

The Trinity Messenger

A Monthly Congregational Newsletter

November 2011

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1046 N. 9th Street

Milwaukee, WI 53233

Special Points of Interest:

- All Saints Day - Nov. 1 Remember those who have been called to heaven.
- Standard Time - Nov. 5 Before you go to sleep, set your clock *back* 1 hour.
- Thanksgiving - Nov. 24 Come and give thanks at the 10:00 service.
- Advent - Nov. 27 On this Sunday we begin preparing our hearts for Christ birth.

From the PASTOR—

15:54 "When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory. *55*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?' *56*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. *57*But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. *58*Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. *16:1*Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. *2*On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income" (1st Corinthians NIV).

The church year is quickly drawing to a close. The Lord's Day Scripture readings remind us of the end of all things including our earthly lives. By God's grace, a new church year will soon begin with the blessed sounds of Advent. By the same grace, a new calendar year will follow soon after. But before Advent begins, we will observe our National Day of Thanksgiving. Technically, no Christian should need a national holiday to remind oneself to thank God for all His generous gifts in life. Indeed, thanking God for daily bread should be on the lips of Christians every day of the year. Nevertheless, it is our nature to take God's gifts for granted.

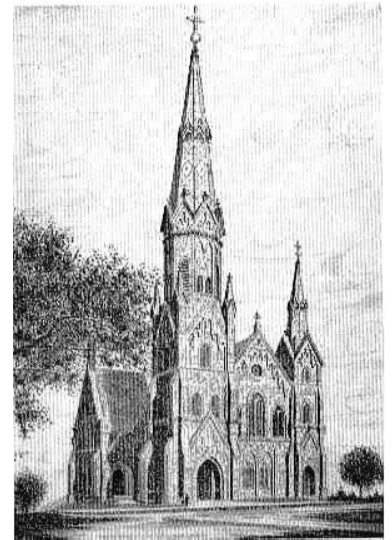
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What is it ? Where is it?

The what may be obvious,
but where will you find
this in TLC?

Submit your answer on
the bulletin board in the
narthex.



Celebrating 164 years of
Word and Sacrament Ministry.



Looking for the
birthday list?

It is now located on
the calendar page.

Contact Us



Church Office

The church office is open
Monday - Thursday
from 9:00 - Noon.

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From the **PASTOR** . . . continued

In dealing with our 2012 church budget, our congregation has had to make some very hard choices. The ongoing church repairs have not let up; they will continue in 2012. To try and balance our budget, we have eliminated our longtime position of Administrative Assistant/Church Office Secretary. This in itself is a challenge for the remaining part of this year and in 2012 because members will be asked to volunteer their time and talent in fulfilling required office duties.

All these things will be accomplished if we remember what St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians in the verses cited above. Notice that Paul was talking about the victory over death that God has given us through Christ Jesus. Notice also that Paul then encourages the brothers to stand firm knowing that their labor in the Lord is not in vain. Finally, he tells them to regularly set aside from God's blessings to them a portion of their income to support the church. This whole process is called sanctification. Hearing the Gospel in faith brings forth a God-intended response. In this case, it is a response to return to God a portion of what He first gave to us. It is the basis for which God sustains His Church in the world, including our beloved Trinity.

In the next weeks of ending and beginning in both the church and the world, I would ask you to give prayerful consideration to your monetary offerings to Trinity. It is God's will for us to give first-priority proportionate gifts to spread the Gospel in this place. Our life on earth is fragile and fleeting. Our earthly possessions are God's gifts, but our eternal treasure is secure, for God has caused us "to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you" (1 Peter 1:3-4). It is no dream! The best is yet to come for through the forgiveness Christ bestows upon you so freely.

Not one of us on our deathbed will look back and think or say, "I wish I hadn't given such a large amount of money to Trinity each year to support the spreading of the Good News of Christ crucified and risen." Or, "I wish I had accumulated more things, bought more property, and stored up more savings for my family, while giving God leftovers or as an afterthought."



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From the **PASTOR** . . . conclusion

And while it is good, right, and proper to remember the work of the church and charitable efforts in our wills, this should not be done at the expense of first-priority proportionate gifts while God still gives us breath and means. And while it is good to use our talents and time to assist our work together when possible and to help those in need, this also should never be used to sinfully set aside God's clear words concerning dollars He gives us. He loves us in all that He teaches us!

In the struggle with our sinful selves, with worry and greed and dullness of heart, repentance is always needed. We constantly require God's help to turn us away from self-directed lives to Christ-delivered lives. To that end, God help each of us to make first and faithfully the decision concerning our regular proportionate offering to Him in the coming year. God thereby also help our underlying thought to be that giving to the church is not a bill to pay, but a blessed privilege.

We are not large numerically, but your support of Trinity and the Gospel is praiseworthy nonetheless. God grant us to encourage one another all the more in this culture of decay. God grant us cheerful giving hearts as we make a commitment for the New Year, not as a bill to pay, but as a blessed privilege.

You see, God does not ask us to give to Him from what we don't have (1 Co 8:12). Where you have been met with unemployment or financial reversal, God knows and understands. It may even be necessary for you to decrease the proportionate gift you return to Him. Faith sets the percentage and no guilt is to be felt when severe shortages and suffering necessitate a decrease in the proportion given.

Death has been swallowed up in victory! It was Christ's doing, and He paid that bill in full (2 Co 5:18-21). So giving to Him is a blessed privilege that honors God with our wealth (Pro 3:9) and seeks His kingdom first (Mt 6:25-34). It is a blessed privilege that gives proportionately out of trust in God (Lk 21:1-4) and seeks to make friends for eternity (Lk 16:9-11). It is a blessed privilege which God loves to be done cheerfully, not under compulsion as in paying bills (1 Co 9:8). No use of our God-given wealth is more important in the coming year and each year, for it is a real and true indication of how firm we are standing in the work of the Lord.

With prayer and thanksgiving, God help us to plan our gifts to His church with forethought and commitment and trust and joy as a blessed privilege!