



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

October 2022

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

Soybeans stand waiting for harvest. All the leaves have fallen away. They rattle a little in the breeze. I have wondered if there is a metaphor there for how God sees us? The harvest is plentiful – easy, right there! I can see the many beans on the stalk now that all the leaves have fallen away.

I find myself jealous of a woodchuck who has been feasting on them for the last few weeks. I don't know if you've ever met a woodchuck before. (Wuchak is their Ojibwe name, which eventually became woodchuck) They are ground-squirrels, but I think ground-beaver is a more apt description. They look like a chubby beaver with a squirrel tail that is far too small for the size of their back ends.

I expect them to be clumsy by their look. But it isn't the case. They are nimble! Quick! Once they get moving, everything shimmying all at once – the roll like a wave swiftly from forest to ditch to field.

I've seen this woodchuck, which I think of as Benny, (no offense to Benjamins and Benedicts out there) many days when I go to the trails for a run. Benny erupts from the soybean field, surges across the gravel into the forest on the other side and crashes through the undergrowth with force until he's engulfed in the shady depths.

I envy Benny. He is fed, comfortable, king of his forest, lord of his domain of shade and breezes. He sees an easy harvest, and he partakes. He doesn't seem worried about anything other than food and safety. In both of those arenas he seems very capable. Last year while down by the river

I saw another Wuchak stare and hiss down a very enthusiastic Golden Retriever. The dog ran for its life, scared off quickly by the violent threats of the Wuchak. I can't imagine a coyote or fox would have a chance either.

Do you ever envy the simplicity you see in the lives of others? Who is to say that Benny's life is simple? I sure think so. That doesn't mean I'm right. Jesus leads us into new places and situations, challenging us to forgive and show compassion to strangers and enemies alike. I make guesses about their lives too. Do you? I assume strangers and enemies have made choices or had other options. Sometimes I judge them for the story I've created in my mind. In the same way, I envy others for what I assume is also their ease of life or wealth. I envy others who seem to have it figured out or project calm capability.

Jesus, in leading, calls us to follow. He does not call us to succeed. He does not call us to accomplish or achieve. Jesus calls us to follow where he leads us. He often leads us into stillness, prayer, silence, and waiting. Sometimes he leads us into obvious harvests. Sometimes he leads us into the unknown with no expectations of our action. He leads us. We are to follow. He reminds us that it takes only a very small bit of faith to follow. Just a tiny seed's worth to go where he goes before us.

I wonder if the weight of the stories I have told myself about others slows me up in caring for them? I wonder if the story I told in my mind were more like the story God tells, if my heart might change? How might we look with God's eyes, and not just our own? Christ's Peace this fall as you do the same.

Christ's Peace – 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 is in need of a sewing machine. If you have a newer machine in good condition that you would be willing to donate, please contact Barb Barsness.

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

Fabric kits for LWR will be on Sun, Oct. 9 – Service Group 2 is helping.
Items needed for each kit:

- 2 pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits of 100% polyester)
 - ** Fabric should measure 2 ¼ yards of 60” wide fabric; 3 yards of 44” wide fabric; or 4 yards of 36” wide fabric
- 2 spools of neutral color general purpose thread; 250-300 yards each

Do Days

Do Days will be
October 24th & 25th

Quilt making continues
as an ongoing project.

+ + + WORSHIP + + +

SERVICES ARE IN-PERSON & LIVE WEBCAST

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
October 2nd	9:30am	H. Black	K. Banta	J. Knorr	K. Moser	D. Black	S. & A. Mullins
October 9th	9:30am	A. Barsness	K. Zenner	M. Barsness	N/A	E. Anderson	L. & P. Anderson
October 16th	9:30am	C. Carlsen	W. Richards	A. Erickson	N/A	S. Estrada	K. & L. Asmus
October 23rd	9:30am	D. Dahl	K. Zenner	R. Huebner	L. Berg	H. Banta	N. Baker & R. Wente
October 30th	9:30am	H. Rutter	W. Richards	S. & K. Banta	N/A	O. Huebner	J. & C. Carlsen

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: tlccyruskayla@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.

10/05 Matthew Walcott
 10/06 Payton Larson
 10/07 Chad Larson
 10/07 Paul Tollefson
 10/10 Sidney Mithun
 10/10 Scott Estenson
 10/10 Jasmine Boots
 10/13 LeRoy Mickelson
 10/15 Richard Rau
 10/15 Clori Carlsen
 10/15 Pierce Richards
 10/18 Anna Alfson
 10/20 Larry Ronnie
 10/20 Stacy Richards
 10/23 Hannah Estenson
 10/23 Aurora Campbell
 10/24 Lowell Ness
 10/26 Yvonne Alfson
 10/26 Grace Alessi

10/26 Nora Boyle
 10/26 Gracy Erlandson
 10/26 Jeremy Logeais
 10/27 Diane Hanse
 10/29 Amanda Barsness
 10/30 DeWayne Larson
 10/30 Charles Onstad

Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin:



God picks you from the patch and
brings you in. (John 15:16)
Then He washes all the dirt off of you.
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens you up and scoops out all
the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds
of doubt, fear, hate, and greed.
(Romans 6:6)

He carves you a new smiling face.
(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts his light inside of you to
shine for all the world to see.
(Matthew 5:16)

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

Council Minutes; September 18, 2022

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Barb Barsness, Kathy Banta, Jerry Carlsen, Dena Carbert, Pastor Chris Richards & Kayla Schmidgall

Absent: None

Holly called meeting to order.

Discussion about offering envelopes was added to the agenda. Kathy made a motion & Dena seconded to approve the altered agenda

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

Kathy made a motion & Dena seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business:

1. Discussion of the renovation
 - A. There are still some trim pieces left to put up
 - B. Going to hold on to the choir loft pews for Sunday school to use during music hour
 - C. Agreed to sell the old AV/technology desk

New Business:

1. Mission Fest will be same as last year and combined with the Taste of Christmas – Dec 4th
2. Discussed ideas about what to do with the safe that was used in Kayla's office
3. Discussed using the using Trust fund money for college scholarships (high school seniors can apply for it).
4. Beginning to think about purchasing a coffee maker for kitchen – will do research on new models & efficiency.
5. Discussed beginning to think/talk about the budget for 2023.
6. Holly reminded council that health insurance decisions for Pr. Chris need to be made in October and Kayla is also eligible as well this year.

7. Reggie Dabbs will be speaking at MAHS & MAES on November 7th & 9th – Trinity will be doing special offering (on October 16th) to raise funds. The FUSION students were instrumental in in getting this event to happen.

8. Discussed the idea of having part of the church licensed for daycare services & to think/pray about other options for us to help serve the community.

9. Trinity will now be making own offering envelopes instead of ordering them; they will still be available for those folks who prefer to use them.

Committee Reports:

Property – Reseeding the cemeteries from the uprooted trees (from the storm back in May 2022)

Education – Rally Sunday was a success; looks to be a good year with many Sunday school kids.

** Huge shoutout to Jodi Jergenson for helping coordinate getting everything together for this Sunday school year.

Worship – Nothing new to report.

Outreach Nothing new to report.

Next meeting: Sunday, October 9th after worship.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Erickson, Council Secretary

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

** Cyrus Seniors will be in Trinity church basement on Tuesday, October 4th at 2pm.

** Pederson Funeral Home's Gatherings Sunday Luncheons for Widows & Widowers will be on Sunday, October 9th, at Noon at Old #1 Southside in Morris.

** Mission Fest - Celebrating Our Privilege of "Making Christ Known" - will be on Sunday, Dec 4th. As we did last year, Mission Fest and Taste of Christmas will be combined into one celebration. We will like to have a planning meeting after church on Sunday, Oct 9th to get started. Anyone is welcome to join in the planning. If you would like to be on the committee but can't come to the meeting on the 9th, please let Kayla, Barb B. or Pat A. know.

** Glenwood Lutheran Church will have a meatball supper on Wednesday, Oct 12th from 4:30pm-7pm. Meal includes meatballs & gravy, "real" mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, coleslaw, bread; and home-bake desserts. It will be take-out only and all tickets are \$12.

Financial Update

Income:	\$157,112.87
Expenses:	<u>\$146,516.67</u>
	\$ 10,596.20

Today < > October 2022							Month	K
SUN 25	MON 26	TUE 27	WED 28	THU 29	FRI 30	SAT Oct 1		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 2 more 	Do Days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 					
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 2 more 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Cyrus Seniors-Tri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 3 more 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Columbus Day Indigenous Peoples' Day 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 2 more 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 		K - out of office			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 2 more 	Do Days		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 					
30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4	5		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:30am Worship 2 more 	Halloween	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Day of American Indl 2pm Cyrus Seniors-Tri 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Weekly Devotional 6pm Element: Jr. High I 					

**Trinity Lutheran Church
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**OCTOBER
2022**