

TRINITY TRIBUTE

November 2025 Newsletter

"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

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



Annual Veterans Lasagna Lunch
Free for ALL Veterans
and their Families

Meals will be served from 11:00 am -1:00 pm
In the Fellowship Hall

All are Welcome!

This luncheon is in appreciation for our Veterans' service.



It is always good to hear a full choir (with new members), especially on Reformation Sunday, wearing red and the piano/organ combo on the hymns.



Join us for worship on *Sunday, November 16*, when the Trinity council will be installed for the coming year.

The Trinity annual meeting was held October following worship with 55 voting members attending. Incumbent members Larry Lange and Greg Wilson were re-elected; Laure Maki was elected and each of the three will serve a two-year term. Greg Aune was elected to a one-year term to fulfill the position previously held by Kim Marwick.

Also elected were Nick and Margaret Nicklow as voting members for NEMN Synod Assembly and Jim Aune as a voting member for Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry.

Thank you to Kim Marwick and Crystal Whitney for their dedication and work with the TLC council. Both will be leaving their council positions after three and four years.



Parsonage Open House — Sunday, November 2
Following Worship, some of the crew from Buildings & Grounds parsonage team will be ready to greet anyone and answer any questions regarding the updates and ongoing renovations. Feel free to stop by and check it out! There will possibly be another open house on a future date. Thank you to all who continue to help out, either by labor or funds for this vital project. (*more pictures, pg. 4*)



Save the Date:
Saturday, December 6, 2025
4:00 - 6:00 pm

*It's getting cooler, summer is over.
Time to think about LUTEFISK!*

*The team is planning our
Annual Community Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner.
All proceeds from this years meal will be donated
to the Cook Area Food Shelf.*

*More details will be available soon: watch the
Trinity Facebook page, weekly eblasts and
website for updates.*

*Think about where you can volunteer:
planning, cooking, serving, promoting, eating...
lots of opportunities for all.*



COMMUNITY MEALS DONE FOR 2025

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

Community Meals will resume January 22, 2026.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday,
The Trinity office will be closed on Thursday, November 27
We will reopen on Tuesday, December 2, regular hours.

*There will be NO youth activities on
Wednesday, November 26.*

What do you fear?
INSISTING ON HOPE THIS ADVENT

Advent may seem like it's a long way off, but here we are in the middle of Autumn, and the liturgical season of Advent begins at the end of November. Both Advent and Autumn are favorites of mine because I always feel the invitation, the pull, to slow down and listen and go deeper in my spiritual life. Perhaps it's the contemplative in me or the very introverted part of me that appreciates this summons to slow down, but I truly appreciate the reminder.

November begins with All Saints Day, and we will celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 2. In the New Testament, the word saints is used to describe the entire membership of the Christian church, living and dead. All Saint's Day is a day when we remember, honor, and celebrate the lives of saints. Saints of God who have gone before us, saints of God still among us, and saints of God still yet to come. It's a beautiful time to remember that we are part of a great cloud of witnesses.

We end November with the first Sunday in Advent on November 30. This year we will be using a worship series from *A Sanctified Art* with the theme "What do you fear? Insisting on hope this Advent." We will follow this series through Epiphany. Here's an excerpt about this series from their website:

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears-- they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

This Advent series takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. ...As you journey through this season, may your hope become gritty and resilient. May you remember: hope that trembles is still hope. This season, let us insist on hope and trust that good news is greater than fear.

May we insist on hope as we continue on this journey together.

In peace,
Dn. Kari (she/her)



Around about the Synod...Pastor Taryn Montgomery, *Synod Minister for Discipleship & Christian Community*, joined us for worship on October 5. We talked about God's abundance, explored The Generosity Project, and had a whole lot of fun in the process!



"Grateful for the faithful witness and community-oriented heart of this congregation! Thank you Deacon Kari and the congregation for the warm welcome!"

Rev. Taryn Montgomery

The goals of The Generosity Project are to connect and engage all generations, equip every age and household for the faith practice of generosity, and to grow in God's grace generation to generation.



General Fund

Budget Receipts \$20,922.22
 Budget Expenditures \$17,289.81
 Checkbook Balance \$10,088.40

9/30/25**2025 Budget = \$287,207.99****Offerings Needed**

Monthly = \$23,934.17

Sunday = \$5,523.26

<u>Income</u>	<u>Sept Receipts</u>	<u>Monthly Anticipated Budget</u>	<u>YTD Received</u>	<u>Anticipated YTD Budget</u>
Envelope Offering	\$ 19,896.20		\$ 181,608.79	
Loose Offering	\$ 711.02		\$ 11,317.40	
Church usage	\$ 315.00		\$ 1,985.00	
Total Regular Income	\$ 20,922.22	23,934.17 **	\$ 194,911.19	\$ 215,407.53

<u>Mission Support</u>	<u>Sept paid</u>		<u>YTD Paid</u>	
NE Synod	\$ 635.00	\$ 635.00	\$ 5,711.00	\$ 5,715.00
VLM	\$ 81.00	\$ 81.00	\$ 729.00	\$ 729.00
Total Mission Support	\$ 716.00	\$ 716.00	\$ 6,440.00	\$ 6,444.00

<u>Expenses</u>				
Education	\$ 815.08	\$ 350.01	\$ 2,263.70	\$ 3,150.09
Wellness Ministry		\$ 12.50		\$ 112.50
Stewardship	\$ 86.50	\$ 100.00	\$ 957.18	\$ 900.00
Mental Health & Wellness		\$ 41.67		\$ 375.03
Social Outreach Ministry		\$ 166.67	\$ 2,535.72	\$ 1,500.03
Worship	\$ 844.40	\$ 827.60	\$ 7,654.68	\$ 7,448.40
Church Operations	\$ 5,864.24	\$ 8,711.88	\$ 82,945.02	\$ 78,406.92
Pastoral Salary & Bene	\$ 1,353.22	\$ 7,090.53	\$ 12,168.98	\$ 63,814.77
Congreg Care Minister Sal & Bene	\$ 7,580.38	\$ 5,892.30	\$ 65,553.19	\$ 53,030.70
Misc	\$ 29.99	\$ 25.00	\$ 1,806.77	\$ 225.00
Total Expenses	\$ 17,289.81	\$ 23,934.16	\$ 182,325.24	\$ 215,407.44

<u>September</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Sep 7	81
14-Sep	82
21-Sep	92
28-Sep	70

Receipts for the month BELOW budget by \$3,011.95. Receipts, are BELOW budget for the year \$20,496.34.
 Expenses are BELOW budget for the month by \$6,644.36. Expenses are BELOW budget for the year 33,082.29.

Memorials received this month in memory of:

Given by:

In honor of Augie & Sue Carstens 50th wedding anniversary Duane & Sue Gustafson, Norma Thomas, Leo & Lindy Wilenius

Reminder: the Growing in Grace campaign has been completed and the loan is paid off. Thank you again, to all who have made this possible. Please contact your financial organization to change any automatic payments directed specifically to this fund, as it will be closed out soon.

VancoMobile link

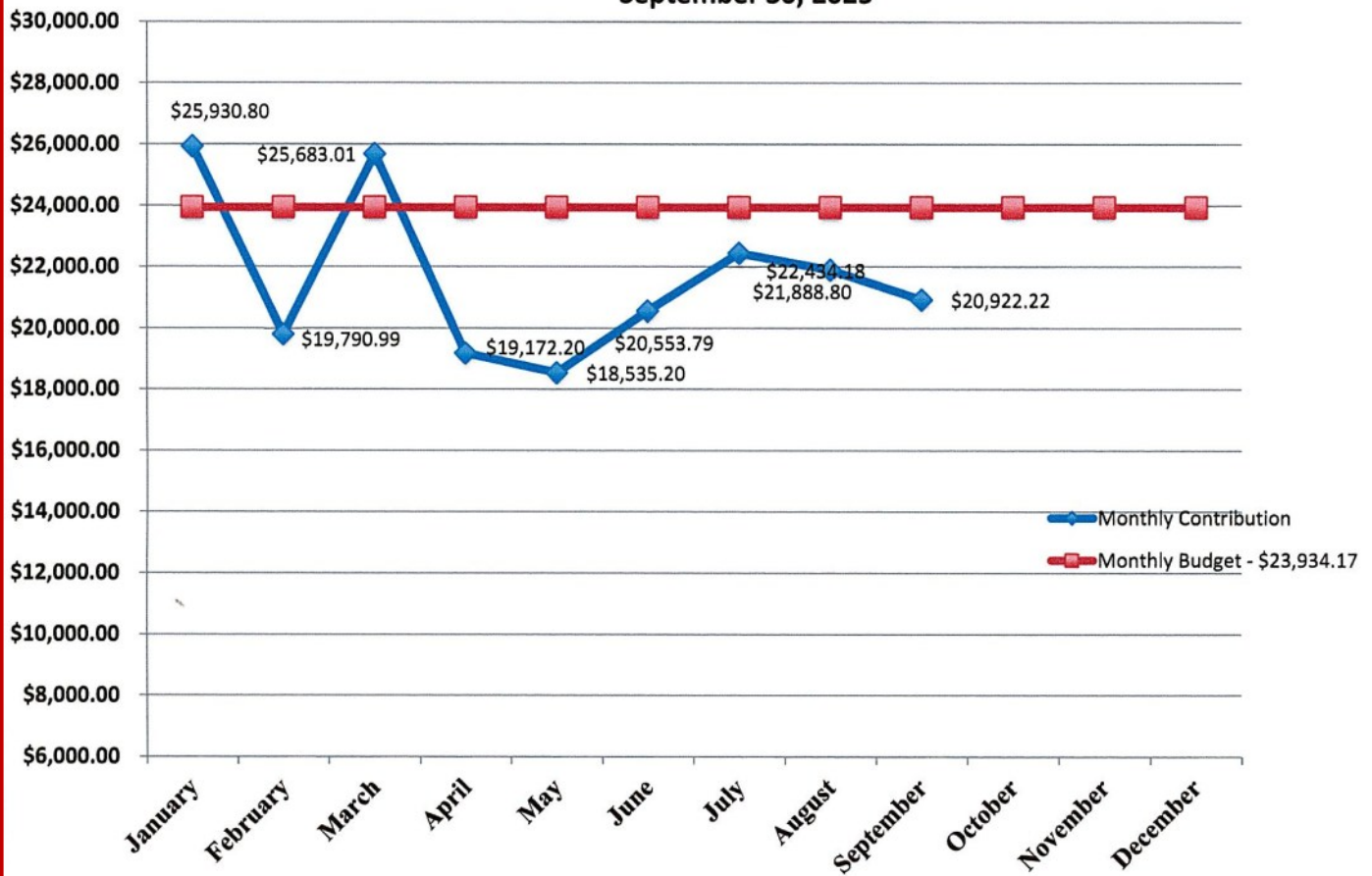
<u>GIFTS</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Submitted-YTD</u>
Noisy Offering		\$1,533.06
Cook Food Shelf		
Social Outreach Ministry	\$138.00	\$2,068.05
Pastor's Discretionary Fund		
Salvation Army		
Lenten Offerings		\$1,076.00
Mental Health and Wellness		\$2,695.00
Cook Lions Club-flood relief		
Camperships		\$2,005.00

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.

Submitted by Sue Carstens, Bkkp

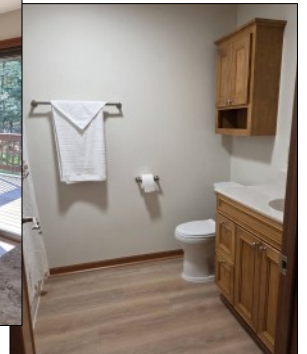
Giving in Grace

2025 General Fund Offerings September 30, 2025



More parsonage updates: new flooring, drywall, some windows, new fixtures, appliances, cabinetry, decking, roofing, and much more!

Thanks to ALL the tireless workers!



As we look ahead to 2026, your Mental Health and Wellness Team invites our church community to join us in a year-long focus on whole-person wellness. We believe that God created us as beautifully complex beings — body, mind, and spirit — and that caring for each part of ourselves is an important act of faith and stewardship.

Our Four Pillars of Health:

- The Mental Health & Wellness Team includes:*
- | |
|--------------------------|
| <i>Deacon Kari Olson</i> |
| <i>Lauren Simensen</i> |
| <i>Vickie Lange</i> |
| <i>Kathy Leppert .</i> |

by Patti Naughton, Worship Team Member

1. To be a Worship Assistant – a copy of the prayers will be emailed to you; and there will be a copy in the office on Sunday.
2. To be a Reader – a copy of the readings will be emailed and a copy will be available in the office on Sunday.

1. You can sign up to serve communion. The first Sunday of the month, communion is served at the rail so Deacon Kari and a Worship Assistant is all that is needed; second thru fourth Sundays two additional people are needed.
2. You can sign up to prepare the communion elements. You may set up the communion trays Tuesday - Thursday during office hours. The wafer are prepared on Sunday morning. Everything then needs to be placed on the altar for worship.
3. You can sign up to clean the communion trays and other items after worship on Sunday.
4. Or you can sign up for all three steps!

Thank you for considering serving in any of these Ministry Opportunities areas.

Trinity's Women of the ELCA will meet Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 9:30 am, and will include a short Bible study,

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Laurentian Conference gathered on October 1, at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mt. Iron. The theme was "Blessed Among Women".

"Beloved, I pray that all many go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul."

— John 3:2

The speaker was Rev. Taryn Montgomery, NEMN Synod Minister for Discipleship & Christian Community, and she spoke on Women's Mental Health.

Those attending from Trinity were Susan Gustafson, Gerry Ruuska, and Norma Thomas.

QUILTERS

October was a busy, productive month for the Trinity quilters. In addition to the weekly full-house ladies who attend nearly every Tuesday, there were visitors one week to help celebrate. On October 14, the usually quiet group was joyously celebrating two big birthdays -- Lorraine Carlson (97) and Audrey Armagost (90), plus the completion of quilt number 500 by Hope Simpson. Amazing ladies, doing amazing work. And they each had a cake to enjoy and share with the crew.



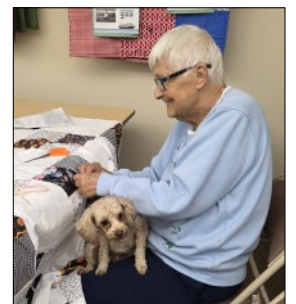
The Birthday Girls -- Lorraine and Audrey



The Quilting Queen -- Hope with daughters Lynn & Loann



And these fall sessions had the bonus of a mascot to guard the piles of quilts and help keep track of Gerry. Meet Ginger, Gerry's grand puppy, who came with her each week.



Birthdays

1	Rachel Pearson	20	Lila Pearson
	Kory Zallar	22	Bob Walker
2	Bruce Anderson	24	Laura Aune
4	Karen Woods	26	AnDrew Scholler
15	Bill Woods	27	Sophie Arvila
17	Darrel Lindgren	28	Leo Wilenius
18	Layla Vraa		Tom Ojanen
19	Bruce Garbisch		



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

*Lord, Hear Our Prayers for those
needing healing and comfort:*

**PRAYERS
and
LOVE**

Cindy Aune, Paula Swanson, Kim Marwick, Mary Adriani, Mary Lindberg, Marilyn Jenkins, Gary & Patty Carlson, Roni Sarazine, Ryann Lee, Walter Putney, Art Dale, Dave O'Melia, Marla Kahn, Bruce & Judy Anderson.

Family & friends of Pat Lindberg, as they continue to mourn her death on September 27, 2025

The Call Committee as they move forward in preparing to call a pastor.

Those in the community and elsewhere feeling confused, disrupted and unsure; all affected by the government shut-down; and for all those who contribute to the flow of information; those facing medical testing, challenges, and difficult situations; those serving in the armed forces; and all those seeking Jesus Christ in their lives.

November is a 5-week month, so you know what that means -- *Noisy Offering Sunday!*

Please keep saving those coins to bring to worship on Sunday, November 30.

This month's offering will be going to:
Cook Area Food Shelf



NOVEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

11/2/25	Crystal Whitney Elizabeth Storm
11/9/25	Brenda & Bill Tibbetts Barb Brenna
11/16/25	Laura Aune Beth Sprouls
11/23/25	Nicole & Tom Hed & Family Caroline Roesch & Sully
11/30/25	Lorene & Mike Enzmann Peggy & Marvin Pearson

DECEMBER SUNDAY COFFEE SERVERS

12/7/25	Sonja & Dale Foss Jane Kujala
12/14/25	Jody & Dale Bixby Limdsey Stachovich
12/21/25	Ivette & Danny Reing Nancy & Dan Reing
12/28/25	Trisha Aune Ashley Skorseth Kerrisa & Joel Anderson



Food Shelf Contributions at Trinity

You may or may not be aware of the little food shelf tucked away in the corner of the main entrance hallway. It has been there for many years, and the time for more use is now. Due to various shutdowns and discontinued food programs, there is a real need for assistance in the Cook area.

If you would like to help, you may drop off non-perishable items during office hours (8-4, Mon-Fri) or Sunday mornings.

If you need food assistance, it will be there for you to take.

Items will be available for anyone who may be in need or may be transported to the Cook Area Food Shelf.

Thanks to all who have prepared, served or shared coffee and goodies Sunday mornings.

Please be sure to check the table in the Fellowship Hall for monthly lists and updates.

For more information or to sign up, please call or text:

Leigh Zika (218-780-1769) or
Lindy Wilenius (218-780-4644)

Scripture Readings November 2025

November 2

All Saints Sunday
Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18
Psalm 149
Epiphany 1:11-23
Luke 6:20-31

November 9

22nd Sunday of Pentecost
Job 19:23-27a
Psalm 17:1-9
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-28

November 16

23rd Sunday of Pentecost
Malachi 4:1-2a
Psalm 98
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke
21:5-19

November 23

Christ the King
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 46
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

November 30

1st Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5
Psalm 122
Romans 13:11-14
Matthew 24:36-44



Always fun to welcome everyone for a new year of Bible Quest! This year's theme is "Kindness" with a verse from Ephesians:

"Be kind & tenderhearted, forgiving one another as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Jim & Mickey's famous pancakes snack, plus music time and weekly Bible stories. Our favorite, "Mad Scientist" made a return appearance and our first project was making sensory calming bottles! The confirmation students even came to help out, along with other "BQ Alums". Thanks again, to all of our volunteers who continue to help make this weekly event work. It couldn't happen without YOU!



Building and Grounds

I'm happy, and relieved, to report that repairs to the church roof (above the mechanical room) were made September 27. Our highly skilled volunteer crew of Dale Bixby and Mike Lee were up to the task and finished the job in less than 3 hours (this, after unsuccessful attempts to hire an outside contractor during the past 15 months!).

I've thanked them on behalf of our team and ask that you also reach out and acknowledge their **job well done!**

Larry Lange, Co-Chair Building & Grounds



November 2025						
1 <i>Celebration of Life for Ivy Reinholtzen 11:00 am</i>						
2 Clocks Back All Saints Sunday Worship w/comm 9:30 am AA/Al-Anon 6:30pm	3 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am Knit/Crochet 10:45am	4 Bible Study 9:30 am	5 Bible Quest 3:45 pm Confirmation 6 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 6:30 pm	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7	8
9 Worship w/comm 9:30 am AA/Al-Anon 6:30pm	10 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	11 Bible Study 9:30 am Veterans Luncheon 11:00 – 1:00 pm	12 Bible Quest 3:45 pm Confirmation 6 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 6:30 pm	13 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	14	15
16 <i>Christ the King</i> Worship w/comm 9:30 am Council Mtg 11:00am AA/Al-Anon 6:30pm	17 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	18 Bible Study 9:30 am Library Board Mtg 6:00 pm	19 Bible Quest 3:45 pm Confirmation 6 pm Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 6:30 pm	20 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	21	22
23 Worship w/comm 9:30 am Congregational Mtg 10:45 am AA/Al-Anon 6:30pm	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Well 9:30 am	25 Bible Study 9:30 am	26 No Youth Activities Grace Notes 5:15pm Choir 6:30 pm	27 <i>Give Thanks</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28	29 
30 NOISY OFFERING Worship w/comm 9:30 am AA/Al-Anon 6:30pm						

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



NOVEMBER
2025

Trinity Lutheran Church Information

Congregational Care: Dn. Kari Olson
Music Director: Bailey Conger
Financial Manager/Bookkeeper: Sue Carstens
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.