



Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World

November 2016 Newsletter of Trinity United Methodist Church

Jacob's well was still there, Jesus, worn out by the trip, sat down at the well.

-John 4:6

As I sit here typing, I noticed that we are officially two months away from Christmas. Which means we are just one month away from Thanksgiving. For some of us that reality generates all sorts of excitement. For others it becomes a time of deep anxiety. Most everyone else falls somewhere in-between depending on the day or week we are in. What if there was a way to help better organize our time, effort, energy and faith? And not just now, but scheduled opportunities throughout the year?

I would like to help us work on this reality; how to better organize and prepare for certain moments in our lives and a lifetime. I would like to offer a Life Study course, I have named, "the LIVING WELL." The point is to play off the words, living and well. We all need to live well but we also need to go to the living well that Jesus offers us for our eternal salvation.

On Sundays, November 6th and 20th from 9:45am to 10:40am in the Sanctuary, we will have our first the LIVING WELL course. I would like to invite anyone who does not already have a Sunday school class to join me in the Sanctuary to discuss how to better handle the upcoming holidays.

We will look at goals for ourselves, our families, and anyone God brings into our lives at this time of year. I have handouts for planning Thanksgiving activities, grocery list, and meals. We will also look at shopping what stores on what days and the budget we set. Christmas will also get some attention. Of course, we will look at calendaring, which includes parties and cards to be sent, along with other activities prior to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Part of this conversation will spend time looking at our faith. We need to make sure to set time daily to stay in conversation with God in prayer. We also need to make sure that our calendars have the worship services for the next two months. There are plans in place for a Thanksgiving Eve service. We will also have two, and maybe even three, services on Christmas Eve (depending on the pastor). For those who have not looked at the calendar, Christmas Eve is on a Saturday. So Sunday we will have just one service at 10am.

I am looking forward to this new opportunity for us to Live Well. I hope you will be able to join me.

Prayer for the month

Lord, You are my wonderful Counselor and Source of all wisdom. I take You at Your Word that when I ask for wisdom – from a heart that's ready to put it obediently and faithfully into practice – You will surely pour it upon me freely. Because I surely need it. Every day in every way. I pray You'd help me view life from Your eternal perspective rather than the world's. Help me think long-term, and understand the causes and effects of my choices. Give me the discernment between what is good, better, and best, and help me make right decisions in light of it. Amen.

Grace and Peace, Matt

Trinity United Methodist Church 8009 Q Street Ralston, NE 68127

Phone: 402-331-4054 <http://www.trinityralston.org> [facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityRalstonUMC)

Sunday Worship: Services @ 8:30am & 11am, Sunday School @ 9:45am

Pastor: Rev Dr. Matt Fowler **Associate Pastor:** Rev Curt Copple **Pastor of Congregational Development:** Rev Dr. Bob Folkers

Executive Pastor: Rev Dr. Cole Fowler **Children /Youth Director:** Becky McClanathan

Choir Director: David Galant **Media Director/Worship Leader:** Matthew Hindley

Facilities Coordinator: Jon Lindhjem **Administrative Assistant:** Vicky Segers **Building Supervisor:** Judy Slavik

Mission Notes

Living Hope UMC Thanksgiving Baskets Wish List

The mission team has been asked to help provide items for Living Hope's (Pearl Pantry's) Thanksgiving baskets.

The **needed items** include:

Turkeys 10-12lbs *Box stuffing mix*
Canned green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce
Instant mashed potatoes and gravy mix
Corn bread mix *Cake mix and frosting*

If you care to participate in this project, please place any of the above items in bags marked "Thanksgiving" by Monday, November 21st in Fellowship Hall. Our mission team will donate a \$100 gift card to Walmart so that Ms. Barb, the manager, can buy some turkeys. She said that many people stop by their pantry since its location on 30th and State Street is so visible.

Operation Christmas Child

There has been a lot of talk about the Christmas boxes-- what to put in the boxes, how to wrap them, and details about the check for postage and handling. On the mission table are flyers to let you know what to put in the boxes and what **not** to put in them as well as the "Shoebox Gift" envelope. Be sure to wrap your box with Christmas paper but do not tape the box shut. Also, write a check for \$7.00 to Samaritan's Purse and write "Operation Christmas Child" on the memo line. Place the check in the gift envelope provided and put inside the box. Don't forget to designate who the gift is for by taping the label on top of the box.

All boxes are due at the church (can place on mission table) by Tuesday, November 15th. Thanks ahead of time for your generosity.

Remember, if we get our 100 boxes, Pastor Matt will entertain us with something we won't be able to forget!!!!

Dining for Women

It is a well-known fact that our Dining for Women meetings are productive on so many levels. We enjoy great company, eat wonderful food, learn something about the world we live in, and share meaningful dialogue. I would like to report that this past year, we have donated \$1300 to various projects; and, furthermore, since we started this program in 2012, we have contributed \$4800 to global projects. In addition, during our 31 programs, we have "toured" Asia, Africa, and South America and "visited" projects in 21 countries. Women do matter and we can make a difference in this world.

Our next meeting of Dining for Women will be Friday, November 11th at Noon featuring Amman Imman: Water is Life a program working in Niger, West Africa.

Judy Dappen
Mission Chair

Calendar insert

You will find inserted in this month's Beacon a copy of the current calendar for November. Please note that this is a working document subject to change. If you are looking to host an event at Trinity, please check the website (trinityalston.org) for the most up-to-date calendar available. Vicky or Jon are also more than willing to help answer any questions regarding scheduling you may have. They can be reached by calling the church office at 402-331-4054.

New Members

We welcome both the Henderson family through transfer of membership, and Jayden McClanathan through baptism, as our newest members of Trinity.

Education Notes



Dear Church family, We have been so blessed with our kids program, our Youth, and our KFC program. Our children in the nursery, all the way up to our Youth, have been having fun in church, laughing, listening, learning about each other and the Bible, showing excitement to be here, and loving the fellowship amongst each other. October will be wrapped up with our annual Trunk or Treat. We have put our best foot forward to encourage members and the community to join us. It will be an amazing event this upcoming Sunday, that will encourage joy, grace and fellowship to one another.

November 13th will begin our practice for this year's Christmas program.

November 13th is tentatively the next Youth gathering. There will only be one gathering in November. Information will be sent to the parents. If you have any questions or would like to add your youth to the group, send me an email. :)

November 20th, Trinity Kids will be singing at BOTH services.

Our KFC schedule for the rest of the year is as follows: November 2nd, 9th, 16th, 30th and December 7th marks the last one for 2016. November 23rd: NO KFC

On October 23rd the youth group gathered together to have fun at the Bellevue Berry Patch. We enjoyed a camp fire with roasting hotdogs and making s'mores. We survived a Haunted House and had fun playing catch with a football. That's what it's all about, being in a positive and safe environment and spending quality time together. It was a wonderful night out!



May Your JOY be Full
Becky McClanathan

Special Music News

Once again, we will have the pleasure of being able to hear the **Nebraska Men's Christian's Chorus** this year. They will perform at Trinity between services on Sunday, November 13th. This group of male singers is from Lincoln, and directed by our own choir director, David Galant. They are eager to come and sing for us.

Scrip Program

New Scrip Opportunities will be available starting in November when Marcus Theaters and Omaha Steaks will be added to the Scrip Menu. Also great gifts for the holidays are Bed, Bath & Beyond and Bath & Body Works cards. Still available are Panera, Don & Millie's, Applebee's, Runza, and Barnes and Noble's. Do your holiday shopping at the scrip Table between services each Sunday. All profits go into the general church fund.

More Announcements

Check the back of the insert for even more information regarding upcoming dates!

November Birthdays

- 11/2 Shirley Mecseji
 11/3 Andrea Gonzalez
 11/4 John Jensen
 11/5 Tom Sramek
 11/6 Nikki Pace
 11/7 Barb Derby
 Lorri Hicklin
 Judy Johnson
 11/8 Payton Lott
 11/13 Arley Demarais
 Amber Kane
 11/14 Arlyne Weichel
 11/15 Cassie Lee
 11/16 Ramona Swett
 11/19 Dee Adams
 11/20 Hannah Edelman
 Chyler Kiolbasa
 11/21 Austin Hodgen
 11/24 Debbie Dodenhof
 Mason Johnson
 Shayla Karnish
 11/27 Ian Frazee
 11/29 Marilyn Fick
 Ryan Pearson Jr.
 11/30 Amanda Hindley



UMW Notes

Tues, Nov 1st	Mary Circle	7pm
Thurs, Nov 3rd	Naomi Ruth Circle	10am
Sat, Nov 5th	Meat Pick Up	9am
Sun, Nov 6th	Chicken Prep	12pm (Noon)
Mon, Nov 7th	Relish Prep & Set Up	9am
Tues, Nov 8th	Soup & Pie Meal	11am
Thurs, Nov 10th	Esther Circle	7pm
Tues, Nov 15th	UMW Executive Board	6:30pm
Wed, Nov 16th	Hillcrest Shadowlake Birthday Party (Esther Circle to furnish 4 cakes)	2pm
Thurs, Nov 17th	Bingo @ Hillcrest Shadowlake	2pm
Sat, Dec 3rd	Christmas Coffee & Carols	10am

Monthly Kitchen Cleanup for November is Esther Circle.

Election Day Soup & Pie Meal

Tuesday, November 8th, Trinity United Methodist Women will host their annual Election Day Soup & Pie Meal in the Johnson Community Center, 8009 Q St. Featuring homemade chicken noodle soup or chili and pie, serving will be between 11am and 7pm. Cost for a meal is \$8.50 for adults and \$4.00 for children age 10 and under.

Saturday Book Club

Saturday Sisters Book Club will meet on Saturday, November 19th at 9am in Room 205. Our selection this month is "Girl Waits with Gun" by Amy Stewart. Visitors/new members are always welcome.

Trinity Methodist Men

The Trinity Men's Group will meet Saturday, November 26th at 8am. Join them for coffee and breakfast as they build their faith together. For more information contact Don Miller at 402-331-1730.

Time Change

Before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5th, remember to **turn back** an hour your clocks!

Reception for Bishop Saenz

There will be a reception to welcome Bishop Saenz on Tuesday, November 8th at St. Luke UMC starting at 7pm.

Don & Millie's Sunday

Eat at Don & Millie's on Sunday, November 27th from 11am – 5pm and the church receives 20% of your purchase.

Ralston Archives

The Frank & Velma Johnson Ralston Archives Museum will be open as part of Ralston's Holiday Magic on Sunday, November 27th from 1-3pm. New exhibits of bar-ware, election memorabilia, and former Ralston organizations will be on display.