



Trinity Tidings

November

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www.34life.org



November 2016

From the Pastor's Pen

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(Photo by Kristine Fong)

MORE THAN JUST BREAD

*"Give us this day our daily bread."
 ~ Matthew 6:11*

These are familiar words – we say them every Sunday. Did you ever notice how repetitive this seems if you look at it by itself? Why include "this day"? Wouldn't "give us our daily bread" mean pretty much the same thing? In Greek, "day" and "daily" come from totally different words. "Daily" comes from *epiousion*, which is a really rare word in the ancient Greek literature. In fact, a church father from the early 3rd century, Origen, suggested that the gospel writers may have coined the word (since Jesus spoke Aramaic). According to Amy-Jill Levine, the word could mean "necessary for existence," "necessary for the current day," "necessary for the following day," or "to be coming."

Levine suggests that an alternate translation would be, "Give us tomorrow's bread today." If we read the verse in this way, we see that Jesus' prayer asks us to look forward to the messianic age. Scripture from the old and new testaments tells us of a messianic banquet – a great feast of the richest and best foods laid out for all, including the least, the misfits, the outcasts. This is food that will satisfy and enrich more than our bellies. Praying with Jesus, we can long for the world to be restored and made whole for everyone.

Or, we could see this prayer as saying, "Give us enough food to get us through today." We want to survive and be sustained to love and serve G-d. We know that all blessings come from G-d and we recognize that each time we eat. Bread is, for many of us, a staple of our daily diets so we ask G-d for bread. But, if we break this down a bit, we can recognize that grain comes from the earth, blessed by G-d with proper weather, but raised through the work of the farmer, ground by the work of the miller, and prepared by the hands of the baker. This prayer remembers not just G-d's blessing in our survival, but also the work of human hands – usually complete strangers – who are a source of our strength on the most basic level. In celebrating G-d's gift of bread, we celebrate all the ways that we are connected to one another, that we need one another. As Christians, it is our task to make our lives a blessing even when we cannot see whatever became of all the seeds that we planted. Let us continue to ask G-d to bless the labor of all who sustain us so that we may go out and serve, sustaining others all around.

~Rev. Elana Levy

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Music Notes erik collins



"We Gather Together - A Spiritual Journey into Thanksgiving" *Republished from November 2013*

Ever since I was a young child, I have always had a peculiar fascination with the autumn season. I think that this connection could easily be attributed to the crisp breezes, the leaves that change colors or the very important time of remembrance that takes place during the end of November. Yes, the combination of weather that almost seems mystical, yet deeply spiritual, in collaboration with the chance to slow down and reflect on the thoughts of all the people that come into our lives spreading grace and love is a true miracle.

Around this time last year I spent a good week in the little town of Richland Center located in the southwest corner of Wisconsin. With a population of just over 5000, I spent my days taking long walks around the town, visiting the local Oakwood Fruit Farm and Apple Orchard with my family and spending quiet hours of just sitting in the woods located directly behind my aunt's home. The images of orange and red trees, colorless skies and wild geese gently gliding along the wind instilled within me a sanctuary of peace. It was as though time had completely stopped and I was the only person among endless miles of sacred woodland. During those moments of spiritual tranquility the words of Rachel Field became an almost precise reflection of the surrounding scenery:

*Something told the wild geese it was time to go,
Though the fields lay golden something whispered, "snow."
Leaves were green and stirring, berries, luster-glossed,
But beneath warm feathers something cautioned, "frost."*

*All the sagging orchards steamed with amber spice,
But each wild breast stiffened at remembered ice.
Something told the wild geese it was time to fly,
Summer sun was on their wings, winter in their cry.*

It was at that moment that I realized the spiritual connection between nature and God's presence. The imagery of text in its purest moments can be overwhelmingly enchanting, whether the text be sacred in direct relationship to God or sacred in metaphoric description of God's natural creations. Throughout the remainder of my time in Wisconsin, I began every morning by going into those woods and reflecting on all the things that were most important in my life. This is what inspired me to write last year's November newsletter article: "*A Sacred History of Thanksgiving Music*." Through the text of song is where we are reminded to take some time and express our thanks for everything that has found a place into our lives. If you didn't have a chance to read the article I would encourage you to go back and gain some insight about the symbolism behind the hymns we sing in church around Thanksgiving time.

If you take a look you will notice that the hymn "We Gather Together" in our Glory to God hymnal is located in a different section than in the Presbyterian Hymnal 1990. Previously, this hymn was in the "Thanksgiving" section. Now it is located in the "Life of the Nations" section. During the hymnal lectures that I attended while in Montreat this past summer, I remember the presenter saying that the topic sections and hymns within them had been heavily researched. The section that "We Gather Together" is now in represents community. "Life of the Nations" is intended to hold hymns of or relating to unity around our global heritages, including but not limited to our own Presbyterian faith. This tells us that the act of giving thanks during this time of year is universal in meaning.

Somewhere within the refreshing memories of my time in the Wisconsin countryside, reflecting in the alluring woods during peaceful mornings, a realization stuck me. Celebrating Thanksgiving doesn't have to be sitting around and sharing a bountiful harvest. It can also be time spent with oneself in quiet meditation. No matter how we choose to give thanks for the wonders that God has given us each and every day of our lives, we are an inclusive community of people near and far away. We gather together as the life of our nations to take part in this great tradition, and I wanted to share with you a bestowal of my own spiritual journey into Thanksgiving.



-by Erik Collins, Director of Music

Music Notes: November 2016

How Can I Keep from Singing is an old Quaker hymn dating back to the 1800's in the United States. This new arrangement by Vermont-based choral composer Gwyneth Walker emphasizes the celebratory and life-affirming aspects of the song. The reference to prison cells, dungeon dark, etc., refer to Quaker (Friends) who were often imprisoned -- for refusing to worship the King of England, then refusing to bear arms. In her envisioning of this very unique arrangement Walker changes the meter from the traditional triple to duple.

*My life flows on in endless song: Above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, tho' far-off hymn, That hails a new creation.*

*Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing;
It finds an echo in my soul – How can I keep from singing?*

The beloved song from *Godspell*, **All Good Gifts**, becomes a sweeping anthem of gratitude in this stunning setting. With a classic hymn text and rich music by Stephen Schwartz, this piece evokes all in the spirit of joyful celebration.

*We plow the fields and scatter, The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered By God's almighty hand:
He sends the snow in winter, The warmth to swell the grain,
The breezes and the sunshine, And soft, refreshing rain.*

*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.*

*We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,
The seed time and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all thy love imparts
But that which thou desirest: our humble thankful hearts.*

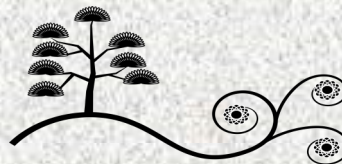
*All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above.
So thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all his love.*

We Gather Together is a Christian hymn of Dutch origin written in 1597 by Adrianus Valerius as "Wilt heden nu treden" to celebrate the Dutch victory over Spanish forces in the Battle of Turnhout. It was originally set to a Dutch folk tune. In the United States, it is popularly associated with Thanksgiving Day and is often sung at family meals and at religious services on that day. At the time the hymn was written, the Dutch were engaged in a war of national liberation against the Catholic King Philip II of Spain. "Wilt heden nu treden," "We gather together" resonated because under the Spanish King, Dutch Protestants were forbidden to gather for worship. Although this particular arrangement by John Carter is now permanently out of print, the choir enjoy singing this rendition every other year.

*We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known.
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His Name; He forgets not His own.*

*Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, were at our side, all glory be Thine!*

*We all do extol Thee, Thou Leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our Defender will be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy Name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!*



Finance/Stewardship randy smith

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Stewardship Committee’s “Time and Talent” survey. If you did not receive a form in the mail or pick one up at the church, we will have some extra copies in the church office. Please drop the completed form at the church office anytime. These forms are an important part of planning for the upcoming year and the continued vitality of Trinity. Your participation is much appreciated!

~ Randy Smith,
Stewardship/Finance Team

Evangelism brenda cunningham

Our new Trinity tri-fold brochure has been received and is ready to give to Visitors and Potential Members. Please take a look – copies are on the table in the Narthex.

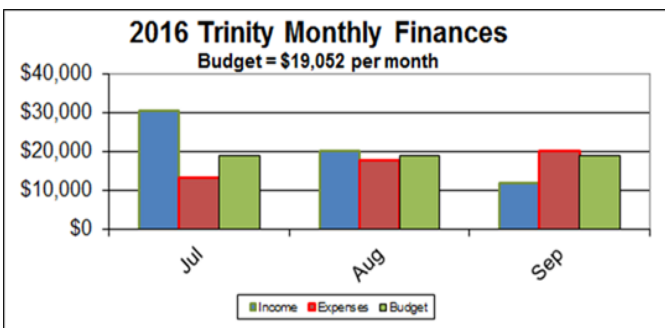


Volunteers needed for Nov 8th

Trinity is used as a voting place during elections, and for the Primary Voting, over 500 people came to our church to vote. Many of them asked questions about our church and gave us an opportunity to let them see what we have to offer. With the November 8th election fast approaching, the Evangelism team believes this will be another great opportunity to show off our beloved church. We are asking for volunteers to work one hour or more from 7 am to 7pm (during the voting hours) to serve coffee, cookies and bottled water to the voters, as well as hand out brochures and talk about Trinity to anyone who asks. We will pass around a sign-up sheet in October, but if you wish to participate, please tell Laura Van Newkirk, Michelle or Otis Buttress, Ed or Deanna Jolly, or Joe or me. Suggestions accepted also!

Respectfully, Brenda Cunningham

2016 YTD	Income	Expenses	Budget
	\$ 147,077	\$ 140,262	\$ 171,468



Sound/Video Help Needed!!

We are in need of some additional people to volunteer to help run sound and video during Worship services. Training will be provided. Please contact Craig Hanson via e-mail or phone. chanson@oneok.com or 918-607-4171

Thank you in advance!!

Congregational Care margot ries

Please join us the 3rd Sunday of each month for a time of gathering at our “Lunch Bunch” group. We meet at different Tulsa favorite eateries each month, and we welcome anyone and everyone to join! It’s always a fun time!

Christian Education sue chancellor

"Compassion isn't just about feeling the pain of others; it's about bringing them in toward yourself. If we love what God loves, then, in compassion margins get erased. 'Be Compassionate as God is compassionate,' means the dismantling of barriers that exclude. In Scripture, Jesus is in a house so packed that no one can come through the door anymore. So the people open the roof and lower this paralytic down through it, so Jesus can heal him. The focus of the story is, understandably, the healing of the paralytic. But there is something more significant than that happening here.

They're ripping the roof off the place, and those outside are being let in."

~ Gregory Boyle

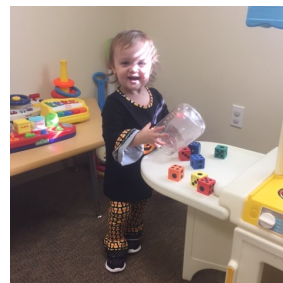
"I used to think God guided us by opening and closing doors, but now I know sometime God wants us to kick some doors down." ~ Bob Goff

When speaking of compassion and love in action, this can actually involve some real commitment and bold change in us as individuals and as a church community. I love the "new song" I hear our church family "singing" and I love being part of this Trinity Family. As we move from Reformation Sunday toward the season of Advent, may we be energized to our core by our God of Compassion. In the days ahead, may we go forth as God's compassionate people awakened and ready to put that love in action!

Sunday Morning Possibilities *Please join us when you are able every Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m. for many learning possibilities:*

Donna Bridenstine is available from 9:00 a.m. through the close of Worship to provide nurturing, fun, and safe care to the youngest of our Trinity family. Infants and toddlers can join her during the Sunday School hour and children through kindergarten can come in after Sunday School or "Time with Children" and stay through Worship. A team of wonderful, competent Nursery support volunteers assist Donna each Sunday when needed.

(Parents needing childcare during choir practice or team meetings can let Sue know in advance, and Donna will be in the nursery during these times.)



Sunday Morning Discovery Classes for Small Ones through All Adults Beginning at 9:15

Children's Multi-Age and Tween/Teen Sunday School classes are in full swing this fall. There's a place for kids/youth of all ages. Our dedicated teachers are energized and ready with engaging thought-provoking fun experiences focused on "Extravagant Love." Get on board to discover and understand meaningful scripture as it 's related in very creative clever ways.

Multi-Age Teaching Schedule (Pre-School through Fourth Grade) in Sunday

School wing on First Floor. Get ready to use all your senses as we explore important bible stories together from 9:15-10:00 am.

Nov 6	Valerie Wagner	"Hold On"
Nov 13	Melinda Carver	"Teamwork"
Nov 20	Vicky Adams	"Shepherd-leader"
Nov 27	Sue Chancellor	"Peace and Light"
Dec 4	Katy Reed	"Peace All Around"

(Some/all Practice for pageant beginning at 9:30 am)

Dec 11 **9:30 Pageant Practice "Jesus Means Christmas to Me"**

Tweens/Teens Sunday School (Fifth Grade through High School) upstairs in second classroom.

Come join us for meaningful discussion/activities focused on timely topics and insightful scripture from 9:14 to 10:00 am

Nov 6	Sue Chancellor	"Extravagant Welcome"
Nov 13	Royce Chancellor	"Community Works"
Nov 20	Bob Eckert	"Righteous Leaders"
Nov 27	John Clawson	"Picturing Peace"
Dec 4	Sue Chancellor	"Let There Be Peace"

(Some/all Practice for pageant beginning at 9:30 am)

Dec 11 **9:30 Pageant Practice "Jesus Means Christmas to Me"**

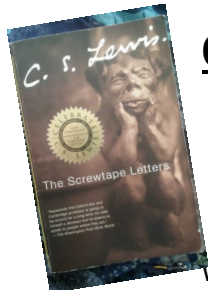
~ REMINDER ~

Attention ALL Children from age 3 through High School: Pageant Practice continues every Sunday morning from 10:00 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Please make as many practices as you can. This year's high energy uplifting pageant is, "Jesus Means Christmas to Me."

Important Saturday Morning 10:00 a.m. practices will be on Dec 3 and Dec 10.

The wondrous pageant will be during Worship Service on December 11 at 10:30 a.m. A celebration reception for the pageant participants and director will follow the December 11 Pageant/Worship Service.

Adult Sunday School



One Adult Class Meeting in Churchill Hall: Please join Rev. Elana any Sunday you are able, as she leads a stirring interesting conversation on C.S. Lewis' book, "The Screwtape Letters." New participants are encouraged to join her and the very friendly group this November as each week stands alone, as the book is episodic by chapter—its easy to jump in any time even if you've missed a week. Each chapter is read aloud by John Cleese. Printouts are available for each class; books can also be purchased for \$8.00. Also, this class will take a break after the 11/20 class, and will resume in January.



New Adult Sunday School Class will begin the first Sunday of Advent, November 27. All Adults are welcome to join Liz Powell in Churchill Hall as she leads a timely discussion on "Affirmations of Our Faith." Class participants will also be guided and encouraged to create a current personal affirmation of their faith. This is a four-week study and will conclude on December 18. "The Screwtape Letters" class will take a break these four weeks to join Liz' conversation, and then resume in January.



Wednesday Midweek Book Study in the Café, 11:00 am to noon, is off and running this fall with a beautiful book by Father Gregory Boyle, "Tattoos on the Heart." Ann Lamott writes, "An astonishing book...about suffering and dignity, death and resurrection, one of my favorite books in years. It is lovely and tough and tender beyond my ability to describe and left me in in tears of both sorrow and laughter." All of us in the study are truly inspired by Boyles work in LA; our conversations based on each chapter in his book are honest and heartfelt. Please join us and books are still available. We plan to complete this study on December 14.



Attention: Book Study Group will be packing backpacks in Churchill Hall November 2 and 16 this month. We'll be packing at 85 backpacks this Wednesday. On November 16, we'll be responsible for 52 backpacks, as The Bridge Church in Bixby will be taking over delivering to North Intermediate and North Elementary. We'll continue serving our two original Bixby schools, Central Intermediate, and Central Elementary. **No Book Study on November 23, 2016.**



Trinity Family: Mark your Calendars and Save the Date: On Friday Evening Nov 18, families and any interested folks have an opportunity to visit Temple Israel together at 7:30 pm for their Friday Evening Sabbath Service. A short discussion for our Trinity visitors will follow the Sabbath Service. We're invited to join Rabbi Simon and everyone for their evening reception, Oneg, after our discussion. Please plan on attending this joyful learning experience.



CHILDREN/TEENS/FAMILY NEWS

Our Airport Tower Day was most successful and amazing! Thanks to all who participated and a huge thank you to Joe Cunningham, our fearless leader and organizer for this excursion.



Thanks to Jonna Adams and all the delightful children who attended our "Second Annual Pumpkin Day" on October 15! It was another fun-filled afternoon full of pumpkin painting creativity and lively games, inside and outside!

Coming this Sunday, November 6, for all interested Trinity folks, following Worship: "Paintball and Laser Tag Excitement" Please join John Clawson, Randy & Seve Smith as they host a lively energizing trip to Paintball Adventures, 10242 S. 49th W Ave., Sapulpa 74046. The group will meet in the narthex and caravan together first to lunch at Schlotzky's and then to the Paintball Adventure facility.



For those who are not Paintball enthusiasts, please join Sue, Stephanie, Kira, and Sela as they host an excursion to Main Event, 7830 S. Santa Fe Ave. West, Tulsa 74132 for Laser Tag. They too will meet in the narthex and caravan together to Schlotzky's before their Laser Tag fun.



Families, save the date: Sunday November 20th, The Children's Advent Workshop Tradition continues following Worship. Special creations focused on Hope, Joy, Peace, and Love will be highlighted.

Please join our teens, Sue, Jonna, Katy and Katie as they host this terrific event as we all prepare ourselves for Jesus' birthday!

And...Coming on December 2: A Long-Awaited Parents Night out Hosted by CE Team!! Be looking for more details coming soon, but parents can plan on bringing their children to the Youth Lounge any time between 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to join a team of adults/teens hosting dinner and fun engaging activities!

Trinity Theatre Group: Thank you for all of your interest in our new theater group! Our group will meet on Nov. 13th at 2:00 pm and Nov. 14th at 6:30 pm. Our program will be the same on both days, so choose whichever works best for you! Looking forward to an exciting experience with our new Theater Group!





Scenes from Trinity!!



PUMPKIN DAY 2016



October Lectionary Readings

25th Sunday after Pentecost—Nov. 6

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21
2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38

26th Sunday after Pentecost—Nov. 13

Isaiah 65:17-25
Isaiah 12
2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19

Christ the King Sunday —Nov. 20

Jeremiah 23:1-6
Luke 1:68-79
Colossians 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43

1st Sunday of Advent —Nov. 27

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

Happy Birthday to our friends born in November!

Valerie Wagner	11/06
Ames Righter	11/10
Chris Cowan	11/15
Zane Adams	11/16
Beth Nelson	11/20
Jonathan Wigton	11/20
Luke Wigton	11/20
Deanna Jolly	11/22
Bertie Alfrey	11/23
Lisette Wigton	11/24



Thank You's and Congratulations

A heartfelt "Thank You" to all who came out to our "Church Work Day" on Saturday, the 15th of Oct. to help beautify and clean up our Church! We couldn't have done it without the help and support of those who were able to be there!

-Building & Grounds Team



Congratulations to Ann Frazier, Craig Hanson and Jim Vaughan who were recently elected to the Session Class of 2019. They will be ordained and installed in January 2017.



November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Wk. Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch F. Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making	3	4	5
6 COMMUNION SUNDAY ALL SAINTS DAY Laser Tag/Paint Ball event Following Worship	7 Yoga Class 10:00 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	8 Election Day 	9 9:45 am Pres. Women Grp. 11:00 am Mid-Wk. Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch F. Hr. 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Team Mtg. 6:00 dinner	10	11	12
13 11:30 Lunch Bunch	14 Yoga Class 10:00 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	15 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	16 10:30 am Pack backpacks 11:00 am Mid-Wk. Bk. Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch 1:00 pm Banner Making	17	18 6:15 pm Dinner 7:30 pm Temple Israel Fri. Evening Sabbath Worship	19
20 Christ the King Sunday	21 Yoga Class 10:00 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	22	23 No Mid-Week Book Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Hour 1:00 pm Banner Making 6:30 pm Thanksgiving Service	24 THANKSGIVING DAY  Church Office closed	25 Church Office closed	26 Church to be decorated for Advent
27 First Sunday of Advent 	28 Yoga Class 10:00 am Turning Point 7:00 pm	29	30 11:00 am Mid-Week Book Study 12:00 pm Sack Lunch Fellowship Hour 1:00 pm Banner Making			

Autumn Word Search

B	U	G	U	N	T	L	C	Z	M	A	D	A	O	F
M	Q	A	E	A	T	Y	I	Q	U	R	P	E	A	L
E	T	A	U	H	S	P	S	T	K	P	E	M	G	F
A	C	N	A	N	A	N	U	E	L	O	I	W	N	E
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ACORN

APPLE CIDER

AUTUMN

BONFIRE

FAMILY

HAYRIDE

LEAVES

PUMPKIN

SCARECROW

SMORES

TURKEY

THANKS

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