



Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church

Activities Newsletter

Fall 2010



Help save the church money AND stay abreast of Trinity activities. Send us your email address! It'll save on postage and allow us to stay connected. Please send it to martinkm@aol.com and Kathy will update the directory. Any other directory changes can also be given to her.

Message from Pastor Gramit

End of Church Year Reflections

Most of you probably know this by now -- of the four major seasons, fall is our family's favorite. We all love the changing foliage, cooler temperatures after summer, the smell of a log fire, the harvest theme (especially being the midwesterners we are), and other such seasonal marks.

I'd say we love the season of fall in spite of the fact, particularly with the foliage, that what we're actually seeing is death. After all, it's when the leaves are healthy and green that they manifest being alive. The withering and the changing of color, beautiful as it is notwithstanding, signals the fact that those particular leaves -- all of those beautiful red, orange, and yellow leaves which were once green -- are now dying!

How's that for a spoiler?

It just so happens to be -- thanks to the calendar layout of the year, at least here in the northern hemisphere -- that, just when the trees have lost their leaves entirely, oftentimes the snow is on the ground, and the period of winter dormancy has arrived, Christmas comes. That's right -- amid a season of a sort of "death" having set in, here comes the gift of life!

The miracle of Christmas isn't found in the "magic" of the season. It isn't even found in our various celebrations and traditions, nice -- and even important -- as they are. The miracle is found in the fact that, "when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons" (Galatians 4:4-5). Amid the death of our sin, our Lord, the eternal God the Son, "begotten, not made," was, in time, "incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary and was made man" (Nicene Creed), so that He might fulfill for us what Galatians 4:4-5 describes.

That's the miracle of Christmas -- God for us!

Christmas will be upon us again soon enough. In the meantime, however -- because there ARE several weeks between now and then -- we'll have enough at Ev. Trinity Lutheran Church UAC to keep us busy. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll read about our Discipleship presentation November 28, Advent and Christmas worship opportunities, and our mission outreach to Worcester, among other things.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas as they come, and meanwhile, enjoy the season of fall!

Rev. Paul E. Gramit, Pastor

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Calendar of Events

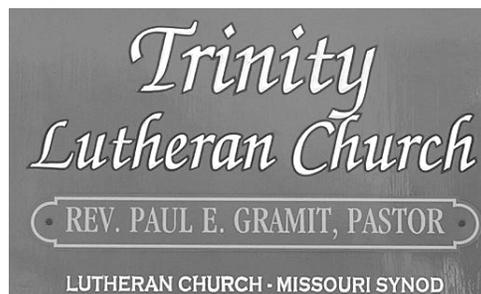
November

- 13 – Ladies' Aid Christmas Fair "Rejoice"!**
14 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Office of Matins w/Coffee Hour
21 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Divine Service
24 – 7:30pm, Eucharistic Vespers
28 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Service of the Word
After Service there will be a special
presentation on discipleship by Rev.
James Keurulainen, with a meal following.
29 – Ladies Aid serving at Community Cafe



December

- 1 – 7:30pm, Advent Service; Evening Prayer
5 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Divine Service
8 – 7:30pm, Advent Service; Evening Prayer
9 – Ladies' Aid Christmas Dinner – Location TBD
12 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Office of Matins w/Coffee Hour
15 – 7:30pm, Advent Service; Evening Prayer
19 – 8:45 Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am, Divine Service
24 – 7:30pm, Christmas Eve Carol Vespers
25 – 10:00am, Christmas; Divine Service
26 – No Sunday School or Bible Study
10:00am, Service of the Word
31 – 7:30pm, New Year's Eve; Eucharistic Vespers



Service Times Sept - June

Sunday School 8:45AM
Sunday Service 10:00AM

Service Times July & August And Labor Day Weekend

Sunday service 9:00AM

Question and Answer

Featured Question -- What is the normal "rotation" for the offering of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist (Communion) on which days?



Featured Answer -- The Eucharist is celebrated here at Trinity . . . on every first, third, and fifth Sunday of the month, on all four major feasts of the church year (Christmas Day, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity), on certain minor festivals (including Reformation Sunday and All Saints Sunday), at key evening services (including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Thanksgiving Eve, and New Year's Eve), and every Sunday during the season of Lent.

Only in the absence of the pastor, when the service is led by a Trinity elder, is the Sacrament not offered where it'd otherwise be scheduled, and even then, it may be offered on an adjacent Sunday. For instance, this past summer, when our pastor was traveling for a few weeks, July 18, a third Sunday, found us worshiping according to the Service of the Word led by an elder, but on the following Sunday, July 25, a fourth Sunday, we had a guest pastor and the Sacrament offered that day instead.

Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year Worship

Besides our standard Sunday schedule, we will meet for worship for special occasions as follows --

Thanksgiving Eve -- Eucharistic Vespers, Wednesday evening, November 24, 7:30 PM

Wednesday evenings during Advent -- December 1, 8, and 15, a capella Evening Prayer, 7:30 PM each day. We'll begin each of these devotional services with a Christmas "warmup" hymn sing. More on this service following the schedule.

Christmas Eve -- Carol Vespers, 7:30 PM

Christmas Morning -- Divine Service, 10:00 AM

New Year's Eve -- Eucharistic Vespers, 7:30 PM

About the Advent Midweek Evening Prayer services -- The format for our worship these evenings is that of Evening Suffrages, or Evening Prayer, a lower key devotional setting very much a part of Christian worship history. In many Christian communities throughout its history, worship was attended by the faithful several times during the week, even daily or several times a day in some circles. The Evening Prayer was the later service (as opposed to the late afternoon Vespers, which of course can be, and often is, done in the evening as well).

The Evening Prayer has often been centered around the baptismal font, as it is at Trinity. A key difference is, the font is often at the entrance to the nave (main seating area of the house of worship), therefore putting the "setting" for the service at precisely that area of the temple. At Trinity, except for the sermon for the sole reason of recording it, we likewise maintain that focal point of the font, recalling (of course!) our Baptism into God's family.

Discipleship Presentation and Guest Presenter, Special Dinner Planned for November 28

Sunday, November 28 will be special for a couple of reasons. First, it will be the first Sunday of the new church year. Advent Sunday, as it's known, will find us considering the theme "New Beginning" to kick off the new church year (it DOES go together, doesn't it?).

Second, this day will find us considering discipleship in the context of a special presentation and meal. Immediately following the Service of the Word (or "Page Five" as it's sometimes called), we will hear a presentation on discipleship by Rev. James Keurulainen, the president of the New England District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. A luncheon will follow. **This meal is not a potluck; it will feature a planned menu. We DO need people to bring food items to share.** The planned menu consists of meat loaf, scalloped potatoes, and salad and/or vegetable. **If you can contribute food for the meal, please contact Cordie Mueller. It is imperative that you contact her before planning your dish.**

We hope to see as many of our members as possible on November 28.

Worcester Bible Study



The Bible study in the immediate Worcester area continues to take place Wednesday evenings, 7:00 PM., at Burger King located at Quinsig Road and State Road 9 (just down the road from the UMass University Hospital) in Shrewsbury. Rev. Landon Schkade is leading a study of St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, which we'll be wrapping up soon and, subsequently, starting another topic.

As innocuous or, more fittingly, inconsequential as a small gathering at Burger King may sound, please consider that, in our Lord's Church, oftentimes, it's the smallest of beginnings for many endeavors which result in great accomplishment of His will. Many, many Gospel efforts, even entire congregations, were started on a very small scale such as that of the study.

We have a small core group meeting each week, and are of course looking for more people to join us. And, yes, it IS very fitting to join us even if you wouldn't ultimately join a Worcester congregation should it be God's will to bring one out of these efforts; in fact, just showing up and participating works wonders. The important thing is that we are publicly confessing as we gather -- this is a major reason why we meet in a public place while the group is still small (we were originally going to meet in a Congregational church's basement from the beginning; a housekeeping situation originally led us to Burger King).

Ask yourself this -- COULD OUR LORD HAVE IT IN STORE TO ESTABLISH A CONGREGATION OR, AT LEAST, A MISSION OUTPOST, IN WORCESTER, AND USE US AND OUR OWN CONGREGATION TO GET IT STARTED AND BE A PART OF THE EFFORT AND OUTREACH?

Please see me for information on the study if you feel the Lord is leading you to be a part of it!
- Rev. Paul E. Gramit, Pastor

Ladies' Aid

“Rejoice!”
Ladies' Aid Christmas Fair
Saturday, November 13th
9:30am – 1:30pm

A new feature that has been added is the “Cookie Swap”. Patrons will be able to choose their own cookies from a varied selection to fill their own box. The cookies will be priced accordingly. There will be new crafts to choose from as well. Handmade goods will be offered as usual as well as the extensive variety of baked goods. The “white elephant” table will make an appearance as usual. Lunch will be served featuring hot dogs, sauerkraut, brats, soup and desserts.

The next **Ladies Aid meeting** - Wednesday, Nov. 10. Agenda items include:

- Set up for the fair.
- Discuss Menu for Community Café being served on November 29th.
- Decide on a location for the LAS Christmas Party being held on December 9th. Reminder: A \$10 gift swap will also be part of the Christmas Party fun!

If you are able to help cook for this month's or any future Community Café, please contact Cordie Mueller.



Shoeboxes for “Operation Christmas Child” will be collected on Sunday, November 21st. Pamphlets are available with instructions and necessary information. Fill a shoebox!

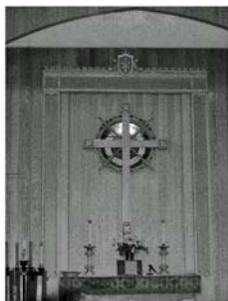


Visit <http://www.samaritanaspurse.org> for more information

Altar Guild

Regarding Altar Guild --

First, a BIG Thank You! to Karen Shaw, who will be serving as our Altar Guild Coordinator.



Second, the Altar Guild will meet Sunday, November 14 following Matins. We'll go over church year particulars (especially since the new church year will be upon us soon), as well as some key review points about altar setup, appointments, etc. especially for Divine Service. All members of the guild, and any interested as well who maybe aren't with the guild yet, should attend.

Third, we need more individuals to help out with Altar Guild. The tasks are surprisingly easy, yet vital for the worship and Sacramental life of our congregation. THANKS TO ALL WHO DO HELP! Again, we can use some more. MANY HANDS MAKE THE WORK LIGHT! And, no, the Altar Guild isn't just for the ladies! Men are welcome to help out also!

There is currently a Great Need for Foster Families in Worcester & the Surrounding Towns

Long Term...Short Term...Even for ONE Night

Change the Future of a Child in your Community!

There are many myths about Foster Care.

Did you Know?:

- That you can rent or own your own home
- You can decide on the age or gender of the child
- You may be single, married, partnered, divorced or widowed to become a foster parent
- Foster families can decide to provide overnight care, 10-day short term stays or longer
 - You can be 18 years or older
- All inquiries are handled individually and in confidence

Please Call: 508-929-2000 for more information

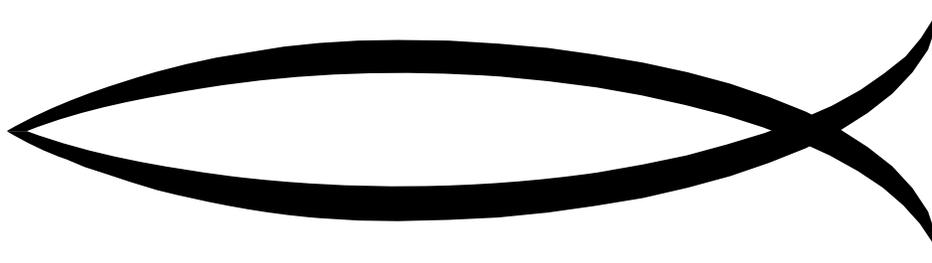
Area Boards for the MA Department of Children and families were established this year to serve as the major link between the Area Office and the community. Their purpose is to promote the welfare of children, assist DCF in the implementation of its mission for improving outcomes for children & families and ensuring that children and families are surrounded by an adequate safety net.

The Worcester East Area Board would like to ask for your assistance in helping to fill a great need of the Department at this time. The MA Department of Social Services currently has hundreds of children in foster care just in the Worcester area alone. Not enough foster homes are available to accommodate the children that need homes, particularly for infants and adolescents. If you know anyone who may be interested in serving as a Foster Family please contact the department to obtain more information about the application process.

Sincerely,
Shirley Williams and Doreen Samuels
Co-Chairpersons of the DCF Worcester East Area Board

Living Nativities:

- Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Westminster will hold their annual Living Nativity on Saturday and Sunday December 4th and 5th from 6-8pm each night.
- Live nativity at Mesa Farm (home of Dale and Ann) at 67 Muschopauge Road in Rutland on December 11th and 12th. Performances are at 5:00 and 6:30 each evening.



Sunday School

Martin Luther once said, *God "has not given you your children and the means to support them simply so that you may do with them as you please, or train them just to get ahead in the world. You have been earnestly commanded to raise them for God's service."*

As Christian parents, we need to appreciate the importance of a good Christian education. Just as Dr. Luther stated, our obligations in child rearing don't stop at getting them a good job or college education. We are called by God as parents to see that our kids are nurtured in the Faith, and given every opportunity to learn about our Christian heritage.

Thanks be to God, we are blessed with a talented and dedicated Sunday School staff to ensure our children are trained properly. Cordie Mueller, our Sunday School Administrator, teaches grades 3 to 6. Kathy Waller teaches the younger elementary grades, kindergarten through the 2nd grade. Dave Terry, brave soul that he is, teaches the middle school kids. All our teachers are passionate about teaching, well prepared, and take a genuine interest in the children.

Our lessons come from the Concordia Publishing House and this year the Old Testament stories are emphasized. Most of us know these stories well from our years in Sunday School.

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, etc. that are between 4 years old and the 8th grade and aren't currently attending Sunday School, please invite them, or better yet bring them yourself! If they are coming, please encourage them and stress the importance of a Christian education. Also, it helps to set an example for them by attending adult Bible Study every Sunday ourselves. We need to show them by our actions that Christian education doesn't stop after catechism, but should be a life long pursuit.

Jesus said, *"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."* Let us do our part by listening to Jesus and helping the young ones around us grow in the faith and knowledge that leads to salvation by bringing them to Sunday School each week.

Rick Waller
Sunday School Superintendent

DRINK COFFEE, WIN PRIZES

Enter to win up to \$500 gift certificate for our congregation!
and up to a \$75 gift certificate for yourself at the same time!

You are invited to a Lutheran World Relief Fair trade coffee tasting on Sunday, Nov. 14th. This is being held after service in conjunction with our regular coffee hour. We are featuring four different coffees from LWR's Fair Trade partner, Equal Exchange. The tasting will give you the chance to vote on your favorite coffee and, maybe, win a prize. Some prizes will be drawn for on the spot, others will be drawn by

Lutheran World Relief from submitted votes. All of the coffee is fairly traded from farmer cooperatives in Latin America, Africa and Asia. Fair Trade helps people improve their lives and work their way out of poverty by making sure they get paid fairly for their labor and are treated with respect. Not only does the purchase of the coffee you'll be drinking directly support the farmers who grew it, but Equal Exchange gives a donation to Lutheran World Relief for each pound purchased. Be sure to join us!



WHY is Fair Trade important?

Proverbs 13:23 says, "A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away." Lutherans enjoy coffee as a regular part of their fellowship, unaware that the farmers who grew that coffee are probably struggling to make ends meet.

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"REJOICE"

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