



November 2025 Volume 28, No.11

## Trinity Lutheran Church

A welcoming faith community  
living together in God's love to  
share the joy of Jesus Christ.

# TIDINGS

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## Fall Clean Up

Join together for the annual Fall Cleanup Day on **Saturday, November 8, from 9 am-12 pm**. Please plan to bring your favorite rake, leaf-blower/leaf-vacuum, pruning shears, and/or other tools to clean up the church campus. If you would prefer to work inside OR if the weather is too bad to be outside, please plan to bring cleaning supplies and hand vacuums for interior room cleaning. Please contact [Soren Nicholson](#).

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## Congregational Meeting and Meet & Greet

**Saturday, November 15 from 4-5 pm Meet & Greet the Associate Pastor Candidate**

**Sunday, November 16** - One meeting, following worship - with zoom availability.

**Tentative agenda** (Agenda Items will be available at church and digitally via e-News)

- 1) Associate Pastor (vote)
- 2) Compensation package (vote)
- 3) Ministry Funds Plan (vote)
- 4) Election of leadership positions (vote)
- 5) Preschool closure (vote)
- 6) Letters of Agreement (vote)

## Adult Forum

**November 2:** FIFTY SHADES OF CHRISTIANITIES Might Dietrich Bonhoeffer's notion of a post-holocaust 'Religionless Christianity' help us to get our heads around the blatant divisiveness within Christianity today? Discussion led by Kevin Mabry & James Gearhart

**November 9:** Elizabeth Palmer, a senior editor with Christian Century magazine, will join us on Zoom to discuss what she learned from the activists of George Floyd Memorial Square about living out faith in community during times of social unrest.

**November 16:** Renee Mize and Eric Jurgenson will discuss the 2026 Ministry Funds Plan (MFP) that the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on at the congregational meeting that day.

**November 23:** Under Construction, check e-News.

**November 30:** No Adult Forum, Happy Thanksgiving

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## Turkey Round Up

301 Faith Partners Turkey Round Up is to collect turkeys for the Food Bank for Larimer County. Bring your rock-hard frozen turkeys to church on **Sunday, November 23 from 8:30 am-12:30 pm**. Please remember, only rock-hard frozen turkeys can be donated, if you are able to squeeze your turkey even a little bit- it is no longer frozen! So, it won't be safe to donate. Let's STUFF THE FOOD BANK! Give thanks by GIVING!

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## Advent Mid Week Service & Supper

Save the Dates! Join us **Wednesdays, December 3, 10, & 17** for Holden Prayer at 6 pm followed by Soup Supper at 6:30 pm.

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## Alternative Christmas Gift Fair

The Alternative Christmas Gift Fair is an opportunity to shop for Fair Trade gift items and to donate to local, national, and international non-profits. The event will only be held **Sunday, December 7, from 8:30 am-12:30 pm**. Set up Saturday afternoon. There will be several returning nonprofits. The Fair is put on by the 301 Faith Partners. The Joint Social and Ecological Justice ministry sponsors the fair and is looking for volunteers to help with planning, and Saturday setup and/or on the day of the event. If you want to help, please contact [Patti Smith](#) or 970-988-8529.

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH



[www.trinitylutheranfc.org](http://www.trinitylutheranfc.org)

**Phone:** (970) 482-1226  
**After Hours Emergency:**  
(970)-400-7252

**OFFICE HOURS**  
MON-THURS 9AM-3PM

**WORSHIP TIMES**  
SAT: 5 PM | SUN: 10:30 AM

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## **Update from the Call Committee**

At our last Call Committee update, we shared with the congregation news of the great response and interest in our Ministry Site Profile or MSP. We had received 5 candidate Rostered Minister Profiles (RMP's) from our Synod Transition Minister and were in the process of scheduling and conducting interviews. The Call Committee has carefully considered each candidate's gifts and talents and analyzed how they would work in collaboration with Pastor Rick, our Faith Partners and our congregation.

We promised in our last congregational share there would be more good news coming soon and we have been working diligently over the past couple of weeks discerning God's will for our future. The candidates presented to us had many strong qualities and were comparable on their RMP's, but after conducting interviews and spending time in person, one candidate clearly rose to the top. It is with great pleasure the Call Committee has determined a primary candidate for the position of Associate Pastor.

This candidate's enthusiasm and positive energy radiate naturally to others. She has a deep desire to walk alongside people and build strong relationships. Her experience with Pastoral Care, along with her approachable disposition and the ability to listen carefully with intention will be an asset to our congregation. She is a natural teacher, ambitious, and is creative and innovative in her work.

Through her Pastoral work and experience she has proven the ability to connect with all age groups and has a focus on working to build a sense of community both inside and outside of the church walls. Having a collaborative leadership style and desire to participate in small group ministry are also wonderful gifts. Her preaching style is strong, spirit led, and liturgically based. We are excited for the many ways our candidate has potential to grow and spread joy in many areas of ministry with Trinity.

The congregation will have an opportunity to meet our Call candidate on Saturday evening November 15 from 4:00-5:00pm before the service at Trinity. She will also be introduced at the beginning of the service for those of you who would like to attend on line. Please make it a priority to vote at the Sunday, November 16 congregational meeting for our candidate and for the many other important topics Council has on the agenda.

Blessings, Lori Schmidt (Call Committee Chair)

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## **Your Gifts In Action ~ The Good We are Called to Do**

The dictionary defines "benevolence" ...as a desire to do good for others, good will, or acts of kindness such as charitable gifts". This is what Trinity Lutheran Church has been doing in various ways during its entire history in Fort Collins.

During recent years, we have designated funds to "Congregational Benevolence" in our Ministry Funds Plan (MFP). During November the congregation will meet to vote on the draft MFP which includes a proposed 7% benevolence out of the total budget, 45% of that amount is directed to the Rocky Mountain Synod. 12 other agencies are proposed to receive the remaining funds including some which are Lutheran-specific, other action oriented services and some with an educational emphasis.

We are all part of the ministry work on behalf of these very worthy causes and celebrate the variety of ways we serve our world. As Jesus spoke in Galilee to his disciples and the people in Matthew 5:16, "...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

## Small Groups

**Sermon Discussion** Enjoy a discussion of the weekend sermon to share where we see God present in our lives. Join us most **Mondays at 12 pm** in Fireside Rm.

**Male Spirituality** Carrying on the work of Fr Richard Rohr and Illuman we will utilize the power of ritual, image, and story to expand the depth and breadth of love in ourselves to make a difference in the world, using a circle of structured sharing. Join us most **Mondays at 6:30 pm** in Room 5.

**Bible Study** meets **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am** in Room 2. Everyone is welcome! We are continuing our journey from the Mosaic covenant to the New Covenant. The group will NOT meet on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

**Spanish Class!!** Hola a Todos! Spanish small group will be meeting on **Thursdays from 3-5 pm** for six weeks, starting **Thursday, November 6** in room 2 (we will not meet on Thanksgiving). Beginners will meet at 3 pm, and those with some knowledge of Spanish will meet at 4 pm. There will be a \$20 fee for the class, but if anyone needs some financial help, it will be available. We have found a new teacher, Jim Ogan, who taught Spanish in Poudre Valley Schools for many years. We will emphasize vocabulary and conversation. There is no pressure to perform—just to gather, learn, and have fun! Please email [Jo Gearhart](#) to RSVP and let her know which class you'd like to be in. Todos son bienvenidos!

**301 Quilters** meets **Fridays from 10 am-12 pm** in Room 2. If you'd like to join us, please come!!; NO experience needed, NO need to have been coming last year, NO worries. Hope to see the old familiar as well as new faces. We're a fun and caring small group that has a purpose of aiding those in need.

**Trinity Readers** will meet on **Monday, November 3 at 9:30 am** in the Fireside Rm to discuss the book *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu. This book lays out the simple truths about the significance of forgiveness and how it works and why it is the greatest gift we can give ourselves. Questions, call Cheryl Smith at 970-218-5750.

**Men's Breakfast** All men are welcome to join at the Breakfast Club (Ft. Collins) for discussion and fellowship on the **1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday (November 4) at 7:30 am.**

**301 FP Get-Togethers** take place the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday (November 13) at 3:30 pm** at Horse and Dragon Brewing Company located at 124 Racquette Dr. As one of our favorites, it's been over a year since we visited their fine brewery, located just off the former Fort Collins Downtown Airport. All gatherings are informal and no RSVP needed.

**Birdhouses** Join us on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday (November 11) at 4:30 pm** in Room 2 to build and decorate bird houses and feeders to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity. Ages 8 and up invited!

**TGIF (One Friday a month at 6:30 pm)** - Note, Hosts can opt for a Friday of the month that works for them. Come, kick back, relax, and enjoy an evening connecting with others from the Trinity family and meet new faces! Bring yourself, an appetizer/dessert and a beverage you'd like or would like to share. If you have questions and or would like to sign up to host, please contact Liz Johnson or 402-320-3699.

**Friday, November 14:** Bonnie and Rod Mckenrick! An RSVP to the host ([Bonnie](#)) is appreciated but not necessary to attend.

**Pub Theology V.3** will meet **Thursday, November 20 at 5:30 pm** at Stodgy Brewing, 1802 Laporte Ave. We will explore a variety of texts and discuss how we live out our relationship with God and support each other along the way.

**Chapter Two Book Group** is an open small group for 301 Faith Partners and the wider community, new participants are always welcome to join the casual discussion. No long-term commitment required! If you have trouble finding any of the books and would like Trinity to order a copy for the library, please let [Maddie Fairfax](#) know at any time. **Thursday, November 20 at 6 pm:** *Penitence* by Kristin Koval

## Small Groups Continued...

**Habitat for Humanity** helps build safe, secure, and affordable homes in the community. Our next Habitat Build Day is **Saturday, November 22 from 8 am-3ish pm**. No experience or skills needed. Contact [Steph Dugger](#) to volunteer/sign up.

**Little Pantry** November reminds us of giving thanks for time with family and friends. Thank you to the members in the 301 Faith Community who generously donated non-perishable and cash donations. As the Advent Season approaches, the annual Reverse Giving campaign will once again invite us to open our hearts and give generously to those in need. More information to come in the December Tidings. God Bless – The Shared Pantry Small Group

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## 2026 Starts a New Year with TGIF!

**Thank you** to All who Hosted and to guests who came to enjoy TGIF in 2025! 2026 is around the corner and in order to keep this small group going I am looking for people to host once again! We meet the **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each Month at 6:30 pm**. However, if another Friday in the month works better to host than the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday, that's great too! Let me know and I'll communicate this to Amanda so we're all on the same page. An RSVP to the host is appreciated but not necessary to attend. Please let me know what month would work for you in 2026 to host TGIF! Thank you! Sincerely, Liz Johnson [lizj8485@gmail.com](mailto:lizj8485@gmail.com).

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## 301 FP JET ECO Tip of the Month ~ Radon in Your Home

Radon is an invisible, odorless, tasteless radioactive gas created during the natural decay of uranium in the soil. Radon is everywhere, and Colorado has higher concentrations than other regions. Radon gas is drawn into homes through cracks and openings in basements, crawl spaces and slabs. Radon levels vary from house to house and are dependent on a number of factors including the age, quality and upkeep of the home.

Radon is a class 'A' carcinogen, and long-term exposure to elevated levels has been linked to lung cancer. About half of all homes tested in Fort Collins have radon levels above the EPA action level of 4 pCi/L (picocuries per liter). Your chances of getting radon-induced lung cancer depends on how much radon is in your home, the amount of time you are exposed to it, and whether you are a smoker. Long-term radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked. There were an estimated 21,000 deaths in the U.S in 2018 due to radon-induced lung cancer. The Surgeon General has warned that radon is the 2nd leading cause of lung cancer in the US. Only smoking causes more lung cancer deaths. Don't blame radon for cold or flu symptoms; there are no known symptoms of short-term exposure to radon at the levels typically found in homes.

The City of Fort Collins sells discounted short-term (\$6) and long-term (\$20) radon test kits and are available for purchase at the Fort Collins Senior Center (1200 Raintree Drive). If you reside outside the City limits you can order a radon test kit from the Colorado Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). City code does not require radon testing or mitigation, but The City urges everyone to test their home for radon.

The most common approach for radon mitigation is Active Sub-Slab Depressurization. The idea is to create a vacuum under the foundation or crawlspace which draws out and exhausts radon gas outside the building. These systems can be active or passive, where a passive system vents radon through a pipe that extends from the soil to the roof and acts like a chimney to create a slight vacuum on the soil. An active system simply adds a fan to the passive system to forcibly draw radon from the soil. For more information go to <https://www.fcgov.com/airquality/radon> which is the source of this Eco Tip.

# NOVEMBER 2025

| SUNDAY                                                                                                            | MONDAY                                                                                              | TUESDAY                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                     |                                                                                          |
| <b>2</b><br>9 am Education for All<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Fellowship                                     | <b>3</b><br>9:30am Trinity Readers<br>12 pm Sermon Discussion<br>6:30 pm Male Spirituality          | <b>4</b><br>7:30 am Men's Breakfast<br>5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice<br>6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ     |
| <b>9</b><br>9 am Education for All<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Fellowship                                     | <b>10</b><br>12 pm Sermon Discussion<br>5:30 pm Trust<br>6 pm Property<br>6:30 pm Male Spirituality | <b>11</b><br>4:30 pm Birdhouse Bldg<br>6:30 pm Executive                                 |
| <b>16</b><br>9 am Education for All<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Fellowship<br>11:30 am Congregational Meeting | <b>17</b><br>12 pm Sermon Discussion<br>6:30 pm Male Spirituality                                   | <b>18</b><br>6:30 pm Council                                                             |
| <b>23</b><br>8:30am Turkey Round Up<br>9 am Education for All<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Fellowship          | <b>24</b><br>12 pm Sermon Discussion<br>6:30 pm Male Spirituality                                   | <b>25</b>                                                                                |
| <b>30</b><br>9 am Education for All<br>10:30 am Worship<br>11:30 am Fellowship                                    | <b>Dec 1</b><br>9:30am Trinity Readers<br>12 pm Sermon Discussion<br>6:30 pm Male Spirituality      | <b>Dec 2</b><br>7:30 am Men's Breakfast<br>5:30 pm Soc/Eco Justice<br>6:15 pm 301 FP SEJ |

## Text Messaging Coming Soon!

We're excited to announce that we will soon begin using Constant Contact to send important church updates and reminders by text message! This new system will make it easy for you to stay informed about upcoming events, schedule changes, and special announcements. To receive text messages, you'll need to opt in. You'll receive an email invitation with a link to sign up through our secure Constant Contact page. Simply fill out the short form and confirm your subscription by replying "YES" to the confirmation text. Once you've signed up, you'll receive occasional messages from us, no spam, just helpful information to keep you connected to our church family. Thank you for helping us build stronger communication and stay connected!

| WEDNESDAY                                                                    | THURSDAY                                                                                                                                           | FRIDAY                                          | SATURDAY                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                    |                                                 | <b>1</b><br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship                                                 |
| <b>5</b><br><br>5:15 pm Bells<br>6:30 pm Choir                               | <b>6</b><br>9:30 am Bible Study<br>11 am FP Clergy Mtg<br><br>3 pm Spanish Beg.<br>4 pm Spanish Intermed.                                          | <b>7</b><br>10 am Quilting                      | <b>8</b><br>9 am Fall Clean Up<br><br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship                       |
| <b>12</b><br><br>5:15 pm Bells<br>6:30 pm Choir                              | <b>13</b><br>9:30 am Bible Study<br>3 pm Spanish Beg.<br>3:30 pm FP Get Together<br>4 pm Spanish Intermed.<br>4 pm Finance<br>6:30 pm FP Co-Op Mtg | <b>14</b><br>10 am Quilting<br><br>6:30 pm TGIF | <b>15</b><br>4 pm Assoc Pastor<br>Meet & Greet<br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship           |
| <b>19</b><br><br>5:15 pm Bells<br>6:30 pm Choir                              | <b>20</b><br>9:30 am Bible Study<br>3 pm Spanish Beg<br>4 pm Spanish Intermed.<br>5:30 pm Pub Theology<br>6 pm Chap 2 Readers<br>7 pm Immigration  | <b>21</b><br>10 am Quilting                     | <b>22</b><br>Habitat Build Day<br>12 pm Sweet Treats<br><br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship |
| <b>26</b>                                                                    | <b>27 Thanksgiving</b><br>Office Closed<br>Gobble Gobble                                                                                           | <b>28</b><br>10 am Quilting                     | <b>29</b><br><br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship                                            |
| <b>Dec 3</b><br>5:15 pm Bells<br>6 pm Holden<br>6:30 pm Supper<br>7 pm Choir | <b>Dec 4</b><br>9:30 am Bible Study<br>11 am FP Clergy Mtg<br><br>3 pm Spanish Beg<br>4 pm Spanish Intermed.                                       | <b>Dec 5</b><br>10 am Quilting                  | <b>Dec 6</b><br><br>5 pm Worship<br>5:45 pm Fellowship                                         |

## ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

**November 1/2** Vicki Volbrecht / Susan Snyder

**November 8/9** / Emily Moore

**November 15/16** Vicki Volbrecht / Eric Jurgenson

**November 22/23** / Soren Nicholson

**November 29/30** / Gerry Olsen

*Pull Me OUT! HANG ME up!!  
PUT ME ON YOUR FRIDGE!*

# Support TLC Preschool: Buy a Christmas Wreath

Embrace the spirit of the season by supporting TLC Preschool's Christmas wreath fundraiser. Every wreath purchased helps restore staff compensation, provide classroom supplies and curriculum enrichment, and celebrate the enduring impact of the preschool program. This year, we're offering two wreath sizes—perfect for decorating your home, office, or gifting to friends and family. Wreaths will be delivered to the church around the first week of December. **The last weekend to purchase wreaths is November 1 & 2.** Thank you for supporting TLC Preschool. Your generosity helps sustain a mission rooted in care, learning, and community.

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## Birthdays



|                    |       |                 |       |                        |       |
|--------------------|-------|-----------------|-------|------------------------|-------|
| Rob Schmidt        | 11/3  | Harold Holter   | 11/13 | Don Garman             | 11/16 |
| Garth Rogers       | 11/4  | Justice Jackson | 11/13 | Ben Drews              | 11/17 |
| Scott Simmons      | 11/4  | Sylvie Supinski | 11/13 | Margaret Frye          | 11/17 |
| Melanie Eber       | 11/5  | Brenda Moore    | 11/14 | Sherry Albertson-Clark | 11/22 |
| Charlene Fuglestad | 11/7  | Owen Sprain     | 11/15 | Isla Zuniga            | 11/26 |
| Joanne Sunset      | 11/8  | Cheryl Backsen  | 11/16 | Steph Mullenbach       | 11/28 |
| Rebecca Roland     | 11/12 | Ken Clark       | 11/16 | Jennifer Anderson      | 11/29 |



## Anniversaries



|                      |       |                       |       |
|----------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|
| Andrew & Kelly Dolan | 11/27 | Ronda & Scott Simmons | 11/30 |
| Barb & Jim Montague  | 11/23 |                       |       |

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## A Learning Series on Immigration

Refuge, Rights, and Community is a three-part education series on the impact of current policies and practices on immigrant and refugee communities in Northern Colorado. You'll get the context, information, and direction you need to take effective action while connecting with experts, advocates, and directly impacted community members. This series is a collaborative effort hosted by Church World Service Fort Collins, ISAAC of Northern Colorado, Arboretum Coffee and Alianza NORCO. LOCATION AND REGISTRATION: The series will be held at Colorado State University. This is a free event but registration is required for all three events. Reserve your tickets now [HERE](#); location details will be sent in your confirmation e-mail. LOVE OFFERING: In conjunction with this campaign, at each live event and online with registration, we will be taking a love offering. Whether you choose to attend the event or not, your donations will go into a collective fund for emergency legal needs and supportive services for local immigrant and refugee communities.

**Sunday, November 9 from 3-5 pm | Community:** A critical conversation about the rise of white supremacist movements, their impact on refugee and immigrant safety, and how communities can resist hate. Includes film screening of the documentary, *Refuge*.

## Pastor's Ponderings

From Pastor Rick: At the shared service October 19, 2025 - I preached Martin Luther's Theology of Glory vs the Theology of Cross. I've always understood it as seeing life through the death and resurrection of Christ but the theology has more substance to it. It is essential for us to recognize our theology of glory, so we can better proclaim God's theology of the cross.

### Theology of Glory...

1. calls evil good and good evil.
2. is trusting world wisdom and debate.
3. is a justice of vengeance.
4. is faith in the stereotypical man of power.
5. is the God of thunder bolts and lightning.
6. is death having the final word.
7. is a communion table reserved for few elites.
8. is the prosperity gospel.
9. is arrogance and resistance.
10. is Christ and King.
11. is cheap grace.
12. proclaims ourselves.
13. proclaims God foolish.
14. proclaims God weak.
15. inflates our own egos.
16. worships a hidden transcendent God.
17. is a God of personal relationship and salvation.
18. is the model of private churches on every corner.
19. is God choosing the rich.
20. is boasting of ourselves.
21. is making someone else carry our cross.
22. is a God with all the answers.
23. is using God as a stopgap for our problems.
24. celebrates self sufficiency
25. requires solutions.
26. makes God in our image.
27. military might.
28. is a God who doesn't need to die.
29. is seeing the world through rose colored glasses.
30. tries to master life on our own terms.
31. gives us identity in nationalism.
32. is equality.
33. is accustomed to winning.
34. is hypocritical.
35. seeks affirmation and acceptance.
36. is God seen through comforts.
37. is completion of faith.
38. thinks that we follow Christ's commands.
39. assumes we pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.
40. is law abiding.

### Theology of the Cross...

1. calls a thing what it actually is.
2. is trusting the wisdom of sacred Sophia.
3. is just justice - last are first and the first are last.
4. is faith in Christ's gentle and fierce love of us.
5. is the mothering God protecting her baby chicks.
6. is resurrection having the final word.
7. is a communion table where you are welcome
8. is the social-minded gospel.
9. is humility and vulnerability.
10. is Christ in humanity.
11. is costly grace.
12. proclaims Christ crucified and risen.
13. God's foolishness is wiser than our wisdom.
14. God's weakness is stronger than our strength.
15. lifts the spirits of those who are down, marginalized, and oppressed.
16. worships and incarnate God here with us now – water, word, bread and wine.
17. is a God of communal relationship & salvation.
18. is the model of ecumenical partnership – 3 congregations – 1 community
19. is God choosing the low and despised.
20. is boasting in the Lord.
21. is a disciple/friend/stranger volunteering to help carry our cross.
22. is a God who leaves room for all the questions.
23. is God who fills our gaps through the death and resurrection of Jesus.
24. kills any idea of self sufficiency
25. leaves room for wonder and doubt.
26. makes us in God's image.
27. is non-violent action.
28. is a God that requires death.
29. sees the world through cross shaped glasses.
30. places our lives in God's hands.
31. gives us identity as children of God
32. is liberation.
33. is accustomed to Jesus winning on our behalf.
34. is authentic.
35. only seeks God's approval.
36. is God seen through suffering.
37. is faith as a work in progress.
38. accepts that we cannot follow Christ as we ought.
39. accepts that we need God.
40. is gospel abiding.

## Ukrainian Christmas Traditions

**Ukrainian Christmas Traditions on Saturday, November 29** Learn about the beauty and symbolism of Ukrainian Christmas in this engaging lecture by Tetiana Sherman, Ukrainian chef, culinary instructor, and speaker with the Colorado Refugee Speakers Bureau. Enjoy a special tasting of Kutya, a traditional wheat berry pudding prepared only once a year at Christmas.

**Lecture: 11 am-12 pm** Registration is required [HERE](#) and will open on October 29 at 11 am.  
Allergens: wheat and tree nuts

### **Cultural exhibition & Christmas market: 11 am-1 pm**

- Browse Ukrainian books from the library's collection.
- Explore Tetiana's personal display of embroidered rushnyky (ritual cloths) and Petrykivka art.
- Visit the Christmas Market, featuring local Ukrainian vendors — hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church.

**Ukrainian Christmas Cooking Class: 1 pm-4 pm** Continue your cultural journey with a hands-on cooking class led by Chef Tetiana Sherman. Learn to prepare festive Ukrainian dishes, including:

- Borshch with pampushka (garlic bread rolls)
- Savory varenyky (dumplings)
- Sweet varenyky for dessert

All ingredients and recipes are provided. Allergens: eggs, wheat, milk, & tree nuts.

Registration is required [HERE](#) and will open on October 29 at 11 am.

This is a non-religious cultural gathering, open to people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

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## Highlights from Co-Op Committee Meeting

The Coop Committee, composed of clergy and lay leaders of each faith community, meeting monthly to discuss the functioning of the faith partnership, coordination of collaborative projects, and other items affecting the faith communities. At the October 9, 2025 meeting, the following items were discussed:

Plans for Wednesday evening worship during Advent was discussed and it was agreed to continue using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy again this year.

Work continues on forming a Safe Lots steering committee with 2 members from each congregation. Anyone interested from Trinity should contact pastor Rick. Trinity's Council will discuss including a vote on this at the November Congregational Meeting. It was pointed out that First United Methodist's website has a very helpful explanation of Safe Lots on their website: <https://www.firstchurchfc.org/safeparking>. If Trinity and our 301 Faith Partners agree to participate in this pilot program, we would alternate with First United Methodist on a monthly basis.

Lisa Dunworth is conducting a training session on October 22 for welcome hosts and anyone else who's interested on best practices to deal with homeless people who enter the church building during worship.

The possibility of having a training session for active shooter drills was discussed, with no action taken at this time.

Visitor cards in the sanctuary will be updated to include a space for visitors to include their address.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Johnson, VP Trinity Council

## Council Meeting Highlights October 21

- ✦ Call Committee Chair Lori Schmidt presented the call committee's recommendation for the position of Associate Pastor. The council voted to approve the committee's selection. The council voted to approve the compensation package and the timeline to present the candidate to the congregation and finally, to submit to a vote at the TLC annual meeting on November 16.
- ✦ The draft 2026 Ministry Financial Plan (MFP) was presented by Renee Mize. Some adjustments were agreed on in discussion. Renee will discuss with Brenda Moore and route a revision by email for approval. Note: This has been completed.
- ✦ \*New draft lease agreements for our 301 Faith Partners will be presented at the annual meeting for approval. Both partners have reviewed their leases and their feedback has been incorporated. TLC Council has also approved the documents.
- ✦ \*301 Faith Partners have been exploring partnering with First United Methodist to participate in the SafeLots program. TLC Council has approved the concept. This program assists people experiencing homelessness and living out of their cars and involves a partnership with local nonprofits and the City of Fort Collins. The complete program will need to be presented to each partner congregation for a vote.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Morrissey, Council Secretary (Complete minutes available in the office)

| TLC 2025 Ministry Fund Plan Actuals            |                   |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
|                                                | September<br>2025 | Year-To-Date     |
| <b>Receipts:</b>                               |                   |                  |
| Offerings                                      | \$ 23,176         | \$ 296,000       |
| SPE and MoM Building Use Donations             | 4,580             | 41,220           |
| Building Use                                   | 2,431             | 16,669           |
| Benevity Funds Released                        | 1,400             | 12,825           |
| <b>Total Receipts:</b>                         | <b>31,587</b>     | <b>366,714</b>   |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                           |                   |                  |
| Operating and Support                          | \$ 20,725         | \$ 248,385       |
| Ministries                                     | 9,312             | 83,525           |
| Benevolence/Gifts (Synod, Sky Ranch, etc)      | -                 | 8,310            |
| <b>Total Expenditures:</b>                     | <b>30,037</b>     | <b>340,220</b>   |
| <b>Receipts less Expenditures:</b>             | <b>\$ 1,550</b>   | <b>\$ 26,494</b> |
|                                                |                   |                  |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings as of 9/30/2025</b>  |                   | \$ 202,863.10    |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings as of 12/31/2024</b> |                   | \$ 204,772.61    |
|                                                |                   |                  |
| <b>Difference</b>                              |                   | \$ (1,909.51)    |



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