



TRINITY TRIBUTE

"We believe there is no person or created thing which is outside the active love and grace of God shown so clearly in Jesus Christ. And through the active love and grace of God, we, as a body of Christ, are called to invite, welcome, and care for all."

Trinity Lutheran Church-ELCA Cook, Minnesota
trinitycook.org info@trinitycook.org

November
2026
Newsletter



November Star Word Prompt: How has your star word inspired thankfulness in you this year?



Reformation, Installation, Celebration

It's Official! Trinity was thrilled to welcome Deacon Susan Williams, Bishop's Associate for Leadership, and representative of Bishop Taryn Montgomery, to the worship service on Sunday, October 25, 2026, as she installed Pastor Susie Modrow.

Welcome to Trinity, Pastor Susie –
We're glad you're here!



Trinity's Annual Congregational Meeting was held Sunday, October 18, 2026, following worship. Retiring Council President Laura Aune called the meeting to order with 62 members present.

Voting representatives for the 2027 NEMN Synod Assembly were elected: Laura Aune, Kate Cheney, and Laurin Glass (*youth representative*). Jim Aune was also reappointed to the Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Board as Trinity's voting member.

New Council members elected are as follows: Greg Aune (*incumbent*), Roger Esterby, Makenzie Reing, Ashley Skorseth, and Kate Cheney (*1-year youth term*). 2026-27 Council will be installed during worship on Sunday, November 1.

It's a Noisy Offering Month! Keep Saving those coins!
November's funds will be going to:
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (*Camp Vermilion*)



Annual Veterans Lasagna
Luncheon
Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Meals will be served FREE of
charge for ALL Veterans and their families
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Mark Your Calendars!
12th Annual Lutefisk
& Meatball Dinner!



Saturday, December 5, 2026
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

\$25 per adult; \$10 per youth 10-17; under 10 free



This is what 275 quilts look like: the ladies have been busy this session. What a wonderful ministry provided to both Lutheran World Relief and local needs.
Thank You all for your dedication and hard work!



605 quilts completed! Thanks for your dedication,
Hope, you are a blessing!

Community Meals are Taking a Break:

There will be **NO** Community Meals the months of November or December, due to the holidays.

Thanks again to Leigh Zika and all the volunteers who make this community ministry possible.
Meals will resume Thursday, January 28, 2027.





Grace and Peace to you! As I was walking around the church property this week, I discovered a nest. I paused to appreciate its craftsmanship and the cozy home it provided. I wondered how long it took to create. Then I pondered if the occupants had been displaced, or if they had found a new home. It reminded me a bit of my journey to Trinity. In the past year, I have been displaced, returned home, and have relocated to the beautiful area of Cook.

I've entered into a new season of nesting. The work of nesting is overwhelming and exhausting. That sense of home can be easily taken for granted. We forget that our home didn't become one overnight. It took a lot of work to make it feel like home...until it was comfortable, familiar, and safe. It required unpacking, tweaking, and re-tweaking until things felt just right.

It's going to be a while before I achieve that, but I take comfort in knowing that we all go through these transitions. I think of the Israelites who adapted to the wilderness before entering into the promised land. What joy to have finally made it! I also think about the despair they felt when Babylon invaded their home. How difficult it must've been to be deported to a foreign land. How does one even attempt to create a home for themselves under such conditions? And yet, God provided comfort for them through it all. God sent prophets to speak aloud promises of hope and a future.

God continues to speak these words today. To those who have been deported. To those who have lost their homes due to tragedy or economic distress. To children who start college or enter into the military. To parents who mourn the shift as their children leave the nest. To the aging who wrestle with finding a home that will fit their current and future needs while also balancing what they actually want. And to those who relocate for happy reasons. Whether this disruption is a welcome change or it's something that was inflicted upon you, creating a home is hard work.

I give thanks for those whose homes are established. They are the friendly faces new neighbors desperately need. They are the ones who can provide a dose of good will to help ease the burden. (Thank you to the members of Trinity for offering this grace to me!)

And for those of you who join me in transition, I offer these words of comfort from Isaiah 41:10.

*"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you."*

God is with us, and God will help us. And one day, without even realizing it, these transitions will give way to something new. A new sense of normal, new routines, new friends, new faces, and new blessings. What a gift to be able to share our homes and our lives with one another!



Blessings, Pr. Susie

Trinity's 100th anniversary committee and crew have been busy installing new signs around the building, on the east and west sides, as well as a banner inside the main entry.

Thanks to Jake Aune for his wonderful designs, which were then printed by W.A. Fisher.



Installation was completed by Larry Lange, Peter Stone, Dale Bixby, Roger Lindbeck, and Mike Lee.



Quilting Traditions by Lindy Wilenius

As Trinity celebrates its 100th Birthday this year, we'd like to look at its tradition of quilting.

Gerry Ruuska has kept records since 1950, but quilter Norma Thomas remembers her mom, Char Nieters, quilting in the 1950's. Both Norma and Leigh Zika have memories of their mothers cutting up worn clothing to use fabric in the quilts. Gerry remembers a handful of women gathered around tables downstairs with their sewing machines.

Now our quilters do the sewing at home and get together in the spring and fall to tie the quilts. To date, our records show nearly eight thousand (8000) completed quilts. Hope Simpson finished her 600th quilts this fall! Lorraine Carlson, who recently turned 98, has made many beautiful quilts over the years. And we also celebrated fellow quilter, Audrey Armagost's, 91st birthday!

Most quilts go to Lutheran World Relief, but many have been donated to the Salvation Army, women's shelters and given away locally. Two years ago, when Cook suffered flood damage, a number of quilts were distributed. It's a ministry we are all happy to be a part of.

A *Hot Dog Brunch Benefit* was held after worship on Sunday, October 25, in the Fellowship Hall for the family of Ryann Lee, to help offset medical and other expenses. Prepared and served by Greg Wilson and Leo Wilenius, the meal included dogs with all the fixings, potato salad, baked beans, chips and dessert. Kitchen and serving assistants included: Lindy Wilenius, Beth Wilenius, Jody Bixby, Dale Bixby, Brooke, Willa, Leo.



Greg, Leo, Dale, & Leo



Leo, Willa, & Brooke



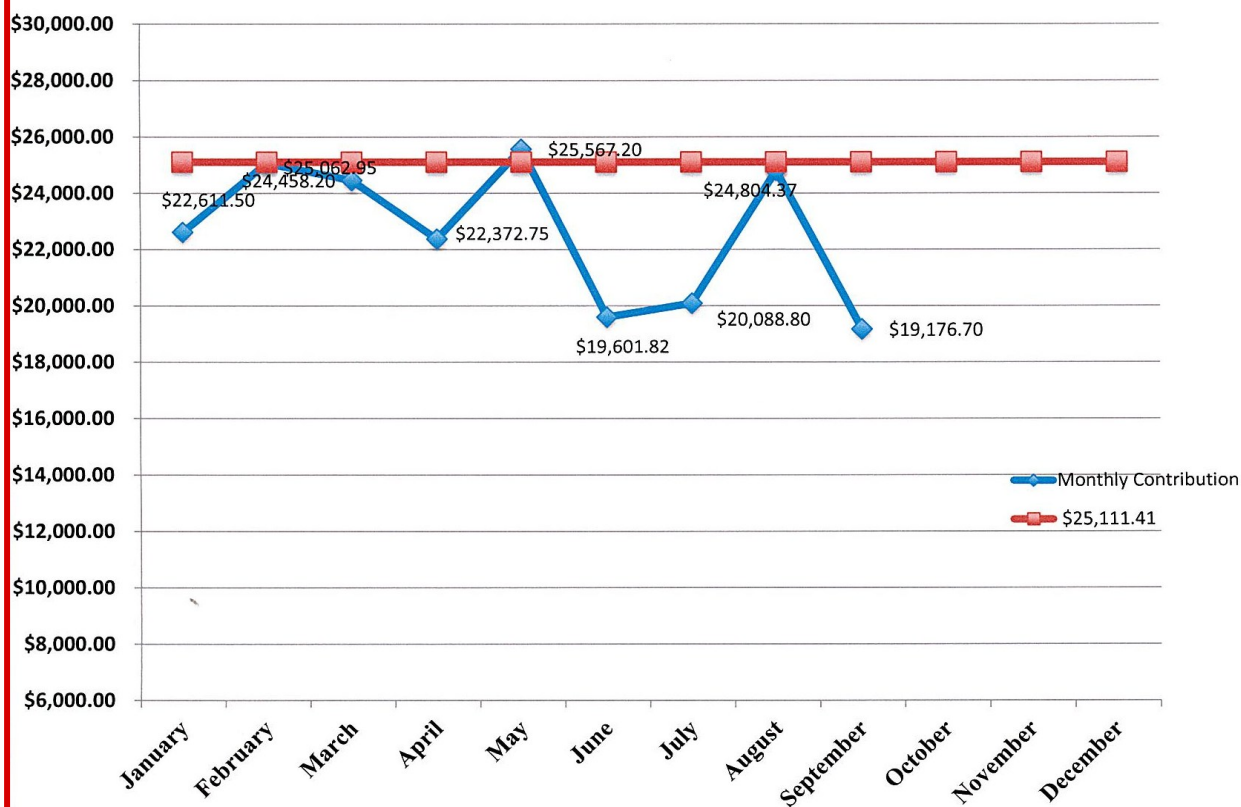
Caitlin, Mike & Ryann



Thank you to All who attended and contributed in any way to support the lee family!

Giving in Grace

2026 General Fund Offerings September 30, 2026



Trinity Lutheran Church - Giving in Grace - Financial Report

General Fund

Budget Receipts	9/30/2026	\$19,176.70
Budget Expenditures		\$17,162.05
Checkbook Balance		\$12,462.35

2026 Budget = \$301,336.92

Offerings Needed

Monthly = \$25,111.41
Sunday = \$5,794.94

<u>Income</u>	<u>September Receipts</u>	<u>Monthly Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 18,239.20		\$ 188,228.12	
Loose Offering	\$ 697.50		\$ 14,211.17	
Church usage	\$ 240.00		\$ 1,305.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 19,176.70	25,111.41 **	\$ 203,744.29	\$ 226,002.69

<u>Mission Support</u>	<u>September paid</u>		<u>YTD Paid</u>	
NE Synod	\$ 635.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 5,715.00	\$ 5,715.00
VLM	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 729.00	\$ 729.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 716.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 6,444.00	\$ 6,444.00

<u>Expenses</u>				
Education	\$ 35.00	\$ 375.01	\$ 1,523.62	\$ 3,375.09
Wellness Ministry		\$ 12.50		\$ 112.50
Stewardship	\$ 89.83	\$ 125.00	\$ 828.92	\$ 1,125.00
Mental Health & Wellness		\$ 41.67	\$ 212.42	\$ 375.03
Social Outreach Ministry		\$ 166.67	\$ 2,080.20	\$ 1,500.03
Worship	\$ 1,465.68	\$ 833.16	\$ 7,740.12	\$ 7,498.44
Church Operations	\$ 6,700.59	\$ 9,575.46	\$ 87,304.87	\$ 85,804.11
Pastoral Salary & Bene		\$ 4,512.59		\$ 74,467.53
Congreg Care Minister Sal & Bene	\$ 8,104.95	\$ 8,274.17	\$ 70,952.52	\$ 40,613.31
Misc & Moving Expenses	\$ 50.00	\$ 479.17	\$ 503.21	\$ 4,312.53
Total Expenses	\$ 17,162.05	\$ 25,111.40	\$ 177,589.88	\$ 225,627.57

<u>September</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sep 6	73
13-Sep	90
30-Sep	88
27-Sep	64

Receipts for the month BELOW budget by \$5,934.71. Receipts, are BELOW budget for the year \$22,258.40.
Expenses are BELOW budget for the month by \$7,949.36. Expenses are BELOW budget for the year \$48,412.81.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Given by:

Mike Naughton

Pam Carlson, Marcia Price

Tom Soderberg

Dale Johnson, Lorraine Carlson, Dave & Diane Culbert,
Bell Choir and Choir, Mike & Lorene Enzmann, Roger & Nancy Lindbeck

<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Submitted-YTD</u>
Noisy Offering	\$375.56	\$966.59
Cook Food Shelf		
Social Outreach Ministry	\$162.00	\$1,183.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		
Lenten Offerings		\$1,258.41
Mental Health and Wellness		\$2,695.00
Cook Lions Club-flood relief		
Camperships		\$6,231.41

Regular offerings keep Trinity going;
Thank You for continued support.
Whether worshipping in person or online,
TLC ministries and missions
are dependent on faithful giving.
*If you would like to set up regular
electronic payments contact Sue for more
information at 218-666-5965
or email sue@trinitycook.org.*

VancoMobile link



Submitted by Sue Carstens, Bkbp

Gratitude, Compassion, Rooted in Faith, Imagining More

These are some of the words that I am holding on to as I write this.



Deacon Kari

Gratitude

¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, (Eph. 1:16)

I am filled with gratitude for this community. Thank you for all of the support I have received and continue to receive. My heart leaps with joy for each one of you. Thank you for the generous words and gift that I received from you at the Annual Meeting to be able to travel with deacon colleagues to Egypt in January. Your generosity is astounding. I am really looking forward to traveling with other deacons as we explore sacred sites together.

Compassion

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. (Colossians 3:12)

Our theme this year for Bible Quest is Compassion: Learning to Love Like God. We have about 35 kids who are participating this year joined by an amazing group of adults. It is such a joy to gather on Wednesdays after school as we explore our theme and practice what it means to be compassionate.

Rooted in Faith, Imagining More...

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and ^[a] in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)

On November 21-22 fourteen youth and three adults from Trinity will travel to Cragun's Resort near Brainerd for the NEMN Synod's Annual All Youth Gathering. This is a great opportunity for us to spend time together and with other youth from around the synod as we worship, learn, and grow together. Watch next month's newsletter for a recap of the event.

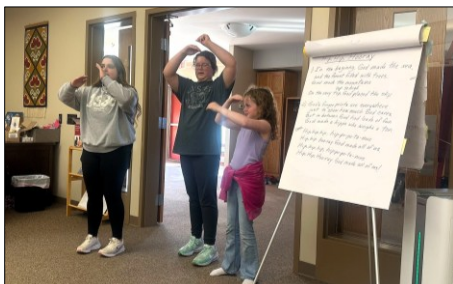
Confirmation will be starting in November with a "Getting to Know You" mixer and meal for youth, parents and Pastor Susie on Wednesday, November 11, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The first confirmation class of the year will also meet on Wednesday, November 18, with a meal at 6:00 pm and lessons from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Please contact Pr. Susie for more information.

Grace and peace to you,
Deacon Kari (she/her)

Bible Quest

Compassion: Learning to Love Like God

Weekly sessions of Bible Quest began for the school year on Wednesday, October 22, with a beautiful day to spend outside. All kids from PreK – 6th Grade are welcome. They meet after school (3:45 pm – 5:00 pm) most weeks that school is in session, with breaks when classes are not held. There is snack time, music, stories, crafts – focused on compassion and learning to love like God. It's not too late to join them! Check with Pastor Susie or Deacon Kari for more information.



Birthdays

		19	Bruce Garbisch
1	Rachel Pearson	20	Lila Pearson
	Kory Zallar	22	Bob Walker
2	Bruce Anderson	24	Laura Aune
4	Karen Woods	27	Sophie Arvila
15	Bill Woods	28	Leo Wilenius
17	Darrel Lindgren		Tom Ojanen

Anniversaries

1	Roger & Nancy Lindbeck
2	Tom & Jennifer Kinler
10	Bill & Joyce Fromel
16	Rick & Kay Lokken
26	David & Jenifer Moberg
29	Rick & Sue Aune



celebrate!

Trinity's Women of the ELCA Will Not Meet due to the Veterans Luncheon. See you in December!



The Fall Gathering of the Laurentian Conference of WELCA was held on October 8, 2026, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Virginia, MN. Those in attendance from Trinity were Sue Gustafson, Arlene Jershe, Judy Posch, Gerry Ruuska and Norma Thomas.

The morning speaker was Maria High, a *Habitat for Humanity* home recipient. She shared the process of applying for, and receiving, a Habitat home. She then led a questions/answer time about the program and its importance to the communities.

NOVEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE

SERVERS

11/1/26	Sue & Augie Carstens
	Beth Sprouls
11/8/26	Julie & Dale Horihan
	Vickie & Mark Page
11/15/26	Kathy Leppert
	Judy Vaughn
11/22/26	Bob Walker
	Alberta & Gary Whitenack
11/29/26	Suzie & Darren Holter
	Brenda & Bill Tibbetts

DECEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE

SERVERS

12/6/26	Margaret & Nick Nicklow
	Vickie & Larry Lange
12/13/26	Lindsey Stachovich
12/20/26	Diane Pascuzzi
	Vicki Lupica
12/27/26	Alberta & Gary Whiteside

Prayers for those needing healing and comfort:

Gary Groves, Ryann Lee, Lois Reing, Steve Amundson, Pastor Brian Burton, Mary & Jeffrey Thomas, Janet Miller, Augie Carstens, Tracy Rusinyak, Betty Tuuri, Roni Sarazine, Walter Putney, Bruce & Judy Anderson.

The families and friends of Forrest Abramson, and Shirley and Cam Nicholas, as they continue to remember and celebrate their lives.

For healing, strength and understanding for our nation, our community, and those elsewhere who are feeling confusion, disruption, anger and insecurity; those facing medical testing, life challenges, and difficult situations; those serving in the armed forces; and those seeking Jesus Christ in their lives.



Only 200 short of 8000 quilts stitched and tied over the years.



It was a celebration (*with more cake*) for two of the group: birthday girls Audrey Armagost (91) and Lorraine Carlson (98).

Scripture Readings *November 2026*

November 1

All Saints Day
Revelations 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 8

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 15

25th Sunday after Pentecost
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8[9-11]12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 22

Christ the King
Ezekial 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

November 29

1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13: 24-37

Please be sure to check the Fellowship Hall table for monthly coffee list updates/volunteer opportunities. Let Leigh, Lindy or the office know when kitchen supplies are running low on Sunday coffee supplies...paper plates, napkins, coffee, filters, Kool-Aid, etc., so it can be restocked. For more information or to volunteer, please call or text: Leigh Zika (218-780-1769) or Lindy Wilenius (218-780-4644) or the office at 218-666-5965.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 CLOCKS BACK! All Saints Sunday Worship 9:30 am w/ communion Council Mtg 11 am AA, Al-Anon 6:00pm	2 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45	3 Bible Study 9:30 am	4 Bible Quest 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 6:30 pm	5	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7  HAPPY FALL Yale 14
8 <i>Blessing of the Quilts</i> Worship w/ comm 9:30 am AA, Al-Anon 6:00pm	9 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45	10 Bible Study 9:30 am	11 Veterans' Lunch 11 am – 1 pm Bible Quest 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Confirmation Mixer 6 pm Choir 6:30 pm	12	13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14  HAPPY FALL Yale 14
15 Worship 9:30 am w/ comm AA, Al-Anon 6:00pm	16 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45	17 Bible Study 9:30 am	18 Bible Quest 3:45 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Confirmation 6 pm Choir 6:30 pm	19	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21 Celebration of Life for Shirley and Cameron Nicholas 11:00 am Synod Youth Gathering thru Sunday
22 Worship 9:30 am w/ communion AA, Al-Anon 6:00pm	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE NOON Bible Study 9:30 am	25 NO Bible Quest NO Confirmation Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 7:10 pm	26  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 1 st Sunday of Advent Noisy Offering Worship 9:30 am w/ communion AA, Al-Anon 6:00pm	30 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45	November 2026 				

Trinity Lutheran Church, ELCA
P O Box 1196
231 Second Street SE
Cook, MN 55723



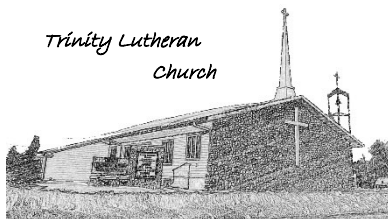
TRINITY
TRIBUTE



November
2026

Trinity Lutheran Church Information

Pastor: Rev. Susan Modrow
Congregational Care: Dn. Kari Olson
Financial Manager/Bookkeeper: Sue Carstens
Music Director: Bailey Conger
Secretary: Beth Sprouls



Sunday Worship 9:30 am

(Holy Communion Most Sundays)

Livestream Available on
Facebook & YouTube

Office Hours

Mondays by appointment
Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Phone: 218-666-5965

Email: info@trinitycook.org

Website: www.trinitycook.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TLC.Cook.MN

YouTube: www.youtube.com

(Trinity Lutheran Church of Cook)

The Trinity Tribute newsletter is published monthly to keep members and friends informed of church programs and to report news about the Trinity Lutheran Church community.