



The Trinity Tidings

Trinity Lutheran Church
217 Brackenridge SW, Sleepy Eye, MN

Web: www.trinitysleepyeye.org

Vol. 55

November 2023

No. 11

Phone:
(507) 794-5051
Office Hours
Mon—Thurs
9am—3pm

STAFF

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer
ogfischer@gmail.com
(320) 444-3517

Parish Secretary
Darlene Brummund
507 276-8013
secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org

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Pat Stevermer
794-7112
finance@trinitysleepyeye.org

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Mary Mulry
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music@trinitysleepyeye.org

Custodian
Pat Lowther

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“Meals that Matter” are available downstairs.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



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.



So then, just as you received
Christ Jesus as LORD,
CONTINUE
to live your lives in him.

ROOTED and BUILT UP
in him.

STRENGTHENED
in the faith
as you were taught,
and overflowing with
THANKFULNESS.

Colossians 2:6-7



From Interim Pastor Grant...

From the Interim

I've heard it said that there are three types of people in the world, "those who make things happen, those who know what has happened and those who wonder what has happened." At this point at Trinity I am the later of the three. I'm often reminded of what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatian congregation. Things had been going pretty well and then they weren't. He writes in Galatian's 1:6 ***"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel."***

There is only one gospel, one good news and that is Jesus the Christ who make all things new, fixes what is broken, reconciles what has been estranged and forgives all of our sins. We are never so far from God's good news that God can't reach us. But this is where it gets complicated, at least for us, do we want any of the above things to happen. Sometimes people and congregations get so wrapped up in negative thinking they are unable to see all the positive things around them or any of God's many blessing we enjoy each day. It's called "stink'en think'en".

As Trinity's part-time interim, I can't can't change how people think or act. The only thing I am able to do is proclaim the good news, "that nothing can every separate us from the love of God" That God's love residing in us can heal all our wounds, unite us as the one body of Christ and move us to share with others the grace and mercy first shown to us.

I don't know how this part-time stuff is going to work out, I've never done anything part-time before. So as I work to figure part-time out, help me understand what is necessary for Trinity at this point in its history. May God's grace and mercy be abundantly showered on you all.

Interim Pastor
Grant Fischer





Thanksgiving Eve
WORSHIP SERVICE 7:00 PM



**OUR PIE FELLOWSHIP WILL FOLLOW
THE THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE.
PLEASE CONSIDER BRINGING A PIE
TO SHARE. THANK YOU!**





Children, Youth and Family



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.
Welcome back to all our students!



Confirmation

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, 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 are on our website www.trinitysleepyeye.org under About Us/ Employment or in the Church office.



Thanks Giving BINGO

November 5, 2023

Join us for church service and sing at
Church 9:00AM
Following service play Bingo,
Open to all Trinity Youth!
(Parents are encouraged to help younger youth with
their Bingo card)



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**



“Living the Word *Today*”

Equipping Congregations Day

Saturday, December 2, 2023 - 8:30am - 3:00pm
Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar



Come gather together as we enter the season of Advent with learning opportunities to equip congregations as we live the Word today.

Keynote Speaker:

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- Congregation Members
- Council Officers
- Christian Educators
- Worship & Youth Leaders
- Pastors... Everyone!

Childcare Available!

Registration:

The ECD registration fees will be calculated per person until you reach your congregation/parish cap fee. We are trying to be mindful of the amount of food we order for lunch. Getting an accurate count for registration will help.

Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 100 or less
- \$30 per person or a congregation/parish cap of \$90

Congregations or Parishes with total average worship attendance of 101 or more
- \$30 per person or a congregation/parish cap of \$180

Register online at swmnelca.org.



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Workshops:

A finalized workshop list will be available online soon.

- The synod's e-newsletter will be highlighting workshop descriptions!
- Attend your choice of 2 out of 8 workshops.

Preview of Workshops Topics:

- Welcoming Refugees
- Church Responding to a World in Need
- Companion Synod Visitor Exchange
- Grants
- Rural Mental Health
- Trauma Informed Care
- Congregational Hospitality
- Generosity



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



THIS & THAT

Read the Bible in a Year

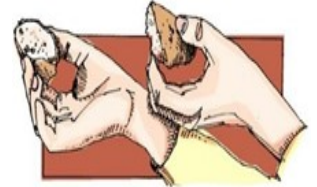


Week of November 5
 Su Matthew 23:1-12
 M 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20
 Tu Acts 13:1-12
 W Matthew 15:1-9
 Th Revelation 8:6-9:12
 F Revelation 9:13-21
 Sa Matthew 24:1-14

Week of November 12
 Su Matthew 25:1-13
 M 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
 Tu 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
 W Matthew 24:29-35
 Th Revelation 16:1-7
 F Revelation 16:8-21
 Sa Matthew 12:43-45

Week of November 19
 Su Matthew 25:14-30
 M Romans 2:1-11
 Tu 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18
 W Matthew 24:45-51
 Th Revelation 14:1-11
 F Revelation 22:1-9
 Sa Matthew 12:46-50

Week of November 26
 Su Matthew 25:31-46
 M 2 Timothy 2:8-13
 Tu Revelation 19:1-9
 W John 5:19-40
 Th Revelation 19:4-6-13
 F 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18
 Sa Matthew 24:15-31



BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

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.

The St John Lutheran Home Auxiliary Annual Meeting will be held Monday, November 13, 2023 at 4:00 PM in the Chapel. Devotions, Business, Election of officers, and coffee served. All invited!

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:

TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!

Our Services are broadcast on Channel 8 each Tuesday and Thursday at 9:00 a.m. or on our webpage anytime. Share the Good News with those who are unable to join us in person!

Newsletter Deadline: The next issue of *Tidings* will be mailed by **December 1st**. Please have items for the newsletter to Darlene by the **20th of each month**. Thank you.



American Red Cross
 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.

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)

Schedule your blood donation appointment today!
 1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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OCTOBER

PARISH REPORT



Worship Services Week of...

Date	Attendance
10/1	109
10/8	86
10/15	101
10/22	78
10/29	60

Date Offering

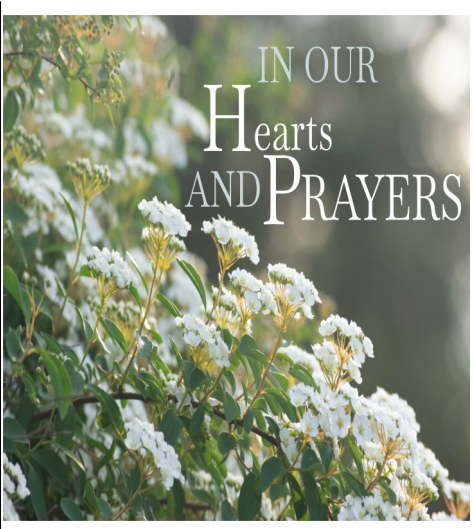
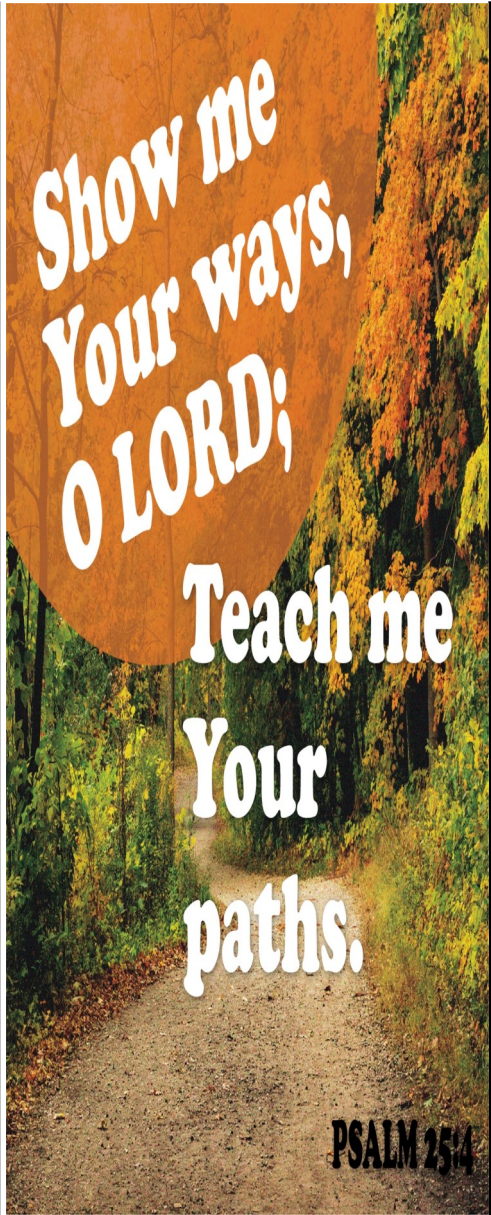
Date	Offering
10/1	\$3294.63
10/8	\$5415.47
10/15	\$3642.27
10/22	\$3283.63
10/29	\$2873.90



"GIVE... TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S."

MATTHEW 22:21, NRSV

Monitary gift given to the Backpack Fund and the Food Shelf in memory of Gunny Knudson, Sandy Beito's father, from family and friends.



We extend our Sympathy to the family and friends of the following families in their loss of their loved ones... the Mike Mason family and friends in the loss of Katelyn, mother of Liz Kolbe... 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....



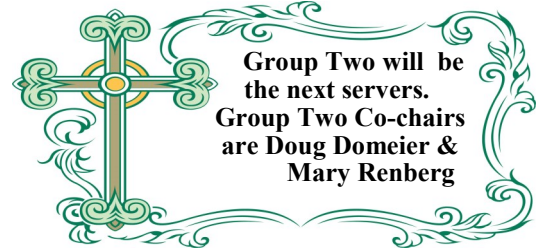
Please remember to inform the church office of any address or phone number changes to insure you keep receiving your monthly copy of the Tidings and to help keep our records up to date.

Send an email to the church office at secretary@trinitysleepyeye.org and let Darlene know you want your newsletter via email !! WATCH OUR SERVICES ON TRINITY'S WEBPAGE ANYTIME www.trinitysleepyeye.org THE TRINITY TIDINGS NEWSLETTER IS NOW ALSO POSTED ON WWW.SLEEPYEYEOONLINE.COM WATCH THIS SITE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENTS. TRINITY IS NOW ON FACEBOOK ~~ CHECK IT OUT!! (Trinity Lutheran (ELCA) Sleepy Eye MN)

10 Worship Assistants



November: Nicole Stevermer, Terry Newgord
November: Joleen Dittbenner



Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Acolytes

- 11/5 Hayden Domeier
- 11/12 Callie Evers
- 11/19 Riley Voigt
- 11/22 Anders Coulson 7pm Service
- 11/26 Kenley Jensen

Readers

- 11/5 Cheryl Neidt
- 11/12 Cindy Steffl
- 11/19 Karen Voge
- 11/22 Dave Vosbeck 7pm Service
- 11/26 Eric Wahlborg

Communion Assistants

- 11/5 Neil Neidt ~at the rail
- 11/19 Dave Vosbeck, Brian Polesky
Larry Baumgardt

Sound Tech

Russ Sorensen

November Ushers

Doug Domeier, Keith Lendt

November Greeters

Harold & Bonnie Pettis

We're thankful for you!



Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Acolytes

- 12/3 Kelsey Ladd
- 12/10 Caleb Oscarson
- 12/17 Braylon Nelson
- 12/24 Michael Pool 9 AM
Carson Uecker 5 PM
- 12/31 Anders Coulson

Readers

- 12/3 Rose Wall
- 12/10 Larry Baumgardt
- 12/17 Children's Christmas Worship
- 12/24 Darlene Brummund 9 AM
Sandy Beito 5 PM
- 12/31 Diane Evers

Communion Assistants

- 12/3 Lee Johnson ~at the rail
- 12/17 Larry Baumgardt, Neil Neidt,
Dave Vosbeck
- 12/24 9 AM Mark Miller
5 PM Lee Wahlborg

Sound Tech

Russ Sorensen

December Ushers

- Eric & Juli Wahlborg
- 12/24 5 PM Jon Hansen

December Greeters

- Jeff & Lynette Carlson
- 12/24 5 PM Mark Beito



November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9 am- Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 	6 9 am Quilting & Bandage Making Noon WELCA 6:30 pm Social Ministries	7 6:30 pm AA 5 pm Property Board	1 9 am-Women's Bible Study 5 pm Trinity Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Confirmation Class	2 7 am-Men's Bible Study	3	4
12 9 am- Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour	13 9 am Quilting & Bandage Making	14 6:30 pm AA	15 9 am-Women's Bible Study 5 pm Trinity Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Confirmation Class 7:30 pm Stewardship	16 7 am-Men's Bible Study	17	18
19 9 am- Holy Communion 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 11 am Breaking Bread Together 	20 9 am Quilting & Bandage Making 6:30 Stewardship Meeting	21 6:30 pm AA	22 No Church School or Confirmation Thanksgiving Eve WORSHIP SERVICE 7:00 PM	23 	24	25
26 9 am- Worship 10:00 am Fellowship Hour 	27 9 am Quilting & Bandage Making	28 6:30 pm AA	29 9 am-Women's Bible Study 5 pm Trinity Choir 6 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Church School 7 pm Confirmation Class	30 7 am-Men's Bible Study		



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
217 Brackenridge SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Return Service requested

non profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 22
Sleepy Eye, MN
56085



BONNY HAWKINS

"We'd love to have you speak,
Ezekiel, but we're a non-prophet."



Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING 9:00 AM
Fellowship Hour 10:10 AM

WORSHIP ON LINE
ANYTIME ON TRINTYSLEEPYEYE.ORG

See the front cover for contact numbers.



Trinity Wednesday Church School

Trinity Church School
Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
Confirmation Classes
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

