

**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church**

November 26,  
2023

**Christ the King  
Sunday**

217 Brackenridge  
Southwest  
Sleepy Eye, MN  
Website  
[www.trinitysleepyeye.org](http://www.trinitysleepyeye.org)

Phone:  
(507) 794-5051

Office Hours  
Mon-Thurs  
9am –3pm

*Interim Pastor*  
Grant Fischer  
[ogfischer@gmail.com](mailto:ogfischer@gmail.com)  
(320) 444-3517

*Parish Secretary*  
Darlene  
Brummund  
507 276-8013  
[secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org)

*Financial  
Secretary*  
Pat Stevermer  
794-7112  
[finance@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:finance@trinitysleepyeye.org)

*Music Director*  
Mary Mulry  
507 227-9880  
[music@trinitysleepyeye.org](mailto:music@trinitysleepyeye.org)

*Custodian*  
Pat Lowther

"And the King  
will answer them,  
**'Truly'**I say to you,  
as you did it to one of the  
least of these my brothers,  
you did it to me."

MATTHEW 25:40



# CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY

## ELW SETTING 10

9:00 A.M. ~ Sunday, November 26, 2023



**WE OFFER A JOYFUL GREETING TO ALL** who come to worship our Creator. May the presence of the Lord help us to be open to the Holy Spirit so that we may receive all the benefits of God's grace today. If you are a visitor or guest, we invite you to sign the pew pads during the offering and join in the fellowship and refreshments following service in the library.

Dear God, help us gather our thoughts and focus upon your will for our lives. May this time of worship be pleasing to you and a time of spiritual growth for us. Help us to open our hearts to your Holy Spirit that we may know your presence among us especially in this hour. Amen.

### WORSHIP AIDS

**GLUTEN FREE** Communion is available per request.

**ACTIVITY BAGS** for young children are on a stand at the rear of church; please return after services. Thanks.

---

## GATHERING

---

**WE PREPARE:** On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet awaiting the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

**PRELUDE / ANNOUNCEMENTS**



Trinity Choir

**CONFESS AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son + and the Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

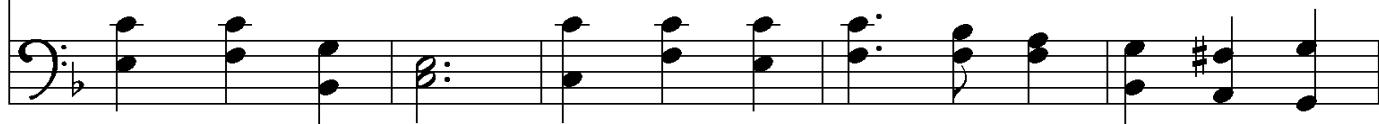
**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

*Come, Thou Almighty King*

ELW # 408



GREETING

Beloved, remembered by God and remembering both the call and the promises of God: the everlasting love of the Father, the gift of the Son, and the strength of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

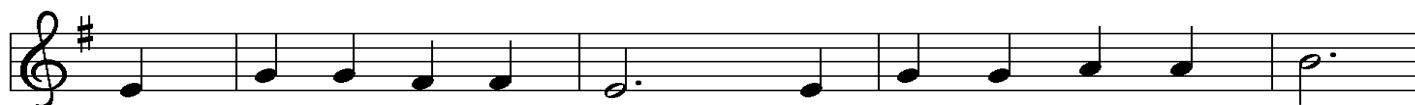
For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. **AMEN.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**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.

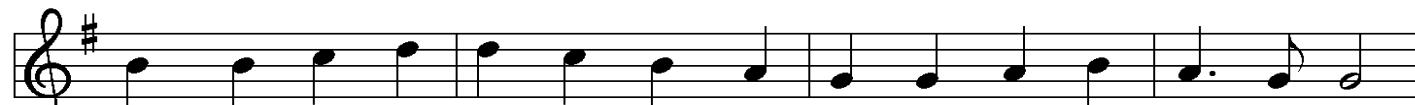


We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

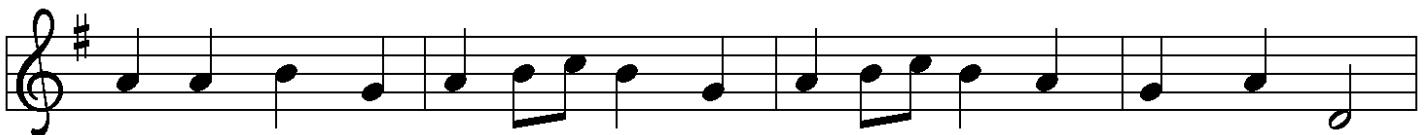
### CANTICLE OF PRAISE



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

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

*For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.*

*Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.*

*I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.*

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



## SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15–23

*I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****HYMN OF PRAISE** (Please stand if able)

Al - le - lu - ia!    Lord and Sav - ior:    o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us;    speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le - lu - ia!    Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:31–46

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

*When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his*

*angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

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

SERMON

Pastor Grant Fischer

SONG OF THE DAY

*Jesus Shall Reign*

**ELW #434**

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from per -  
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet es  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - e  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scand with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## 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

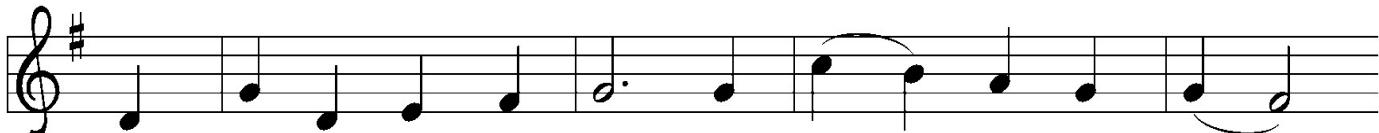
## PRAYERS ON INTERCESSION Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

### THE PEACE

### OFFERING

*We Give Thee But Thine Own*

ELW 686



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

(THE USHERS BRING UP THE OFFERING)

### OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

---

## MEAL

---

### THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the witness of your saints you show us the hope of our calling and strengthen us to run the race set before us, that we may delight in your mercy and rejoice with them in glory. And so, with all the saints, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### 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.**

#### DISTRIBUTION

(Please sign the Welcome Pads and pass to your neighbor.)

ANNA JOHNSON



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## PRAYER

Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

---

## SENDING

---

### BLESSING

The love of God who created you, the mercy of <sup>†</sup> Jesus Christ who died for you, and the power of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you, keep you at one with all the faithful, living and departed, and remain with you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING SONG

*All Hail The Power of Jesus Name*

ELW # 634



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

## OUR THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVE GOD'S WORK...OUR HANDS!

### **SUNDAY 9:00 am Worship**

<b>Accompanist</b>	Mary Mulry
<b>Acolyte</b>	Kenley Jensen
<b>Reader</b>	Eric Wahlborg
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	Brian Polesky at the rail
<b>Sound Techs</b>	Russ Sorensen
<b>Greeters</b>	Harold & Bonnie Pettis
<b>Ushers</b>	Doug Domeier and Keith Lendl
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Nicole Stevermer and Joleen Dittbenner



**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!

**IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT DOUBLE BATCH** or two of your favorite Christmas cookies to donate to the cookie walk. Our sale is from 10:00 – 11:00 on Sunday morning, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please deliver your cookies, krum cake, rosettes, or other special treats to the church kitchen by Saturday, **December 16<sup>th</sup>** at Noon if possible.

**LEFSE MAKERS ARE NEEDED MONDAY, DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup> BETWEEN 4:00 AND 8:00 PM. PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE.** Come when you can! Please spread the word to your family and friends about this great bake sale. Contact Darlene Brummund with any questions at 276-8013. All proceeds go to people in need with Action Team funds by Thrivent. Thanks so much for your encouragement and participation!



### **ATTENTION TRINITY FAMILY:**

We will be **decorating our House of the Lord TODAY after worship. Men, we need your help bringing out the decorations! Many hands make everything easier and quicker! Thank you and see you then!**

**IF YOU'D LIKE TO PURCHASE A POINSETTIA** for \$12.00 in honor of or in memory of a loved one(s), please sign up in the church office by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. You have the option of ordering a red, white, or pink poinsettia. Please specify when you sign up. You are welcome to take your plant following the Christmas Eve services on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.



Trinity friends! Please pick up Christmas food boxes in the church narthex (and the instructions of what to pack in them) beginning today. Help us spread some love this holiday season!

Thank you for all the orders to benefit our Women of Trinity and our work here. Wreaths will be delivered the after the Service in the Parish Garage. As always, thank you all for your support!



**BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER**

Please join us for Trinity's "Dining Out", following church services 12/17/2023. "Breaking Bread Together" is an opportunity to get to know each other better and share stories. We will be meeting at 11:00 AM at the Golf Course Meeting Room. Our goal will be to Dine Out" the 3rd Sunday of each month!

You are invited to 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. Welcome to all our students!



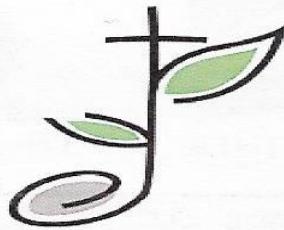
**Trinity Wednesday Church School**

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.





## "Living the Word *Today*"

### 2023 Equipping Congregations Day

Date: Saturday, December 2, 2023

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Vinje Lutheran, Willmar, MN

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

-Congregation Members-Council Officers-Christian Educators

-Worship & Youth Leaders-Pastors... Everyone!

**Childcare Available!**

We are trying to be mindful of the amount of food we order for lunch. Getting an accurate count for registration will help. ***Trinity may bring as many people as we wish at no additional cost.*** In the past we have sent between 10-12 people and would like to again. Please talk to Pastor Grant or Darlene if you wish to attend.

**Registration for childcare is separate. Parents will register with their children.**

Please do not include them in your congregation's count. Daycare Registration will be available soon!

Please call the synod office if you have any questions about childcare for the ECD. There is NO additional cost for childcare as long as your congregation is registered.



Rolf A. Jacobson

*Luther Seminary Dean of the Faculty, Professor of Old Testament and  
The Alvin N. Rogness Chair of Scripture, Theology, and Ministry*

**"The Spirit of God is Loose in the World"** What is the basic nature of reality and human society? Christians answer this question differently than other folks. For Christians, the answer starts with the promise that the Spirit of God hovers over all of creation. The Spirit is loose in the world, bringing about God's promised and preferred future. The church grows into its identity when individuals and communities locate the movement of God's Spirit in their context and get involved with what the Spirit is up to.

#### Workshops:

A finalized workshop list will be available online soon on our SWMS website.

Attend your choice of 2 out of 6 workshops.

#### Schedule:

8:30 – 9:00 AM Registration

11:30 – 12:15 PM Lunch

9:00 – 9:30 Welcome/Hymn Sing

12:15 - 1:15 Workshop 2

9:30 – 10:20 Speaker Rolf Jacobson

1:15 – 1:30 Transition Time

10:20 – 10:30 Transition Time

1:30 – 2:30 Speaker Rolf Jacobson

10:30-11:30 Workshop 1

2:30 – 3:15 Sending Blessings

**Trinity is registered. There is no personal fee to attend. Please contact Pastor Grant or Darlene if you wish to attend! In the past we have sent 8-12 people.  
Let's do that again!**

**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
<b>Difference between actuals</b>	<b>\$ (45,930.76)</b>	<b>\$ (15,547.80)</b>	<b>\$ (27,829.27)</b>	\$ 31,873.00	\$ 1,124.87
<b>General fund Reserve availability</b>	<b>\$ (1,274.56)</b>	<b>\$ 45,078.69</b>	<b>\$ 58,181.79</b>	<b>\$ 86,253.73</b>	<b>\$ 54,239.52</b>
**Budget for entire year all other lines thru 10-11-23					
*Includes \$29,731.88 in covid funds					

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

**November 26, 2023**

# **WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD, OUR KING, BY SERVING THOSE IN NEED.**

## **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 25:31-46	The sheep and the goats
Monday	Acts 2:42-47, 4:32-35	Care given to the needy
Tuesday	Romans 12:13-21	Share with the needy
Wednesday	Proverbs 11:16-30	The fruit of the righteous
Thursday	Luke 17:11-19	Giving praise to God
Friday	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Thanks be to God
Saturday	Psalm 65	We are filled with good things
Sunday	Mark 13:24-37	The day and hour unknown

## **SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

***The king will answer, “Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.”***

Matthew 25:40

### **SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

A Prayer for the Week: Lord Jesus, help us to serve you each day by serving others. Amen. (Matthew 25:40)

Mealtime Prayer: Thank you for the world so sweet; thank you for the food we eat; thank you for the birds that sing; thank you, God, for everything. Amen.

A Blessing to Give: May God give you the Holy Spirit so that you grow to know God better. Amen. (Ephesians 1:17)

### **CARING CONVERSATION**

Discuss in your household or small group:

- What does it mean to be thankful? For what are you thankful?
- Is giving thanks more of a choice or a feeling?
- One way we show our thanks to God is by sharing with others, especially those you are in need. In what ways do you do this?

### **DEVOTIONS**

Create a “Thanksgiving Box” to use this week. Ask your children to decorate the outside of a shoebox with typical Thanksgiving symbols. Keep this box in a conspicuous place, such as your kitchen table. Each day leading up to Thanksgiving Day, ask household members to reflect on their day, recall things for which they are thankful, and write these down on slips of paper to place in the box. On Thanksgiving Day, open the box and read what has been written. Say a prayer of thanks for all God has done for you and given to you.

### **SERVICE**

When we serve others in Jesus’ name, we are serving Jesus himself (Matthew 25:40). This week, when you offer prayers of thanks for the food on your table and say your mealtime blessings, remember those who go without. As you prepare your Thanksgiving meal, cook some extra food that you can freeze in portions to give to persons in need of assistance in the coming weeks or months. Also consider inviting a widow, single person or someone who is lonely to share in your household Thanksgiving meal.

### **RITUALS AND TRADITIONS**

Household holiday traditions, like Thanksgiving, are a wonderful way to connect with your children. It may seem easier to just do it all ourselves, but we lose out on the benefits that come from making Thanksgiving a household affair. Use these ideas to create Thanksgiving traditions that include everyone.

- Let your children help prepare the meal by including them in tasks that can be done ahead of time. Let little ones wash up veggies. Teach an older child to make Grandma’s apple pie. Teenagers could be allowed to come up with their own side dish to make.
- Children can help decorate and prepare the table for Thanksgiving dinner. Encourage their creativity. They could make place markers, create a menu or design a table centerpiece (e.g. leaves, acorns, and pine cones placed on a platter or in a bowl).
- Involve the children in saying Thanksgiving prayers.
- Plan activities that the children can participate in (e.g. board games).
- Make sure the children play a part in the cleaning up, too!

© 2013 Vibrant Faith Ministries. All rights reserved. Written by Pr. Greg Priebebenow and edited by Vibrant Faith Ministries.  
Go to [www.vibrantfaithathome.org](http://www.vibrantfaithathome.org) for more faith-forming activities



**Please take your bulletin home for weekly devotions**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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:	105
Weekly Giving: (5730.00 Needed)	\$14,225.53
November Giving:(\$22,920.Needed)	\$25,143.97
Yearly Contributions to Date	\$203,937.40
Amount needed to meet Budget	\$269,240.00

**We need everyone's help to meet our Budget!**



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

## 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 Krista, Trisha, Mark, Diane, Cindy, Sherry, 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... 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.

For use solely with the SongSelect Terms of Use • All rights reserved  
• [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com)  
• CCLI License 1162037 • For use with Streaming License • All rights reserved  
• CSPL096295 • Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress • License 1380500101  
• Reprinted from WORDS FOR WORSHIP, copyright 2017 Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.  
• ©2020, ABC Music Co., All rights reserved. OneLicense.net • License s