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Trinity is a member congregation of the Church of the Lutheran



November 22, 2025

Last Week of Pentecost
Thanksgiving

Serving Us Today

Organist: Kathy Conway

Greeter: Kevin Schaffer

Pre-service Meditation: *Psalm 95*

Pre-Service Prayer

LORD God, Your gifts to me are great in number, wide-sweeping in scope, ongoing, and completely undeserved. THANK YOU! for all that You give to me for body and soul, for this life and the life to come—purely out of Your undeserved love. Forgive my sins and fill my heart with gratitude and thanksgiving always. Amen.

Order of Worship

*When the congregation is asked to stand, please do so only if you are able.
You may remain seated if standing is difficult.*

Pre-Service Music

Welcome to Worship & Opening Prayer

Hymn: 27 — Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (spoken): **Amen**

Confession of Sins

Pastor: Forgive us, Lord, for shallow thankfulness, For dull content with warmth and sheltered care,

Cong: For songs of praise for food and harvest press, While of Your richer gifts we're unaware:

P: Teach us to thank You, Lord, for love and grace, For life and vision, for a purpose clear,

C: For Christ Your Son, and for each human face That shows Your message ever new and near.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for selfish thanks and praise, For words that speak at variance with deeds;

C: Forgive our thanks for walking pleasant ways Unmindful of a broken brother's needs:

P: Teach us, O Lord, true thankfulness divine, That gives as Christ gave, never counting cost,

C: That knows no barrier of "yours" and "mine," Assured that only what's withheld is lost.

P: Forgive us, Lord, for feast that knows not fast, For joy in things that meanwhile starve the soul,

C: For walls and wars that hide Your mercies vast And blur our vision of the Kingdom goal:

P: Open our eyes to see Your love's intent, To know with minds and hearts its depth and height;

C: May thankfulness be days in service spent,
Reflection of Christ's life and love and light.

Absolution (Pastor)

Responsive Psalm: *Psalm 95:1-7*

Pastor: Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

Cong: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving

C: let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

P: For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

C: In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

P: The sea is his, for he made it,

C: and his hands formed the dry land.

P: Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

C: let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

P: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,

C: and the sheep of his hand.

Hymn: 566 – Christ by Heavenly Host Adored

Prayer (Pastor)

Congregation (speaks): **Amen**



God Speaks to Us Through His Word

Old Testament Lesson:

Deuteronomy 8:11-20

Abundance can lead to a lack of gratitude and pride rather

than thanksgiving. Moses warned the people of Israel about this as they

prepared to enter the Promised Land It is a warning to which we also do well to take heed.

"Take care lest you forget the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then

your heart be lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water, who brought you water out of the flinty rock, who fed you in the wilderness with manna that your fathers did not know, that he might humble you and test you, to do you good in the end. Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. And if you forget the LORD your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. Like the nations that the LORD makes to perish before you, so shall you perish, because you would not obey the voice of the LORD your God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35

The greatest gift we have received is the forgiveness of sins and through that eternal salvation. Forgiving others shows thankfulness for having been forgiven by God.

Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went

and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 4:4-9

God wants us to call upon Him in every trouble and come to Him with all of our needs, fears, cares, worries, and every other burden. When we combine these supplications for help with thanksgiving, we will find a perspective of gratitude and spirit of contentment that cannot be overwhelmed by need or want.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Confession of Faith

Martin Luther's Explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed

I believe that God has created me and all creatures. He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my bodily members, my mind, and all my senses and still keeps them for me.

God also preserves me by richly and daily providing clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, spouse and children, land, animals, and all my property and all I need to support this body and life. He protects me from all danger. He guards and defends me from every evil.

God does all this because He is my good and gracious Father in heaven, not because of anything I have done to earn or deserve it.

For all of this it is my duty to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

Hymn: For the Fruits of His Creation (bulletin back page)

The Sermon

Text: Colossians 3:1-2,12-17

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

“A New Recipe for Thanksgiving”

Offertory—Congregation Sings (Hymn 792):

**Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving
To God the Creator triumphantly raise.
Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us,
Who still guides us on to the end of our days.
His banners are o'er us; His light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

Hymn: 400 — Take My Life and Let It Be

Prayer *including a prayer for Lynn Estes' brother, Chet (cancer/hospice)*

Lord's Prayer

Benediction (Pastor)

C (spoken): **Amen.**

Hymn: 36 — Now Thanks We All Our God

Silent Prayer

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Welcome!

Welcome to worship at Trinity!

Guest and Visitors, we invite you to sign our guest book. We look forward to having you worship with us again! Please speak to the members and pastor if you wish to learn more about the Gospel ministry at Trinity.



Thank-offerings may be left in the offering plate in the back of the church or mailed to the church.

This Week's Schedule

(If the Lord wills we shall do this or that)

Today

9:15 a.m. Bible Class (Words with Big Meanings: *Faith*)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

11:30 a.m. Call Discussion & Voters Meeting

Wednesday

1:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ Gethsemane

6:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Worship @ Gethsemane (live-streamed)

Saturday (November 29)

9:15 a.m. Bible Class (Words with Big Meanings: *Repentance*)

10:30 a.m. Worship Service **Greeter:** Dennis & Linda Lux)

News & Notes

Trinity's Call: Pastor Thomas Schuetze has returned (declined) the divine call we have extended to him.

November 18, 2025

Dear members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,

After prayerful deliberation on the pastoral call you extended to me I have been led to the decision that it is God's will that I continue serving Him in my present capacity as the pastor of St. Paul in Lakewood.

The spiritual welfare of God's people residing in the Spokane area is also important to Him. It's my prayer that the Lord of the Church will, according to His perfect wisdom and timing, supply you with a full-time spiritual shepherd to proclaim His pure Word in your midst and to lead you in His Good Shepherd paths.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you all.

Sincerely, Pastor Thomas Schuetze

Call Discussion and Voters Meeting: In view of Pastor Schuetze's return of our Divine Call, the voters will meet after the worship service this morning to extend another call. An opportunity for congregational discussion will precede the voters meeting.

Midweek Advent Worship: We will not hold midweek Advent services at Trinity. All are invited to attend midweek Advent worship services at Gethsemane (December 3, 10, 17) at 1:30 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. The evening service is live-streamed.

Christmas Decorating: Putting up the Christmas Tree and other decorating for celebrating Christ's birth, will take place next Saturday—November 29—right after the worship service for all who are able to help.

The Congregational Christmas Party will be held on December 6th following the worship service. It will be a breakfast brunch and folks just bring what they want, no sign-up sheet. We also have a gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift in the \$10.00 range.

Pastoral Needs: Without a resident pastor, it can be more difficult to be aware of personal pastoral needs within the congregation. If such need arises, please do not hesitate to phone Pastor Eichstadt (507-380-1068) and/or Dennis Lux so that either the pastor or one of the elders can be of service to you.

National Women's Retreat Coming in January!

Before your 2026 calendar begins to fill up, we want you to mark your calendars and get ready to *Press Pause* with women across the country!

What: Press Pause for the National Women's (Virtual) Retreat 2026

When: Saturday, January 31, 2026 // 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

How: Join us virtually via Zoom

Cost: Free event – all are welcome!

Register now: <https://tinyurl.com/PressPause26>



News from around the Church of the Lutheran Confession

Calls: Pastor Terrel Kesterson of Ascension

Lutheran Church, Batavia, IL, has received the part-time call to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN / Pastor Emeritus David Schierenbeck has received the call to serve as Assistant to the Pastor at Berea Ev. Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights, MN, after he has completed his work as vacancy pastor of Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN / Pastor Emeritus Michael Eichstadt has received the vacancy call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ / Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ / Pastor Ben Libby of Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, WY, has received the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI / Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has received the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI.



November Cleaners

Sanctuary: Bettinger / **North Entry:** Clark
Basement: Helke

For the Fruits of His Creation

1 For the fruits of His cre - a - tion, Thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har-vests of the Spir - it, Thanks be to God.

For His gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, Thanks be to God. For the
 In the help we give our neigh-bor, God's will is done. In our
 For the good we all in - her - it, Thanks be to God. For the

plow - ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, Si - lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
 world-wide task of car - ing For the hun - gry and de - spair-ing,
 won - ders that as-tound us, For the truths that still con-found us,

Fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, Thanks be to God.
 In the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
 Most of all, that love has found us, Thanks be to God.



It's time to **renew or sign up** for a calendar year subscription!

Think about Thanksgiving, Christmas, and birthday gifts

Sign up any time before December 15, 2025

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I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. — John 15:5

*The Blessing of
Friendship*
Lord, Keep Us
Straight in
Thy Word
and Ready to
Rejoice if Give
Thanks
Give Thanks
Unto the Lord
Jesus, the Only
Path to Heaven
Our Lord
Bless
Each Day
Set Your Mind
on Things
Above
*The Blessing of
Friendship*
Praying For
Our Blessings
A Ministry
Memory Quail
The Joy and
Blessings of a
Professor's Wife
Book Review
Delicious
Dishes: Peanut
Butter Party
Thanks,
Lubbers, &
Africanians!
Oh My!
A Look ahead

I WALK WITH JESUS ALL THE WAY
in ABUNDANCE of BLESSINGS

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