

The logo for the newsletter, featuring the word "spirit" in a large, white, lowercase, cursive font, with "NEWSLETTER" in a smaller, white, uppercase, sans-serif font below it. The background is a dark blue gradient with a faint, light blue starburst pattern.

The Monthly Newsletter Publication of Triune Lutheran Church
“Set Free to Serve One Another”
November 2020

Address:
4810 West Mill Road
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Phone: 440-526-3676
Website: triunelutheran.com
E-mail: triune948@sbcglobal.net
Office Hours (remotely)

Worship (in Willmann Hall):
Saturdays 5PM (contemporary)
Sundays 11AM (traditional)

Ministers.....All People
Pastor.....Brad Ross
Administrative Assistant.....Jan Piskac
Organist.....Edith Schatt
Council President.....Dale Kirk
Council Vice-President.....Bonnie Piskac
Council Secretary.....Bill Weidman
Council Treasurer.....Jack Schwab



Sisters & brothers in Christ,

As long as you promise not to tell, we've been committing a crime against the liturgical police the last few years. Instead of celebrating Christ the King Sunday (the last Sunday before Advent commences), like the overwhelming majority of our Lutheran and plenty other sister congregations do, we have worshiped with a Day of Thanksgiving focus. I'm not sure many of you noticed, or even care all that much, but it's worth making sure we're all on the same page in case those aforementioned liturgical police ever do show up that late Sunday in November (I don't know for sure that they do, in fact, exist, but plenty of other pastors bring them up in casual conversation, so who knows?).

I'll be honest: I'm the culprit. I started doing this with the first congregation I served with out of seminary. When it came to the whole Day of Thanksgiving worship, we tried doing so that respective Wednesday evening (the day before the actual national holiday). Let's just say not too many people showed up. Evidently, people like to start preparing the meal early or something. We even tried it that Tuesday, but again, not too many showed up. Evidently, it takes a couple days to clean and prepare who knows what for family to come, or they may have to travel to distant places. We could have just complained about it: "another way the overall culture/society is putting anything and everything before worship and God, along with soccer practices and work-related whatever," or we could bend the liturgical rules and acknowledge we can celebrate a Day of Thanksgiving together as a family in Christ the weekend before or after the national holiday (as if we can be thankful beyond a single day or something).



Find us on Facebook at:
Triune Lutheran Church



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

I've come to believe there's something rather special about focusing on that giving-of-thanks that Sunday before what turns out to be one of the craziest weeks of the entire year. It has a way of giving us all the space and time to take a collective sigh, that Holy-Spirit-empowered kind of sigh that's too deep for words: to mentally and spiritually prepare ourselves for a time that will have its nagging way of obsessing over anything and everything except the peaceful and the beautiful and the wonderful of this world, including the God (the Emmanuel) amidst it all. I don't know that it works for everyone. Who knows? Maybe some would prefer the good 'ole Christ the King Sunday. But sometimes we need the sacred reminder to not forget the actual giving-of-thanks amidst the cleaning, food-preparing and down-right anxiety-filled stressing.

Of course, we could make the argument that we should just be doing a Day of Thanksgiving pretty much every Sabbath opportunity now amidst this COVID-19 landscape: to help us keep on being grateful for the many aspects of life that remain intact in spite of a global pandemic. Then again, every opportunity we have to connect with God is an opportunity to be thankful. Well, actually, every moment of our life is an opportunity to be thankful. As far as I know, we don't have a set limit pre-determined by God in our spiritual DNA.

Regardless, as a community of faith, a family in Christ who has been put through the emotional and spiritual ringer this year (as have many others throughout the world), we'll take Sunday, November 22, as a collective opportunity, as a sacred privilege to give thanks to this steadfast cup-runneth-over God. We'll take a precious sigh together to hear, feel and even taste that this God is sticking it out with us no matter what; that not even a cross could stop our crown-of-thorns-wearing King. It may not be the same Thanksgiving this year, but it will still be one to be thankful for, for the (and our) Greatest News brought to life in Jesus Christ, our still-Risen Savior and Lord. *Thanks* be to God, indeed!

In Christ,
Pastor Brad

From all of us at Triune Lutheran Church, we wish you and yours a wonderful Thanksgiving, no matter how you may gather!





We ask you to keep the following sisters and brothers in Christ in your prayers:

Bev Deitrick
Cathy Gallagher
Linda Kirk
John Kurtz
Jean Kurtz
Matthew Loede
Donna Matter
Mary Phillips
Gerry Praizner

Hazel Schwab
Karen Schrodel
Bill Stuehler
George Tomaselli
Martha Wasson
Mardell Weiss
Clara Wilcox
Dave Wilcox

If you wish to send any cards, please send them, or drop them off, to the church office, and we will be sure to deliver them.

- 5 Carole Weiss
- 9 Linda Kirk
- 22 Cody Schwab
- 23 Sterling Schatt



- 2 Richard & Heidi Bailey
- 24 Jack & Tina Schwab
- 24 Robert & Irene Jakubcin

"THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS" by C.S. Lewis is the topic for Monday's Bible Study @ 1:00pm (We wear masks and practice safe-distancing.)

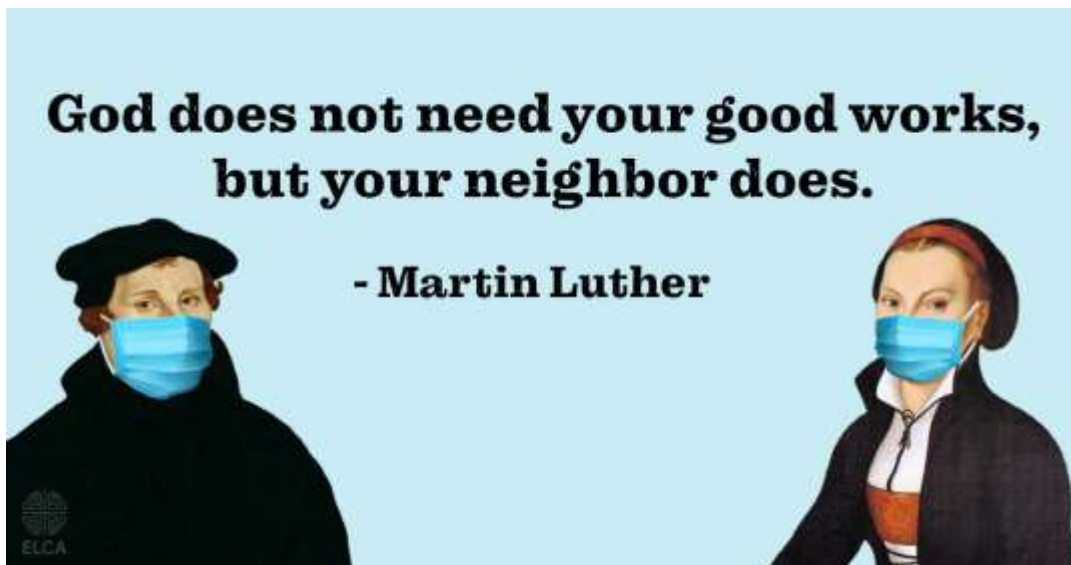
Questions?
Contact Triune
440-526-3676
Triune948@gmail.com





Our next congregational meeting will be Sunday, November 15, after worship. Due to COVID-19, we will not be holding a potluck meal before the meeting. In hopes of more people joining us, we will not have a Saturday worship that weekend. We hope you can make it!

On Sunday, November 22, our worship together will be a Day of Thanksgiving for the many blessings that still remain in our life.



Triune Council Meeting Notes

The meeting was opened at 6:08 PM with a prayer by Pastor Brad, and attended by Jack Schwab, Bonnie Piskac, and Dale Kirk.

Jack's Financial Report is as follows (as of this date, October 19, 2020): the checking account balance was \$1464. The balance of the Thrivent account was \$135,374 (it had been \$133,540 per the quarterly report on Sept. 30, 2020). The balance of our stock fund is now \$97,176 (it had been \$93,930 per the quarterly report on Sept. 30, 2020).

It was noticed over the weekend that the south heating unit for the church did not seem to be working. Jack said he will contact Lisco Heating & Cooling to come check it out.

Jack said he had received estimates from the Cartwright Tree Service Company regarding trimming the large tree in the old playground on the south side of the sanctuary. The estimate to trim the two main limbs, which are starting to damage the roof of the sanctuary, was \$1600, and to do a full tree trimming would be \$2500. Jack said he was confident he could get the full trimming done for the lower number. We are waiting for one more tree service to give us an estimate. It was also noted that the trimming should take place in another month or so, once the tree buds are exhausted for the year.

Bonnie said she is still receiving inquiries about renting Willmann Hall for private functions, with an average expected attendance of 60-plus people. Bonnie said she researched the social distancing restrictions, and given the square footage of Willmann Hall, the total capacity would be about 28 people. So, for now, it was decided we're not renting the hall for any large gatherings.

Pastor Brad reported Jim Harrington has let Triune know that he is once again available for custodial duties. Since we now have Gordon Jardy for the interior cleaning, and Dale Kirk for the exterior landscaping, we didn't have any work for him, but we would keep him in mind should something come up.

Pastor said the congregant's quiet responses through masks during services was working well and will continue and may expand more participation during worship.

The next semi-annual congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 15, 2020. Due to COVID-19, Council decided this semi-annual meeting will be held immediately following the 11 AM worship that day, with no food or refreshment involved. It was decided to have no Saturday service that weekend, in hopes that the Saturday members will come to the Sunday morning meeting.

Pastor also asked that he not be given a yearly raise on the next budget, due to our COVID-19 world. The council appreciates his gesture.

It was also noted Almut will be having a discussion with Mike David, Lutheran Church of the Covenant's treasurer, regarding the Payment Protection Plan assistance for COVID-19, whereby the LCC received money from the government in order to meet payroll. The point was made that Triune should share equally in this arrangement.

Regarding the church office, Jan has noted the desktop computer is not working well anymore. Nevertheless, Jan is using the laptop computer exclusively, so it's not a big issue anymore. Jack said he will look into donating or disposing the laptop computer, as well as three other desktop computers now residing in the upstairs library.

The next council meeting will be at 6 PM on December 14, 2020.

Submitted by Dale Kirk, Council President

When Advent and Christmas are Blue

Although this article was originally published through Living Lutheran in December, 2017, the words remain as important to know as we approach the start of Advent at the end of this month.



Culturally it's easy to treat Advent as a countdown to Christmas—a swirl of parties, sparkle and lights. But liturgically it's a season of anguished waiting. For many years, it seemed that God had forgotten his people. Had I lived years before Jesus was born into the world, I imagine it would have been tempting to give up hope.

Even now, looking around, it's easy to see what is wrong and broken. Our world is hurting, trying to recover from natural disasters that seem to just keep coming, as well as tragedies brought about by human hands. The people we love get sick; their hearts are broken; sometimes they die. In these moments, we find it hard to be surrounded by festive music, décor and Christmas revelry.

Last Christmas, a friend of mine took her almost 2-year-old daughter to the doctor, just to be on the safe side since she wasn't feeling well. Within a few days, the situation became dire. I joined a host of people who prayed for a miracle for this sweet little girl and her family. She weighed on my mind even as I slept.

On Christmas Eve, my friend's daughter died. That night, I read the Scriptures at church. I did so through tears, keenly aware of these words about the gift of a child who would save us all, aware that there was one family whose arms were newly empty.

As we get closer to Advent and Christmas, I keep thinking about my friend and this sorrowful anniversary she is facing. Perhaps you know someone who is struggling with grief in sorrow. Or perhaps you yourself may be holding something heavy and hard. During these times, it can be tempting to turn inward. But as Christians, God calls us to do otherwise.

Many ELCA and other congregations host "Blue Christmas" services for those who are suffering during this time of the year. Last year, for the first time, my congregation hosted one. People were free to come and worship, cry or just be quiet. It was a place for those who didn't feel they fit in with the joviality of the season, for people who needed a space to honor the tough emotions they were feeling.

My pastor, Liv Larson Andrews, had noticed other congregations doing these services and wanted to offer something similar. "I have loved the liturgical renewal that is occurring in so many churches that lifts up the deep practices of Advent as a little bit of a corrective to the cultural obsession with Christmas that begins in October—just to offer a way in for people who are experiencing December and the 'holidays' of American culture as this one-note everyone's happy, everybody is singing 'Jingle Bells'—and to both do the Christian thing of telling the truth that 'Hey, first of all, not everybody is here,' and to welcome everyone, wherever they are emotionally, into faith. Not to require that people feel blue or feel sad, but simply to acknowledge that there is a range of postures or feelings or experiences," she said.

Of course, one service is just the beginning of welcoming everyone who is experiencing sadness and grief into the church. "Christ is risen, Christ is among us, and life is full of struggle; suffering still assails us," Andrews said. "[Yet the struggle] doesn't mean Jesus isn't there with us, but we kind of hold those things together."

If you or someone you know is blue this Advent and Christmas, remember that you are not alone. Emmanuel (God with us) came down to earth to accompany us in our joy and in our sorrow. Consider seeking out a Blue Christmas service near you—and may God be with you this season.



Cara Strickland writes about food and drink, singleness, faith and mental health from her home in the Northwest (carastrickland.com).

Adopt a Family FOR CHRISTMAS

GIVEN CORONAVIRUS REALITIES, WE WILL *NOT* BE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR OUR ANNUAL ANGEL TREE THIS YEAR. HOWEVER, WE ARE ASKING FOR GIFT CARDS THROUGH THE LOCAL ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM, SPECIFICALLY FOR PARENTS TO PURCHASE CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR THEIR CHILDREN. WE ARE HOPING TO COLLECT \$450 OF GIFT CARDS TO SUPPORT SIX LOCAL CHILDREN (\$75 PER CHILD), BUT YOU ARE WELCOME TO PROVIDE WHATEVER INCREMENT YOU LIKE (OR CASH/CHECK IF YOU PREFER FOR US TO GET THE GIFT CARDS FOR YOU). WALMART, TARGET AND THE LIKE ARE PREFERRED FOR THE MOST OPTIONS FOR PARENTS. PLEASE SEE PASTOR BRAD FOR DONATING THE GIFT CARDS AND ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 18.

On November 25, the wider church commemorates Isaac Watts, an English minister, theologian, as well as hymn-writer of hundreds, ten of which are in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) hymnal. One is “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,” for which he is responsible for the following words (ELW 803):

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.
- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.
- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.



Isaac Watts
Born: July 17, 1674
Died: November 25, 1748

NOVEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship @ 11am All Saints Day Daylight Savings	2 Bible Study @ 1 pm	3 AA @ 7pm	4	5 AA @ 8pm	6	7 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
8 Worship @ 11am	9 Bible Study @ 1 pm	10 AA @ 7pm	11	12 AA @ 8 pm	13	14
15 Worship @ 11am Congregational Meeting	16 Bible Study @ 1 pm	17 AA @ 7pm	18	19 AA @ 8 pm	20	21 Worship @ 5pm Tim Mize
22 Day of Thanksgiving Worship @ 11am	23 Bible Study @ 1 pm	24 AA @ 7pm	25	26 Thanksgiving Day AA @ 8 pm	27	28 Worship @ 5pm Pastor Brad
29 Worship @ 11am First Sunday of Advent	30 Bible Study @ 1 pm					



If you have something you would like to put in the newsletter, please let us know by email, written letter, phone call or stopping by the office.