

November 2013

Dear Friends of Trinity,

I posted a quote on Facebook the other day that sort of went “viral” in some circles. It attracted a little bit of internet traffic to our church’s Facebook page. It’s a very powerful quote about what the Christian Church is all about. I’ll quote it here in case you missed it:

"As someone who loves the church, I am saddened by the perception of Christianity as a vehicle of moral control and good behavior, rather than a haven for the discouraged and dying. It is high time for the church to remind our broken and burned out world that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a one-way declaration that because Jesus was strong for you, you're free to be weak; because Jesus won for you, you're free to lose; because Jesus succeeded for you, you're free to fail."-- Tullian Tchividjian (Grandson of Billy Graham)

I couldn't have said it any better.

This is a clarion call for the church to be the church, placing people’s trust and hope in Jesus Christ and not in themselves. The church begins to go off of the rails when it loses this focus.

The worship of the Christian Church is not a self-improvement or motivational seminar. It’s a living encounter with the Living Triune God in Word and Sacrament. It’s to appear before the Heavenly Throne to admit failure to live up to God’s standard of holiness, only to have that failure removed and swept away, releasing you from the burden of trying to fix it yourself. Jesus took your failures, your weaknesses, and your losses onto Himself. He became your sin as he hung on the cross. It defeated him. It shamed him. It embarrassed him.

It killed him.

God raised him from the dead. The victory is His and freely granted to us as His Word is proclaimed, as baptismal waters flow, as sacramental bread and wine is distributed from one sinful person (me) to another (you) in loving forgiveness. Nothing else in the world can give this to you.

Come, receive, and rejoice!

In Christ,
Pastor Hoag

Visit us on the web at www.trinitynewlenox.org

NOVEMBER 2013

SOCIAL MINISTRY:

MorningStar Christmas Gift Giving: Once again, our congregation will supply Christmas gifts, labeled “needs” and “wishes” for 8 MorningStar patrons. Ginny DeCarlo will supply the names and instructions to those wishing to shop for the residents’ needs and wishes. All gifts must be marked, wrapped, and returned to the church prior to December 8th, so they can be delivered to MorningStar on that day. The Giving Tree will be in place the beginning of November.

Reminder: Cookie Dough orders will be ready for pick-up on Friday, November 15th between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m.

Virgil Switzer’s November card is on the coffee table, awaiting your notations. Please remember to add Virgil’s name to your Christmas mailings, if possible. His address labels are available on the coffee table. We now look forward to Virgil’s release in early spring.

St. Matthew’s: The food and rummage delivery to St. Matthew’s will be made in mid-November, in time for their Thanksgiving dinner, serving 125-150 patrons. Please add your food donations to the hall collection to help this most needy and worthy charity.

Thank you to everyone who came out for the hayride on October 6th. We had a great day, and a lot of fun, at Konow’s Corn Maze.

Christmas Party: Our 14th annual Christmas Party will be held on Sunday, December 8th from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. All the usual trappings, i.e., Dino Jump, games, prizes, pizza and refreshments will be available. A free will offering will be collected. **Sign up sheets for attendance and food/drink donations will soon be posted.** A hymn-singing Christmas carol session will take place in the Sanctuary during the children’s activities. Hope you’ll be able to attend.

The next Social Ministry meeting will be Monday, November 11th at 7:00 p.m.

WOMEN’S LEAGUE:

Women’s League needs resale items for their second hand table at their Cookie Walk which will be held on Saturday, December 6th. Please drop off any new or gently used Christmas decorations, or other items that can be used for gifting. Children love to shop for inexpensive gifts. Items will be collected from November 1st to December 6th. You may drop off your items on the designated table in the back of the gym.

The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 7th from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. We welcome any donations of homemade Christmas cookies, homemade candy and other bakery goods from members of our congregation. Trays for your cookies will be available in the gym. Baked goods for the cookie sale can be dropped off Friday, December 6th from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or Saturday morning. The Women's League members: Cookie Walk setup will be on Friday morning at 9:00 a.m., December 6th with lunch served at noon.

SOWHOPE UPDATE: You are invited to attend a **documentary film screening at AMC Showplace 14 Theaters in New Lenox on Saturday, November 16th at 2:30 p.m.** This will be a time for inspiration, challenge, and discussion as we explore the struggles and the triumphs of women in the developing world. This innovative film features filming done by SowHope president, Mary Dailey Brown, a former White House photographer, during her travels to visit the women of SowHope. **Complimentary tickets are available upon request. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For tickets and to RSVP contact Alicia Longtin by Wednesday, November 13th at Alicia@sowhope.org or call 815.464.8207.**

CHANCEL:

Our next meeting is Monday, November 4th at 6:30 p.m. Hostesses: Sharon MacFarlane and Wendy Kaun.

Chancel wishes to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon on October 2nd. A special thank you to the ladies of Women's League for their generous donations of dessert items.

Church Council News:

Elections for several council positions were held the last week in October. All positions were filled in this process, and we are excited to welcome some new faces to council starting in January. **First, however, council would like to thank Randy Varju, Denise Buchanan, Debbie Aiken and Bob Look for their faithful service on church council.** We also welcome the following new council members and look forward to working with them starting in January:

- Council Secretary: Kim Blecke
- Co-Director of Property: Bill Sandt (continuing his role)
- Co-Director of Outreach: Bob Blecke
- Youth Director: Michelle Hoag
- Co-Director of Worship & Spiritual Life: Diane Sewing

We also thank Bruce Hasch for his willingness to extend his service as Treasurer for another two-year term. Jeff Alfano has expressed an interest in shadowing Bruce for this term to learn as much of Bruce's role at Treasurer as possible. Bruce will leave rather big shoes to fill, but Jeff is up for the task and we appreciate his interest in eventually serving Trinity in this role.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH NEWS:

The Youth Halloween Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, October 20th was a great success. The children had a great time. Thanks to the people to set it all up. It was a lot of work but well worth the effort and time, when you see all the smiling faces. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 22nd at the 10:30 a.m. service. Practice will start during the Sunday School openings in November

YOUTH NEWS

Thank you to all who came to the Craft Fair. We appreciate your support.

Jr. Hi and High School Students: Not Quite a Lock-In! Friday, November 29th from 6:00 – 11:00 p.m. Save the date!

MORNINGSTAR SERVING DATES:

Our MorningStar serving dates for November are **11/4** and **11/18** at 3:45 pm. November sign-up sheets are on the hallway table.

Thank you to everyone who has donated mugs and laundry detergent for MorningStar. Your donations are very much appreciated.

Thanksgiving food basket needs list: Spaghetti sauce, jelly, cranberry sauce, peanut butter, Jello, spaghetti, cereal, canned vegetables, salad dressing and canned soup. Please place your items on the special table in the hallway and they will be delivered to MorningStar.

Trinity Pre-School – Fall 2014 Session.

The month of December is registration for church members only. If you would like or register please see Jeanine Welsh or call her at 815.485.6973

Choir: The Choir has resumed their practices on **Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church balcony. They have already sung a few times in our worship services. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. New voices are always welcome.

Thrivent. Eligible Thrivent Members – **Help our church “see double”** by directing Choice Dollars during Thrivent’s \$15 Million Church Direction Campaign! **Any amount you direct to our church will be doubled.** To make your direction, go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800.847.4836 and say “Thrivent Choice”. This runs till November 30, 2013.

Financial Secretary’s and Treasurer’s 3rd Quarter Report:

Financial Secretary’s and Treasurer’s 3rd Quarter Report: The congregation adopted a 2013 General Fund Budget of \$196,472 at its Annual Meeting on January 27. The Budget is 4.6% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2012. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. A modest salary increase of 2% was granted to Pastor, the Secretary, Organist and Choir Director. Primary support of the General Fund by the congregation is very important to meeting Trinity’s ongoing needs.

During the quarter, all due bills were paid. Budgeted contributions were made to Missions and LCCF. Additionally, \$1,492.25 was given to Feed My Starving Children, on behalf of Trinity members, as part of direct out-reach efforts. General Fund receipts were about 1.3% higher than those received during the first nine months of last year. General Fund expenses were about 3% lower than the budget for the same period. The balance on the original \$100,000 mortgage, used to finance the new restrooms, was \$16,079.23 at September 30. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

ENVELOPES:

Members who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2014, please, fill out a request with your name, address, and telephone number and give it to Doris, Church Secretary, or place in Janice Prospero’s church mailbox. Request sheets will be on the table in the hallway soon. You may also contact Janice at 815 485-3558. Request forms are on the table in the hallway.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Flowers are placed on our altar every Sunday to enhance and beautify our altar area in memory of a loved one, to commemorate a birthday, wedding anniversary or in celebration of God’s blessings. The flower order forms are attached to the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. If you would like to give altar flowers, complete the form and place it in the Chancel Guild mailbox in the church office. If you have any questions, please call Christine Stark at 815.478.4069 or email her at candb.stark@gmail.com. The cost of the flowers is \$8.50 per vase or \$17.00 for both vases. The flowers may be picked up after the Sunday service.

SIGN UP SHEETS FOR NOVEMBER are on the hallway table. Stop and sign up to be a Greeter or a Reader.

Prayer Chain: Please feel free to contact Ginny DeCarlo or Pat Fuerst if you have a prayer request. You may call Ginny at 815.485.2001 (or email at vdecarlo1952@gmail.com) or Pat at 815.485.6441.

Gifts That Give Twice. CRS Fair Trade Community Order, St. Jude Parish, Sunday, November 3, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., West Narthex/Kitchenette. For information contact Lorrie Tracy at lorrietracy@att.net or 815.485.3991 or Mary Lee Gustafson at 815.485.2238.

St. Judes Church: Coffee Sale dates: November 30 and December 1, 2013/ Fair Trade Sales will be held after week-end masses.

Concordia University Chicago presents its annual Service of Lessons & Carols, Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 8th at 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be received to support the CUC Music Department. Location: Chapel of Our Lord, 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, IL.

PLEASE CHECK THE COAT RACK IN THE HALLWAY BY THE GYM. WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF ITEMS THAT HAVE NOT BEEN PICKED UP. A few are recent additions, but some have been there for a while. **Items not claimed will be given to St. Matthews when we make our next trip to Chicago.**

What's that sound?

We learned in October that our church organ was in a state of disrepair. Our thanks to Lori Hilger for her willingness to move to the piano for church services and to Dan Bay for configuring his keyboards for use in our traditional services. Many of you will remember Bob Mitchell, former organist at Trinity, and even he got into the act here to help us address this problem.

Bob was instrumental in the decision to purchase our current organ in 1973 (yes, 40 years ago as of this past June!). While he left the area in 1984, he has since moved back and currently resides in Arlington Heights. I spoke to Bob on several occasions about the organ and he provided me with some valuable insights, some of which I wanted to share with all of you. We paid about \$15,000 for this organ just over 40 years ago. While parts can still be found for it, repairs are not inexpensive. We incurred a charge of close to \$1,500 to replace the "DAC" board, which is one of the electrical panels that amplifies the sounds of the organ. Unfortunately, in the process of replacing this board it was also discovered that the power supply needed to be replaced at an additional cost of just over \$800. That 'crackling' noise you may have heard on occasion was the organ sputtering due to an insufficient power supply. We have gone ahead and ordered that part as well, and we are hopeful that it will be replaced this Friday, one day ahead of Pastor Bacon's son's wedding. It will be nice to hear the full sounds of our organ once again this coming weekend. Looking forward, though, we need to think about what to do when the next repair is needed. Please read on for more details on this.

Our current organ is a digital organ (not a pipe organ) and it has served us well for more than 40 years. Predicting the next repair is impossible to do, as there is no way to know when an electrical panel will stop working. At some point, the cost of repair will need to be considered

against the cost to replace. Among replacement options, a keyboard will likely be among the options given the technological advances and comparative cost of a keyboard versus an organ.

Rest assured, no decision has been made about the organ as yet. With the recent repair – funded in large part by a donation from Women’s League of approximately \$1,500 (please THANK a member of Women’s League for their forethought and generosity here) – we appear to be in good shape with the organ. Looking forward, though, we have just exhausted our organ repair fund plus about \$800 more and we’ll need to consider what to do when the next repair is needed. We plan to present options on this at the 2014 Annual Congregational Meeting in January. Please plan to attend!

Church office hours: Monday, 9-3; Tuesday and Thursday, 1-4; Friday 9-12.

NOVEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Andrea Farneti | 1 | Michelle Hoag | 24 |
| Lou Verchimak | 2 | Marge Dykstra | 25 |
| Debbie Aiken | 3 | Kayla Baggs | 26 |
| Nicholas Myers | 3 | Amanda Koehler | 27 |
| Anna Marie Pigney | 3 | Jennifer Mudrock | 27 |
| Jim Harbin | 4 | Isabela Opiola | 28 |
| Jana King | 4 | Steven Tinker | 28 |
| Rob Romadka | 4 | Melissa Gappa | 30 |
| Jaynie Olsen | 6 | | |
| Stuart Renwick | 6 | | |
| Bill Studer | 6 | | |
| Delaney DePolo | 7 | | |
| Ellen Guenther | 7 | | |
| Joshua Baxa | 9 | | |
| Jennifer Paul | 9 | | |
| Jacqueline Rohner | 9 | | |
| Garrett Aiken | 10 | | |
| Cody Grady | 10 | | |
| Megan Harbin | 11 | | |
| Layla Teare | 11 | | |
| Sharon Cundari | 12 | | |
| Michael Bay | 13 | | |
| Jeffrey Baxa | 13 | | |
| Lydia Friedrich | 13 | | |
| Nick Varju | 13 | | |
| Daniel Willenborg | 13 | | |
| Jennifer Pfeifer | 16 | | |
| Cheryl Baggs | 17 | | |
| Kim Blecke | 17 | | |
| Esmeralda Morales | 18 | | |
| Charles Domico | 19 | | |
| Sydra Seville | 20 | | |
| Jennifer Studer | 20 | | |
| Kip Pavlovich | 22 | | |
| Hunter Sherman | 22 | | |
| Suzanne Jablonski | 24 | | |

NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

| | |
|---------------------------|----|
| Bill and Sally Jackson | 2 |
| Adolf and Katharina Fandl | 5 |
| Troy and Christy Schultz | 9 |
| Matthew and Tina Taylor | 9 |
| Ken and Carol Oldendorf | 13 |
| John and Mary Farnetti | 16 |
| James and Sandy Jeffries | 23 |
| Ed and Judy VanderVeen | 25 |