

November 2015

*Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when he said Poenitentiam agite (Repent!), willed that the whole life of believers should be one of repentance.—Dr. Martin Luther, The Ninety-Five Theses of 1517, Thesis 1 (Posted on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517, just in time for the Festival of Relics which was to take place the next day, All Saints Day. Indulgences were granted for viewing the relics.)*

Dear Fellow Trinitarians,

What comes to your mind when you hear the word *repent*?

Some of you might say that repentance is feeling sorry and remorse for something wrong that you did. This is the standard answer and it has a ring of truth to it. But it's only part of the picture.

The word "repent" means "to change your mind". When your life is taking a certain direction and you discover that it is the wrong direction and you stop going in that direction, you have repented. You have changed your mind. It's that simple and that difficult. There might be a feeling of sadness and regret that you allowed your life to go that far askew, but there might not. The feeling is a sign that you have repented but it is not repentance itself.

What does repentance look like? To answer that, open your Bible and turn to Luke 15:1-7. There you will see the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Notice the punchline (verse 7): "Just so, I (Jesus) tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance." We are supposed to see the one lost sheep as the picture of repentance. What did the sheep do besides get lost? Nothing.

Ordinarily, when sheep wander from the flock and are lost they stop, lay themselves down at that very spot, and start bleating. This is repentance. The sheep is then found by the shepherd who searches for it until he finds it. The shepherd brings the sheep back to the village and rejoices with the villagers.

Repentance is not an action of merit. It's more like giving up going further on the wrong path. It's to stop and cry for help. In our lives, repentance is stopping and giving up our sinful ways. But that isn't what saves us. It's being found by Our Shepherd, Jesus Christ! And he has found us! The gifts of his cross and resurrection are given to all penitent sinners in Word and Sacrament. Come and receive the forgiveness won for you by Christ's passion, death, and resurrection!

In Christ,  
Pastor Hoag

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NOVEMBER 2015



**"We Give Thanks"**

Our Father in Heaven, We give thanks for the pleasure  
Of gathering together for this occasion.  
We give thanks for this food Prepared by loving hands.  
We give thanks for life, The freedom to enjoy it all  
And all other blessings. As we partake of this food,  
We pray for health and strength To carry on and try to live as You would have us.  
This we ask in the name of Christ, Our Heavenly Father. (*Harry Jewell*)

**Please join us for our Thanksgiving Day Worship Service  
on Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m.**

**CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE HELD LAST WEEKEND. The officers for 2016 are:**  
President: Jeff McDonald; Secretary: Kim Blecke; Financial Secretary: Jan Prospero; Treasurer: Tim King; Directors of Outreach: Bob Blecke and Phil MacFarlane; Director of Parish Education: Judi Donovan; Director of Social Ministry: Jeanine Welsh; Directors of Spiritual Life: Ed Tatro and Diane Sewing; Directors of Property: Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz; Director of Youth Ministry: Michelle Hoag.  
Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

The next Church Council Meeting will be on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**UPDATE**

Update from our Church Council President, Jeff McDonald

Lift project: October brought us a few delays but considerable progress on the lift. We began this project in early August and had initially hoped to have it completed within 60 days. We are now approaching the 90-day mark and we are very near completion of the project with just a few additional hurdles to clear. Some clarifications and modifications from the Village resulted in some time delays and unfortunately some cost overruns as well, as our plans required some minor modifications to comply with all of the Village codes. The exterior stair rebuild also involved a fairly sizable cost overrun once we realized that there was not a salvageable foundation beneath them on which we could build the new stairs. We are in the final stages of Village approval of those plans as well, and hope to see the new stairs poured very shortly. Special thanks to our property team - particularly Dan Bay and Jeff Lorenz - for their efforts at

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keeping this project moving along and for helping to ensure that our completed project will be in compliance with the Village's code requirements.

Look for a Lift Dedication to occur in the month of November where additional details of this project will be shared with the congregation. We plan to offer this at all three of our weekend services and we will make sure we're available to answer any questions you might have about this. It does appear we will have a small balance due at the end of these projects, and we plan to borrow from ourselves to cover any shortfall we experience here. We plan to include the final figures in the dedication presentation.

As our 75th anniversary year draws to a close, we have accomplished a great deal at Trinity. A good portion of our focus this year has been internal, and in light of our celebration of 75 years, that focus seemed appropriate. We do have time, however, to shift our focus externally before our year is complete, and to share our good fortune with others who are in need. Our Social Ministry group will again be providing Christmas presents for some of the members of MorningStar Mission. Members are welcome and encouraged to select a star from our tree and either purchase or fund the purchase of Christmas presents for needy families who are served by this local mission. They can also use monetary donations, though, as they don't get any federal or state funds because their mission is focused on the Gospel. How about joining together as a congregation and turning our focus to a faith-based mission that helps members of our very community to get on their feet - all in the name of Jesus? Please consider donating to MorningStar Mission in one of the envelopes that will be hung from our Christmas tree. Let's join together and help support an organization who keeps the Christ in Christmas, even when that makes them ineligible for state funds. We've accomplished some great things for ourselves this year as we celebrate our 75th anniversary. What better way to end the year than to help others as well?

A brief narrative on MorningStar follows below:

MorningStar Mission relieves the spiritual and physical hunger of the poor by providing food for the hungry, clothing for the needy, shelter for the homeless and the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all. Since 1909, MorningStar Mission has served men, women, children and entire families in Joliet and Will County, offering hope for the hurting through one-time meals and long-term recovery programs.



## **YOU ARE INVITED.**

**November 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.** As a continuation of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, the Rev. Rob Rogers, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Villa Park, will be our guest preacher. Pastor Rogers is the Midwest Regional Vice President of the English District. He has a heart for youth ministry and is a fantastic speaker. He will be preaching at all services and will speak in between services on Sunday about "What's Going On in the English District". **The Social Ministry committee will host a mini-continental breakfast in between the Sunday morning services.** *All members are invited and encouraged to join us.* A sign-up sheet will be on the hallway table.



**Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's 3rd Quarter Report:** The congregation adopted a 2015 General Fund Budget of \$201,752 at its Annual Meeting on January 25. The Budget is 2.7% higher than contributions made to the General Fund in 2014. The Council deemed the increase warranted to cover expected higher operating costs. 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. General Fund receipts were nearly 4% higher than those received during the same period last year. A final payment of \$2,178, for inside stair work, and a \$17,500 progress payment, for the new Lift, were both paid out of fundraising proceeds. A balance of \$31,732.71 remains for the Lift and Outside Front Stair projects. We want to thank everyone for their support of Trinity Lutheran Church and its missions. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Prospero, Financial Secretary, or Bruce Hasch, Treasurer.

## **SOCIAL MINISTRY**



**"HALLOWEEN PALOOZA" WAS HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18<sup>TH</sup>.** All the children, and adults, had a good time, and were able to bring their ghost lanterns home with them. Thanks to the Social Ministry Committee for sponsoring this event.



### **MorningStar Christmas Activities.**

We will, once again, place the MorningStar Giving Tree on the hall table, complete with envelopes for monetary donations, to be forwarded for this most charitable mission's works. Thank you, in advance, for your gifts in any amount.

**"Stars of Hope"** This is in conjunction with the MorningStar Giving Tree. Members are encouraged to select a star and either purchase, or fund the purchase (by donating to the Giving Tree) of Christmas presents for needy families who are served by this local mission.

*Ginny DeCarlo has chaired this project for a number of years, but she is taking a back seat this year, and will be training two new volunteers and co-chairs: Kim Standard and Jen DePolo. Kim and Jen are very excited about their new adventure. Please continue to support this project. Thanks to Kim and Jen for taking over this project. A special thanks to Ginny for getting this project started, and for continuing to help Kim and Jen.*

## SAVE THE DATE!



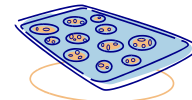
**Christmas Party.** The annual congregational Christmas celebration will be held on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. **This is for all members, not just the children. While the children are playing in the gym, the adults are invited to join us in the church to sing some Christmas Carols.** Pizza, desserts, salads and drinks will be served at 4:45 p.m. Games, supplied & supervised by the Youth Group, will begin shortly thereafter. **Please sign the designated sheet on the hall table, indicating your dinner donation.** Sign-Up Deadline is Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>.

**The next Social Ministry meeting will be Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Sue Kunce's home.** We would love to have some new members on our committee. New ideas are always welcome. Please call the church office if you are interested or have questions. 815.485.6973.



**WOMEN'S LEAGUE.** Due to the Cookie Walk on December 5<sup>th</sup>, there will be no meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**The Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.** All proceeds benefit the needs of the church. **Baked goods from the congregation are needed and appreciated.** Trays for your cookies will be available in the gym. Baked goods for the cookie sale can be dropped off Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., or Saturday morning.



**Women's League will once again be collecting stocking stuffers for Salem. Some suggestions are listed below. Please drop of your donations by Sunday, December 13th.** Please place these in the appropriate boxes by the hallway table.

Crossword books  
Alarm clocks  
Blankets  
Calendars  
Pen/pencil sets  
Electronic Games  
Note Cards  
Slippers w/soles  
Scarves/mittens

Hats  
Markers  
Tissues  
Wallets  
Watches  
Tags  
Frames  
Bows  
Hosiery

Socks  
Perfumes  
Powder  
Checkers  
Movies  
Bibles  
Ribbons  
Lap Desk

## **CHANCEL GUILD**



**The Chancel Guild members would like to thank the congregation, family and friends that took part in this year's Salad Luncheon on October 7th. Our guests enjoyed the delicious salads and desserts. It was a Great time for everyone to visit, as well. Your support is appreciated. A special "thank you" to the Women's League ladies, who once again baked and served the delicious desserts. It is always nice to have the Women's League and Chancel Guild ladies work together.**

**The next Chancel Guild meeting is Monday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m.** Hostesses: Denise Buchanan and Christine Stark. All ladies of Trinity are welcome to join us. If you have any questions, please call the church office at 815.485.6973.

### **Chancel Schedule for November:**

October 31/November 1: Ann Romadka, Allene Bachmann  
November 7/8: Allene Bachmann, Janice Prospero  
November 14/15: Janice Prospero, Jan Falk  
November 21/22: Jan Falk, Kay Purnell  
November 26: Thanksgiving Day: Kay Purnell, Denise Buchanan  
November 29: Denise Buchanan



Several people have been helping with the outside flowers and weed control through the summer and fall. Several of the volunteers, that we know of, are Pat Czerwinski, Sandy Peters, and Virgil Switzer. There have probably been others who are not listed because we do not know who has helped. If you have helped and would like to be included in this list, please call the church office. Thanks to everyone who has helped with this project. Your help is appreciated.



**ALTAR FLOWERS:** The 2016 Flower Chart is up. This is a good time to select your special date(s). Order forms are attached to the side of the cabinet in the hallway outside the church office. 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. 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](mailto: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.

## **YOUTH NEWS**



Thanks to everyone who came out to the craft fair! We had a great turnout and a great variety of items. The Youth Group thank you for your support.



***"No Quite a Lock-In" - Friday, November 27, 7:00 – 11:00 pm for junior high and high school students. Sign up on the youth bulletin board.***





### **MORNINGSTAR SERVING DATES:**

Our MorningStar serving dates for November are **11/2** and **11/16** at 3:45 pm. November sign-up sheets are on the hallway table. Thank you to all the volunteers who serve each month.



### **Trinity Pre-School – AM spots still available. Please tell your friend and neighbors.**

There is a non-refundable registration fee of \$66.00 per student. For the school year beginning September 2015 the tuition per month is \$100 for two day students, and \$125 for three days students. Children must have turned 3 by September 1, 2015. For further information, please call Trinity Lutheran Church at 184.485.6973.

**The next Pre-School Board Meeting will be held Sunday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.**



**Choir:** The Choir practices on **Wednesday, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church balcony. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing. New voices are always welcome.



### **ENVELOPES:**

Members, who have not received offering envelopes in the past and would like to request them for the year 2016, 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, Financial Secretary, church mailbox. Request forms are on the table in the hallway. Also, members who desire to discontinue use of envelopes, please contact Doris or Janice.





**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](mailto:vdecarlo1952@gmail.com)) or Pat at 815.485.6441.



**Surviving the Holidays – Grief Share – Saturday, November 21, 2015 9:00 – 11:00 am** Seminar, St. Paul Lutheran Church, 6201 Vollmer Road, Matteson. For more information or details call 708.720/0880 or visit [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org).

**Items left at church:** Several jackets/sweater and also a large glass baking dish. This baking dish may be left from a donated item for the mini-continental breakfast which was held the beginning of October. All items are on the coat rack outside the gym. Please take home what belongs to you.

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

