

TRINITY CONNECTION

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA • 735 2nd St. SE • P.O. Box 249 • MILACA, MN • 56353

Telephone: 320-983-6420 Website: trinitymilaca.org Email: trinitymilaca@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinitymilaca

Volume 27, Issue 11 • November 2021

Pastor Bauer, servant of Jesus Christ at Trinity Lutheran Church; grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



In (Christ Jesus) the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy Temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God. Ephesians 2:21-22

Halloween and All Saints Day go together. October 31st is Holy Evening. As Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve precede Christmas and New Year, so Halloween precedes All Saints Day. All Saints is celebration of those who have gone before us to eternity and God. Halloween has morphed into a ghoulish and generally lighthearted celebration of the dead. Maybe the sweetness of the candy given to children is a sign of the sweetness of the transition we are promised from death to life. Maybe the welcome we give to the ghouls who come to our doors is a sign of the way God welcomes those who have died into eternal homes. So, we put these together.

During the pandemic of the past year one of the most popular activities to pass the time of being alone at home was putting together puzzles. I did not assemble any puzzles at home, but I worked on many at my in-laws. My brother and I were puzzle doers as kids. I relish other puzzles now, crosswords (which I worked on with my dad), Crypto Quips (which Marian Peterson taught me to work), and Sudoku (that entertained my mom later in life.) Put it together and figure it out is an entertaining pastime.

At the start of the pandemic, I began to write. I did not realize how important writing would become for me. After thirty-six years of reading the Bible, commentaries, conversations, and musings, it has given me the opportunity to put together what I think, what I believe, what I have learned and what is important to me about God, faith and the scriptures that have been my companion through it all. I have thought about doing that many times, but never had a format or a forum to do it. Weekly sermons are too disconnected and focused in a different way. Slowly reading through texts, Ruth, Psalms, the Letters of John, the Gospel of Mark provided the path. I not only like doing, at some level at this point in my life I feel a need to do it.

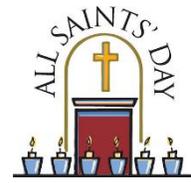
Religion is word that applies to all this. The etymology, where the word came from, of "religion" goes back to the Latin word "religare," "to bind." To put together like a puzzle, to bind like straw into a sheaf, to combine flour, water, salt and yeast to make bread, we like to put things together. In life we gather together experiences, relationships, knowledge, longings, and our collective existence and try to make some sense of it. What does it mean? What comes next? Why am I here? Even though the pieces create a picture, there is a feeling of its being incomplete. So, we consider religion, spirituality, faith and the possibility that there is something else, something more, which we call God. For me Christianity has set

before me the particular pieces that I understand as faith, though more and more I search into other sets of pieces from other experiences of this puzzle to garner other wisdom and wonder.

As much as I do this work, as many pieces of the puzzle that fit together in my understanding, I will never finish the puzzle. Only God will do that for me. Even so, I cannot help but look and wonder, and sift through what I have come to know, experience, love and hope for, then try to make some sense of it. At this point I do not know if I have a picture of a mountain range or an ocean view. I do believe that it is bigger and more encompassing than the sum of the pieces I have to work with, so I keep at it. Hopefully the connections I make are helpful to the puzzle of life you are assembling as you put what you are and what is together.

Keep the faith. Say your prayers. Love like Jesus. Pastor Tim Bauer

All Saints Sunday



Sunday November 7th, we remember members of the congregation who have died and risen again in God and faith. This year we remember Audrey Batty who died on November 4, 2020, and Jay Wollum who died on January 19, 2021. Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ who gives us the victory and raises us to life with God and saints to sing Alleluia forever.

Congregation Needs



Sunday Worship sign up. Please keep in mind the weekly needs of our gathering; Communion, Lectors, Ushers, and the all-important Coffee Fellowship servers. We will try to announce from week to week the needs. If having a task to do helps keep you connected to worship, please call the church and sign up. If you are able, we need you.

We continue to need Sunday School guides to be with our children.

We have received requests for transportation assistance from Country Meadows.

Stewardship: God's World in Our Care – Thanksgiving Eve



Trinity Lutheran Church will host a Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 24th at 7:00 PM. In the past this has been a community service organized by the Milaca Ministerial. That organization no longer exists. Thanksgiving is a national celebration of the bounty and blessing of God. It is a call for us to give thanks, to express gratitude for the goodness of life. In the place of Thanksgiving, we do not merely bask in the glow, but turn our hearts to our neighbors in need. Come ye thankful people come. Invite others to worship and thanks.

Sunday School

Mark your calendar - Sunday School Christmas Program is Sunday, December 19th at our 9:30 service. For all kids involved in the program (age 3-6th grade), please mark your calendar for rehearsal the morning of Saturday, December 18th. We will practice for the program during Sunday School starting sometime in November and the first two weeks in December.



Trinity Notes

- Trinity Men's Coffee Fellowship – (Bring Your Own Coffee) will meet on Thursday, November 11th at 10:00 AM in the Trinity Room. All are Welcome!
- Trinity Lunch Group dates are: November 18th and December 16th. The dates are different due to the holidays.
- Have you moved? Have you dropped your landline and only using your cell? New email? Please call the church office or email your new information. Christine is updating the church directory and any new information would be appreciated. Thanks!
- A new safe and secure way to give electronically. Trinity has partnered with Give Lively to securely process your online donation. This transaction will appear on your bank statement as “Trinity Lutheran Church, Milaca MN.” The link is: <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/trinity-lutheran-church-milaca-mn>

National Youth Gathering

Trinity Lutheran Church has registered 21 people to attend the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in the summer of 2021: Abby Anderson, Alexa Anderson, Clay Anderson, Lydia Bauer, Sam Biniek, Hunter Bockoven, Shaina Christensen, Zach Elbert, Ahnna Elbert, Addy Greninger, Dylan Greninger, Mason Hartung, Ella James, Jack Nord, Cyan Steinbrecher, Braden Taylor, and Brock Talberg, along with Adult Leaders, Pastor Bauer, Wendy Anderson, Corey Greninger, and Kerri Steinbrecher. We will be preparing with Faith Formation and Fund Raising. It is a large group and the task before us is a bit daunting.

In the next couple months, we plan on the following means of raising the funds we need.

- Roll Sundays
- Tru Earth Laundry products
- Thanksgiving Pie Sale
- Christmas Child Care and Gift Wrapping
- Lefsa and Cookie Walk
- Appeal to Relatives for a gift



Please be patient with us and supportive of our efforts. We are grateful.

TLCW Tidbits

Mission Statement: To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

TLCW met October 14th, at 11:30 AM. TLCW minutes are published in the Trinity Connection Newsletter monthly.



Treasurer's report was given by Jan Larsen. The Teal's receipt program is providing a good amount of money for the TLCW. Thank you to all those that save the Teal's receipts!

The abbreviated summer conference was held on September 11th at Zion Lutheran in Grand Rapids. Elections were held for the Synod Board. Discussion revolving 2022 summer convention was held. Other discussion revolved around the programs for the Afghani refugees, update on Freedom Ranch, and updates on coming events dates. There was a quilt truck at the convention and we brought about 90 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

The Fall Gathering was at Our Saviors in Pequot Lakes on October 9th. Mary Kiel and Becky Romosz attended the gathering. Information was presented regarding the Afghani refugee, Freedom Ranch and the upcoming dates. A presentation was given about The Mustard Seed of Deerwood which takes in donations of clothing, furniture, beds, household goods, baby items and linens. They use these donated items to help equip families in the Deerwood Area. They also have a Thrift Shop from which the proceeds also go to help families.

We had discussions on the Thank Offering Service, the Love Offering and the Penny Offering. We are slowly moving back into the pre-pandemic mode for TLCW.

Next meeting date is November 10th at 11:30 AM.

Becky Romosz, President of TLCW

SAVE THESE DATES!

November 4th – Quilting
November 10th – Dorcas Circle & TLCW
November 18th – Quilting
November 28th – Thank Offering Service



Refugee Kits

There are several refugee kits for Lutheran Social Services that are available for contributions but we are collecting items for the toiletry kit.



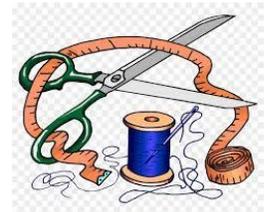
These items include large bottles of shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorants, soap, children and adult toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs, large package feminine pads, large package of razors and shaving cream.

There will be 2 separate drives. We are having one in November to meet the needs of the Afghani refugees. We will also have another in the spring to help with the year-round kits needed by Lutheran Social Services.

Currently there are about 13,000 refugees at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin. They are awaiting to be transferred to areas that have a high Afghani presence such as on the east coast, California, Texas and Washington State. Watch for more information and the collection wagon to appear in early November.

Trinity Quilters

Please help us! We need people that are willing to make quilt tops! The 60" x 80" quilt tops can be made at home using the material we have in the quilt room or your own fabric. It can be any pattern but if you would like some ideas contact one of the quilters!



Holiday Decorating December

We do want to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. My suggestion is this, particularly for those who have decorated in the past: When you have time after Thanksgiving, come in and set up one piece of the sanctuary. Don't try to do everything, but say; We will do a tree. We will do wreaths. Come see what has been done and then do one more thing.



Community News

City of Milaca would like to remind residents that there is NO PARKING on ANY city streets from November 1st to April 1st from 1 AM to 6 AM. Vehicles being plowed around could result in a ticket and/or being towed.

“This Side of Heaven” Country Gospel Sing-along on Sunday, November 7th at 3:00 PM at the Milaca Evangelical Free Church. Everyone is welcome - bring friends.