



# TRINITY HIGHLIGHTS

## NOVEMBER 2020

*The monthly newsletter of  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Greencastle, PA*

Dear Family,

It's hard to believe! November is here already. Our streets and the mountains in the distance glow with the changing colors. Jackets are the order of the day as the air turns brisk. Youth are involved with fall sports and band. Fall has arrived!

November is also the month we begin the holiday marathon. It starts with Thanksgiving and the race is on until after New Year. Thanksgiving has become a cliché we need to reclaim.

We celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with family dinners and football for dessert. Covid is putting a wrench in the celebration for some families but many people I know are finding creative ways to gather. I have a friend in Canada who has already celebrated Thanksgiving. Her family met on Zoom, cooked their dinners together from their respective homes and then ate together. She said it wasn't ideal but actually really fun. We are reimagining how to be together.

What is Thanksgiving? Some of us remember the history of the original Thanksgiving celebration. In 1621, Plymouth governor, William Bradford, invited local Indians to join the Pilgrims in a three-day festival held in gratitude for the bounty of the season. Subsequently, Thanksgiving became more or less an annual custom in various parts of the country. In 1941, President Franklin D Roosevelt, signed a bill into law creating the modern federal holiday.

In our celebrations, though, I wonder if perhaps we've forgotten the "thanks" in Thanksgiving. Many families take time before the meal for each member to say what they've been thankful for over the year. It's a wonderful tradition. Yet even that tradition can become meaningless if not entered into with intention.

Spiritually, we acknowledge that everything we have, do and are belong to God. They are gifts freely given by the One Who Loves Us. Taking time to pause and reflect on those gifts is a spiritual practice for every day not just once a year.

Gratitude is more than pie in the sky optimism. Gratitude doesn't ignore the challenges we face or injustices in the world that need to be remedied. Rather, gratitude gives us humility to see how much God has done for us and invites us to join God in sharing ourselves and our blessings for the work of healing the world.

Gratitude is an antidote to fear and anxiety. Studies show that practicing gratitude actually changes our brain chemistry. We notice we're not alone in the world. God walks with us along with family, friends, and our family of faith at Trinity.

Gratitude changes our perspective. We look with eyes of faith and see God active in our lives and the world in real ways. God has a track record! So, when things don't go as we plan, we trust. No matter what, God's got us!

Thanksgiving is more than a once a year holiday. It can be a life-changing way of life. The Confirmation students and I are using a gratitude journal as a spiritual practice. Every day we write three things for which we're grateful. I challenge you to begin a similar practice. Let me know how God works in your life as a result. You may be surprised!

God bless you in your journey!

*Pastor Barb*



# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1 ALL SAINTS'</b> Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	2     Renewal 7PM	3	4	5	6	7
8 Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	9	10   Finance 7PM	11   Council 7PM	12	13	14   Renewal Workshop
15 Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	16   Renewal 7 PM	17	18	19	20	21
<b>22 CHRIST THE KING</b> Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	23	24	25	26  	27	28
<b>29 1 ADVENT</b> Confirmation 8:45 AM <i>Worship 10 AM</i>	30					

# November Worship Assistants

	NOVEMBER 1	NOVEMBER 8	NOVEMBER 15	NOVEMBER 22	NOVEMBER 29
Assisting Minister	Charlie Ford	Scott Valentine	Dave Wolfe	Don Swart	Charlie Ford
Ushers	Kippy Fox Karla Fox	Charlie Ford Richard Miller	Don Swart Darrell Swart	Larson Thomas Dave Wolfe	Alan Shank Donna Wolfe
Acolyte	Larson Thomas	Abigail Wolfe	Ella Swart	Bella Stevens	Grace Cessna
Singer	Zak Reynolds	Hannah Ruffner	Scott Valentine	Zak Reynolds	Hannah Ruffner
Communion Preparer	Donna Wolfe	Carol Swart Don Swart	Dave Wolfe	Sue Wunderlich	Donna Wolfe



## ONLINE WORSHIP

We continue to provide worship online via the Website, You Tube and Face Book for those who feel safer worshipping from home.

Our mission is evolving to include a growing on-line presence. Sharing Christ now involves engaging with our on-line worshipping community. It is vital that everyone who is part of Facebook helps intentionally carry the message. Each week, whether you gather for worship in the sanctuary or not, please:

- ♦ **SHARE the video.** This is what moves the video into the Facebook community. Clicking "like" just makes a statement.
- ♦ **COMMENT every week.** Make a specific observation about how the service touched you or praised God or something meaningful from the sermon. Please make sure your comments are positive. If you have a negative comment, please call or text the pastor or email for conversation.

We have an incredible opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of the people who are gathering with us on-line, many of whom we don't know. Please take this ministry seriously.

## THURSDAY DEVOTIONS

Pastor Barb is broadcasting a midweek devotion on Facebook Live on Thursday afternoons. Take a minute to breathe and recharge! It helps in this time of uncertainty and challenge to remember God walks with us. After recording, the devotions can be found at the bottom of the first page on the website.

## MEETING DECEMBER 6

A hybrid Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 6, 2020 after the 10AM Worship service both in person and on Zoom (a video conferencing software). It is possible to dial into zoom on your phone if you don't have access to a computer. If Zoom is uncomfortable for you, please notify the office. We will ask someone to phone you and leave the phone on speaker so you can participate.



## WE NEED YOU!



New Council Members are needed for next year. We are a small church. Even if you have been on council before, it's important that all of us step up as we move God's mission forward into the neighborhood. Meetings are currently on Zoom so safety isn't an issue. Please pray about whether God is calling you to this very important service for the church. If you are asked to join council, please say yes.



## COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Join other churches in our area for an on-line worship service. We are blessed with so much! Let's spend a moment thanking the One Who Loves Us. To keep everyone safe, this year's Community Worship will be videotaped at Trinity Lutheran and shared via Facebook and our website. Several area churches will be contributing to the service. Planning is still in process. Stay tuned for more information about when the worship service will be available.

## MUSIC NOTES



THANK YOU for your patience with the technological changes we have encountered moving back inside after dismantling the sound board for the outdoor services and then re-assembling things and adding new equipment inside to enable us to better record the services and run them on Facebook Live. An even bigger THANK YOU to Brandon Sidoli who has been the main technician for each Sunday service, except for one, I think, since April 24!!! Please thank him personally the next time you see him, especially since he puts up with these two quirky women on staff who are old enough to be his grandmothers! Thank you to those who donated money and time to get the new equipment purchased and running. Our online congregation each Sunday is larger than the one meeting in Trinity's sanctuary so it truly is a new day! And Christmas is coming - 60 days from the day I am composing this!!! I would very much like to know if there is a song that you just must hear over the Advent/Christmas season. You can text me the title or email it to me or just tell me when you see me on a Sunday morning.

## NEW POINSETTIA INFORMATION!

Orders for the poinsettias which decorate the sanctuary at Christmas are being taken. The Worship and Music Team have decided to purchase the poinsettias from the Lurgen Greenhouse. The price and order date have changed! Orders and money are now due by November 29. The new cost is \$8 for each plant. Order forms are available on the Lobby table or will be attached to the weekly Parish News email and have been mailed to those without email. If you would like to order a poinsettia, please mail, email or call the Church Office with your information. Your payment should be placed in an envelope clearly marked "Poinsettia Order".



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS OUR HELP



God blesses us with enough so we can share those blessings with others. Barbara Grain at the Greencastle Food Pantry is asking for our help to stock the shelves. As Covid continues to ravage those with the least resources, we can be helpful in providing food. A recent survey shows that 1 in 8 US citizens are at risk for food insecurity. To help us focus our efforts, each week we'll assign a food item. Please bring the assigned item when you come to worship to place in the box in the narthex or place it in the box by the front door anytime.

- Nov 1: cereal
- Nov 8: canned vegetables
- Nov 15: bags of flour or sugar
- Nov 22: canned soup
- Nov 29: pasta and sauce



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

The ET Planning Team met. Covid has created serious challenges in building relationships. The consensus is that in-person activity is important to that effort. The team decided to plan some outdoor activities, properly socially distanced. Here is what is planned so far. Stay tuned for more details!

1. Tubing: After the New Year.
2. Great Escapes themed Scavenger Hunt: In the Spring

A check-in zoom meeting with conversation and a short devotional is happening every Tuesday at 7:30PM. Both current youth and young adults are welcome to participate in this thriving group. Please contact Rachelle Gehr or Pastor Barb for information to join the meeting.

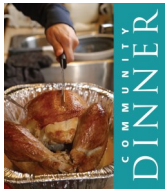


## WHERE HAVE YOU SEEN GOD?

The Renewal Team continues to invite our family to notice God active in our lives. The more we notice God in our lives; the more we'll see God as the anchor on which we stand both personally and as a family of faith. **Send us your God moments and we will share them next week in the Parish News.** Here are some ways our congregation saw God this week:

- I've seen God in the beauty of fall and nature.
- On the golf course of course.
- God sent us a good, soaking rain.
- In members of congregations supporting their pastors during this difficult time.





## THANKSGIVING HELP NEEDED!

Thanksgiving can be a stressful time for families who are financially struggling. Waynesboro Community and Human Services is holding a Curbside Community Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro.

Volunteers will be handing out to-go turkey dinners to residents of the Waynesboro and Greencastle areas. They will also deliver meals to families who can't pick up their meals.

Dessert donations are needed. They can be dropped off here at Trinity on Wednesday, Nov. 25 between 11 AM and 6PM. If you would be willing to donate a dessert, please contact the Church Office by Nov. 19 to let them know what you will be donating. WCHS needs to know what's coming for planning purposes.

Volunteers are needed on Thanksgiving Day to:

- Help with traffic from 10 AM to 12:30 PM
- Handout meals outside beginning at 10 AM
- Runners from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- Deliver meals beginning at 10:15

Call Waynesboro Community and Human Services at 717-762-6941 by Nov. 20 if you are able to volunteer.



## RENEWAL NEWS

The team has been working hard praying, learning and considering ways to help Trinity move forward even in this age of coronavirus.

- After conversation and prayer, the team made the decision to postpone the S'more Party and Tapology until spring. The weather and busy schedules interfered with our faith family having time for the S'more Party. Building a community with Tapology Ministry really requires the ability to meet face to face. We'll reschedule both when the weather is warmer and we can safely meet outside.
- The team continues to explore guiding principles and values to help our congregation make decisions about how God is calling us to share Christ with one another and our neighborhood. We will be meeting soon and attending another workshop to help with the process.

God has blessed Trinity with an abundance. Many of our family give time, talent and supplies behind the scenes so our work as the people of God can happen. Each month we will take some time to say thank you. You are appreciated! If you know of someone who should be on this list, call the office.



- Darrell Swart, Don Swart, Brandon Sidoli and Sandra Wingert: met for several hours with *All Sound Pro* to remedy Facebook Live sound issues
- Trinity Family: continue to tithe to support the mission of Trinity Lutheran in these difficult times of Covid
- Acolytes, Assisting Ministers and Singers: share their gifts in leading worship.
- Scott Valentine: For his patience in helping to repair the projector and for creating the screen for worship each week.
- Ivan Wingert: Helps with sound during worship
- Brandon Sidoli: Continues to work with sound for Worship and Facebook Live and downloads the video to YouTube.
- Zak Reynolds: Playing the organ for worship
- Sandra Wingert: Continuing to hone her organ skills so we have a variety of music for praising God each Sunday
- On-line Community: Patiently gathering for Facebook Live through our growing pains with sound quality.
- Darrell Swart: Changing the lights in the pastor's office
- Bud and Donna Wolfe for changing the banners for festival Sundays.
- Dave Wolfe for hanging the Reformation banner.

## NOVEMBER SPECIAL APPEAL

The Special Appeal for November is the Greencastle Exchange Club's Santa's Helpers. They provide Christmas toys for children in the Greencastle-Antrim School District. If you desire to make a donation, please mark your envelope for "Special Appeal".

*Trinity Highlights*  
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1186 Jason Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225

Rev. Barbara Barry, Pastor  
Office Phone: 717-597-9348  
Office Email: [tlcsecoffice@gmail.com](mailto:tlcsecoffice@gmail.com)

## Let Your Thankfulness Show

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances!--1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Sages, mystics and prophets through the ages have taught us that cultivating an attitude of thankfulness will not only help us grow as disciples, but thankfulness will also deepen our connection neighbors and give us happier, more fulfilling lives.

And how do you cultivate thankfulness? First and always, through prayer. Consider how many of the Psalms offer thanks, or how often the Apostle Paul gives thanks for the people and blessings of his ministry. Pray always – and always with thanksgiving. Keep a “blessings list” and pray through it daily.

Giving thanks to God can nourish thankfulness in your own heart, and you can also help encourage thankfulness in your community by developing a habit of thanking others – verbally, by text or email, or with cards and notes.

Since our national holiday of Thanksgiving takes place in November, this month offers the perfect opportunity to start. Throughout November, look for every opportunity to thank someone for any reason, big or small. It could be a stranger who holds a door open for you, a clerk who rings up your sale, or a neighbor who does you a favor. Keep track of the number of times you can say “thank you.” You may be surprised. For fun, compete with others to see who can say “thank you” the most times in November.

In the process of saying “thank you” you will not only develop a habit that will deepen your soul, you will also change your relationship with neighbors, your community and our world. And that will be a real cause for thanksgiving.

**-Rob Blezard**

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