

## The First Word



Pr. Rob O'Berg

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

We are now in November, the month of Thanksgiving, but you wouldn't know it for all the advertising going on. Save for a few pilgrim-themed paper goods, piles of turkeys in the freezer case and stacks of stuffing mix and cream of mushroom soup in the grocery aisles, there isn't a lot of evidence that the holiday of gratitude is approaching for all the shelf space devoted to Halloween and Christmas.

Not that we need it, of course. Families and friends will be gathering around tables laden with favorite foods and lots of people will be journeying "over the river and through the woods" to arrive at the places where Thanksgiving is most fondly celebrated. You don't need a month of TV shows or mass marketing to be thankful. But a little reminder doesn't hurt, now and then.

I got one of those reminders, just today. A woman came to church asking to speak with me. As she entered my office she said, "You probably don't remember me." I recognized her face but had long forgotten her name. As soon as she told me what it was, the memories began to return.

It was seven years ago we met, about this time of year or a bit later. I remember that the choir was rehearsing in the sanctuary and it was already dark outside, which probably made the light beaming from the windows even more noticeable. She remembers that hearing the singing gave her the courage to walk through the open doors.

Back then she arrived with the grime of the streets on her clothes. She stood in God's house homeless. Fleeing an abusive man. Apart from her children. Estranged from her family. We sat down in the library. I got her something warm to drink.

I listened to her story and prayed with her. That's all she wanted. I pressed a gift card into her hand and bid her godspeed, never imagining we'd ever speak again.

But we did, a couple hours ago. She's now adequately housed, working three jobs and the court today granted her custody of three of her five children. That's why she returned. She said Trinity's kindness on that horrible day seven years ago "awakened" her to God's love for her and the hope God's love gives. She came simply to say thanks.

Wow. I was reminded that the smallest expressions of God's love can have the biggest impacts and that, no matter what, reasons to be grateful are all around us.

In this season of thanksgiving, I give thanks for this young woman, whose gratitude surprised and enlivened my faith. I give thanks that Trinity's lights were on and doors were open when she desperately needed a place to feel welcomed. I give thanks for all of you, without whom the gospel could not live in this place as powerfully as it did seven years ago. As it still does. Happy Thanksgiving, Gemma. Happy Thanksgiving to us all!

*Pastor Rob*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| The First Word From Pastor Rob   | 1 |
| Information at a glance          | 2 |
| TLC & NextGen                    | 3 |
| Prayers/WELCA and Bulldog Pantry | 4 |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries      | 5 |
| BMAT/FMAT                        | 6 |
| November Calendar                | 7 |



### OFFICE HOURS

Monday CLOSED  
 Tues-Thurs 9:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.  
 Friday 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.  
 (559) 229-8581

### Check Out Our Website!

Our website is constantly being updated with new photos, sermons, event information and more! Go to [tlcfresno.org](http://tlcfresno.org) and share our website with your friends and family.



**Follow us on  
Facebook and  
Instagram!**

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Did you know that you can put in a request for prayer on Trinity's website? It's simple and you can do it at any time of day or night. Just go to [tlcfresno.com](http://tlcfresno.com) and follow the link to put in your request. You'll be put on our prayer list right away!

### Congregation Council

A fundamental human need is to be heard.  
 Your Congregation Council is here to listen.

|                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Ed Brewer.....         | 273-6123              |
| Frank Collins.....     | 250-3589              |
| Wyatt Czesinski.....   | 593-5797              |
| Veronica Flanders..... | 287-8432              |
| Walt Flanders.....     | 287-8432              |
| Paul Fountinelle ..... | 229-3637              |
| Barbara Stalis.....    | 270-7708              |
| Shawn Swaim.....       | 360-1009              |
| Jeff Willis.....       | jwillis0312@gmail.com |

### WEEKLY CALENDAR

#### Sundays

9:00 am-Contemporary Worship Service  
 9:00 am-Adult Bible Study - Conference Room  
 9:00am-Chancel Choir - Music Room  
 10:30 am-Sunday School (K-6) - Multipurpose Room  
 10:30 am-Traditional Worship Service

#### Mondays

9:00 am-Exercise Class 11am-12pm (online)  
[j3jordan@hotmail.com](mailto:j3jordan@hotmail.com)

#### Wednesday

6:00pm-Middle & High School Gathering/Worship  
 9:00 am-Exercise Class 11am-12pm (online)  
[j3jordan@hotmail.com](mailto:j3jordan@hotmail.com)

#### Thursday

7:00 am-Men's Bible Study,  
 12:00 pm-Bell Practice  
 1:00 pm-Choir Practice  
 6:00 pm-Women's Bible Study

### **DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK**

### **ONE HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT!**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL CLOSED ON THE**

**FOLLOWING DATES:**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH**

**THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27-28**

## LINKS OF LOVE

Our Links of Love ministry at Trinity reaches out to Trinity members who are homebound or in need of having one of our lay ministers come out and visit, bring Communion, or send cards. Interested or know someone in need,? If so, please call Lisa Collins, at the Church office at 229-8581, and we will make sure to contact you.

Deb Moe  
[Twindeb2@yahoo.com](mailto:Twindeb2@yahoo.com)  
 559-907-2914

Liz Davis  
[Twinliz2@icloud.com](mailto:Twinliz2@icloud.com)  
 559-779-7740

Happy November, Trinity family!

October went by in the blink of an eye. On a personal note, I made the decision to postpone my internship for ordination candidacy until next fall. This decision means that I will be around Trinity for another ten months! I am in discussion with both Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Sierra Pacific Candidacy Committee on how my final months with Trinity can count towards the internship, so prayers are greatly appreciated as we continue to have these conversations!

My family also got a new Maltese-poodle puppy, Cassie, at the beginning of October after our beloved dog of eight years, Callie, unexpectedly passed away. If you happen to be at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays, you might get a chance to see Cassie in my office!

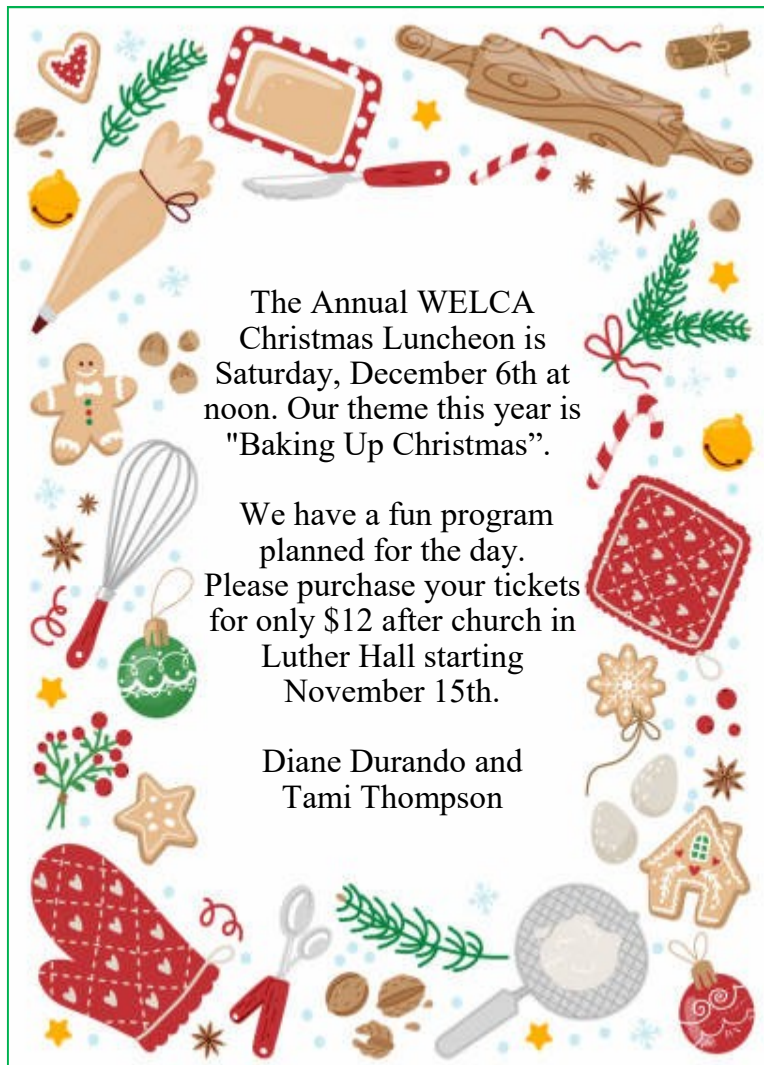
October was an eventful month for NextGen Ministries! Six of our youth were able to serve food at Luther's Libations, where they had a blast interacting with everyone. We also had Trunk or Treat on Halloween night! Thank you to everyone who donated candy or volunteered at the event! Trunk or Treat remains one of the most impactful ways that we as a church get to interact with our community outside of the church building. I look forward to sharing more details with you in December's newsletter!

With Trunk or Treat finished, we are preparing for the Community Thanksgiving on Sunday November 23 after the second service and our winter fundraiser—A Very Merry Christmas Talent Show—on Friday December 19 at 6:00pm. For the Community Thanksgiving meal, please bring any dessert to share except for pumpkin pie; the church provides the pumpkin! We hope to see you at

Grace and peace,

Josh Lee  
*NextGen & Outreach Director*





The Annual WELCA Christmas Luncheon is Saturday, December 6th at noon. Our theme this year is "Baking Up Christmas".

We have a fun program planned for the day. Please purchase your tickets for only \$12 after church in Luther Hall starting November 15th.

Diane Durando and  
Tami Thompson



The Bulldog Pantry would like to thank the following people for helping us in September and October food distributions: Nancy Bird, Carol Bohlin, Jan Odahl, and Robert Phillips. Thank you also to Linda Riley and WELCA for the donation of hygiene items and toilet paper.

We are grateful for those who have shared an Action Plan with us too. Your donations and support allow us to serve an increasing number of households in need in our community.

Also thanks to everyone who helped with our Chipotle fundraiser. You helped us to raise about \$150 that will allow us to buy enough rice to give to 150 families.

We are currently looking for donations of nonperishable food items. (Walmart and WinCo has canned corn & green beans on sale.)



### ***In Our Thoughts and Prayers***

Jennay Vega; Gary Caskey; Frank Collins; Gayle Brown; Norman Stahl; Robert Markarian; Connor Lott; Fran Garwick, sister-in-law of Myrna Bowman; Lori O'Berg; James Spangler; Stephanie Phillips; Destiny Ramirez; Judy McGrath; Judy Friesen; John & Patty Kline; Terri Drewes; Sabrina Cook; Felix Brewer, friend of Robby O'Berg; Robin Kline; Nancy Waterhouse; Roger Odahl; Adriene Keyes; Scott Rowley; John & Roni Grove; Barbara Cucuk; Joan Zoldoske; Debbie Zoldoske-Clark; Sebastian Traux; Nick, friend of Sharon Rowley; Mavourneen Occhino, friend of the Willis'; Coleen Schwartz and Lisa Korth, friends of the Techman's; Continued prayers for Gary Caskey, brother of Laurell Huber; Continued prayers for Reva Chand and Debbie, friends of the Fountinelle's; Peace and comfort for the family and friends of Yonatan Kumar as they mourn his passing; Peace and comfort for the family and friends of Bob Zoldoske as they mourn his passing; Dr. Stephen & Jodi Swanson for their work in Tanzania; the people of the Holy Land; the people of Ukraine and Russia; all victims of natural disasters; victims of violence and terror attacks; our troops, first responders, & their families.

# November Birthdays & Anniversaries



|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Francisco & Darlene Trujillo | 11/15/2014 |
| Nick & Beth Droge            | 11/15/2003 |
| Rod & Rhonnie Harris         | 11/16/1968 |
| Tim & Jan Odahl              | 11/26/1988 |
| James & Donna Neil           | 11/27/1973 |



## Happy Birthday

|                  |       |
|------------------|-------|
| Mark Smith       | 11/06 |
| Dawn Moore       | 11/07 |
| Linda Hurst      | 11/08 |
| Daniel Strater   | 11/08 |
| Katherine Mendyk | 11/09 |
| Alice Sager      | 11/18 |
| Ed Brewer        | 11/18 |
| Josh Lee         | 11/19 |
| Bill Dunlap      | 11/22 |
| Jeri Techman     | 11/25 |
| Sandra Lakeman   | 11/25 |
| Cormac McConnell | 11/25 |
| Carole Poulsen   | 11/26 |
| Mark Wilson      | 11/27 |
| Rodney Harris    | 11/28 |
| Hailee Nalley    | 11/29 |



## Happy Thanksgiving!

*I will bless the Lord at all times;  
his praise shall continually be in my  
mouth. Psalm 34:1*

### From the Collins Family

This is truly the season for “Thankfulness”, and we would like to thank our Trinity family for all the love and support you have shown us! You have allowed our family to be together in this time of uncertainty to focus on Frank during his surgery and throughout his recovery. Frank says he has felt each and every prayer (me too!) and we say “Thank You” from the bottom of our hearts. We hope to be with you soon!

### ANSWERS:

- 1.Jezebel; 2.Jonah; 3. Eve; 4. Peter; 5.Korah  
6.Absalom; 7.Herod; 8. Delilah; 9.Herodias

## BMAT Puzzle of the Month

(Bible Study Ministry Action Team)

### BAD IDEAS

The Bible is full of people who chose to do wrong. From the names below, find the godly person's name for each situation. Three names will NOT be used.

1. Slew the prophets and was determined to murder Elijah.
2. Tried to hide from the Lord by boarding a ship bound for Tarshish.
3. Disobeyed God's command not to eat of a certain tree.
4. Denied even knowing Jesus when Jesus was on trial.
5. Organized a revolt against Moses.
6. Led a revolt against his father to take the throne.
7. Ordered the killing of infants in Bethlehem.
8. Betrayed Samson to his enemies.
9. Demanded the head of John the Baptist.

|       |          |         |       |
|-------|----------|---------|-------|
| AHAZ  | EVE      | KORAH   | BELSH |
| AZZAR | JEZEBEL  | DELILAH |       |
| JONAH | CAIN     | PETER   |       |
| HEROD | HERODIUS | ABSALOM |       |



### LUTHER'S LIBATIONS ANOTHER SUCCESS!!

It was such a beautiful day to be out and about, maybe that is what encouraged people to attend. The event was very well attended with people from our Trinity family, as well as new and old friends. Jim Durando did a magnificent job as our emcee for the late afternoon event. The wine and beer pourers had as much fun sharing their beverages as the people who imbibed. The Beer Garden was new this year and was very well received!

If you did not make it, you missed some amazing silent auction items ... from fresh baked pies and goodies to travel to Cabo, artwork and quilted pieces, gift cards and a pair of Snoopy sneakers! This year, we received over \$5800 dollars that will continue to be used by FMAT to improve our campus.

The FMAT members that meet monthly thank all of you who volunteered in any aspect of our 2025 Luther's Libations. This thank you includes our youth who were excellent with serving the hors d'oeuvres and treats! Mark your calendar for next year - October 17, 2026 - for Luther's Libations 2026.

# November 2025

| Sun                                                                                                        | Mon                                                                                              | Tue                                   | Wed                                                                              | Thu                                                                                                                                 | Fri                                  | Sat |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| 2<br>9a Chancel Choir<br>9a Cont. Worship<br>10a Coffee Hour<br>10:30a Trad. Wrshp.<br>11:30a Coffee Hour  | 3<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC                                                              | 4<br>12p. WELCA Board<br>2:30p TKC    | 5<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC                                              | 6<br>7a MBS<br>12p Bells<br>1p Choir<br>2:30p TKC<br>6p WBS                                                                         | 7<br>9a Warming Fresno<br>2:30p TKC  | 8   |
| 9<br>9a Chancel Choir<br>9a Cont. Worship<br>10a Coffee Hour<br>10:30a Trad. Wrshp.<br>11:30a Coffee Hour  | 10<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC                                                             | 11<br>Church Office Closed            | 12<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>9a CRTA Luncheon<br>9:30a Priscilla Cir.<br>2:30p TKC | 13<br>7a MBS<br>12p Bells<br>1p Choir<br>2:30p TKC<br>6p WBS                                                                        | 14<br>2:30p TKC                      | 15  |
| 16<br>9a Chancel Choir<br>9a Cont. Worship<br>10a Coffee Hour<br>10:30a Trad. Wrshp.<br>11:30a Coffee Hour | 17<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC<br>6:45p Evening Spirit                                     | 18<br>10:00 Good Morning<br>2:30p TKC | 19<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC                                             | 20<br>7a MBS<br>12p Bells<br>1p Choir<br>2:30p TKC                                                                                  | 21<br>9a Warming Fresno<br>2:30p TKC | 22  |
| 23<br>9a Chancel Choir<br>9a Cont. Worship<br>10a Coffee Hour<br>10:30a Trad. Wrshp.<br>11:30a Coffee Hour | 24<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>2:30p TKC                                                             | 25<br>2:30p TKC                       | 26<br>11a Zoom Exercise<br>1p Good News Cir.<br>2:30p TKC                        | 27<br>Church Office Closed                                                                                                          | 28<br>Church Office Closed           | 29  |
| 30<br>9a Chancel Choir<br>9a Cont. Worship<br>10a Coffee Hour<br>10:30a Trad. Wrshp.<br>11:30a Coffee Hour | <b>Exercise class via zoom</b><br><a href="mailto:j3jordan@hotmail.com">j3jordan@hotmail.com</a> |                                       |                                                                                  | <b>Warming Fresno</b> is open<br>to all levels of crocheters<br>and knitters and they are<br>willing to teach anyone<br>interested! |                                      |     |

Trinity Lutheran Church  
3973 N. Cedar Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93726  
tlcfresno.com  
(559) 229-8581

November 2025

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Our Mission:  
To Lead People Into The Life-Changing Love of Jesus Christ**