



TRINITY

CHURCH

**848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046
402-339-3788**

**November Newsletter
Printed October 25, 2023**



Note from Pastor Erik, Lead Pastor

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him. Psalm 24:1

King David's words in Psalm 24 are the beginning of contentment for me. Everything. Everything I have, everything I see, everything I touch - my family, my friends, my home, my animals, my faith - is a gift from God. I didn't earn it. I don't deserve it. It is all pure gift. I am blessed in every way, from things I see to ways that I don't even recognize. Everything!

The Apostle Paul writes in Philippians 4:12, "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want." Paul is reframing contentment and satisfaction; his words ring true. I believe he is teaching us we have the power to want what we already have because God has provided it ALL for us.

Laurie Short shares this sentiment in her book, "When Changing Nothing Changes Everything":

Paul audaciously proclaims that contentment can be found in any situation, right where you are. Because his words were written in a prison cell, they carry a promise that transcends all circumstances.

Paul had to learn the secret of contentment, partly because he was in a place of discontent. Being there pressed him to see his circumstances from a broader view. By pulling back and looking at his life from this wider perspective, Paul saw more than what his circumstances presented him, and this allowed him to interpret and experience his circumstances differently. The fact that we are reading the letters he wrote in that prison cell today shows us that Paul's circumstances were contributing to something much bigger than they appeared to be.

Paul saw that the circumstances he was in were part of a larger story, and this gave him the resolve he needed to live every chapter well. He was able to do what he could in every circumstance and to find peace in every situation because he had the perspective that he was where God wanted him to be. Whether Paul was in plenty or in want, he found contentment in knowing that God had him there—and he trusted that God was working in him and through him in more ways than he could see in the moment.

In this season of Thanksgiving and gratitude, we can celebrate what God has given us. Everything. With that confidence, step back and marvel at the bigger picture of life. God has a plan. His gracious provisions for our lives lead to contentment. And the bigger picture of God's work in the world emboldens us to give thanks for God's overwhelming generosity.

Your Pastor and Friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Erik".

GENERATIONS

November Message Series

There's no doubt about it! Trinity Church has a lot of strengths. One of our greatest is that as a body of believers, we span the generations. It's evident every Sunday. From babies to grandparents, sometimes even the great, greats, we live out our life of faith together. Every week we get to experience the generations.

Next time you are in the Commons or a worship space, take note. You'll observe all ages serving, conversing, teaching, learning, laughing, and worshipping our God who loves all the generations.

IN THIS SERIES WE WILL CELEBRATE GOD WHILE FOCUSING ON FAMILY AND OUR VALUE OF THE GENERATIONS , TOO.

Building Community, Together

In 2024, to offer even more options to reach our community with the love of Jesus, Trinity Church intends to do three things:

1. Continue our already excellent ministries with a fully funded & balanced budget.
2. Create space for more community by installing outdoor volleyball courts, an amphitheater, and a more usable gym space.
3. Outfit an emergency trailer to help support our families and community through times of crisis.

It's going to be a great year! Please share your intent for the coming year to help our leadership plan well!

trinitylife.org/intent



**Please remember, any changes to your giving must be made BY YOU, whether online or through BillPay.
Carolyn Bestmann, Contributions Manager**

Church-Wide Serving Projects

Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, November 12th
11:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Enter your Chili!
Be a Taste Tester!
trinitylife.org/events



Proceeds provide backpacks for food-insecure elementary students in three local schools so that they have nourishment over the winter break.

Thanksgiving Meals

Continuing our tradition partnering with First Lutheran Church - Omaha



Shop and drop off at Trinity Church
Saturday, November 18.
All details at www.trinitylife.org/events

Making an Impact

Launching our Trinity Women's Serve Teams

When we use our gifts and talents alongside our sisters in Christ, amazing things happen in our hearts, homes, and community.

At this November gathering, we will explore our new serving teams, discover how they are designed to work together for the most impact, and, if you haven't already, select one that puts your gifts and talents to good use.

Be in prayer for the impact God wants to have in and through YOU and this ministry as we follow Jesus' lead to care for women in our church and community.

SERVE TEAM GATHERING

Thursday, November 2nd
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Trinity Students area
Use the North doors
near the play ground to enter.

RSVP at trinitylife.org/events



TRINITY
W O M E N

Opportunities for Women

- Crafts and Jesus Wednesdays in the commons from 9:00 -11:00 a.m.
- Move Your Body devo & exercise. Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:15 a.m. in the Commons.
- Women's Ministry Questionnaire (with Spiritual Gifts Assessment)
- Use www.trinitylife.org/pray when you have a Prayer Request.

Connection Groups

FOLLOWING JESUS TOGETHER

Find your Group
WWW.TRINITYLIFE.ORG/GROUPS

Our recent seven-week course, Find Your People (FYP), has ended. It brought some great insights from participants. Here are a few of their discoveries:

- “Conflict is a normal part of healthy relationships. I will disappoint you and you will disappoint me but God will never disappoint us.”
- “Better understanding of community and how to engage in fellowship out of my comfort zone”
- “It’s okay to need help because being vulnerable with people you trust is freeing.”
- “That I can seek out new people- come out of my shell”
- “We were not meant to be alone, We need community.”

Some really exciting things transpired from FYP, too:

- Two new Connection Groups have formed
- Twelve people are looking for a Connection group to join
- And many plan to continue in their current Connection Groups

At Trinity Church, everyone is encouraged to be in a Connection Group. It is from these groups that we grow in our walk with Jesus and with one another.

When you are ready to find one, please reach out. I would love to connect with you for a great conversation to will help us find a group that fits you best!

Morgahn Randall
Connections Minister
mrandall@trinitylife.org

**PS. Our newest group, Crafts and Jesus, meets 10:00-11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. While we craft, we also explore faith. Bring your current project for a fun morning!
The Trinity Cafe will be open.**



PIE FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, November 21

6:00-7:00 p.m.

With grateful hearts, we gather.
Enjoy pie and conversation.

An evening for all ages & all people

If you are able to bring a pie or
help in the kitchen on the 21st,
please reach out to our
Connections Minister,
mrandall@trinitylife.org.

Power of Community | Warmth of Hospitality

At Trinity Church, one goal is that every first-time guest and member feels welcomed and a genuine sense of belonging. As such, it's time to grow our Hospitality Ministry.

Why we need you!

As a Hospitality Team volunteer, your role will be pivotal in making everyone's experience enjoyable and memorable. You will not only contribute to the vitality of our church community but also have a chance to form meaningful connections with fellow volunteers and congregants.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- **Greeters**: Be the friendly face that welcomes people as they arrive at our church. A warm smile and a kind word can set the tone of their Sunday morning experience.
- **Ushers**: Help guide attendees to their seats, distribute materials, and provide assistance on communion Sundays.
- **First-Time Guest Station**: Assist newcomers with information, have them fill out a form and receive a gift, and connect them with the Connections Minister.
- **Communion Servers**: Serve communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.

Your Commitment:

- **Time**: Sunday mornings at either the 9am or 10:30am services
- **Frequency**: Choose your schedule. Volunteer weekly, bi-weekly, or once a month.

Ready to Make a Difference?

Simply email mrandall@trinitylife.org your interest!

TRINITY KIDS MISSION SUNDAY

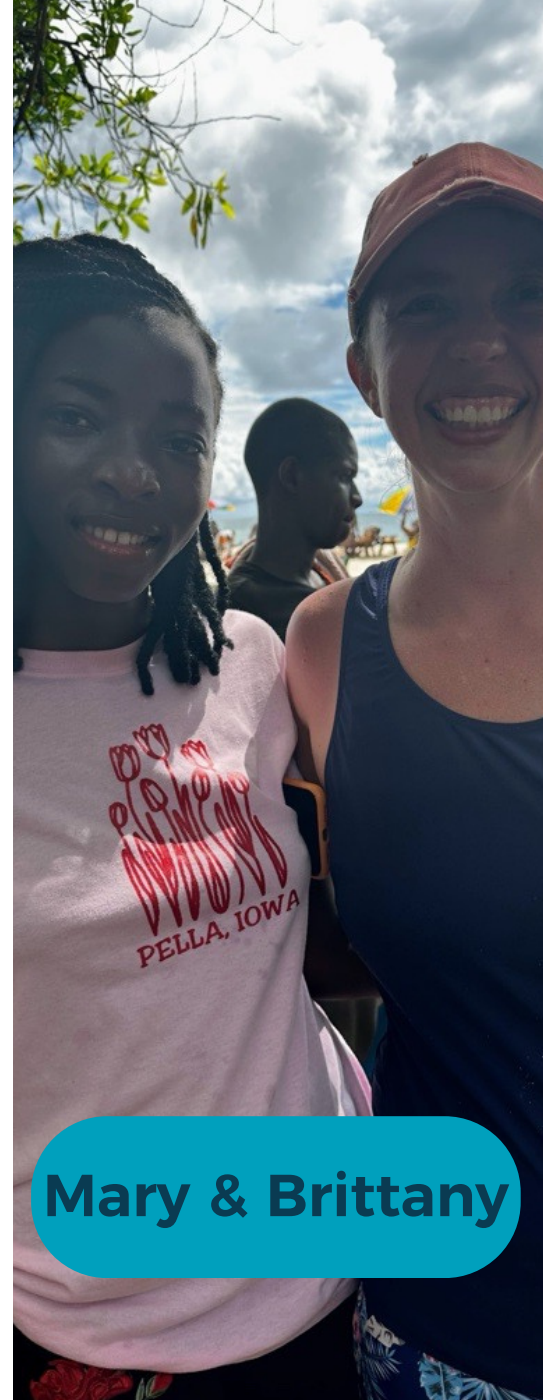
For the past three months, our kids have faithfully been raising money for our Trinity Kids local & global initiatives.

Our TK global mission directly supports The Raining Season (TRS) - specifically Mary Kamara. Mary has been sponsored for over a decade, starting with a member of our congregation. After Joan M passed, TK picked up Mary as a sponsored child, assisting with her living expenses and education fees. Mary is now in her early 20's and is about to graduate from college to work for TRS as a social worker!

Our local TK mission has been raising money to make winter care kits for the Omaha homeless population. On Sunday, November 5th, our kids will be assembling these kit in the Community Room during class time! We are so looking forward to letting the kids see the "fruits of their funds".

Over the last three months, the kids have raised \$485 towards these initiatives. Our next local and global initiatives will be announced at Trinity Kids on November 5th. On this Sunday, during the 9am TK service, we will also be facetimeing with Mary Kamara! The kids will get a unique chance to personally connect with her. It's definitely a day you won't want to miss!

Thank you so much for all your generosity and support for these initiatives. Special thanks to Kiley Cruse, who organized a Thrivent grant to go towards our winter care kits! We are so blessed to be able to help our kids understand how they can practically love and care for our world and our community.



Mary & Brittany

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To everyone who donated candy and signed up to host a trunk for the October Boo Bash event, Trinity Kids thanks you! I have been amazed at the amount of candy that was donated; we are so grateful for your support and generosity. We hope you enjoyed the Boo Bash! It was a great chance to connect with our families and community. Thank you for being a bit part in that!



Amanda Lynn

Children's and Family Minister
alynn@trinitylife.org

TRINITY KIDS Sundays @
TRINITY KIDS 9:00 | 10:30 a.m.
TRINITY KIDS Secure Check-In
WE LOVE CARING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES



TRINITY STUDENTS

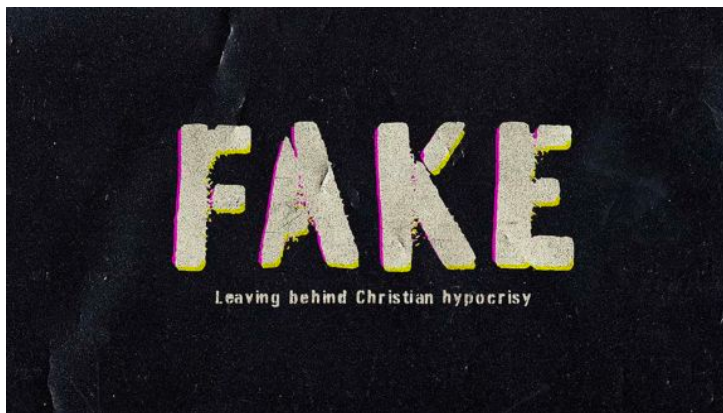
Grades 6-12

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8:00 PM*

- TAILGATE (5:30p - 6:30p) - Unstructured time to hangout, play games, and buy pizza!
- PROGRAM (6:30p -8:00p) - Worship, God's Word together, and meaningful conversations during small groups!

**When Papillion LaVista schools are not in session, Trinity Students does not meet. Trinity Students will not meet on Wednesday, November 22nd.*

IN THE WORKS FOR TRINITY STUDENTS IN NOVEMBER

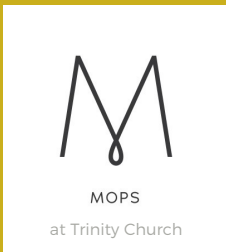


We are kicking off a new series called "FAKE"! This series confronts the hypocrisy and temptation of living in two worlds simultaneously: that of the church or Christian life and that of the normal life. We will discover whether it is possible to live in both or if we must choose to live in one or the other. You don't want to miss it!



Chris Randall
Student and Family Minister
crandall@trinitylife.org

When we have events, all details and registrations are found at
trinitylife.org/events



Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) is an international ministry focused on enriching the lives of mothers of young children through friendship, fellowship, and faith-based activities.

MOPS is open to any mom who has at least one child from newborn to kindergarten. If this is you, you are invited.

The Trinity MOPS of Papillion group welcomed 51 moms and over 50 kids through the doors in September! The first meeting went remarkably well and garnered lots of positive feedback! Moms arrived onsite and dropped their little ones at childcare. They experienced a hot breakfast, fellowship with other moms, and crafting opportunities, plus an encouraging reminder to SAY YES to the things God has in store, and no to the many things that overwhelm.

Trinity MOPS meet every other Wednesday morning during the school year.

Please consider praying over our MOPS moms!

Consider sharing about MOPS with the moms of young children that you know.

More about MOPS is on our Facebook page: [Trinity MOPS of Papillion](#)

MOPS Coordinator: Jordan Gillick.

Contact the Church Office to learn more: 402-339-3788

For the Men

PICKLEBALL

**November 19th @ 5pm-8pm
Trinity Church**

Play for the first time or show off all your pickleballing skills in our 2-on-2 matches.

**Two courts to enjoy gametime.
Food and great conversations, too!**

MEN'S GROUP

Sundays at 9:00 am

In November, the men continue walking through the Ten Commandments, one per week. Great conversation ensues as we study God's word together and we encourage each other in our walks of faith.

All men are welcome!

Pimpinans story

Last spring, Matt Pearson invited a new friend he had met at seminary to come to Trinity Church and share his heart for the people of his home country, Indonesia,

Pimpinan is in full-time ministry taking the Good News of Jesus to North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Pastor Pimpinan says, "By the grace of God, we are seeing consistent attendance at our Sunday services, with about 40-50 attending regularly."

As such, they launched a missional church with their first gathering on October 22nd in a hall with a capacity for 150 individuals. It is right next door to a bigger hall with a capacity for 2000.

Pastor Pimpinan goes on to say, "If God is willing, one day we can buy that hall."

Please pray for this church and for each person near it to have the opportunity to hear about Jesus. We are excited to partner with Pastor Pimpinan and the ministry happening in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

AMONG OUR PEOPLE

Happy Birthday Trail Blazers (80+) Years

- 11/05 - John Miller
- 11/13 - Ken Peterson
- 11/16 - Marilyn Krueger
- 11/17 - Judy Abels
- 11/25 - Davis Gerdes
- 11/29 - Janet Dobbs
- 11/29 - Karen Van Briesen
- 11/30 - Betty Capener

50+ Anniversaries

- 11/07/64 - Ed & Carol Gates
- 11/25/66 - Ken & Mary Peterson

Newly Married

- 10/14 - Dylan and Clare Cordes

Baptized into our Faith Family

- 10/22 - Raelynn Vacek, granddaughter of John & Glenda Vacek
- 10/22 - Mila James Claus, daughter of Casey Claus & Alexis Thomas
- 10/29 - Hunter Grace Clark, daughter of Joshua Clark & Lexi Dietz. Hunter's sponsor is Taylor Dietz.

Health and Healing

- Wanda Butts
- Karen Van Briesen
- Cindy Miller

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023

During each service we will remember those who have gone home to the Lord between Nov 1, 2022 and Oct 25, (time of print) 2023.

Anne Waldman, Michael Kenworthy, Larry Mundt, Elaine Schreiber, Farol Lofgren, Sofiann Voorhes, Ruby Hinrichs, Chere Schroeder, Karen Rowe, and Kamryn Vasquez

Please keep their families in prayer.

OUR VISION: A place to belong and become who God is calling us to be

OUR MISSION: Connecting People to Christ

OUR STRATEGY: Love Jesus | Transform Lives | Serve the Community

**Trinity Church Office
Closed for Thanksgiving**

Thursday, November 23
and
Friday, November 24

TRINITY IS GENEROUS

Our Tithes and Offerings
Connect People to Christ!

IN SEPTEMBER

Donation Offering Entries

From Planning Center	241
From Cash & Checks	130
# of Donors	371
# of New Donors	3
# of Recurring Donors	83
September Offering:	\$64,542.65

SEPTEMBER ENDING BALANCES

General Fund: \$ -129,829
Building Fund: \$ 136,063
Endowment: \$ 351,063
Memorial: \$ 69,787

GO Vision Initiative (Mortgage)
Received through print date \$886,572
of our \$1,200,000 goal.

Please review your bi-monthly giving statements for accuracy. Reach out to our Contributions Secretary, Carolyn Bestmann with any questions at cbestmann@trinitylife.org.

Partner in the good work God is doing through Trinity Church

5 WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON

Place check or cash in the black box in the back of the worship center



Download the
**CHURCH
CENTER
APP**



TEXT TO GIVE

Text any amount to
84321



BY MAIL

Trinity Church
848 Gold Coast Rd
Papillion, NE 68046



ONLINE

www.trinitylife.org/give

We are getting ready for an incredible year ahead.

Use the link below to share your intent for 2024 to help leadership with planning.

www.trinitylife.org/intent

Our goal is 100% participation so that leadership can plan well.

Annual Budget Meeting November 19 at 11:30 a.m.

November at a Glance

Serve Team Gathering | Thurs, Nov 2 @ 7:00 p.m.
A Women's Ministry gathering to care for one another.

All Saints Sunday | Sun, Nov 5 all Services
Remembering those who have gone home to the Lord

Trinity Church Council | Tues, Nov 7 @ 6:15 p.m.
Leadership Meeting

Little Miracles | Sat, Nov 11 @ 10 a.m.
Serving new moms in their baby's first year of life.

Chili Cookoff | Sun, Nov 12 @ 11:30 a.m.
Fundraiser for local food-insecure kids over winter break.

Basket Drop Off | Sat, Nov 18 @ 8-9:30 a.m.
Thanksgiving meals for our First Lutheran neighbors

Budget Meeting | Sun, Nov 19 @ 11:30 a.m.
God has good things in store for Trinity Church in 2024.

Pie Fellowship | Tue, Nov 21 @ 6:00 p.m.
With gratitude and by pie. Details on page 3.

Stephen Center | Fri, Nov 24

The 4th Friday each month Trinity Church prepares and serves a meal for the homeless in the Omaha Metro. [Click here](#) to sign up to provide an ingredient. Drop off ingredients at Trinity Church by Wednesday, November 22.

Advent Decorating | Tue, Nov 28 @ 9:30 a.m.
Getting ready for the coming of Jesus