs. Thanks so much!!



## **SCRIP GIFT CARDS** – An easy way to shop and earn money for our church.

Scrip cards are the same gift cards that you can purchase from retailers, including grocery & department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement stores, etc. In addition to giving them as gifts, they can be used for daily or holiday shopping. We order the gift cards at a discount and you pay face value so there is no additional cost. The proceeds from this fundraiser are going towards the Youth Gathering coming up in July.

**Because the holidays are quickly approaching, we will have 2 order dates in November. The deadlines for turning in orders, along with payment, will be Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at noon and also Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be one more order on December 13<sup>th</sup>.** Your order will be available for pick-up the weekend after the order is placed. Order forms are on the hallway table below the Youth bulletin board. You may place your order/payment in the gold envelope which is hanging on the end of the desk credenza in the church office. If interested in placing orders online, you will need to ask for an enrollment code. Direct any questions you may have to Angie Minett ([minett411@yahoo.com](mailto:minett411@yahoo.com) or 815.467.2537) or Gary Purnell (815.485.9017). You can also learn more online at [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com).



### **Religious Humor:**

A Sunday school teacher was teaching the Ten Commandments to her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to “honor thy father and thy mother”, she asked, “Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?”

One little boy shouted, “Thou shalt not kill”.



### **Social Ministry News:**

Social Ministry will be meeting at church on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. All ladies of Trinity are invited to attend. Please remember to wear a mask and social distancing will be required.

Social Ministry and Chancel Guild have been working together to get the new kitchen back into working order. It will soon be ready to use. More information on the kitchen shower will be coming.

The Giving Tree will be up again this year with the money going to support MorningStar Mission.

The “Stars of Hope” will be another chance for anyone interested in helping the children at MorningStar. The board for Stars of Hope will be up this coming Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to participate, take a star from the board and then immediately contact Jen DePolo at 708-267-1776 so she can remove the name off of the master sheet. All gifts, wrapped and labeled, need to be returned to church no later than December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



The church Christmas party is back! Sunday, November 29 at 6 pm we will have a Christmas Photo Scavenger Hunt and Tree Decorating. Each family will drive to find the scavenger locations and take a photo there. When you return to church, you can help decorate the church’s Christmas tree. When everyone has returned and the tree is decorated, we will have a short devotion by the light of the Christmas tree. Unfortunately we won’t be able to serve a dinner, but we will have some goodies to send home with you. Please come and start the Christmas season with us! RSVP to the church office if you will be able to join us.



**Trinity Pre-School – hopes to reopen in January 2021.**



**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](mailto:vdecarlo1952@gmail.com)) or Pat at 815.485.6441.

**Church office hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9 am till 2 pm.**