



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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

Trinity Messenger

October 2023

Field Notes: Rev. C. Richards

“Taking the dollar, they groused angrily to the manager, ‘These last workers put in only one easy hour, and you just made them equal to us, who slaved all day under a scorching sun.’ ‘He replied to the one speaking for the rest, ‘Friend, I haven’t been unfair. We agreed on the wage of a dollar, didn’t we? So take it and go. I decided to give to the one who came last the same as you. Can’t I do what I want with my own money? Are you going to get stingy because I am generous?’” Matthew 20: 11-16 MSG

Can’t I do what I want with my own money? The vineyard owner asks this of a worker in Jesus’ parable in Matthew. In the NRSV it is translated, ‘Am I not allowed to do what I want with what belongs to me?’

It’s tough not to have opinions about how others use their resources. Right? We notice how people spend their time, their money, their emotions, even their relational influence. We have opinions.

This is deeply ironic. We have opinions about how folks spend their resources, and yet if we were to chart our own use of the same resources, it is rare to see our values align completely with our actions. You’ve heard me talk time and again about giving time to listening to God. Spending time with God’s word, spending time in prayer. And yet, if I had a magical time app that tracked everything I do like a fitness tracker or a phone app, I bet the time I spend each week on spiritual matters is far less than I’d care to admit. Especially, if I compare the time spent with God to the time spent on entertainment or reading or exercise, my favorite time sinks.

We, humans, are bundles of contradiction. We want others to be good, honest, true, faithful, and kind. Yet we aren't usually as good, or honest, or faithful as we expect to be treated. We want others to be patient with us, but we don't always show the patience we expect to receive.

This line of thinking gets truly worrisome when we consider Jesus' words to us in his parables, "And in anger his Lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart." (Matt 18:34-35; NRSV)

Have you ever felt like God should use God's resources more fairly? What's with all this forgiving? What's with all this letting folks in to the party at the last second when we've been slaving away all day long trying to be faithful followers? God seems to welcome just about anyone, even when they don't deserve it! Isn't that unfair?

God's response: Can't I do what I want with what is mine?

Yes. Yes, God can, and does. God wants to love. God wants to forgive. God wants a kingdom where all are welcome that runs on trust, faith, kindness, love, and forgiveness. It will take all sorts. It will need long followers and newcomers. And when we pray THY kingdom come THY will be done, this is exactly what we are talking about.

Hey God. Do what you want with what is yours. We are yours. We trust you.

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.

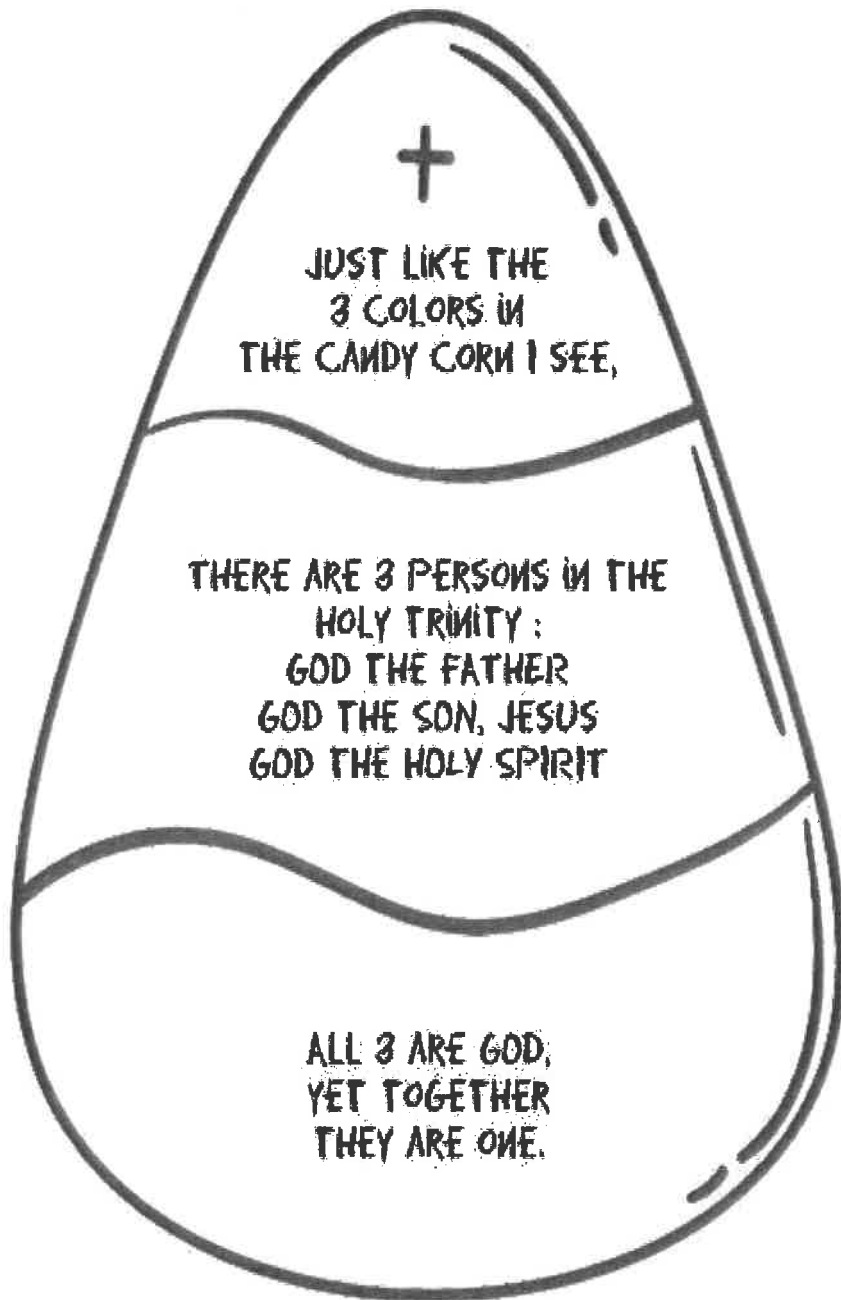
TRINITY LUTHERAN WOMEN

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

Do Days

**October 30th &
31st**

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, Oct 1st	9:30am	R. Huebner	W. Richards	A. Erickson	V. Brandt	E. Anderson	M. & A. Barsness
Sun, Oct 8th	9:30am	A. Barsness	K. Zenner	R. & O. Huebner	No Communion	L. Anderson	A. & K. Erickson
Sun, Oct 15th	9:30am	L. Anderson	W. Richards	T. & W. Richards	No Communion	W. Mithun	N. Barsness
Sun, Oct 22nd	9:30am	C. Carlsen	TBD	R. & B. Barsness	C. Carlsen	T. Richards	J. & C. Carlsen
Sun, Oct 29th	9:30am	H. Black	K. Zenner	S. & K. Banta	No Communion	B. Black	W. & J. Maanum

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: tlccvruskayla@gmail.com.

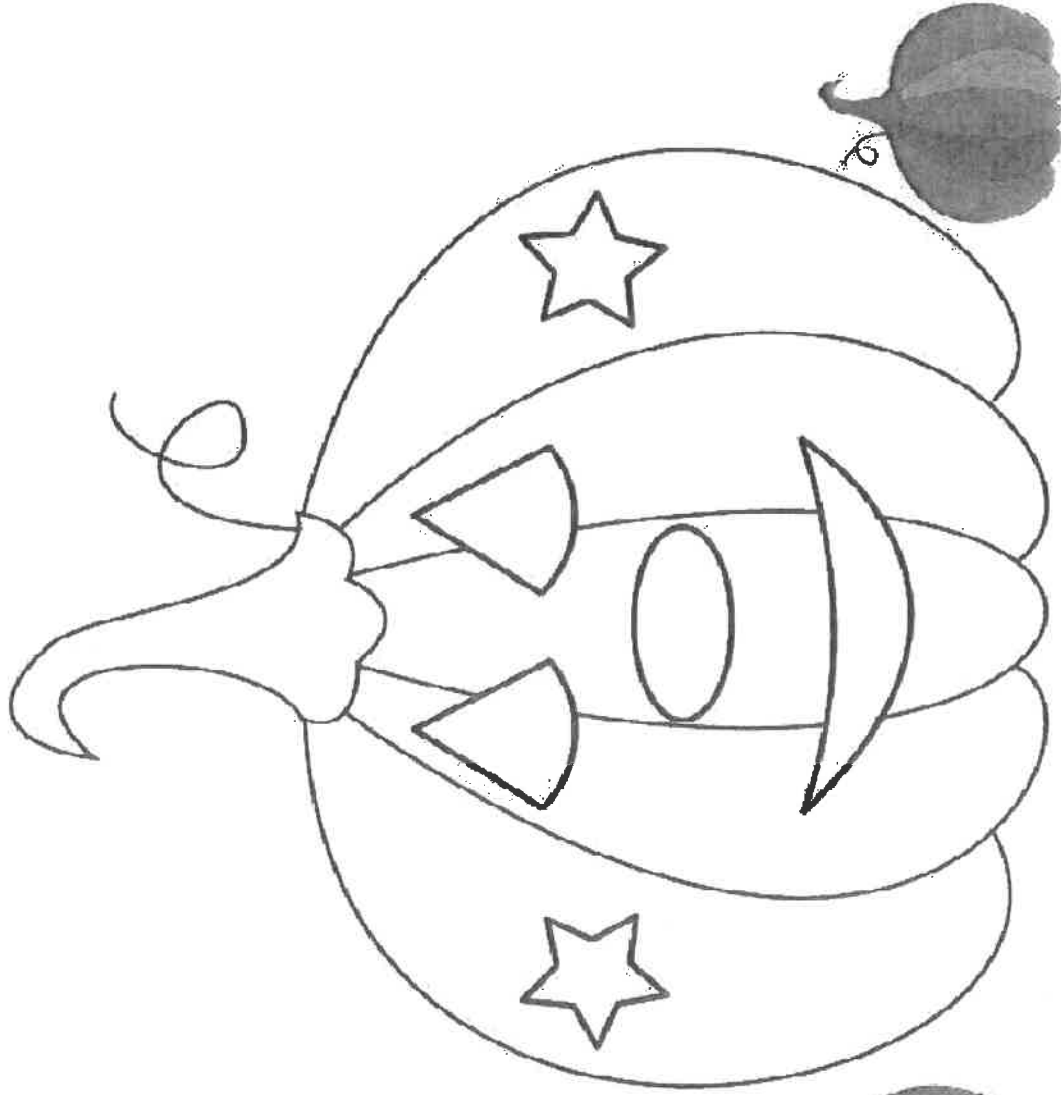
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BIRTHDAYS

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 Matt Walcott | 10/26 Nora Boyle |
| 10/06 Carson Erdman | 10/26 Gracy Erlandson |
| 10/07 Chadwick Larson | 10/26 Jeremy Logeais |
| 10/07 Paul Tollefson | 10/27 Diane Hanse |
| 10/10 Sidney Mithun | 10/29 Amanda Barsness |
| 10/10 Scott Estenson | 10/30 DeWayne Larson |
| 10/10 Jasmine Boots | 10/30 Charles Onstad |
| 10/13 LeRoy Mickelson | |
| 10/15 Clori Carlsen | |
| 10/15 pierce Richards | |
| 10/18 Anna Alfson | |
| 10/20 Larry Ronnie | |
| 10/20 Stacy Richards | |
| 10/23 Aurora Campbell | |
| 10/24 Lowell Ness | |
| 10/26 Yvonne Alfson | |
| 10/26 Grace Alessi | |

1. Color the stem green. Green is for Creator God who lives in heaven.
2. Color the nose brown. Brown is for mud. Mud is dirty, like our sinful hearts.
3. Color the mouth red. Red is for the blood Jesus paid to forgive our sins.
4. Color the 2 eyes blue. Blue is for water that washes us clean, just as Jesus gives us clean hearts.
5. Color the stars yellow. Yellow is for the sun. Jesus is the Son of God. We can trust Jesus to save us from our sins so that we can one day live in heaven with God.
6. Color the pumpkin orange. "Orange" you glad Jesus loves you?



My Gospel Pumpkin Coloring Page

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council Minutes; September 12, 2023

Present: Holly Rutter, Lonnie Anderson, Katie Erickson, Kathy Banta, Barb Barsness, Mark Barsness & Pastor Chris Richards

Absent: Dena Carbert & Kayla Schmidgall

Holly called the meeting to order.

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

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

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

Pastor Chris gave his report.

Old Business

1. Insurance money/donations have come in & now able to order new Christ candle & Advent wreath
2. Lonnie made a motion & Barb seconded to have matching funds to Feed My Starving Children (need to find where to pull from in budget)
3. Will be looking into an estimate for new doors with locking pad.
4. Kathy made a motion & Barb seconded to put white boards in both Sunday school rooms.

New Business

1. No new business.

Committee Reports:

Property – Possibly planning to have someone come in to look at vents.

Education – Rally Sunday went well on Sept 10th & Sunday school begins Sept 17th

Worship – Beginning to have volunteers help lead in liturgy & prayers during worship

Outreach – Fusion is going to be doing a fundraiser

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 17th at 5:30pm.

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 meet on Tuesday, Oct 3rd at 2pm in Trinity basement.
- ** Pastor Chris will be out of the office at seminars from Wednesday, Oct 4th-Wednesday, Oct 11th.
- ** Fall Supper at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lowry is on Wednesday, Oct. 4th from 4:30pm-7:30pm. Flyer on bulletin board (by Keurig) in narthex has more info.
- ** Glenwood Lutheran Church Meatball Supper is on Wednesday, Oct. 11th from 4:30pm-7pm. Flyer on bulletin board (by Keurig) in narthex has more info.
- ** Coffee with a Cop will be at the Cyrus Community Center on Wednesday, Oct 18th at 2pm.
- ** Families of college students, please give addresses (for care package from Trinity) to Dean Carbert by Oct 15th. Please call or text her at 320-287-0409.
- ** 68th Annual Norwegian Smorgasbord at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Benson will be on Wednesday, Oct. 25th from 4:30pm-7:30pm. Flyer on bulletin board by Keurig in narthex has more info.
- ** Pope Senior Citizens Fall Party will be on Thursday, Oct 26th at 11:30am at Minnewaska House. For more information, call 320-634-7755 & ask to talk to Senior Services.

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

- * Wednesday, Oct 4th; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, Oct 11th; 6pm-7:30pm
- * Wednesday, Oct 18th - No Element due to MEA Weekend
- * Wednesday, Oct 25th; 6pm-7:30pm

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

- * Wednesday, Oct 4th; 7pm-8:30pm
- * Wednesday, Oct 11th; 7pm-8:30pm
- * Wednesday, Oct 18th - No Fusion due to MEA Weekend
- * Wednesday, Oct 25th; 7pm-8:30pm
- * Friday, Oct 27th - Breakfast; 7:15am-8am, Location TBA (see Website for more details)

** 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.

** Financial Update

Income: \$161,121.92
Expenses: \$164,437.90
 - \$ 3,315.98

OCTOBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30a- Worship 10:40a- Sunday School	2	3 2p- Cyrus Seniors @ Trinity	4 4:30p- Fall Supper @ St Paul's in Lowry 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran Pr. Chris at workshops	5	6	7
8 9:30a- Worship 10:40a- Sunday School Pr. Chris at Synod conference	9	10	11 4:30p- Glenwood Lutheran Meatball Supper 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	12	13	14
15 9:30a- Worship 10:45a- Sunday School	16	17	18 2p- Coffee w/ a Cop @ Cyrus Community Center 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	19	20 Office Closed	21
22 9:30a- Worship- Communion 10:45a- Sunday School	23	24	25 4:30p- Our Redeemer's Lutheran Norwegian Smorgasbord-Benson 6p- Element- First Lutheran 7p- Fusion- First Lutheran	26 11:30a- Pope Co Senior Citizens Fall Party--Minnewaska House	27	28
29 9:30a- Worship 10:45a- Sunday School	30 Do Days	31 Do Days HAPPY HALLOWEEN!	Pr. Chris at Holly Ridge & MLH			

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