

October 2018

Dear Friends of Trinity,

Our Lord Jesus came into our world to make the world right with God, for sure. But his death and resurrection also made us right with each other. That's because on the cross, Christ Jesus defeated the common enemies of us all, removed us from their bondage, and brought us into his everlasting presence and gave us his Spirit, who is the guarantor of life and salvation.

Somehow (and this is true of all of us) we become comfortable with our common enemies and convince ourselves that the resulting slavery isn't so bad after all.

I recently saw a tv show in which a woman who was kidnapped began to form a friendship with her kidnapper, even though the torture he inflicted on her was brutal. It's a wonder that she is still alive. But she used that friendship and that built trust to plan her escape. It was brilliant the way she accomplished her escape.

I tell that story, not to tell you to make friends with Satan, death, and sin, but to advise the exact opposite! These enemies are not necessarily torturous. In fact, they can come to you disguised as the perfect guest. But they only have one goal, and that is, to alienate you from your Savior for all time and eternity.

Remember this, though—even though we have these enemies, they are *defeated* enemies, and that makes all the difference. They continue to prowl us, but they cower in the presence of their conqueror Jesus. They aren't so tough after all.

Stand firm in the faith, my friends! Jesus has you in his everlasting arms. He has brought you through the enemy-devastating flood of Baptism. Our sin and rebellion, the devil and his minions, death and its sting have been drowned. We are safe on the ark of God's making, the Christian Church, in which we always receive His grace and serve Him with a joyful confidence of life eternal.

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

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2018 Newsletter

Cool weather means fall fun for everyone. Enjoy the fall leaves, pumpkins, hayrides, bonfires and football games. Come join us at some of our fall activities.

UPDATE FROM OUR CHURCH COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JEFF MC DONALD

Allow me to make a different type of plea this month. The good news is - this one won't cost you a penny! Instead of talking about ways we can spend more money, I want to focus this month on an even more precious resource – your time. We have a great group of members at Trinity and your collective generosity never ceases to amaze me. When we need something, we rally together and we get it done. That same goal is attainable on a personal level too, though, so I wanted to talk about ways in which you can get more involved with the church this month.

Maybe the best way to do this is to tell my own story. I started attending Trinity in 1997. Like everyone else, I enjoyed the services and I particularly enjoyed the fact that I could get church in a few times each month without a whole lot of extra effort. I would read in the bulletins and newsletters about the church looking for a volunteer for one thing or another and I would always conclude in my mind that someone else would step up and fill that need. And someone always did.

I eventually caved in one Sunday when I was asked to fill in and usher. After more than 10 years of letting others volunteer to handle things at church, I took a small step and crossed over to the other side. Now I was suddenly one of the people responsible for ensuring our services ran smoothly at the church. After years of attending, I was strangely and suddenly *needed* at Trinity. But what struck me about this was how that small change in my participation at Trinity made my whole member experience at Trinity more rewarding. I have since become even more involved at Trinity and find this to be time well spent.

So here we are in October 2018 and I thought I would talk about some ways you (**yes, YOU!**) can get more involved at Trinity. The good news is that you don't have to do all of these things, but really consider one or more of them. If your experience is anything like mine, you will find that the biggest beneficiary of your enhanced servitude is none other than yourself.

For the men in our congregation, ushering is a once a month commitment and is a great way to get more involved. We have had some ushers serving for decades at the church and it would be great to see some new faces in this role. Ed Tatro and I are volunteering to show any new ushers what needs to be done, and there is also a book of usher duties already printed out that we can show you. This is a small time commitment but a great way to get involved. Please see me or Ed and we'll get you trained. We won't throw you to the wolves until you say you're ready!

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For the women in our congregation, our Women's League group recently disbanded and Social Ministry has only limited numbers of members (fewer than 10). Your involvement in Social Ministry can be whatever you want it to be, but please give some thought to participating in this group to help ensure that it remains a viable group at Trinity. Similarly, we have a Chancel Guild who work to keep everything in order for our weekly services and that is another area where you could pitch in to help. See me, Pastor or any current member of Social Ministry or Chancel Guild for details of what these groups do. In the spirit of "many hands make light work," you will find that the more who participate on these committees, the easier it will be to get things done!

Open to any member are a number of other opportunities. They include being a greeter, reading a lesson, singing in the choir, being a coffee host/hostess and even serving on church council. Readers and greeters can sign up for any Sunday they want to do either function (or both). It's a great way to meet other members and it can be once or more than once - give it a try and see what you think. If you are musically inclined, give some thought to joining the choir. They meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and new voices are always welcome. If you've ever enjoyed coffee and refreshments after a service, then you know we rely on someone to prepare this for the congregation each week. We have some great volunteers who do this, but we can always use more. Try it out and see what you think. We have two vacant positions on church council now, and those are the co-Director of Outreach and the Director of Social Ministry. The first position can be anyone in the church and what we look for here is someone willing to think about ways to expand our reach into the community and potentially bring in new members. I started on council in this role and it was a rewarding experience. There are no right answers here and a new perspective is always welcome. The Director of Social Ministry should be a member of Social Ministry, so please give that committee some thought and also consider running for the Director position. There are many in our congregation who would be happy to guide you in this process. Council elections are for two-year terms and we meet once each month except for the summer months. Serving on council really gives you a great insight into what it takes to run the church. We have had some really great volunteers over the years on council, but new faces and new ideas are always welcome, so give some thought to joining council if this has any appeal to you.

For a more limited commitment, we're planning a landscape clean-up day in October where we will walk the grounds, pull weeds, rake leaves and otherwise tidy up the outside of the church. This is a half-day commitment at best and a great way to roll up your sleeves and put a little sweat equity into the church alongside your fellow members. If you'd like to join us for this, drop by on Saturday, October 6th around 8 a.m. Bring a rake or other garden tools and you'll be amazed at the difference we can make! Rain date for this will be Saturday, October 13th. Maybe being a coffee host/hostess appeals to you, in which case you can come and test your coffee making skills by making coffee for our landscaping volunteers that day.

There are other ways to get involved, but these are a few ideas that come to my mind. Please give these ideas some thought and see Pastor Hoag or any member of council with questions about these roles. We have a lot of people who give of themselves freely at Trinity now. The more people we have for these things, the stronger we will be as a congregation. I am appealing here particularly to those who haven't had these opportunities yet. We exist and thrive because of all of the volunteers

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who work behind the scenes at Trinity. If you haven't had the chance to serve in any of these capacities before, why not give it a try and see how it impacts your own member experience at Trinity? I have a feeling you'll be glad that you did!

Church Member Updates during the month of September 2018



Baptisms:

Bella Siano, birth date May 9, 2018, baptized September 30, 2018

Miles Milbourn, birth date February 27, 2018, baptized September 30, 2018

Church Council Elections are approaching at the end of October.

If you have considered becoming more involved with the running of the church, please consider running for a council position. All positions are for a two-year term, beginning in January 2019. Council meets monthly (excluding summer months) on the second Sunday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the church library. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Pastor Hoag at your earliest convenience.



Chancel Guild's Annual Fall Salad Luncheon – Wednesday, October 3rd from 11:30

a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The salads are made by the Chancel Guild members, and the desserts are made by the Women's League members. Carry outs available! Men are welcome! Tickets are still available for \$8.00 each. If you need tickets, please call the church office at 815.485.6973. Come and enjoy the delicious food, as well as the fellowship. Tickets will also be available at the door.

Chancel Guild Meeting will be held in the gym on Tuesday, October 2nd to set up for the luncheon.

Altar Flowers

The 2018 Altar Flower Calendar is now completely filled. Altar Guild members would like to thank those of you who have sponsored a weekend this past year. We appreciate your efforts to help us enhance and beautify the altar area. Soon we will post the 2019 calendar. Please fill out a sponsor sheet if you would like to sponsor flowers this next year in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary, or in celebration of God's blessings. Sponsor sheets are located on a hook attached to the glass case housing the flower calendar. The calendar is hanging in a case across the old office. Please do not fill in the calendar. Fill out a sponsor sheet and put it in the Chancel Guild mail box in the old office. If you have any questions, email Kay Purnell at purnellk51@hotmail.com or call her at (815) 485-9017.



Cleanup Day – We will have a cleanup day here at Trinity on October 6th starting at 9 am rain or shine. Bring your gloves, rakes, etc. and come on out and give us a hand.



Trinity Pre-School

AM spots are still available for 2018-2019. Please tell your friends and neighbors! There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$60.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2018 the tuition per month will be \$110 for two day students and \$135 for three day students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2018. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 815.485.6973.

Pre-School is looking for donations of empty white plastic frosting containers. If you have any you can donate, please bring them by.



Religious Humor:

The Doorbell – A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a small boy trying to use the doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy’s efforts for some time, the pastor walks across the street up to the little fellow and rings the doorbell. Kneeling down next to the child, the pastor smiles and asks, “And now what, my little man?” To which the boy replies, “RUN”!!



Wednesday Morning Bible Class meets each week from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. in the Library. Please contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions.

Thursday Night Bible Class meets each week at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Please contact Pastor Hoag if you have any questions.



Choir practice is held each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. Please join us - both male and female voices are needed. If you have any questions, please call Julie Verchimak, at 815.723.1429 or the church office at 815.485.6973.



9th Annual Trinity Craft and Vendor Fair – Saturday, October 13th, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Come on out to the craft fair and bring along a friend! We need plenty of shoppers to make this event a success. We have new crafters and vendors this year, plus a bake sale, so come out and do some early holiday shopping. Free admission! Hope to see you there!

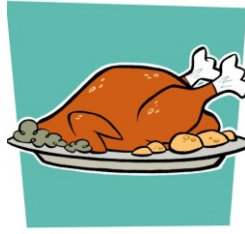
Youth and parents please sign up on the bulletin board for a volunteer slot.



SCRIP GIFT CARDS – This is a fundraiser for the Youth Group. These cards are the same gift cards that you can purchase from retailers, including over 300 brand-name grocery, department stores, restaurants, gas stations, hotels, home improvement etc. We order the gift cards at a discount and you pay face value for the gift cards. 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 an enrollment code. Ask Angie Minett for the code or stop by the church office. Direct any question you may have to Angie Minett at minett411@yahoo.com or (815) 467.2537. **Deadline for turning in orders, along with payment is Monday October 1st at noon.** Pre-ordered gift cards will be available for pick-up the weekend after the order is placed.



National Youth Gathering Registration – Registration for the 2019 National Youth Gathering is due on October 8th. The NYG will be held in Minneapolis in July 2019, but we need to register now to secure our spot and begin fundraising. It is open to all youth who are currently in high school. Please see Michelle Hoag for a registration form and more information.



Annual Turkey Dinner – held at St. John’s United Church of Christ in Mokena on Saturday, November 3rd from 4 pm till 7 pm. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Adults	\$12.00
Children 5-11	5.00
Children 2-4	2.00



DO YOU ENJOY THE COFFEE AND FELLOWSHIP AFTER THE 8:00 A.M. SERVICE ON SUNDAYS? We can use your help! We need someone for the fourth Sunday in November. Please contact the church office to sign up.



Prayer Chain: Thanks to Ginny DeCarlo and Pat Fuerst for heading up this very worthwhile organization. Please feel free to contact Pat or Ginny via the telephone to leave a prayer request, or Ginny via email to get a prayer started. Contact information: Pat 815 485 6441, Ginny 815 485 2001 or ginny@vdecarlo1952@gmail.com

Bulletin Prayer List: Please inform the church office when you or a family member’s status change or are well enough to be removed from the Prayer List. Thanks!

On Sale – Crystal Lens Cloth – Pat Czerwinski will be selling these before and after the services today for \$5.00 each. The proceeds will be donated to the basement kitchen remodeling project (95%) and to the Youth Gathering (5%). Pat will also bring us other useful items in the weeks to come with the proceeds being split as above. Stop and see Pat!

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Readers and Greeters:



Readers - The signup sheet for October is in the hallway. We have many open Sundays left. Please consider signing up for one dates as a reader.

Greeters -

Have you ever gone somewhere where you didn't know anyone? Imagine you are looking for a new church home and one of the churches on your list is Trinity. You show up on Sunday morning and no one speaks to you except the Pastor. Will you be coming back? Take a turn at greeting at one of our services and the result might be very surprising. Signup sheet for October is in the hallway.



MORNING STAR MISSION SERVING.

If you are interested in helping serve a meal at MorningStar on the 1st and/or 3rd Monday of each month, please sign up on the sheet on the hallway table. You need to be at MorningStar by 3:45. If you have questions, please call the church office. The dates for this month are October 1st and 15th.

Church Council Meeting, Sunday, October 14th at 7:00 pm



Church office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9-2 PM.

