

"**Watch**
therefore
for you know
neither the day
nor the hour."

MATTHEW 25:13

**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**

**November 12,
2023**

**Twenty Fourth
Sunday
after
Pentecost
Lection 32**

217 Brackenridge
Southwest
Sleepy Eye, MN

Website
[www.trinity
sleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

Phone:
(507) 794-5051

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Mon-Thurs
9am -3pm

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Music Director
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sleepyeye.org

Custodian
Pat Lowther

TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ~ LECTIO 32

SERVICE OF THE WORD



Sundays after
Pentecost

9:00 AM NOVEMBER 12TH, 2023

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST WELCOMES ALL! *We are gathered in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who beckons us to come to Him in faith and repentance. May the gospel of the Lord inspire and fill you with the Spirit! Fellowship & refreshments are available in the Library immediately following our Sunday worship.*

GATHERING

WE PREPARE... *Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.*



PRELUDE/ PARISH NOTICES

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✚ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,

you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In ✚ Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**





1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
 2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car-ols raise; the
 3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for-get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
 morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
 though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
 This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
 This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



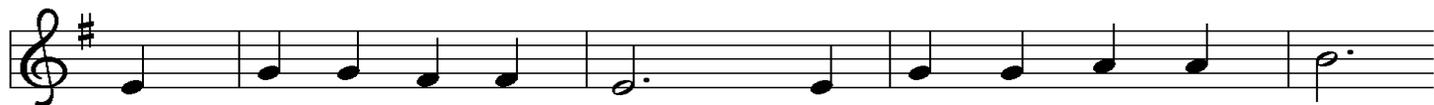
rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
 rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry-where.
 Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

KYRIE

1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

WORD

FIRST READING

Amos 5:18-24

The first reading is in Amos chapter 5, verses 18-24.

*Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?
I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.*

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

The second reading is in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4, verses 13-18.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW# 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SONG OF THE DAY

Blessed Assurance

ELW#638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

he descended to the dead.* On the third day he rose again;

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH God of grace, hear our prayer.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

LORD, BE GLORIFIED

ELW#824

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;
4 In your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied, be glo-ri-fied;

in my life, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in our song, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your church, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.
in your world, Lord, be glo-ri-fied to-day.

*(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor)
(The offering is brought forward by the ushers during the song)*

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**





1 Soon and ver - y soon
 2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 3 No more dy - in' there,
 4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon

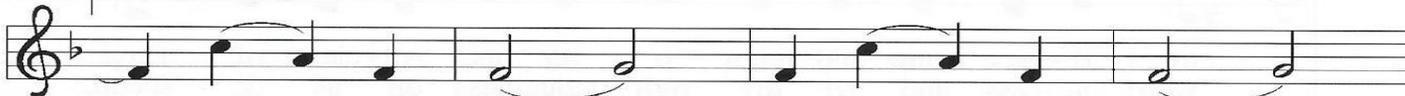


soon and ver - y soon
 no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
 no more dy - in' there,
 soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Our thanks to all who serve the Body of Christ

SUNDAY		9:00 Worship
Accompanist	Mary Mulry	
Acolyte	Callie Evers	
Reader	Cindy Steffl	
Sound Techs	Russ Sorensen	
Greeters	Harold & Bonnie Pettis	
Ushers	Doug Domeier, Keith Lendt	
Altar Guild	Jolene Dittbenner & Nicole Stevermer	

Dear Members of Trinity

10-27-23

For several years now our congregation has faced various challenges, a significant erosion of financial resources is one. Our intent is to strongly heighten awareness & ask for your help. The decline in giving towards the “General Fund” for the budget coupled with increases in operating costs is our primary concern.

We are very grateful for faithful Givers within our Congregation. Gifts are used to support Gods work according to the wishes of the Giver via the “general fund” and / or the “non-budget fund”.

“General Fund” gifts support projected expenses per the annual budget related to the overhead required to operate the church facility, staff salaries, education, evangelism, and youth programs, plus a benevolent tithe to the ELCA Synod *just to name a few*.

“Non-budget fund” gifts support special giving specified by the Giver. A few examples are Meals that matter, Youth trips, Lutheran World Relief, Bible Camp, Food Backpacks, Endowment / memorial Funds. The Building Fund account is in the “non-budget fund” which is used to fund capital building improvements such as the recent building improvement projects.

Per the table below, budgetary & actual spending reductions have occurred. Recently reductions of expenses in part have come via the sacrifice of Staff salary increases, reductions to the Synod and certain programing, much of which is unsustainable. Significant inflationary pressures have added to the financial challenges as well.

General fund year to year summary						
	**2023 thru 10/11	Year end 2022	Year end 2021	Year end *2020	Year end 2019	
Annual budget	\$ 298,000.00	\$ 304,000.00	\$ 309,000.00	\$ 307,400.00	\$ 310,000.00	
Actual contributions	\$ 169,434.87	\$ 285,263.02	\$ 286,720.25	\$306,705.00	\$ 291,902.69	
Actual expenses	\$ 215,365.63	\$ 300,810.82	\$ 314,549.52	\$ 274,832.00	\$ 290,777.82	
Difference between actuals	\$ (45,930.76)	\$ (15,547.80)	\$ (27,829.27)	\$ 31,873.00	\$ 1,124.87	
General fund Reserve availability	\$ (1,274.56)	\$ 45,078.69	\$ 58,181.79	\$ 86,253.73	\$ 54,239.52	
<i>**Budget for entire year all other lines thru 10-11-23</i>		<i>*Includes \$29,731.88 in covid funds</i>				

Reserve funds (savings) designated for budgetary expenses are depleted, having been used to bridge the gaps between actual giving & actual expenses. Therefore, to meet the most basic obligations, we are forced to borrow from the “non-budget” fund with a balance of \$29,799.84 as of 10/11/23, these funds that are used towards budgetary expenses are then unavailable for their designated purpose going against the Giver(s) wishes. Presuming they can be these funds will need to be paid back. **The current trend would result in all forms of reserve cash being exhausted at some point in 2024.**

You may say budget concerns are not new, so what’s different now? The answer is previously cutting expenses and / or use of reserve general funds would get us through the year. As indicated reserve general funds are depleted and expense reduction options are limited, threatening the work of our Congregation like never before which will force significant changes.

For your review, along with a copy of this letter you will be receiving your Q3 giving statement which will include prior years giving. We pray we can pull together as a Congregation and work towards securing Gods work, through our hands by getting us back to a stable financial footing – to do this we are asking for your help. We understand inflation is impacting many in their personal lives, but any additional help you can provide is meaningful. **We are confident in your response and together we turn our eyes to the Lord for guidance to whom all things are possible!**

The Stewardship Board

Larry Baumgardt, Director
Pat Stevermer, Financial Secretary

Matt Miller
Mark Miller



SPECIAL OFFERINGS –During the month of November, we think of our abundance and willingness to share with others less fortunate. For this reason, the Board of Stewardship designates the Thanksgiving Eve offering to ELCA World Hunger. Gifts are accepted for this initiative to the end of the year.

The second special offering that is usually emphasized in November is the Women of the ELCA Thankoffering. These funds are all sent into the churchwide office to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA. Blue envelopes will be placed in narthex mailboxes—however, you may also use your regular offering envelopes by designating “Thankoffering” on the special giving line... Thank you for any and all gifts!



Board Directors are reminded to submit their 2024 proposed budget by November 15th!

The St John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Annual Meeting will be held Monday, November 13th, at 4:00 PM in the Chapel. Devotions, Business, Election of officers, and coffee served. All invited!

Thank you for all the orders to benefit our Women of Trinity and our work here. Wreaths will be delivered the first week of December. As always, thank you all for your support!



Trinity Wednesday Church School

We have begun Trinity Church School on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30! Our students will be following the Sunday School Curriculum at the evening classes. This change has been made after asking our parents if this change would help with busy children’s activities. Please join us! Confirmation classes are held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We are thankful for all our students!

Please join us for Trinity’s “Dining Out”, following church services 11/19/2023. “Breaking Bread Together” is an opportunity to get to know each other better and share stories. Please sign up at Darlene’s Office Window so we can make reservations. Location to be determined. Our goal will be to Dine Out” the 3rd Sunday of each month!

SEMC has the New Flu and the Bivalent COVID booster available. You have call SEMC at 794-3691 to schedule an appointment. Forms for the vaccine are available at the church in the narthex or on the SEMC website.

Boosters are also available at Randy’s Drug. Please call ahead. Flu shots are available anytime.



MEALS THAT MATTER Remember! Prepared frozen meals are in the freezer for you to deliver to a friend or neighbor who have had a life changing event- illness, birth of a baby, death in the family, etc... *Be the hands of Jesus!*

It's Time for Christmas Food Boxes

It is time to start thinking about filling a Christmas Food Box for the families of our weekend food kids. There are those in our community who are struggling to provide basic needs for their families. This school year we have a record number of children in our Weekend Food Program and a record number of families are at risk for hunger on the weekends. We are asking you to shop for a family and put items on the list in a box provided for you and return it to Trinity. You can join with another family or group to fill one or more boxes. The risk for hunger insecurity has not gone away and we at Trinity are currently feeding 58 children on weekends from 46 families. We are asking you to fill a box to be used by our weekend food families during the Christmas break when they do not have meals provided by the school. Our FFA students will provide a fleece blanket for each family as well as personal care products for each family.

Here's what to do:

1. Sign out a Christmas food box in the narthex beginning Sunday, Nov. 19. Put your name and phone number next to the number matching the number on your box.
2. Fill the box with the items from the food list.
3. Return your box to the table in the narthex by Sunday, December 10.
4. Have fun filling the box. Thank you for being the hands of Jesus!

Social Ministries Board —Michal Lowther, Shari Baumgardt, Sandy Beito, Kari Schmidt and Jim Johnson





GIVE SOMETHING THAT
Means Something

GIVE BLOOD

Blood Drive
Sleepy Eye High School

Gym
400 4th Av SW
Sleepy Eye, MN

Tuesday, November 14, 2023
8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Sleepy Eye High School to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass™



Come give blood Nov. 10-30 for an exclusive pair of Elf & Red Cross socks, while supplies last! Join us to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the film Elf and make giving blood a holiday tradition! © & TM New Line Productions, Inc. (s23)



Scan to schedule an appointment.

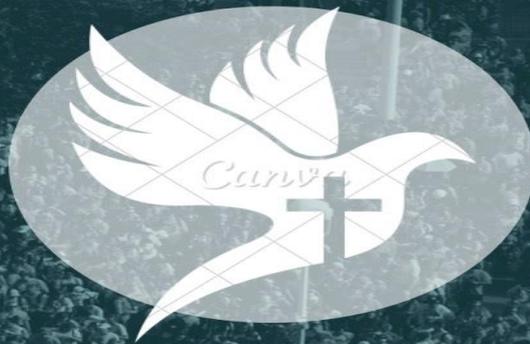
Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 432201-02 CW

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New Orleans July 15-20



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

is going to the

2024 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING!

TEXT KATE NELSON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN MORE INFORMATION @320-223-3231



Faith Formation & Youth Ministry Coordinator

Trinity Lutheran Church

Sleepy Eye, MN

507 794-5051

Job Description

Trinity Lutheran Church is a welcoming church focused on evangelism and mission in the community of Sleepy Eye and beyond. As a welcoming and nurturing church, we are shaped by prayer, worship, scripture and the Holy Spirit, where everyone's gifts are valued, where people's spiritual needs are met, and God's love with the world is shared.

Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator (Part-time)

Summary of Position: Faith Formation Youth Ministry Coordinator oversees and directs Christian Education for the youth and children's ministries, and manages the development and growth of the Christian Education and Youth programs while building relationships with families and their children.

Supervision: Christian Education Board and Board of Young People's Work

Supported by: Senior Pastor(s), Personnel Committee other church staff and members of Trinity Lutheran Church

15 hours per week which are flexible to meet the needs of the church based on planned activities and evenings and weekends required as needed.

Compensation: \$16/hr

Further information and Application on our website www.trinitysleepyeye.org under About Us/Employment or in the Church office.

NOVEMBER 12, 2023

Always be ready for Jesus' return.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday.
We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passages.
Sunday Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the wise and foolish girls
Monday Matthew 24:36-44 Keep watch
Tuesday Deuteronomy 4:5-20 Watch yourselves carefully
Wednesday Micah 7:1-7 Watching in hope for the Lord
Thursday Luke 21:29-36 Be always on the watch
Friday 2 John 1-11 Watch out!
Saturday Psalm 59 Looking to the Lord
Sunday Matthew 25:14-30 Parable of the talents

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So always be ready, because you don't know the day or the hour the Son of Man will come.” Matthew 25:13

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we are waiting for you to come again. Take us to be with you forever. Amen. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

Mealtime Prayer:

For this meal and all God's gifts, let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God!

A Blessing to Give:

May God watch over you and keep your faith strong until Jesus comes again. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION

Discuss in your household or small group:

- How does it feel to be running late for an appointment or an event?
Share about an experience you have had with being late.
- Jesus told a parable about some women who missed out on a wedding banquet (Matthew 25:1-13). What happened to them?
- Jesus says that we don't know when he will return, so we need to be ready for him. What do you think it means to be ready?

DEVOTIONS

Draw or print a picture of an oil lamp. Read the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Girls and talk about what is involved in keeping our “spiritual lamps” burning until Jesus returns. Write your ideas on the picture and display it in your home. If you have an actual oil lamp, set this up too. As a related craft project, make paper lanterns. See this website for simple instructions: www.instructables.com/id/How-to-make-a-paper-lantern-in-6-easy-steps/.

SERVICE

November 9th is this year's International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Look together at the website, www.opendoors.org, to learn more about the persecution faced by Christians in countries all over the world. Organize a monetary donation or fundraiser in support of the ministry of Open Doors. Choose to pray for Christians in a particular country throughout this week.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

November 11th is Veterans Day, a day to remember and honor all military personnel who lost their lives in service of your country. Plan to visit a local war memorial on this day. Bring flowers to leave as a symbol of thanks and respect. Say a prayer of thanks to God for the freedom your country enjoys and for those who died in defense of its ideals.

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Go to www.vibrantfaithathome.org for more faith-forming activities

Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotion





Trinity's Mission Statement

We are a community where Jesus is Lord: our mission is to invite, welcome, nurture, and equip all people to be disciples in His name.

TRINITY'S PRAYER CHAIN Send an email to secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org or call the office at 507 794-5051. Leave a message.

TRINITY'S WEBPAGE Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email!

TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK
"Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN"

The Trinity Tidings newsletter is now also posted on www.sleepyeyeonline.com watch this site for community news and events.



If you haven't already, please consider *Simply Giving*, an automated giving program for your offering. You determine the frequency of your offering which is deposited into Trinity's account the same day it is withdrawn from your account. It's a "hassle-free" way to give.

Talk to Pat or Darlene if you are interested. Thank You.

Last week at Trinity

Weekly Worship Attendance:	126
Weekly Confirmation Attendance:	21
Wednesday Church School Attendance:	37
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$6491.92
November Giving: (\$22,920. Needed)	\$6491.92
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$185,285.35
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$257,840.00

We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!

This Week's Prayer Concerns

Pray for Trinity...that the Holy Spirit would keep our Trinity family united as we continue in worship and in helping others as we are able ...

Pray for the Church...that the Holy Spirit would empower us to live in the image of God so that we would speak and act in every way bringing glory to God before all the nations and peoples with what we have been given...

Pray for our World...that pain of this Covid-19 pandemic, which has penetrated so many lives that your light Lord would help us to see your presence and that the Spirit would lead us to seek the truth and practice grace for all who are hurting...

Pray for all who are ill, afflicted, or recovering...that the Holy Spirit would give comfort and daily strength to **Trisha, Mark, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, Audrey, Kali, Jerry, Beth, Harold, Sarah, Chris, Kathy, Emmett, Joan, Lois, Joyce, Emma, Milo, Ed, Carlo, Dorothy, Story, Tina, Ethan, Robyn, Carmen, Linette, Tammy, John, Tony, Ted, Connor, Kimora, and Mary Jo.**

Pray for the beloved... who now rest from their labors in God's mercy and for all who mourn the personal loss of loved ones... especially the family and friends of **Audrey Johnson**...that God would fill each one with the hope of our Lord's promise to bring us to a new heaven and earth where suffering, crying, pain and death will be no more...

Pray for all families...that the Holy Spirit would bring compassion and mercy to all who are separated from one another and each would give way to mercy, love and reconciliation...

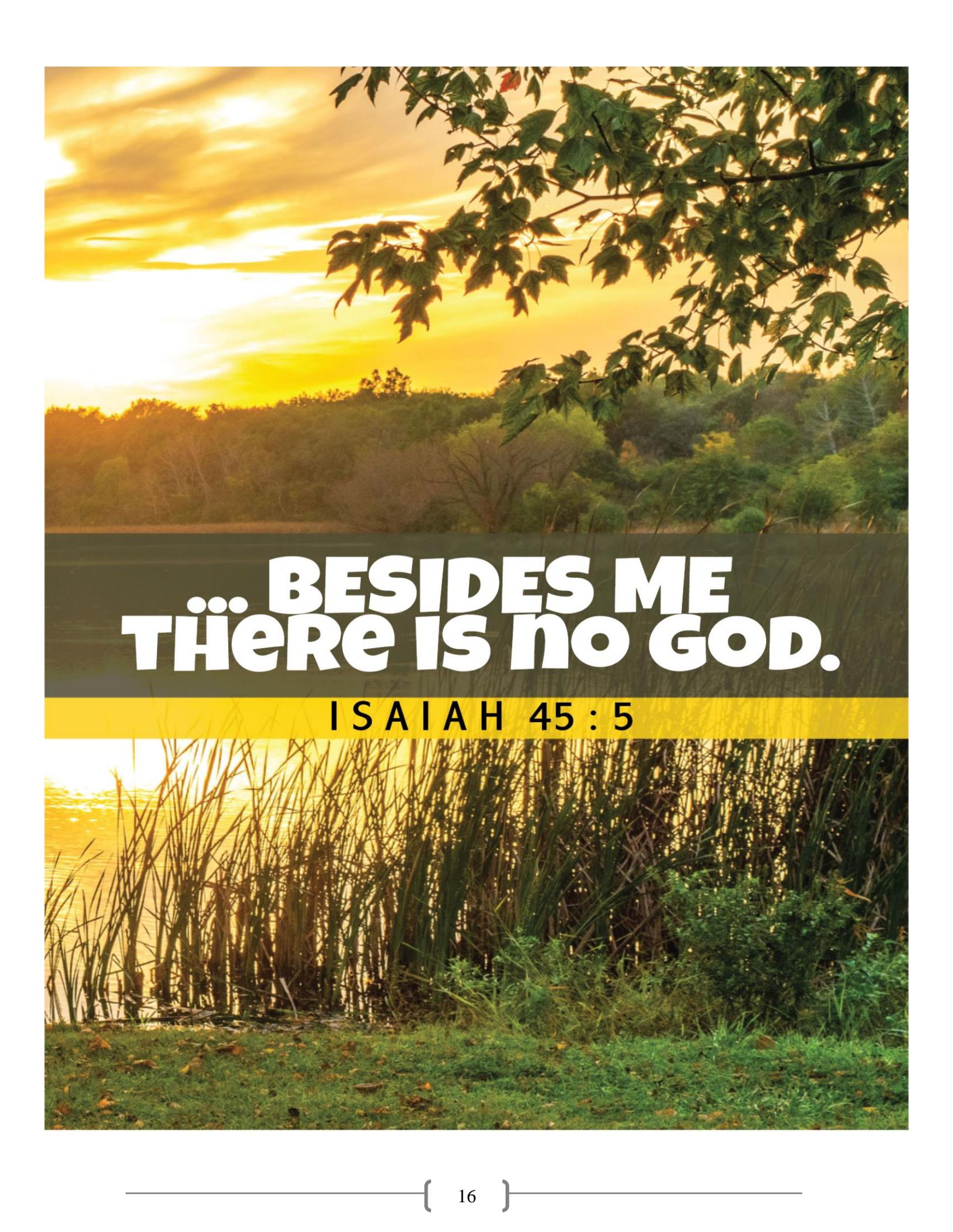
Pray for the men and women serving in the Armed Forces and those far from home...for **Brady Augustin** and his wife ...and for all of our military Veterans that the Holy Spirit would guard them in safety and keep their hearts stayed in Christ...

Pray for the missionaries of our church (ELCA)...that they proclaim their witness of the Gospel throughout the world.

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Thrivent members are reminded to direct their Choice Dollars each year any time after April 1st of the year.

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sky is filled with golden light and soft clouds. In the foreground, there are green reeds and grasses. In the background, a dense forest of trees is visible under the warm glow of the setting sun. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

**... BESIDES ME
THERE IS NO GOD.**

ISAIAH 45 : 5