



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Give, Worship, Prayer, Invite, Serve, Study, Encourage

Trinity Messenger

November 2023

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

I have a close friend whose congregation is struggling. We often talk about what that is like. I'm sure you all have had that experience. They are worried about the budget at their church, worried about attendance, worried that younger families are leaving.

For the moment, we don't have those specific problems at Trinity. Our leaders and I have been thinking about that. Our Faithful Innovation team has also been thinking about that. What is working at Trinity and why is it working? We are thankful. We see that God is active here. But we also wonder, how?

In fact, because of the things that are working, I'm applying to Fuller Seminary to begin Doctoral study to learn about what is working and tell your story to others. Folks need to hear your story.

I bet as you are reading this you are thinking, our "story?" We are just doing things like we've always done. In fact, we aren't actually doing as much as we used to for church. Both of those things may be true. But the way we are doing church together is somehow working for our community, and the way church and the world itself work is changing.

I have some solid guesses about a few things that are working, that are crucial. First, we are still getting to know new people on Sunday and during the week. It isn't perfect. Downstairs during fellowship, newer faces often sit to the sides or one of the long tables, but not in the central area. But you go find them, say hello, and eventually many of the new folks make their way into the center.

Another piece, you show honest care for the families of new folks. You ask the questions and then follow up. You stop by the nursery and say hi. You greet the children. You help with

Sunday School. You support Fusion Ministry, and you support me in working with the youth. It's a powerful message to parents when they see their family cared for and tended too.

Also, there is your financial and volunteer support for Trinity and other ministries. Things don't get cheaper. Healthcare especially is too expensive, along with price hikes everywhere. Still, you give financially to our congregation so that we can do ministry each week. We give away a quarter of our budget to the other ministries that you tell us are important. We listen. We give it away. It matters.

What do you think is working? I could write pages and pages of things I am proud of that you all have done for one another in the community outside of church. But what do you see? Is it that we look for real needs to take care of? Is it that we challenge you to love those who hate you? Is it that we name our failures together and ask God to forgive us? What about Trinity has been feeding your spirit and serving the Gospel in your life? Are there places you'd like to see something different? Send us a message, let us know. We need to hear what it is that you find meaningful; what draws you closer to Jesus.

I am excited to learn how to tell your story to others. I hope to amplify what you all are doing both for the sake of the Gospel in Cyrus and the area, but also for the sake of our local brothers and sisters who are worried about their own congregations.

Thanks for your trust in Jesus and your care for one another. Keep it up!

Christ's peace to you! - PrCR

How You Can Help!

Here are some things you can do to support the church and your neighbors this month!

1. **Call people.** Use your Trinity Directory – call your church family members and check in. **Make a Plan to call 3 families or individuals** (especially those who may be isolated) If everyone does this from the church – all will receive messages of care and hope. You could pray on the phone with one another.
2. **Give Financially:** You can support local charities like the food shelf, Luther Crest, the Red Cross, etc. Please remember to either mail or drop off contributions to the church office or give online. You can download the Vanco mobile app to do the online giving. Check it out at <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-app>.
3. **Pray:** Please keep up a prayer list of those you care for. Daily prayer is a powerful way to develop compassion, empathy, and spiritual discipline. There is no better time than now to begin praying.

TRINITY LUTHERAN WOMEN

** Do Days can always use sheets that are in good condition with no stains or tears to use for making quilts.

Do Days

**November 27th
& 28th**

Quilt making continues
as an ongoing project.

+ + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & STREAMED LIVE ONLINE

We are still looking for volunteers for tech/AV and readers. Please contact the church office if you're interested.

1st Sundays of each month are Food Shelf Offering & 4th Sundays are Luther Crest Offering

DATE	TIME	READER	MUSICIAN	TECH/AV	COMM. PREP.	ACOLYTE	USHER/ GREETER
Sun, Nov 5th	9:30am	K. Hassler	TBD	R. & O. Huebner	D. Carbert	W. Mithun	L. & K. Edlund
Sun, Nov 12th	9:30am	J. Maanum	K. Zenner	A. Erickson	No Communion	E. Anderson	K. Hassler
Sun, Nov 19th	9:30am	A. Barsness	TBD	S. & K. Banta	No Communion	H. Banta	L. & P. Anderson
Wed, Nov 22nd– Thanksgiving Eve	6:00pm	J. Solvie	K. Zenner	T. & W. Richards	T. Ludwick	D. Black	N/A
Sun, Nov 26th	9:30am	R. Huebner	K. Zenner	R. & B. Barsness	D. Olson	L. Anderson	S. & D. Carbert

Special Music: We would like to welcome anyone interested in sharing God's message through special music in our service to please let the office know: tlccvruskavla@gmail.com.

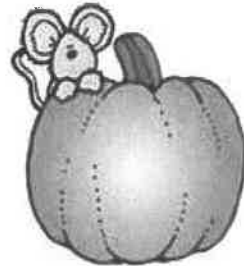
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BIRTHDAYS

NOTE: We are working on updating our online membership system, please let the church office know if any birthdays are incorrect or missing.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 11/01 Darren Lilienthal | 11/20 Tylor Tollefson |
| 11/01 Greg Pieske | 11/21 Jennifer Monty |
| 11/02 Angela Joos | 11/23 Dennis Dahl |
| 11/02 Adam Aaberg | 11/26 Harlan Wentz |
| 11/08 Rebecca Soberg | 11/26 Lindsay (Anderson) Graff |
| 11/08 Dimitri Estrada | 11/28 Nicole (Gades) Harris |
| 11/08 Venessa Barsness | 11/29 Larry Hansen |
| 11/09 Terryle Olson | 11/29 Tyler Erdman |
| 11/09 Miles Banta | 11/30 Gary Ness |
| 11/09 Harper Holzheimer | 11/30 Hannah Berg |
| 11/11 Kathryn Barsness | |
| 11/13 Robin Erlandson | |
| 11/15 Vernett Kannegiesser | |
| 11/17 Angela Estenson | |
| 11/20 Alexis Joos | |

The Gratitude Gourd



It is the first day of November,
Thanksgiving is only weeks away;
So it is with our gratitude
that this special gourd comes your way.
God tells us to be thankful,
For all the blessings He bestows.
We wanted to start a special tradition;
and the Gratitude Gourd arose.
This gourd is being given,
For all you do and who you are.
You may think you're not so special.
But to us you're a shining star!



"...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." ~ Matthew 5:16

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Minutes; October 17, 2023

Present: Holly Rutter, Katie Erickson, Kathy Banta, Barb Barsness, Mark Barsness, Dena Carbert, Kayla Schmidgall & Pastor Chris Richards

Absent: Lonnie Anderson

Holly called the meeting to order.

Barb made a motion & Kathy seconded to approve the agenda.

Kathy made a motion & Barb seconded to approve minutes from last meeting.

Mark made a motion & Barb seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business

1. Trinity received some money from the Ruth Wrolson estate. The council is still deciding how best to use these funds.
2. We will be looking into getting a new side door (with locking pad).

New Business

1. Council is talking about increasing Pastor's continuing education budget.
2. Council is looking into a new representative for the Minnewaska Lutheran Home board.
3. 2024 budget is in the beginning stages of preparation.
4. Mission Fest will be Sunday, December 3rd.

Committee Reports:

Property – Whiteboards will be added to the Sunday school rooms

Education – Sunday school is going well.

Worship – Preparing for Advent services

Outreach – College student addresses are being collected for care packages; fleece blankets were made for the Howe family

** Worship & Outreach will now be combined into one committee.

Next meeting: Monday, November 13th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Erickson, Council Secretary

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please contact Kayla (tlccyruskavla@gmail.com or 320-795-2569) if you'd like to add any other announcements or information to the upcoming monthly newsletter.

** First Lutheran Church's Fall Dinner & Silent Auction is on Wed, November 1st from 4:30pm-7:30pm. Tickets are \$14 per meal; dine-in, take out & home delivery are available. See poster on narthex bulletin board for more information.

** Cyrus Seniors will meet on Tuesday, November 7th at 2pm in Trinity basement.

** Church office will be closed Thursday, November 23rd & Friday, November 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday.

** Element Schedule – at First Lutheran (unless noted)

- * Wed, November 1st, - 6pm-7:30pm @ Faith Lutheran Church (note: change of location)
- * Wed, November 8th - No Element
- * Wed, November 15th - 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wed, November 22nd - No Element - Happy Thanksgiving!
- * Wed, November 29th - 6pm-7:30pm

** Sr. High Fusion Schedule at First Lutheran (unless noted)

- * Wed, Nov. 1st - 7pm-8:30pm - Location TBA (see website for more details)
- * Wed, Nov. 8th - No Fusion
- * Wed, Nov. 15th - 7pm-8:30pm
- * Fri, Nov. 17th - 7:15am-8:00am Location TBA (see website for more details)
- * Wed, Nov. 22nd - No Sr. High Fusion - Happy Thanksgiving!
- * Wed, Nov. 29th - 7pm-8:30pm

** There will be an open house baby shower for Kendra (Jergenson) Goulet on Saturday, Nov 18th from 9:30am-11am at Trinity. Check for her registry items at www.babylist.com.

** Do Days will be Monday, November 27th and Tuesday, November 28th.

** Mission Fest will be on Sunday, December 3rd, following worship.

** Financial Update


Income:	\$252,226.80
Expenses:	<u>\$218,023.65</u>
	\$ 34,203.15

NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	Oct. 30	Oct. 31	1 4:30p- Fall Dinner & Silent Auction @ First Lutheran 6p- Element- Faith Lutheran 7p- Fusion	2	3	4
	Pr. Chris on silent retreat					
5 9:30a- Worship- Communion 10:40a- Sunday School	6	7 2p- Cyrus Seniors meeting- TLC basement	8 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	9	10	11
12 9:30a- Worship 10:40a- Sunday School	13	14	15 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	16	17	18 9:30a- Kendra (Jergenson) Goulet baby shower
19 9:30a- Worship 10:40a- Sunday School	20	21	22 Pr. Chris at Holly Ridge & MLH 6p- Thanksgiving Eve Worship No Element No Fusion	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Office Closed	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:30a- Worship- Communion 10:40a- Sunday School	27 Do Days	28 Do Days	29 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	30		

**Trinity Lutheran Church
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