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From the Pastor:

As I write this, fall is upon us. The leaves on trees in St. Louis are turning brilliant shades of yellow, orange and red. Bird nests, once well-hidden in the lush foliage, are beginning to be visible. Squirrels are busy burying acorns in the backyard, getting ready for winter. Next Sunday, November 6th, we will change our clocks and “fall back” into daylight savings time. Every year these changes come whether we are ready or not, and I have yet to meet anyone who welcomes time changes!

Some of us embrace change easily. We enjoy novelty. We like changes of scenery and can't wait for the next new experience. For others of us, change is difficult, if not disorienting. We need the certainty and predictability of familiar routines. Clinging to tradition offers comfort and stability when everything else is shifting.

Yes, change. I come from a family that has included preachers and church musicians for at least five generations. Our faith has been formed by singing hymns (in 4-part harmony) in church. We don't just love church music, we LOVE it. It is in our DNA.

I have a collection of hymnals dating back at least 150 years. When my ancestors came from Germany, they carried small pocket-sized hymnals. The lyrics were written in German, and just a few tunes were included. Only the melody notes were printed without harmony or accompaniment. Those hymnals were retired around WW1. My grandmother knew those old German songs, but she accompanied the singing in her church from the 1921 Evangelical Hymnal. My mother learned those songs at her knee, but she played mostly from **The Hymnal** (E&R, 1941) and later from the UCC's 1974 hymnal.

She cringed when the UCC introduced the New Century Hymnal. It was published soon after I graduated from seminary, and I loved it. Now, a generation and a half later, I find it dated. The church and our world have changed, and I wish it was more inclusive, both in style and content.

Young people are not learning to sing in harmony in church like I did as a child. Contemporary Christian music and praise songs are often sung in unison, without the benefit of printed notes. It has taken me some time to embrace this change. I am learning to appreciate them even though I still miss the harmony. Now I wish more of these songs and choruses that younger generations appreciate could be included in an updated church song book. Even while writing this last sentence, I am imagining that future hymnals may be published in an electronic format rather than on paper to save trees. Ah, change again.

And yet . . . it is a marvel to see how God has worked through poets and church musicians across cultures and time zones to “speak to the musical ear” of each new generation. I want those who come after me to find comfort and challenge in their faith through song just as I have.

A wise pastor friend helped me appreciate this evolution of church music. He told me, “Keep in mind that every song we sing in worship is not for you. It may be for the elder sitting next to you, or the child across the room. If you don't like a song, that's OK. Try to sing it, though, as an offering of love for others in the community.”

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(From the Pastor continued from pg. 1)

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am grateful that God is still speaking, and God is still singing, in old as well as new ways so that we all might hear!

Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mary

P.S. Even though I am grateful, I still resist change sometimes.



October 2nd we held our annual Blessing of the Animals and World Communion Worship at Ohlendorf Park. We had gorgeous weather for the pets and humans alike. Worshiping outdoors occasionally is a way to remember we are grounded in God's creation and connected to the church in all places. One thing that made it special was that *everyone* had a part in the worship service. After worship we enjoyed games and a delicious potluck picnic. It was delightful to just relax and enjoy each other's company in God's beautiful creation.

This was a whole-church event, and everyone had a part in it. We brought supplies from church, set everything up, made delicious food, grilled meat (and S'mores!), organized games and a cake walk, cleaned up, and then returned everything back to the church at the end. Thank you to everyone for *your part* in making it possible! It would not have happened without you!

Reminder:

Next week we Fall Back for Daylight Savings Time. Remember to adjust your clocks or you will risk being early for church!

Council work

Greetings, as we are settling into fall and have even got a touch of cold, Trinity has been very busy. We are working hard to find ways to get our message out to others. Recently we have started using community calendars and newsletters to promote our services. The website is under construction and will be on a new level when completed. While we are using lots of different ways to promote our church family the best is still by word of mouth and a personal invitation. So, call a family member, friend, or neighbor and invite them to come join us on a Sunday Morning.

We are also planning the services for the month of November, Advent, and Christmas, did I really just say that...Wow time is moving quickly. November brings us a time of thankfulness and gratitude. We will celebrate/remember Veterans for all of those who serve and protect our freedoms, as well as all those loved ones we have lost from our church family. Veterans Day is November 11th, if you are due these honors be sure to find the great ways the community celebrates you. Our Totenfest Service will be held on November 20th. This will remember all who have gone before and celebrate their lives. It is also the Sunday before Advent starts so we will be "hanging the greens" as we prepare our sanctuary for the coming of Christmas. We will work together to decorate and then share a chili lunch following. Please lookout for further info on lunch. To round out November, Advent begins on the 27th. Please see the separate article regarding the initial plans for our December worshiping schedule. We are also working on how Trinity can serve those less fortunate through this holiday season. More information will be shared as we receive it, thanks.

Wow that's a lot, so I am going to stop and take a break to be thankful for all of you. This year has had ups and downs, positive and negatives, gains and losses, success, and failures, but through it all Trinity has stood with each other, making us a stronger community. I am proud to be part of this church and church family. May you find happiness, thankfulness, and all of God's abundant blessings in this Thanksgiving Holiday!!

Angela

**Thank You received from
Affton-Lemay Community Parade**

We want to thank Trinity UCC for your shuttle bus sponsorship. It was because of you our parade was a success.

Affton—Lemay Chamber

Lessons and Carols Christmas Brunch

We will celebrate Christmas with a brunch and service of Lessons and Carols at 2 p.m. on Friday, December 23rd. Council is providing the meal, and we are all asked to bring Christmas cookies to share for dessert. (Plan to bring extra cookies. After the meal we will divide them so everyone can take home an assortment!)

Our gathering will include a re-telling of the Christmas story and singing our favorite carols. Please mark your calendars and plan to come. Family and friends are most welcome!

We will not be holding services on Christmas or Christmas Eve this year.

Last week we started collecting by collecting green beans and mushroom soup. Please bring one or more items each week so we can offer complete Thanksgiving baskets to several families this year.

Instant mashed potatoes 10/30
Stuffing mix 11/6
Cranberry sauce 11/13
Cash donations for turkeys 11/20

In addition, The Affton Food Pantry is requesting for November: Box Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Toilet Paper, "Rice and Hamburger" Helper Meal Boxes.

Memorial Gifts

~ Ervin Geimer's 95th ~
~ Craig DeMoyin ~
~ Trinity Veterans ~
by: Kevin & Janet Smith

The Quilter's Corner—Janet Smith

We welcome back Linda and Judy to our group and keep Karen in our prayers for a speedy recovery!

Our current quilt is a lap quilt that we hope to finish before Christmas. Our plan is to give it to our friend for a surprise present.

We wish all a Happy Thanksgiving...

Friends Foundation's Fall Festival

The "Quilters" donated our last quilt to the Friends Foundation, for their Quilt Auction on November 6th in Washington, MO. There will also be an old fashioned Sunday dinner with Roast Beef, Fried Chicken with all the Fixings and Homemade Desserts. Serving will be 12—2 PM. The cost is \$15 a plate. Pre-purchase online at www.friendsfoundation.net The Quilt Auction well be at 3 PM (1121 Columbus Dr.)



- 2—Quilters - 9:00 am
- 6—Morning Worship/Communion - 10:30 am
- 9—Quilters - 9:00 am
- 11—Veterans Day
- 13—Morning Worship/Council - 10:30 am
- 16—Quilters - 9:00 am
- 20—Morning Worship/Totenfest - 10:30 am
"Hanging of the Greens"/Chili Lunch
- 24—Thanksgiving Day
- 25—Happy Birthday Larry Becker!
- 27—Morning Worship - 10:30 am
First Sunday of Advent
Happy Birthday Angela Wagner!
- 29—Happy Birthday Gail Ahumada!
- 30—Quilters - 9:00 am