



Trinity Lutheran Church Newsletter

November 2020

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A message from Pastor Debra:

There is no despair so absolute as that which comes from the first moments of our first great sorrow, when we have not yet known what it is to have SUFFERED and been HEALED, to have DESPAIRED and recovered HOPE. *(George Eliot)*

I first discovered these words of George Eliot when I was attending a grief support group in the spring of 2000. Between the months of November 27, 1999 and February 6, 2000, my life was interrupted, as I found myself needing to deal with the death of two significant individuals in my life. Both died of a massive heart attack within weeks of one another. One was my father; the other was my best friend. At the same time that this was happening, I also faced the ending of the relationship that I had with the Lutheran Deaconess community. This community had been my primary support, both personally and professionally for twelve years. At that time, if a person was a member of the Lutheran Deaconess Community or a Rostered Diaconal minister of the ELCIC they had to give that title up, if they were seeking ordination to the priesthood. *(This however has changed since then, as all rostered members of the ELCIC are now ordained.)* I was approved to go through to the examining committee a few days before my dad died. So, at that time, I was also transitioning from being a Deaconess to a Pastor.

The degree of sudden change for me and the cumulative loss at that time, was significant. I can remember having to deal with all manner of emotions: I was frightened, angry, confused, and I felt alone. I felt cheated. It was tough to shake the escalating feelings of abandonment, shock, neediness, guilt, self-pity, and brokenness. It was a dark period, when I literally had to put one foot in front of the other to keep going.

It was a time when people were around me, but I had a hard time relating to them. In truth I don't think I really wanted to relate to them! I was stuck in my grief. I just wanted the clock to be turned back. This of course was not a possibility. I had to learn to live life, with new supports. During that time, I understood what it was to suffer, without having yet been healed, and to despair without having yet recovered hope.

That was 20 years ago. It is also hard to believe that 20 years have passed. A great deal has happened since that time. In the last 20 years, I have known significant healing and I was able to recover hope. Hope in myself, in others, and in God.

This year has been a challenging year for many. It has been a year of uncertainty when often, I have found myself just putting one foot in front of the other. It has not been like it was for me 20 years ago. I am aware that this year for many has been that kind of year. A year of suffering and despair. As we approach the end of this year, we all face more challenge and change. This is especially felt in our times of celebration.

Advent and Christmas for us individually, our faith community and country may be different. I think it may be important for us to approach this time remembering that those days leading up to our Saviors' birth were probably difficult for Jesus parents. The time after would not have been easy either. God did not come into the world to comfort the comfortable. God came so that all people no matter what their circumstance was would know that they would never be left alone. The peace of God that passes all understanding, is a gift, in prayer that we can reach for and find.

As we enter into this new church year may we remember God is with us. May we be given the grace to focus on the good things God continues to give us. As we do this may we be present to one another, finding new ways to celebrate God's gift of love.

May you all feel Gods presence and experience rich blessings. -Pastor Debra

A message from the Editor:

If you ever have any announcements or other content that you would like included in the newsletter, please email me at briannahoude@gmail.com by the last week of the month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you!

-Brianna

Sunday Morning Readings for the Month of November 2020:

November 1, 2020

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

All Saints

Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm 19

Philippians 3:4b-14

Matthew 21:33-46



November 8, 2020

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

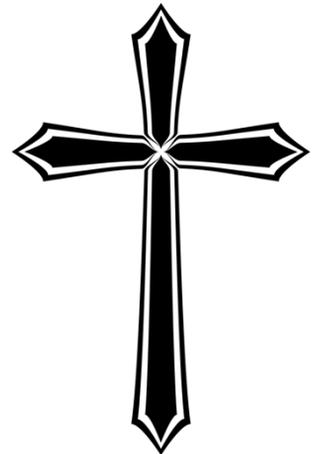
Pentecost 23

Amos 5:18-24

Psalm 70

1 Thessalonians 6:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13



November 15, 2020

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

Pentecost 24

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Psalm 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2020

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

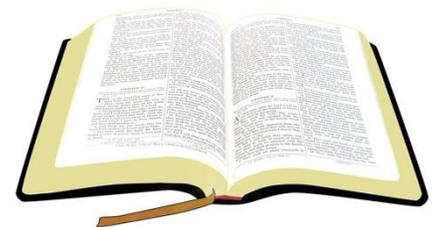
Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm 95:1-7a

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46



November 29, 2020

First Reading

Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Reading

Advent 1 (Year B)

Isaiah 64:1-9

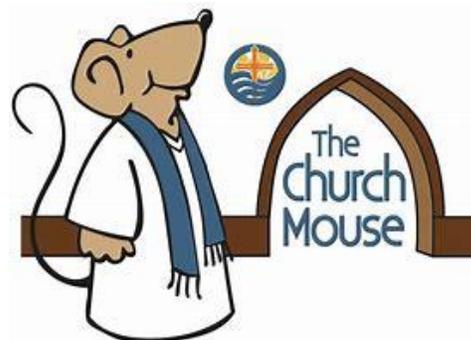
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

Worship Readers Needed

Once again, we need individuals or families to Read the Old Testament, New Testament and Psalms on Sunday mornings. We are resuming our online sign up sheet that you may find on the web page. If you are interested in reading please sign up on the Web or contact Pastor Debra at (204) 735-2503.



You can't reach for anything new if your hands are still full of yesterday's junk!

Trinity Lutheran Church Web Page:

We encourage you to look at our Trinity web page.

(www.tlcstarbuck.com)

The web page is updated regularly. Please check it out.

A note from our treasurer:

Donation income in September was down somewhat compared to August. While total income is down 14% to budget, we are still underspending on expenses by approximately the same amount so the net effect is that we are still meeting budget this month.

	Jan - Sept 20	YTD Budget
Total Income	\$92,613	\$107,401
Total Expense	\$93,643	\$108,698
Net Income	-\$1,030	-\$1,297

Zoom Services:



Please join us on Sunday mornings for 10:00 from our sanctuary Worship via ZOOM. We give thanks to God for the technology that allows us to continue to meet for Worship even when we cannot be together in person

Living our Faith - Bible Book Club



Please join us on Wednesday mornings both in person and through ZOOM for our weekly bible study. This year we will be following Bishop Susan's, **Living our Faith - Bible Book Club**. We will be meeting in the Parish hall beginning at 10:00 am. Please bring your own refreshment. The Month of November we are studying the Book of **First Kings**

Youth Group Christmas Tree Sale

Once again, the youth of our congregation will be selling Christmas Trees. The Proceeds will go toward the activities of Trinity Youth Group. For more information or to order a tree please call Christine or Marcel Houde at (204) 864-2606 or email mchoude@mymts.net

Balsam 6-8' \$55 (includes delivery)

Balsam 8-9' \$70 (includes delivery)



The Urban Ministry:

Our congregation has been faithfully serving the Urban for many years now, although I am not actually sure how many years it has been.

The Urban, (technically) “Lutheran Urban Mission”, operates out of the Church of the Cross on Arlington St. in inner city Winnipeg. This is their 3rd location since we became involved with them. The first location was on Ellice Avenue, which was a very tiny space in the upstairs of some retail stores; the second was in St. Matthews Anglican church. They relocated to Church of the Cross several years ago.

The Urban is adamantly NOT a soup kitchen. They don’t serve meals every day, only Sunday midday, and Wednesday and Thursday evenings. But, they also offer many other programs and services to the community and so they refer to themselves instead as a Mission. “The Urban is a ministry of presence that expresses God’s grace to inner city residents in Winnipeg”. Their programs include: meals, special events/classes, men’s group, bi-weekly men’s sharing circle, weekly women’s sharing circle, weekly co-ed sharing circle, worship, children’s time, and fellowship.

At the Urban, our role is that of meal team. (During normal circumstances) This entails the planning of the meal, (for 100 people) preparing a sign up sheet, bringing the food to the Urban, and some preparation, then serving of the meal. They have other community volunteers to do the clean up. We do this monthly, and we have a list of tried and true dinners which seem to work the best. In December, we are so pleased to be able to serve a beautiful turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Our congregation is always so generous with their donations and we are consistently able to hand out little extra Christmas treats to the people. As well, our congregation donates many hats, scarves, and pairs of mittens and socks to the people.

For a number of years our Sunday School has hosted the “Love Your Neighbour” chili lunch. This is held right around Valentine’s Day. The children serve up chili, buns, and dessert, and all proceeds go to our friends at the Urban. This is another testament to our support of the Urban!

Of course, during these uncertain times of the pandemic, all of these activities and services are suspended. They are now handing out bagged lunches, as you know, Sundays, Wednesdays and Thursdays....along with that, they usually have items to donate from certain bakeries or often from Bothwell cheese, which donate generously to the Urban. Rhonda, the co-ordinator, is also able to offer an emergency food bank service.

I have always been passionate about the Urban and I know that so many in our church family feel the same way. One only needs to look at how quickly our sign up sheets fill up, and how readily and generously people give to those in need. Serving at the Urban is our faith in action. In Matthew 25:31-40, we read:

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. 34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

The Urban offers a very valuable service to the community and it is such an honour to be a part of that. We do make a difference! It is my hope that we, as a congregation, will continue to be a part of God's important work here for many years to come.

-Debbie Ammeter Siple

Advent and Christmas 2020:

Community Christmas Cheer

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic in lieu of Dry Goods and Food items we are asking for Monetary Donations to support 18 families in our Community. Please donate by **Sunday December 6, 2020.**

Please send cash donations to:
Springstein Mennonite Church
St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church
Starbuck United Church
Trinity Lutheran Church
Dawn to Dusk



The Envelope should say:
Cash or Cheque Designated to
2020 Christmas Cheer



Joint Advent Service:

Please note - that in place of the joint Advent service - we are asking churches that have the technology, to record a reading or a song, to contribute towards an online compiled video service. More info on file type, etc., to come forward, but please at this time ****RSVP** whether your church can/would be able to be involved so the program planners know how many items can be prepared on the program.

Canada Lutheran:

Again, this year we will be ordering our national church magazine under the Congregational Subscription Plan. By taking advantage of this plan, we each receive our magazine for \$21.00 per year as opposed to \$34.50 per year if we ordered individually. Our congregation covers this cost every year. It is a substantial amount - approximately \$1000.00 - but we think it is worth it. Canada Lutheran is an excellent magazine featuring informative articles plus keeps us up to date on what is going on in our ELCiC. If any of you would like to help with this expense, please place an extra \$21.00 in your offering envelope and ear mark it: "Canada Lutheran".

For further information contact Gwen Rasmussen at 204 735 2772

Remembrance Day 2020:



In Flanders fields

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae was a soldier, physician and poet.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.



Why Poppies

Poppies are used to symbolize peace, death and sleep. John McCrae, the author of the poem "In Flanders Field", was a Canadian surgeon, who fought during the First World War.

The poem mentions the poppies that were growing in the fields where the trench warfare of World War I took place.

Today the red poppy is worn and displayed in many western nations as a symbol of remembrance of those people who lost their lives during war.

Attention Musicians and Singers:

If you would like to play an instrument or sing a solo for our Christmas Eve Service this year, please contact Pastor Debra at (204) 735-2503 or (204) 807-1709 before November 16, 2020.



