

TRINITY TIMES

NOVEMBER 2017

Wishing you a
Beautiful
Thanksgiving

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the calendar on my desk flipping over, I can't help but notice that we are entering that time of year, when our schedules become fuller, if that is possible. Our calendars, both on paper and on our phones, are full of all kinds of activities: fall sports banquets, winter sports starting up, report cards coming home, outside chores needing done, candy for Halloween, turkeys on order for Thanksgiving, and we are in full blown denial when it comes to Christmas being less than two months away.

But our schedules are not just full this time of year, many other things are full as well. With all the good things that we have come to enjoy and with all of life's circumstances, we as Americans and as Christians have truly been blessed with much from the hand of God given through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am reminded of another time when the land produced many blessings. A farmer had a tremendous bumper crop which he could not store in his barns. He was vexed because he had no means of storing the grain from his fields and the excess would be lost in spoilage. So, he pulls down his barns, and he builds bigger barns that can hold the enormous quantity of grain. Successful, he says to himself, I have enough resources now to retire and to live a life of leisure, eating, drinking, and making merry.

Like this farmer, few of us are lacking in resources. We might not have everything we want, but few have empty bellies and empty dressers. Also, many have stored up enough resources to be able to retire and enjoy a life less stressful and less busy. Or at least some are busy doing what they want to do not just what they had to do. But, the point being that this time of year finds many of us with full barns and bank accounts and some even had to build bigger barns to store everything God has blessed us with.

But God says to the rich farmer, *you fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?* While many have viewed the problem with this farmer is that he built bigger barns to store the bumper crop; and therefore, a critique of saving for an unknown and certain future; others have found another criticism to be more sinister. The problem is not that he built a bigger barn, the problem is that he didn't build a bigger table. Instead of ensuring that his neighbors were well looked after with the excess food he didn't need, he tells himself *Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.* Instead of blessing others with what he had been overblessed with, he sat on everything in avarice. Instead of being truly grateful and responsible with God's blessings, he became greedy and selfish, keeping it all to himself.

What if the problem is not that we build bigger barns, or bigger savings accounts, or as Trinity, have a very large endowment, what if the more sinister problem is that we fail to build bigger tables that others might share alongside us in God's blessings? The problem is not sins of commission, the problem are sins of omission; not that we do wrong; but we fail to do right!

As we begin this holiday season, both you and I will enjoy the bounty of gifts and blessings all which come from the hand of God in Christ Jesus. But what if we learned to gift and bless others with the bumper crop that God has given and blessed us with? What if we were truly thankful with God's immeasurable gifts, by blessing others, in God's name? What if we were responsible with our full barns, by building full tables for more to share, in God's name? What if we loved our neighbor by pouring out ourselves, like God poured out God's self in Jesus Christ? What if ...?

We might just find that have become sons and daughters of God, who love others as the Son of God has loved us first. So, this holiday season let us become a people of the table, inviting more to share in Jesus' bounty with thankfulness, and if necessary, let us get or build bigger ones for more people to share with us. And it will be a true time of Thanksgiving.

In Christ,
Rev. Mark

SESSION NOTES:

Summer is just barely over and here we are planning for our holiday season!

Your elders are leading committees that are actively preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. How blessed we are to be able to do so much in our church and community!

We will have elected three new elders and deacons who will begin a three year term. We ask for your continued prayers for your church leaders.

Jessie Smith is your Elder-on-Call for December. If you have any questions or ideas concerning Trinity, please contact her.

Blessings for a joyful holiday season,
Mary Belding, Clerk

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2017**

Income: \$4,928.00
Expenses: 8,120.35

Difference of -\$3,192.35

For this year through September:

Income: \$67,312.49
Expenses: 92,213.98

Difference of -\$24,901.49

Lois J. Fassett
Treasurer

**TRINITY WOMEN!**

Another season is upon us! Tis the season of the grapes!

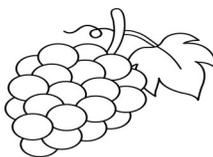
Come celebrate a ladies afternoon luncheon at

Grand River Cellars

Route 528—Madison

Saturday, November 4, 12:30 p.m.

For those who would like to share a ride meet at church at noon.



STEWARSHIP:

Noun

Definition: 1. That time of year when a person is guilted into contributing to a religious association. 2. A program designed to force a group's members into a commitment they do not want to make. 3. An opportunity for the Minister to rant and rail about how spoiled and privileged everyone is and how much he or she needs a raise. 4. A perfect opportunity to take a four-week trip to anywhere but church. 5. A dirty four-letter word best not used in polite company.

While I made up these definitions, Stewardship and Stewardship Programs more often than not create similar reactions for us. Many ministers and people responsible for budgets and accounts have quite often used guilt as a weapon to get people to pledge. November often finds us being commanded to pay up or the heat is going off or some other such threat. Many sermons have been preached with gavel in hand pounding on the pulpit about selfishness and entitlement while the poor people of some distant country are forced to eat trash scavenged from the landfill. Many of us have even been tempted to forgo going to church until Dedication Sunday is over when we will hear no more announcements about pledge cards and no more minute for missions.

But, Stewardship was never meant to be these things. A Steward is a caretaker or manager of another's things. Christian Stewardship is about taking care of and managing the things responsibly that God has left with us through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Stewardship is about gratitude for the many undeserved blessings God gives us, including his only beloved Son. Stewardship was never meant to be church folk asking for money, it was about church folk being faithful and responsible creatures caring for the piece of God's creation left in our care.

With all of that said, this year's time of Stewardship is not going to be about asking for pledges, we are making it instead about education. What does it mean that God owns all of creation and we do not? What does it mean to be responsible caretakers of all of creation? How do we hold ourselves and each other accountable for how God's creation is used and often abused? How can we learn to be joyful and grateful for our many blessings instead of behaving grudgingly and miserly with them? These are going to be the goals of this year's program, not the securing of pledge cards, but learning what it means to be grateful and responsible Stewards with God's gifts.

No more guilt, only gratitude. No more bludgeoning, only freedom. No more threats, only liberty. No more selfish ambitions, only Godly responsibilities. God has truly blessed us more than we can know, now is the time for us to learn how to bless God!

Rev. Mark



COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

COMMUNITY COUNCIL HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING DURING THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON.

DUE TO THE FACT THERE ARE SO MANY OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CHOOSE HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE.

Bethlehem Experience – Show some Trinity spirit and sign up for completing our scene at this joint effort by local churches to recreate the town of Bethlehem. This will be held on the evenings of December 8th and 9th in the former Dillard’s store. Many churches are involved in putting this together and have had funds donated and received through grants to host this 1st annual event. More information and flyers forthcoming.

Blanket Drive –We are again, in conjunction with Catholic charities, collecting new or gently used blankets for the blanket drive. They are in need of crib, twin, double or queen sheets and or blankets.

Woodman Avenue – Make a Blanket (supplies are already purchased), contribute new or gently used items for re-gifting and or come and help us put on Santa’s workshop at the Woodman Avenue Estates. We will be packing items received on Wednesday, November 29th from 5-7 pm. and then transporting to Woodman Avenue on Saturday, December 2nd. This is an annual event in which the children at Woodman Avenue can shop for their family members and have a snack. They look forward to our arrival each year.

Christmas Family adoption – We will be seeking donations of food and/or gifts for local families in need during the holiday. We are searching for our family or families by way of the local elementary schools through a recommendation from the principal. When we have received details regarding the family we will post the information.



The meeting date for the Trinity Book Club has changed from November 14th to Tuesday, November 21st, at 7:00 at church. The book for discussion will be *The Last Days of Night: A Novel* by Graham Moore. For questions contact Meghan Davis at 992-8362.

LIONS CLUB

SPAGHETTI DINNER

NOVEMBER 4, 2017

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4:00 PM UNTIL 7:00 PM

\$8.00 DONATION TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

BENEFITS LIONS CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND



Coming This Summer...



In the Summer of 2018, Trinity will be hosting Vacation Bible School. We will be using Group's *Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus*. Activities will include interactive music, skits, lessons, crafts, games, snacks, pictures, bible points, mission projects and a whole lot more for pre-school and elementary children!

To pull something this ambitious off, we are looking to have between 40-50 volunteers help in big ways and in small. That means that everyone is going to be needed in some way to help. So, keep watching for details as they are planned, come to a meeting, offer to

**SUNDAY'S
SERMONS ARE
NOW ON THE WEB!**
trinityashtabula.org



FORMING SOON.....
**FOR MORE
INFORMATION SEE
REV. MARK**

PRAYER CONCERNS:
The family of Howard Andrews, Meredith Ayers, Ken Bacock, Lynda Bennett, The family of Bess Dibble, Roger Dibble, The family of Esther Edeburn, Dee Fassett, The family of Paul Ferry, Julie and Mark Forgach, The family of Lester Frisbie, The family of Jim Hakkarainen, Al Headman, Pauline Headman, Maryann Jordan, The family of Dorothy Keel, Don Maginnis, Sarah Mandrake, Steve McClure Jr., Steve Nelson, Carol Rich, Kennedy Ritzenthaler, Wanda Schwentker, Sandi Sowrey, Christi Stroud, Dave VanLooke, The family of Tommy Waldron, Jean Waldron, Hope Wolf



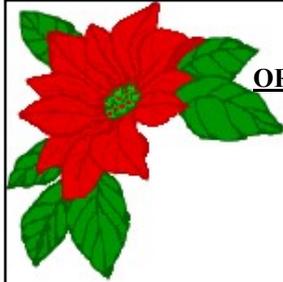
**FOOD PANTRY
OUTREACH**

FAITH LUTHERAN IS LOOKING FOR HELP.

TUESDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS EACH WEEK FOR 9:45 TO UNTIL NOON.

IF INTERESTED CONTACT, LINDA CRAWFORD AT 969-1406

LET'S FILL OUR SOUP CAN!



POINSETTIA ORDER TIME

ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL DECEMBER 4TH.

\$5.50 FOR 6" POTS
(PINK-RED-WHITE-MARBLE)
\$20.00 FOR 10" POTS
(RED ONLY)

IN MEMORY OF: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

(CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)
ADDITIONAL ORDER FORMS ARE ON THE BACK TABLE IN THE SANCTUARY



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We will begin to decorate the sanctuary after Worship on November 26th.

A light lunch will be provided.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall if you are able to help. It will also



Faith In Action Caregivers

is hosting a free pancake breakfast with Santa

on

DECEMBER 9TH

FROM 9:00 AM UNTIL 11:30 AM

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Bring your children or grandchildren to eat and talk to Santa.

See Peg LaDu for more information.



HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING? EVERYDAY LIVING? WE HAVE A GIFT CARD FOR YOU. PROFITS BENEFIT THE TRINITY GENERAL FUND. SEE DONNA SHILFLET BEFORE OR AFTER CHURCH.

November 2017

DEACON ON CALL: JANE PLANISEK 997-9013

ELDER ON CALL: JESSIE SMITH 992-1634



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00 Adult Ed. 6:30 Deacons Meeting 6:30 Card Ministry	2 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	3	4 GRAND RIVER WINERY/ LADIES TRANSFORMATION GROUP 9:00 AM -12:00 PM Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner 4-7 \$8.00
5 COMMUNION 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group FELLOWSHIP MTG. AW	6 Deacon/Elder Training 6:30 pm	7 ELECTION DAY! 6:30 AM-7:30 PM 8:00 Al-Anon Meeting	8 10:00 Adult Ed. 6:30 Card Ministry	9 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice 7:30 PROP/FIN.MTG.	10 10:00 Brown Bag Ladies	11 Veterans Day!
12 2 ^d A MEAL COLLECTION 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group STEWARSHIP MTG. AW	13	14 ROMEOS @ Deb's 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al-Anon Meeting	15 10:00 Adult Ed. 6:00 Comm. Outreach 6:30 Card Ministry 7:00 SESSION MTG.	16 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice	17	18
19 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group THANKSGIVING MEAL AFTER WORSHIP	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	21 8:00 Al-Anon Meeting	22 10:00 Adult Ed. 6:30 Card Ministry	23 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>giving thanks</i>	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	25
26 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 9:00 Choir 9:15 Adult Ed. 10:30 Worship 10:45 Faith Builders 6:30 Youth Group STAY TO DECORATE AFTER WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS	27 6:30 CE MEETING Presbytery Meeting	28 11:30 Game Day 8:00 Al-Anon Meeting	29 10:00 Adult Ed. 6:30 Card Ministry	30 10:00 Prayer Group 10:00 Thursday Ladies 6:30 Bell Practice		