

November 2025

Volume 35, Issue 11

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Our Traditional Cornucopia

Our Traditional Cornucopia will adorn the chancel area in front of the pulpit on November 16 and 23. If you would like to contribute Fall produce (e.g. apples, pumpkins, corn stalks, or canned goods to the display, please bring them to the church office by Thursday, November 13. (Food items will be given to our Food Pantry).



Greening of the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 30 – the first Sunday of Advent. The Greening Service will be incorporated into our regular worship service at 10:20! Join us as we finish decorating the sanctuary, sing some carols, and explore the meaning behind many of our Christmas decorating traditions. There will be a special tree for the children to decorate with the Chrismons that they are preparing. We hope that you will join us for this fun and meaningful worship service as we begin our celebration of Advent, and please plan to stay after the service to finish decorating the big tree in the sanctuary!

Advent Mini Concerts are coming...

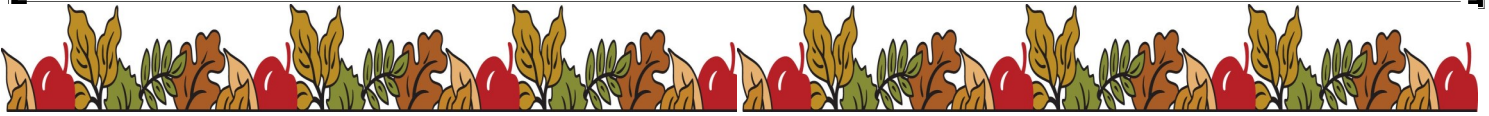
Trinity's Advent mini-concerts begin December 7 & will occur immediately following the worship service in our sanctuary. The programs of seasonal music last approximately 20 minutes and you may watch IN PERSON or ONLINE.

December 7 - The Skyline Flutes – flute quartet

December 14 – Marie Sierra and Lynn Moser, piano duets

December 21 – The Agave Winds – woodwind quintet

PASTORAL LETTER



As our thoughts turn to the season of Thanksgiving, I wanted to share a discovery that I made while studying the Book of Acts. Toward the end of Luke's incredible history of the Christian church (the same Luke who wrote the gospel that bears his name,) we see the Apostle Paul reaching the climax of his three missionary journeys as he approaches Rome, the seat of imperial power. Paul is under arrest for his preaching, but as a citizen of Rome he has the right to make his case before the emperor.

Paul understood what his arrival at Rome meant – either he would be freed, or he would be executed, especially since the emperor at this time was Nero, who had no love for Christians. As Paul approached the city under guard, there must have been a great deal of fear in his heart, for his death was not only possible, but likely.

In the 28th chapter of Acts, Luke narrates the events as Paul reaches the edge of the city: “And the Christian brethren there, when they heard that we were nearing the city, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns (this was about 33 miles from the city) to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. And when he came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier that guarded him.”

The source of Paul's moment of thanksgiving is the effort made by the Christians of Rome to meet him before he faces the emperor. Seeing their love, embraced in their fellowship, Paul's immediate response is to offer thanks that he is not alone. Out of that spontaneous prayer of thanksgiving comes a gift that perhaps the Apostle did not expect – courage. When Paul was loved by his sisters and brothers in Christ, he knew he could face Nero, and even go to his death because he was surrounded by, as he had already written in the Book of Hebrews, “a mighty cloud of witnesses.”

Often we look at our act of Christian thanksgiving as an opportunity to give something back to the Lord in exchange for all he has given us, but even in offering our thanks, Christ gives us something in return. For Paul, the gift was courage, because Paul needed courage. For us, it is whatever assurance, encouragement, or strength we need at this particular time in our lives. Perhaps we are struggling with life-changing decisions; perhaps we are challenged by seemingly insurmountable obstacles; perhaps we are seeking to bear or recover from heartache or grief. Regardless of the circumstances, the act of Thanksgiving opens another channel to the Holy Spirit of God, and through that channel our Heavenly Father sees our needs and provides us with the spiritual resources to endure and overcome.

In November I hope we will all take a moment to look around and see the mighty cloud of witnesses that surround your life. Our church, those we love and who love us in return, and our Lord, are all with us and for us, no matter the challenges we may face. This realization should make us thankful people. The wonderful news is that, with thankful hearts, God provides other gifts of faith and courage, along with the blessed assurance that, with Christ on our side, we can never fail. So let us be thankful, and give our Lord the glory for all of God's love.

Dr. Mack



ADVENT DEVOTIONS

The Christian Education committee recommends the D365 devotional for use during Advent (and year round).

Visit <https://d365.org> or download the free D365 app from your app store. It has 5 steps of "pause, listen, think, pray, go" including scripture & music each day.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

YOUTH CLASSES

GOD'S TRAILBLAZERS (children preschool - 4th grade)

Teacher: Kathy Moser

CHRISMON ORNAMENTS, SERVICE PROJECT AND THANK YOU COLORS!

We will be having Sunday School downstairs in **Room 8** following the children's message. The children will decorate Chrismon ornaments on the first and third Sundays (Nov 2 & 16). We will meet in the library on the second Sunday (Nov 9) to do our "to-go-bag" project. The "to-go-bags" will then be handed out to individuals in the congregation to distribute to those in need. On the fourth Sunday (Nov 23), we will have fun with Thank You Colors! to celebrate Thanksgiving. On the fifth Sunday (Nov 30), the children will remain in worship for the Greening service, where they will put their Chrismon ornaments on the small Christmas tree during the worship service.

THE CRUSADERS & FAITH ENCOUNTERS (5th Grade & Older)

Teachers: Debbie Hobbs & Bonnie Stull

GRAB YOUR WORSHIP BAG

Children and youth in 4th grade and above are encouraged to pick up an activity packet and WORSHIP BAGS, and to sit with their families during worship. These resources contain activities to enhance their worship experience. Look for the Children in Worship display in the narthex.

LIBRARY NEWS

Our theme for November is "Thankful for Authors". We are not only thankful for them, but we celebrate these authors' November birthdays: Louisa May Alcott (11/29/1832), C.S. Lewis (11/29/1898), Lucy Maud Montgomery (11/30/1874), Eugene Peterson (11/6/1932), Marilynne Robinson (11/26/1943), and Mark Twain (11/30/1835). Please check out the variety of books these authors have written which are on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. Instructions for checking out books and the "check out" card basket will be on the credenza in Fellowship Hall. When returning books, please leave them in the Book Return basket in the library. **The library is open before and after the worship service.** Please contact Kathy Moser, your librarian, if you have any questions.

ADULT CLASSES

MACK'S ADVENT CLASS "VOICES OF ADVENT" begins November 30 from 9:00 am to 9:45 am.

How do we think about Advent? Sometimes we do little more than connect it to the Christmas season. Other times we think about worship music that is less upbeat than usual. I imagine all of us think about the lighting of the Advent candles, which is an important part of our worship leading up to the celebration of Christ's Nativity. But does Advent mean something more to our Christian faith? Does Advent have something to say to us? Dr. Matthew L. Skinner, New Testament Professor at Luther Seminary, believes it does, and has created an Advent course to teach us how to listen to Advent and what to hear. I will be leading his course during the four Sundays of Advent titled "Voices of Advent." The four topics will be: November 30: The Voice of Jesus, December 7: The Voice of John the Baptist, December 14: The Voices of Mary, Zechariah, and the gospel of John, December 21: The Voices of Angels and Prophets. All classes will be held at 9:00 in the upper classroom, just to the right of the elevator on the second floor of the church. There will be delicious breakfast snacks as determined by the teacher. This year fruit may be included. We hope you will join us for "Voices of Advent." The student book is online (it is not required to purchase) for you to order or in digital mode at Cokesbury, Amazon, Christian Book and Abington Press. See you at 9:00 am on Sunday, November 30.

WORSHIP



On **Sunday, December 21** during our 10:30 worship service, the Trinity Choir and Orchestra will present Mark Hayes' beautiful Cantata, "Candles and Carols". This 25-minute work will explore the preparatory journey of the four Sundays in Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Through carols both new and old and narration, the cantata will prepare your hearts for the blessing of the arrival of the Christ Child & the true meaning of Christmas.

ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

A cherished tradition at Trinity, poinsettias adorn the Sanctuary enriching worship during Advent. The cost is \$10 each and you may order as many as you like. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve services or leave them to be distributed by the Deacons. Order yours using the enclosed order form.

Wednesday Evening Vespers

November 5 at 6:30 pm

Join Dr. Mack for a brief evening vesper service on Zoom. The service lasts 30 minutes and includes a brief devotional, scripture, prayer requests & prayer. Join him at <https://trinitytucson.org/wednesday-evening-vespers/>

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

WHO'S IN YOUR PEW Meet Diana Peralta



What do you do for a living?

Sing professionally

Where is your hometown?

Mexico City

What do you like to do with your leisure time?

Read & do jigsaw puzzles

What is your favorite food?

Donuts and Mexican mole

enchiladas

What is your favorite hymn or Bible verse?

Christmas hymns or Pescador

What does this church mean to you? *It's a safe place. I feel so happy and peaceful here*

What is something that many people would not know about you? *Sometimes I'm very shy and scared of the future*

Sandwich Making for Casa Maria

Sunday, November 9 in Fellowship Hall after church. Join us in this monthly project.

Come at 9:00 am to help setup.



Birthday & Anniversary
Celebration

Sunday, November 16 in Fellowship Hall after worship

Fall Game Days **Tuesdays 9:30 - 11:30 am**

Looking for a fun way to unwind, connect, & challenge your mind? Join us for table games, laughter, & great company in Fellowship Hall! We play Mexican Train & other games too. Bring a snack to share.

MISSION NEWS

TRINITY FOOD PANTRY

Trinity's Food Pantry is open **Tuesday & Thursday**
12:00 to 3:00 pm in basement of the Sanctuary
building. Thanks for your food & monetary donations.

Volunteering at the Food Pantry **Monday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am**

Help sort, inventory and store items we receive from Wal-Mart for our food pantry. Park in the south parking lot and enter through the gate. Questions? Contact Billie Holbrook.

Food Pantry Needs Canned vegetables and canned fruit, canned meat with pop tops & protein bars, peanut butter, tuna pouches and other snack bag items along with grocery bags are needed. Donations may be brought to church on Sunday & the office Monday-Thursday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Food Pantry Numbers In October 769 people in 316 households received 327 boxes There were 68 households who visited for a return time - a pantry visit. 430 walk-ins average 48/day.

Think about giving some delicious Just Coffee for your holiday gifts! The varieties available (Arabica, Decaf, 50%/50% & Robusto-Arabica) and the freshness of their coffee, whether ground or whole bean will be appreciated. The Mission Committee thanks you for supporting the Just Coffee (Coffee with a Conscience) project. More info at justcoffee.org.

THOUGHTS ON THE FOOD PANTRY from Billie Holbrook

1. When people have donated specifically to the Pantry, I receive notice of the amount each month and that directly impacts my budgeted amount for that month. Know that monetary donations are welcomed and much appreciated.
2. At a recent conference at the Community Food Bank, Trinity was invited to participate in an app that will help people Find Food in Arizona. Illinois and Texas are participants, as well. Trinity Food Bank will have a website where people can get online and see what we offer in real time. We will be able to connect with clients through texts. For example, registered families with babies will be contacted when we receive formula or baby food or diapers. Or if another pantry has an excess of cheese, they can contact us. There will be a Find Food map that will be posted online and hopefully ready in November. This comes through the generosity a private foundation out of Chicago. It seems to be taking off nationwide and will be free to food pantries.
3. Inventory currently is unpredictable. The Pantry is relying mostly on the groceries we get from Walmart every Monday, Agency Market every Thursday and Midwest Food Bank once a month. Once in a while we will get a call that a donation of eggs or bread or canned food has come in to the main food bank. The monetary donations are used to buy the snack bag ingredients: Vienna Sausages, tuna, peanut butter crackers, protein bars and fruit snacks. We are receiving Mission tortillas from Laurel Corona (Ryan McCray's sister) (Dale McCray's daughter). We always need grocery bags, toilet paper, bread and snack items.
4. On Sunday **January 4, 2026** after worship in Fellowship Hall. Join us for Science for the Church. Billie Holbrook will give a presentation and tour of our Food Pantry.

SESSION NOTES

Where, oh where did October go?!! It seems October just flew by and now we enter the busiest season of the church calendar. Session hopes you welcome Nicole Williams into our church family after her October baptism and affirmation of faith. We are so happy to have a small increase in our membership. Overall, the business conducted at the stated session meeting for October was routine and the meeting was quick and short. Here are some highlights:

- Pastor Mack served two home communions recently – one for Don Myers and one for Harriet Marsh. Deacon Sherry Letson assisted him in serving Harriet Marsh.
- The Deacons are hosting a picnic at Reid Park and preparing to have a stand at the December 4th Avenue Street Fair.
- Session voted to have a November 9th Called Congregational meeting to elect deacons and elders for the Classes of 2028. Nominees will be announced at that meeting as the Nominating Committee is waiting on one more response from a candidate.
- All committees are preparing their 2026 budgets to present to the Treasurer and Stewardship & Finance Committee so the budget for 2026 can be prepared.
- Stewardship & Finance continues to report that the actual year-to-date deficit remains less than that budgeted for 2025. Good news!
- Christian Education keeps on planning for electrifying Science for the Church events.
- Mission Committee is simplifying Mission line items for the future. Session approved that line items for Casa Maria and for Helping Hands be closed & that a new line item Current Year Mission Donations be established. Balances in the closing line items on December 31, 2025 will transfer to the new line item. This committee is also researching other ways to simplify their financials.
- Property Committee continues to update their forms and regulations for room use in our building. They are considering upgrades for the upstairs kitchen, disintegrating flagstones outside & how to market the use of our facility.
- Worship Committee approved the purchase of

two new speakers for the chancel area so the choir can hear sermons and speakers at the pulpit. The committee is ready for Advent.

- The Hymnfest Sunday was well received and Dr. Mack led Session in a discussion about why music is basic and essential to our worship. He plans to enhance the Music Enrichment fund in the coming years.

Session prayed for the family of Don Myers, for Amy Sigmon after a medical procedure and for the safe return of our winter visitors. We all can pray to be good stewards of our giving, our time and talents for the well-being of our church family and our missionary work.

Janet Hooper,
Clerk of Session



TRINITY WOMEN

The Horizon's Bible Study meets on **Tuesday, November 11 at 9:30 am in the Library**. Dr. Mack leads the 2025-2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study "Finding Resilience, Joy, & Our Identity in Jesus Christ" by Rhashell D. Hunter. In this nine lesson Bible study, we are exploring resilience which is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy. We will also seek to rediscover our identity. Books can be purchased at the class for \$15.

Ryan's Bears will meet **Tuesday November 18 at 9:30 am** in Fellowship Hall to complete more bears. One Sunday in December the bears will be blessed & then distributed agencies that serve families with children. Help is appreciated.

TRINITY MILESTONES

HONORING & MEMORIALS

In Memory of Don Myers by Maggie McConnell
In Memory of Don Myers by Ida Wickizer
In Memory of Don Myers by Ruth & Steven Russell
In Memory of Don Myers by Marilee Beaver
In Memory of Don Myers by Levi & Lora Beaver
In Memory of Don Myers by Melinda Arnold
In Memory of Don Myers by The Dean Family
In Memory of Don Myers by Shirley Wilka
In Memory of Don Myers by Allen Coffin & Rose Emery
In Memory of Don Myers by J. R. Atwood
In Memory of Don Myers by Joan Kingan

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Greg Keidel	15 Catherine Dimenstein
5 Lily Chacon	16 Tony Miranda
10 Cameron Toering	18 Sheila Croteau
10 Christine Toering	24 David Maycher

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (1-10)

2 Ida Wickizer	7 Marilyn Slagle
4 Melinda Arnold	9 Bonnie Stull
5 Errol Dimenstein	

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

3	Travis Spillers and Heather Mace
16	Glenn & Johanna Moyer
24	Robert & Linda Lohse
29	Bates & Annie Butler



ALL SAINTS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT



The Trinity Ringers handbell choir meets Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 6:30 in the upstairs bell room. New members are welcome!

The Trinity Choir meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. New members are always welcome!



CHURCH PICNIC

SCRIPTURE READINGS

November 2 Isa. 1:10-18 & Psalm 32:1-7;
 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
November 9 Job 19:23-27a & Psalm 17:1-9;
 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
November 16 Mal. 4:1-2a & Psalm 98; 2 Thess.
 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
November 23 Jer. 23:1-6 & Luke 1:68-79 or
 Psalm 46; Col. 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
November 30 Isa. 2:1-5 & Psalm 122; Rom.
 13:11-14; Matt. 24:36-44



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- ⇒ We are "LIVE" streaming the Sunday morning service beginning at 10:20 am. Watch online at trinitytucson.org/watch-live and facebook.com/tpctucson. You can also watch the BoxCast app on Roku TV, Apple TV & Fire TV.
- ⇒ Join us in the Sanctuary for In Person Worship at 10:20 am.
- ⇒ Visit our website at www.trinitytucson.org for all the latest information and events you are looking for.

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Office 10:00 am-3:00 pm Monday-Thursday

Trinity Website

www.trinitytucson.org

Email Addresses

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Deadline for the December 2025

VISION is

Thursday, November 20, 2025

Please submit articles to the church
office or to office@trinitytucson.org