November 2026

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sharing the story of Jesus Christ so all may experience God's Love

We Value ~ Empowerment * Generosity * Identity in Jesus * Relationships * Worship Experience

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From Pastor Denise

> **Wait** for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; **wait** for the Lord!
> Psalm 27:14

As we move into a holiday season of celebration, let us take on the posture of waiting on the Lord. In scripture, "waiting on the Lord" or "waiting for the Lord," doesn't necessarily mean literal waiting. As in this verse from Psalm 27, it can also mean being courageous, being steadfast in our faith. Everything happening in the world – wars, natural disasters, existential questions around technology, etc. – can easily make us afraid and retreat from a posture of waiting on the Lord. And yet, as followers of the one for whom we wait, both now and in the holiday season to come, we are indeed called to wait, to take courage and to remain steadfast.

I hope you will consider joining me in our 5-week Advent study with the book "The First Advent in Palestine." The author takes us on a journey through the Christmas stories of Matthew and Luke, shows us the context of the world into which Jesus was born, and brings in some of the current realities in the land where Jesus was born. Along with the book and scripture, I and my daughter Aliliywa and possibly others from the group, will share some of our experiences on our summer trip to Palestine. We will also watch some of the videos from SUMUD – the ELCA organization seeking justice in Palestine. The first sessions are November 18 & 22. You can choose to come on either Wednesdays or Sundays. Or mix it up. You'll find more details in this newsletter.

This study will be a great way to take that posture of waiting on the Lord as we enter Advent and Christmas. As we learn what the world was like for Jesus, we might learn some things that will help us wait on God's coming in our own time.

On the fourth Sunday of November, November 22nd, we finish out our church year celebrating Christ the King Sunday. We will also observe some Thanksgiving traditions as we have our pie-luck after worship and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. Then November 29th is

the First Sunday of Advent and we have a hymn sing focusing on the four candles of our Advent wreath – Hope, Peace, Joy, Love – all ways in which we eagerly wait upon the Lord's coming.

May God's Spirit surround you as we take on the posture of waiting on the Lord in this upcoming season of celebration.

Pastor Denise

Pastor Denise will be on vacation November 11-17. Pastor Karl-John Stone will be on call for pastoral care and emergencies. His cell # is 262-833-7348.

From Our President



As November begins and Thanksgiving approaches, it is a wonderful time to reflect on the many blessings we share at Trinity. I am thankful for our church family, for the fellowship we enjoy, and for the many people who give their time, talents, and support to our congregation.

This season reminds us to be grateful not only for what we have, but also for the opportunities we have to serve others. Whether through worship, volunteering, giving, or simply offering a kind word, each of us plays an important part in the life of Trinity.

As we gather with family and friends this Thanksgiving season, may we take time to thank God for His many blessings and continue to share His love with those around us.

Wishing you and your families a blessed and joyful Thanksgiving.

Blessings,
Jason Woodbury




Craft and
Vendor Fair



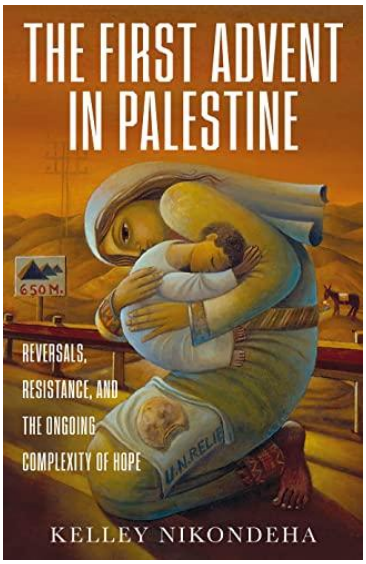
Community Meal

November 19, Volunteer hours 1:30-7:00 p.m., Meal time 5:00-6:00 p.m. First Congregational UCC, 1111 N Chicago Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Trinity will be serving the South Milwaukee Community Meal. We have a Thrivent Action Grant to purchase food so we just need volunteers:

- Two to help prepare the food at Trinity between 1:30-4:15. We will cook premade lasagna and garlic bread; serve salad and pumpkin pie as a nod to Thanksgiving.
- Then we need 5-8 people to help serve and clean-up at First Congregational from 4:30-7.

Advent Study "The First Advent in Palestine" by Kelley Nicondeha



Come learn about the history of Palestine during the time of Jesus and hear about Pastor Denise Mbise and Aliliywa Mbise's experiences in Palestine this past June. We will also use some videos from SUMUD to learn about current events.

Pastor Denise will lead this 5-week study using the book "The First Advent in Palestine" by Kelley Nikondeha which explores the birth narratives of Jesus in Luke and Matthew. She talks about these narratives in relation to what was going on historically at the time and what is currently happening in Palestine.

Each week we will explore a couple chapters in the book, hear from Pastor Denise and Aliliywa about their experiences in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem, and make use of the SUMUD videos on some history of Palestine.

This study is being offered at two different times each week with the same content.

Wednesdays from 6:30-8 p.m. beginning November 18

Sundays from 12 noon – 1:30 p.m. beginning November 22

Nov. 18 and Nov. 22 – Introduction and chapters 1 and 2 (The Maccabees, Zechariah and Luke 1:5-25)

Nov. 25 and Nov. 29 – Chapters 3 and 4 (Luke 1:26-56)

Dec. 2 and Dec. 6 – Chapters 5 and 6 (Luke 2:1-21)

Dec. 9 and Dec. 13 – Chapters 7 and 8 (Matthew 1:18-25 and Matthew 2:1-12)

Dec. 16 and 20 – Chapters 9 and 10 (Matthew 2:13-23)

Please sign up on the long sheet, the sheet in the narthex or on Sign-up genius. And purchase the book ahead of time on Amazon or Barnes and Noble or Broadleaf Books.

Restaurant Meetup

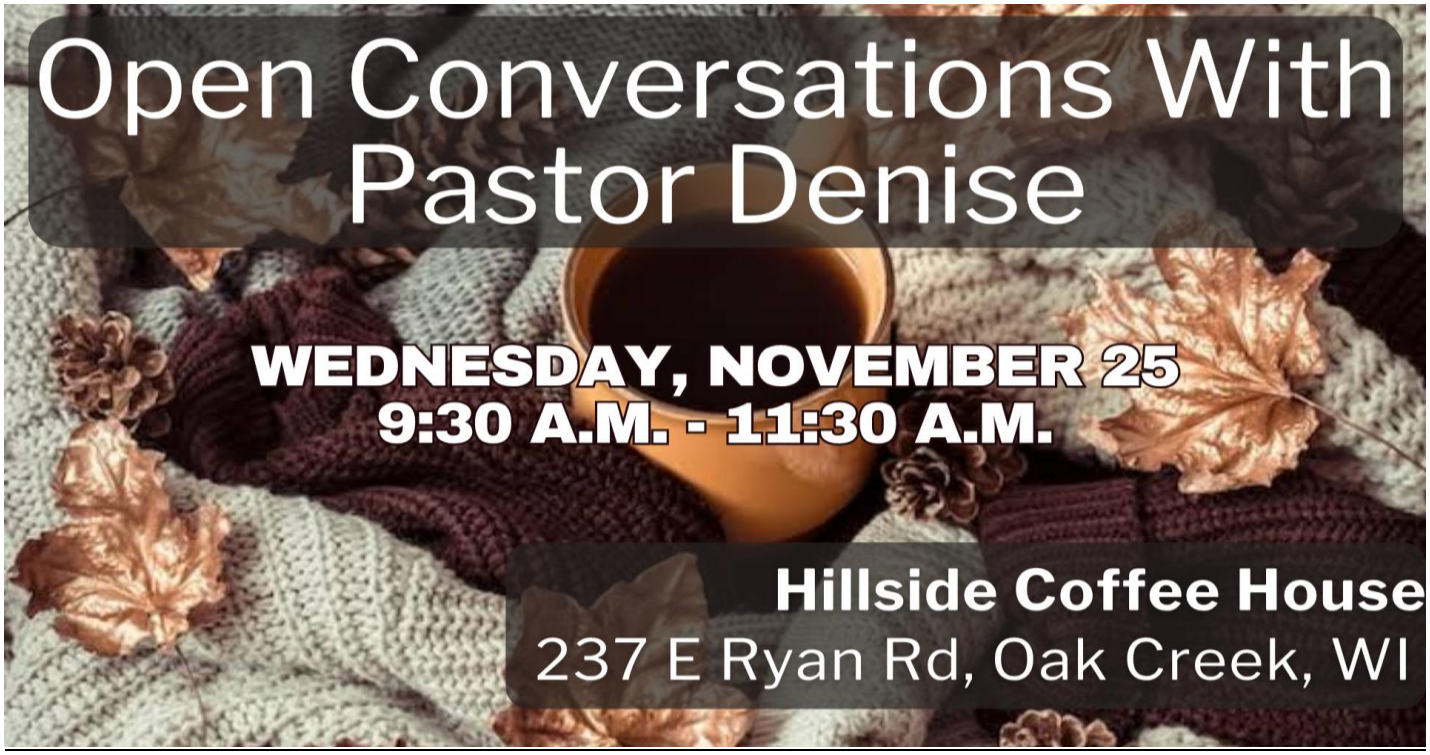
Saturday, November 21 at 11:00 a.m.

There was a request we try Golden Honey Pancakes & Cafe, located at 7135 S. 13th St. Oak Creek, WI. It's right next to South Shore Cinema.

They do take separate checks. If anyone needs a ride contact Cindy at cfelicki@yahoo.com, or 414-241-4742.





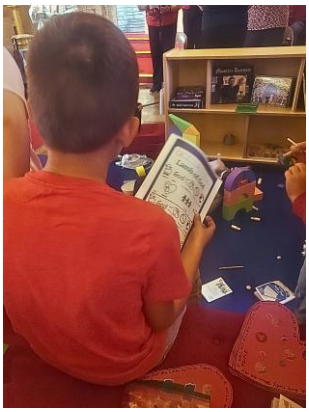


Youth and Family News

Submitted by Alyssa Olson

Prayground Updates

It's been so wonderful to see our prayground in use every week! Thank you to our generous donors and volunteers for your support of Trinity's families, and thank you to the children and families who have brought the space to life.



The prayground is a space near the front for families to sit together with access to tools curated for helping people of all ages and abilities engage in worship. This space is especially designed to give room for safe movement, flexible seating, and the items that come along with family care (diaper bags, car seats, etc). Using the prayground tools, children can sing, reflect, and participate while learning the rhythms of worship and growing in faith. We're excited for our first major prayground seasonal update soon–after Thanksgiving, watch for new items to help us celebrate Advent and Christmas!

For those who haven't been able to witness the joyful worship taking place in the prayground, here are some of the highlights from our first month:

- Five kids used the prayground the first week it was ready, and every one spontaneously thanked us for making it! They are especially excited to see the reader, mission moment videos, and communion. In the following weeks, all of the kids asked many questions about communion, acted out communion in various ways, and read related Bible stories.



- Three children carefully watching the Quilt Blessing and Mission Moment saw an image of a recipient family wrapped in a quilt. They used the prayground doll to represent that child, wrapping her in a blanket, feeding her, and reading her a Bible bedtime story. They quietly discussed how cool it is that our church can help kids like them all around the world, and excitedly wondered if they could make quilts in the future.
- After a message about God's love surrounding us, one little girl spent most of worship drawing hearts and handing them out to people nearby as reminders that God's love is with them. A few weeks later, a young boy did the same with happy faces.
- Using our new kid-friendly worship guides, children have been able to follow along with worship. We even have a picture version so non-readers can say the prayers and sing Lamb of God, which they happily stop whatever they're working on to do!
- An older child took some prayground items to work on in a pew during worship, then taught the younger kids how to make beautiful flowers after worship. They are Easter lilies that will remind us of Jesus for a long time!

After hearing Psalm 23, one group worked together to finish an animal puzzle, supporting each other when they struggled. They talked about God's amazing creation and how God takes care of the world.

Hat, Sock, and Mitten Tree

As the days get chillier, we're sharing the warmth in our hearts with our community. Beginning November 8 and continuing through the New Year, we'll be collecting hats, socks, mittens, scarves, and other gifts of winter warmth on the tree in the Narthex. These will be delivered to Human Concerns for distribution to those who need them most. Thank you for your generosity!



Class Breaks



We have a few days off coming up!

Sunday School classes have Thanksgiving Break November 29, and Christmas Break December 20 & 27. If you're in town those Sundays, we encourage families to attend worship and utilize the prayground's special Advent and Christmas offerings.

Confirmation class will also be off December 21 & 28.

Cross+Generational Advent Festival

December 6, 8:45 am

Advent begins in a weary world, fractured by division and despair. Yet across generations, humanity has clung to the hope of restoration. The Messiah has saved us, is saving us, and will save us. As we journey through Advent, we watch for God's saving work all around us.

Join us in the Thrill of Hope this Advent, with our annual Cross+Generational Advent Festival before Family Worship on December 6. People of all ages and abilities are invited to engage with the season and experience hope together.

As we celebrate together with art and story, we'll delve deeper into the great mysteries of Advent. This time is for everyone. No matter your age, ability, family or relationship structure, there's new hope for you to discover this season!



Christmas Program Worship and GIANT Cinnamon Roll Sale
December 13, 9:30 a.m.

Save the date! Our students are working hard on our Christmas story worship, including confirmation class preparing liturgical elements and Sunday school practicing songs and making a nativity set. The joy of this Third Sunday of Advent will surround you as we send you out from worship to our favorite fundraiser, the GIANT cinnamon roll sale!





Youth and Young Adult Gatherings
The Youth Gathering is a unique faith formation experience. Every three years, thousands of ELCA teens from across the country converge on one city for a week of worship, service, and fellowship unlike any other. This is one of the most impactful opportunities for a young person's faith.

Keep an eye out for our youth gathering fundraisers in the coming months, including our favorite GIANT cinnamon rolls! Thank you for supporting us!

Teens must be in 8th-12th grade in fall 2026 to attend the Youth Gathering.
For those 18-35, the national Young Adult Gathering will happen at the same time. There are also pre-events for disabled youth and youth of color to gather in community before the large event. Learn more at https://www.elca.org/gathering-2027/about-what-is-the-gathering.

If you are interested in attending, please talk to Alyssa in person or email youthtlcsm@gmail.com as soon as possible.


Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit
Community ~ Culture ~ Together
Rummage & CRAFT FAIR
Saturday, December 5, 2026
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit
3127 South Howell Avenue
Rummage Items
Local Crafters
Bakery
Great Finds
Rummage Items
Local Crafters
Bakery
Unique Gifts
Great Finds
Support Local
Everyone Welcome!
Vendor Spaces Available!
$25 per space
(includes one table)
Reserve in advance with phone/text, pay day of event.
Contact
Karen Lemke
414-369-9249
Shop Local
Support
Community!

All Peoples Gathering Church

2600 N 2nd St + Milwaukee
Text or call
414.264.1616

Scan code to RSVP

All Peoples Women's Ministries

Beloved Sisters Advent Brunch

Saturday, December 12th
10 AM to Noon



- High School Youth + Adults
- Members & friends of All Peoples
- Scan the code or contact the church office to RSVP & sign up to bring a dish to share

Bring soft toothbrushes to share with our sister church in El Salvador and to put in hygiene kits for our local community.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers and Recently Hospitalized

Angie and Paul Sevald and James Mueller

Altar Flowers for November

November 1	Lois Lukas; Kathryn Swanson
November 8	**; **
November 15	Mark & Karen Sostarich; **
November 22	**; **
November 29	Dale & Karalee Helminak; **

The bouquets are $25 each. Please sign up on Signup Genius **tinyurl.com/TrinityFlowers** or contact the church office. You can also sign up on the board outside the church office. **(**)** means nobody has signed up. You may pick up your flowers or call to arrange delivery.

Scripture Readings for November 2026

October 31 & November 1, 2026 – All Saints Sunday and Family First Worship - Bell Ensemble
Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

November 7 & 8, 2026 - Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24; Psalm 70; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

November 14 & 15, 2026 - Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - - Soul Purpose - Pastor Denise on Vacation - Lay Sunday - No Communion
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 ; Psalm 90:1-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

November 21 & 22, 2026 - Christ the King Sunday - Commitment Sunday - Pie Luck and church decorating following worship
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 ; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

November 28 & 29, 2026 - First Sunday of Advent - Hymn Sing - Choir
Isaiah 64:1-9 ; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 ; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Council Highlights - October

- The Trinity Council did not meet in October as there were no actionable items on the agenda.

Financial Update for September

Submitted by David Hahn

Financial Update for September: September was a welcomed recovery month. We had a positive balance for the month which also helped clear our year-to-date deficit

- Net income +$3,003; Year-to-date +$937
- We did have two annual giftors which helped increase our income for the month
- We were able to return $5,000 of our borrowing to the reserves. We still have $5,000 borrowed from our reserves.
- Compared to last year at this time, we are ahead in income by $6,000, and expenses were the same

We appreciate all the gifts received each month to help support our ministries. We are projected to have a balanced budget at year end. Please keep this in mind for the next three months as you plan your gifting.

Project Uplift: Balance of $22,465: Income $308, no expense

Impact Report:

Endowment Fund Grants: $248 for music

Thrivent:

- Choice Dollars-$150 for shipping boxes for quilts
- Two Action Team Grants-Community Dinner and TLC Halloween

Coming in December!

- Christmas gifts for children through South Milwaukee Human Concerns.
- Advent and Christmas cereal drive for South Milwaukee Human Concerns.



November 2026

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South Milwaukee, WI 53172
Phone: 414-762-6626
Email:
officetlcsm@gmail.com
Website: WWW.TLCSM.ORG

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 8:45 Sunday School for elementary school 9:30 Family First Worship in person and online 10:30 Caring and Outreach Ministry Team Meets 10:30 Youth and Education Team Meets	2 6:30 Confirmation	3 8:30-1:30 Office Open 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting 10:00 Property Team Meets 7:00 Executive Committee Meets	4	5 NO Bible Study Pastor Attending Synod Boundary Training 8:30-1:30 Office Open 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	6 Pastor's Day Off	7 Stewardship Wk 1 Human Concerns Weekend 5:00 Worship in person
8 Stewardship Wk 1 Human Concerns Weekend 8:45 Sunday School for elementary/middle school 9:30 Worship in person and online 10:30 Worship and Music Team Meets	9 6:30 Confirmation 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting	10 8:30-1:30 Office 7:00 Council Meting	11 Pastor on Vacation	12 Pastor on Vacation NO Bible Study Tidings Articles Due 8:30 –1:30 Office Open 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	13 Pastor's Day Off	14 Stewardship Wk 2 Pastor on Vacation 1:00 Saturday Stitchers 5:00 Worship in person
15 Stewardship Wk 2 Pastor on Vacation 8:45 Sunday School for elementary /middle school 9:30 Soul Purpose Worship in person and online	16 Pastor on Vacation 6:30 Confirmation	17 Pastor on Vacation 8:30-1:30 Office Open 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting	18 6:30 Advent Book Study 7:00 Thrivent Member Group Meets	19 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 5:00 Community Meal 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	20 Pastor's Day Off	21 Commitment Weekend 11:00 Restaurant Meetup at Golden Honey Pancakes & Cafe 5:00 Worship in person
22 Commitment Sunday 8:45 Sunday School for elementary/middle school 9:30 Worship in person and online 10:30 Pie Luck and Church Decorating 12:00 Advent Book Study	23 6:30 Confirmation	24 8:30-1:30 Office Open 12:30 Staff Meeting	25 9:30-11:30 Open Conversations at Hillside Coffee House 6:30 Advent Book Study	26 Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed NO Adult Bible Study NO Bell Ensemble Rehearsal NO Choir Rehearsal	27 Pastor's Day Off	28 5:00 Worship in person
29 8:45 Sunday School for elementary school 9:30 Worship in person and online 12:00 Advent Book Study	30 6:30 Confirmation	December 1 8:30-1:30 Office Open 9:00 Lutheran World Relief Quilting 10:00 Property Team Meets 7:00 Executive Committee Meets	2 6:30 Advent Book Study	3 8:30– 1:30 Office Open 10:30 Adult Bible Study 6:30 Bell Ensemble Rehearsal 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	4 Pastor's Day Off	5 Human Concerns Weekend 5:00 Worship in person Great Spirit Craft Fair

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

STAFF

	Rev Denise M.H. Mbise Pastor 262-930-8267 tlcsmpastor@gmail.com		Jasmine Zabrowski Communications & Office Manager officetlcsm@gmail.com
	Lisa Maxfield Music Director choirtlcsm@sbcglobal.net		Kari Pink Pianist/Organist karijanderson@hotmail.com
	Karel Suchy Saturday Keyboardist karel@studio1259.biz		Alyssa Olson Youth, Family & Education Director youthtlcsm@gmail.com

COUNCIL OFFICERS

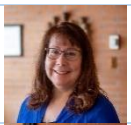
	Jason Woodbury * Council President Jasonwoodbury@outlook.com		Vacant Council Vice President
	Sue Zylka* Council Secretary suezylka@gmail.com		David Hahn Council Treasurer tlcsmtreasurer@gmail.com

MINISTRY TEAM LEADERS & COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

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	Mike Radtke Finance Ministry Team radtke22@hotmail.com		Steve Mueller Property Ministry Team swm755@gmail.com
	Patty Rosek-Johnson Stewardship Ministry Team patty.rosekjohnson@gmail.com		Jim Lembke * jalembke@gmail.com
	Josh Hiett * hiett.josh@gmail.com		Darcy McDaniel * cfiatp2020@charter.net

* denotes Council member

CHURCH TEAMS AND COMMITTEES

	Sandy Mueller Mutual Ministry Team drsandymueller@gmail.com		Sarah Brooks Communications Team scbrooks5@gmail.com
	David Hahn Thrivent Member Group djhahn610@gmail.com		Aron Miller Endowment Committee aronmiller0675@gmail.com



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www.facebook.com/tlcsm

November 2026 TIDINGS
For more information about our congregation, please visit our website at www.tlcsm.org.

In person worship at 5:00 p.m. Saturday
In person and livestream worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday
Sunday School 3-year-olds – 8th grade at 8:45 a.m.
(Labor Day – Memorial Day)
Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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