

# The Tower

Vol. 17, No. 4    Trinity United Methodist Church, Iron Mountain, MI    www.imtrinity.org    November 2017

## **Pastor's Ponderings**

September was filled with the 'new school year' energy.

October has been so lovely with warmer temperatures and a kaleidoscope of colors, as the trees put on their fall wardrobe for us.

And now November approaches. Shorter days. (Don't forget Daylight Saving Time on Saturday night, November 4.) Cold and rainy days getting colder and closer, ever closer to the inevitable snow. We are all moving together to the end of the year, as we walk deeper and deeper into the winter season.

Rather than looking ahead, it's easier for me at this time of year to look backward at what has already happened. Easier to remember the joy of spring and the warmth of summer. The sounds of children playing outside and the great singing and worship we have enjoyed this year. How fun to think about the new members who have joined our congregation. The flames of the Holy Spirit that we shared with each other through the summer. The babies who have been born into our church family. The baptisms and the friendly gatherings of the Adult Sunday School and Choir and Youth Group.

So many good memories, but we can't live in our memories, can we? The ending days of the year are upon us, and they need our attention, too. More so perhaps than in previous years, the future feels uncertain—for our country, for the earth, for Trinity. Political struggles, financial challenges, unpredictable natural disasters, and unthinkable human cruelty can dominate our thoughts and overcome our native hopefulness. No wonder looking ahead can feel like walking into a long, dark tunnel.

But let's not stop ourselves from going forward out of fear or dislike of cold and snow and uncertainty. Jesus offers the light of his love and courage to guide us when we feel overwhelmed. Even one person with the strength and conviction of their relationship with Jesus can be a source of

comfort and inspiration to those who are filled with doubts and worries. Together, we can do what no one of us could ever do alone.

I have been pondering Paul's words: 'See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.' 1 Thessalonians 5:15-17

There is so much of good going on here at Trinity UMC. Have you heard the choir this year? They are like angels...and we were worried that the loss of Greg and Diana Hunt would somehow diminish the beauty of our musical offerings to God! Not so. Read on about plans for 'Reading the Bible in a Year.' The Holy Spirit is pointing us to God's Word as a source of inspiration and joy. Thanks be to God! We continue to minister to and with each other through the Veterans Day memorial of the veterans in your families. The UM Conference is even coming this month to give us information about moving ahead with the Vital Church Initiative.... We are truly not alone as long as we are connected with each other and other United Methodists around the state, the country, and the world.

There is much to remind us of joy and thanksgiving. If you're not sure, if the approach of winter drags you down too much, I invite you to 'pray without ceasing,' asking always that God will 'preserve you with His mighty power, that you many not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity.' That is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Thanks be to God, always and forever. In the name of Jesus....

*Pastor Geri*



...actively invite...

### All Saints Sunday, November 5

Members who have died in the past year are being remembered in worship on All Saints Sunday, November 5: LaVerne Barnes, Joyce Daugherty, Jeffrey Freeman, and Donna Poquette.



### Thanksgiving Eve Service...

**Invite your friends and family** to give thanks to God on Wednesday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



### Hanging of the Greens

Saturday, November 25 at 9:00 a.m.  
Come help decorate the church for Advent.

### Christmas Eve Worship Sunday, December 24

Worship services at 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.  
No Sunday school.



*Paper Poinsettia forms will be in Sunday bulletins starting November 19 and in the December Tower.*

### Red Box Response...Thank You!

By Dean Laitinen, SPRC Chair

Thank you to all who submitted answers to the three-question forms that were put into the red box in the Gathering Room! We received about 20 completed forms and prayerfully read each during the Staff Parish Relations Committee meetings. There were some excellent observations made regarding Trinity. Some of the words used to describe our church were caring, friendly, musical, active, welcoming, inclusive, and fulfilling, among others.

Some unique qualities of TUMC noted were that we come together for each other, we're committed to community outreach, we have an amazing group of older members, we have *The Tower* and other methods for getting the words out, and we are mission-oriented.

Thoughts regarding what was needed in a pastor to be a good Trinity match were openness, being inclusive, being sensitive to many different personalities within the congregation, relatability, patience, knowing God's word, and being a solid worship leader.

The question regarding the qualities of a pastor for Trinity was meant as one not just in regard to the current pastor, but for future pastors as well.

The question regarding the qualities of a pastor for Trinity was meant as one not just in regard to the current pastor, but for future pastors as well. But we did receive comments regarding Pastor Geri and expressing displeasure with her attendance and input at most committee meetings. I have received verbal comments, as well, from parishioners regarding this topic, though several also expressed thanks for input and information provided by the pastor at the meetings. I would like to refer our parishioners to the October *Tower* article by the pastor, which refers to this topic, and in which the pastor indicates her intention to lessen the number of committee meetings attended and the reasoning for that.

Along with the Charge Conference activities came a question of the timing of when and how new pastors are brought into the church and what the SPRC's role is in that process. As a result, we as a committee are better educated in our role in that, and have appreciated the chance to learn more about our duties as the SPRC.

So please accept our sincere thanks for providing your input, thoughts, praises, concerns, and prayers to the Staff Parish Relations Committee and its members, and know that we stand ready to listen and also to give input and news back to our Trinity family about our work. Thank you, and God bless you!

## *Serving in Worship in November*

### Offering Counters:

November 5 Tami & Mary Slagle, & Joyce Trevillian  
November 12  
November 19 Maria Hyrkas & Janis Nord  
November 26



### Liturgists:

November 5 8:00 a.m. Mark Shemanski  
10:30 a.m. Scott Ritsema  
November 12 8:00 a.m. Lea Varda  
10:30 a.m. Jill Noyce  
November 19 8:00 a.m. TBD  
10:30 a.m. Drew Champagne  
November 26 8:00 a.m. Mark Shemanski  
10:30 a.m. Nathan Ruble

### Projection System Operators:

Kyle Shemanski  
Maddie Ryan  
Jon Harry  
Dean Laitinen  
Jon Harry  
Dean Laitinen  
Kyle Shemanski  
Lizzy Ryan

November Ushers: Bob Cowling & Riley Gauthier

Junior Worship Leaders: *See the sign-up sheet outside the Junior Worship room.*

*...exploring the life-  
changing message of Jesus...*

### **Preacher's Corner**

Commitment/pledge time again. Soon you will receive a letter from the Stewardship & Generosity Team about how valuable it is when people take the time to estimate their ability to give to the operations of the church in the coming year. We know that Jesus tells us that giving is a good thing, but... but... it can be scary to think that we may not have enough. The sense that there is 'not enough' drives greed, fear, and isolating behaviors. Instead of living in the abundance of God's love, we can find ourselves stuck living in 'Scare City' where it seems that death, starvation, chaos, and fear threaten to overwhelm and swallow us up.

The Good News is that this is an illusion. Jesus offers us a journey...a spiritual journey into the truth of abundance and an alternative vision of how to live our lives. The November preaching will have us 'Moving Out of Scare City' and traveling together to the vast, open habitats of God's grace. Come and find out more about moving beyond scarcity into God's Kingdom, where there is always enough... We travel together with the words of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

November 5, All Saints Sunday, 'From Alpha to Omega.' Genesis 11:1-9; Revelation 7:9-17.

November 12, Veterans Day Remembrance. 'The Ultimate Sacrifice on the Way.' Matthew 16:21-27; Acts 15:8-9.

November 19, 'Altars Everywhere.' Matthew 22:15-22; 1 Timothy 6:18-19.

November 26, The First Sunday of Advent will turn our attention to the beginning of the new Church year and to the beginning of Christ's life on earth. As we prepare to celebrate the newness and birth of Jesus, we will pause to give thanks for the traditions that move us from one season to the next. During this time of anticipation and preparation, we will also remember the Angels who visited the family of Jesus to help usher them (and us) into a new understanding of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

### **Eat, Stay, and Pray—Community Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 5:45 to 6:15 p.m.**

This is an ecumenical prayer opportunity in the Sanctuary. A chance to pray to God. To listen for the Spirit of God. To be together in the hope of Jesus Christ. It's open to our community meal guests and available to all the folks at Trinity who are not able to make it to church on Sunday mornings...and for anyone who wants a chance to pray in community during the week. If Sunday morning worship is a chance to get closer to God, then check it out and see what God can do on Wednesday nights!

...connect with others...

### November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Please pray for them on their special day.

- Nov. 1 Denise DeLano  
2 Pat Barbeau, Don & Mary Rowell  
3 Cliff Schaut, Dustin Schaut  
4 Don & Elaine Yuhasey  
6 Carol Calcari  
Drew & Mary Heather Champagne  
9 Tammy Barnes, Erika Bruns  
10 Suzanne Harry  
11 Brad Strehlow  
12 Megan DeLano  
14 Patty Ronan  
16 Joyce Erickson  
17 Michael Grailer, Erin Recla  
18 Paula Wahlstrom  
19 Bella Person  
20 Greta Betti, Mary Heather Champagne  
22 Carmen Swanson, Brian Tirschel  
23 Jessica Simon, Mark Uren  
24 Sam Bilgreen  
25 Carol Pezzullo  
26 Michael Bruns, Travis Grailer  
27 Brayah Johnson  
28 Bob & Moira Cowling  
29 Bruce & Beth Clark  
30 Dean Laitinen

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**Hospitalized since our last issue:** Pastor Geri Hamlen, Iris Machus, Ed Riutta

**Our condolences** to the family and friends of Donna Poquette, who died October 4.



### Hi, Folks,

I was in a Worship Team meeting after church. We were discussing different ideas for events coming soon and how we might celebrate, illustrate, and demonstrate them on the appropriate Sunday. Looking at the calendar, I saw Veterans Day, November 11, is coming fast.

A bit of information on military holidays—they started under other names than what they are known as today. Memorial Day, which honors those who died in the service to our nation, started after the civil war in 1868. Veterans Day honors all those who have served our country in uniform, and can be

traced back to 1918. Armed Forces Day honors all those in military service and started in 1949.

Veterans Day is a bittersweet holiday. For me this is a rough day. I grew up in a family of five: Mom, Dad, and three boys. Veterans Day is a good day, because my older brother enlisted in the Air Force and committed 26 years to the USAF and then continued as a civilian. He now has over 37 years of DOD service. I served one enlistment, having followed my big brother into the USAF. My younger brother (he was taller than me so I cannot call him little) enlisted in the Navy. We lost him during his second enlistment in the Navy. He was found unconscious at his duty station, and the cause was never determined.

To honor my younger brother, I fly the flag I have from his funeral. His base commander brought additional flags for my brother and me, so when I am working on his birthday, the day we lost him, Veterans Day, or Memorial Day, I find a flag pole in the area I am working. With permission from the owner of the flag pole, my brother's flag is set free to be filled with God's wind. This is a small gesture of remembrance and respect.

In the Worship Team meeting, this was going through my head, as we looked at the calendar and talked about plans and altar decorations. So I brought forward the following idea, which was discussed and reshaped and is now offered to you.

We all know someone who is or has served our nation. Unfortunately, several of us have lost people who were close to us during service to our country. I think we found a good way to honor them. Do you have an honor flag folded into a triangle and sealed in a case? Would you consider bringing it to church to be placed up at the altar? How about a photograph of a loved one currently serving or who has served in the past? Would you bring that to church for the altar area?

We also thought it would be fitting to have in the bulletin an "In Honor of" sheet. This would list your name, the service person you are honoring, branch of service, and the relationship. For example:

Your name: Scott Ritsema  
Relationship: Brother  
Service person: Steven Ritsema  
Military branch: US Navy

Please fill in the enclosed form and submit it to the church office by Wednesday, November 8. This is a nice way to honor the service and sacrifice of our loved ones. So I submit this idea for your consideration as we approach Veterans Day. May your day be blessed. —*Scott Ritsema*

*...connect with others...*

**‘A sight for sore eyes!’**

As many of you know, I had emergency eye surgery for a detached retina in late September. The surgery was successful, but I was ‘sentenced’ to two weeks of inactivity...no driving, no walking, no housework. Wow...that was a lifestyle shift for me! During that time, I had a chance to see first-hand the loving kindness and heartfelt caring of so many people in this congregation. Your cards were a sight for sore eyes! Your phone calls were a break in the monotony. Your gifts of food and flowers brightened my days. Your visits cheered me up and assured me that there is life after surgery. Your prayers were a gift that just keeps on holding me up. Thank you for all that you do every day...not just for me, but for each other and for those around us. I really felt like I was seeing Jesus in action, alive and well on earth as in heaven. Thank you and thank you some more! Through the love of Jesus, **Pastor Geri**

*...mature as disciples...*

**Trinity Stewardship and Generosity Journey:  
Teaching, Learning, and Growing in Generosity  
Together**

By the Stewardship and Generosity Team

During the month of November, our Generosity Journey takes us into a time of growing and giving as good stewards of God.

The 2018 pledge drive is upon us. Please pray and reflect on your personal giving goals, and return a Giving Goal card.

Our congregational activity this month will focus on personal growth. “I will be more generous by....” “I will ask God to help me to be more generous by thinking, praying, doing, stepping out of my comfort zone, etc.” Each of us can write a little note to God and place it in a closed display box in the Gathering Room.

At the end of November, the box will be sealed, and we will present it to Pastor during the worship service, giving our notes to God with a prayer.

**Marquette District ‘Double Header,’ Saturday, November 4 at Hope UMC, Marquette.** Pastors and laity of churches gather each November to do the work of the District.

The Double Header consists of two events: the District Board of Missions and Church Extension Annual Meeting in the morning and the District Annual Conference in the afternoon. Each church is entitled to at least one lay vote and one clergy vote.

This is a great opportunity to worship together and be in fellowship with others across the District, plus get information of importance to the life and ministry of local churches in the District; help choose the 2018 Mission of the Year; celebrate the many local church ministries made possible through District grants and low-interest loans; vote on District apportionments; elect persons to serve on District boards and agencies; and participate in the future direction of Camp Michigamme.

Registration is free and includes lunch if you pre-register. See Pastor Geri if you’d like to attend this event.

**Have you wanted to spend more time reading the Bible?** Have you wanted to read the Bible cover to cover? Have you wanted to discuss the verses you have read with others who have read the same passages? Your chance to do those things will be available in 2018.

We will read the Bible through the year using 365 daily readings, with each reading having an Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs segment. There will be opportunities to meet together weekly to discuss the readings for that week.

Interested? Contact Jack Noyce at (jrnoyce1951@gmail.com), (715)528-2084 or (913)645- 6020.

**Budget Task Force Update:** The Church Council, in recognition of the financial challenges at Trinity, formed a Budget Task Force this past summer. The Task Force put together a list of options...not mandates, just options...for Council to consider in terms of balancing the budget, reducing the debt, encouraging more generous giving. The list, when presented to Council, was six pages long! Yes, there are that many ideas floating around.... So the next step is to have the chairpeople of the various committees review all of the ideas and suggest which of them would be most practical and effective.

The chairpeople’s meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 29 after church to do their work of sifting and refining. Their shortened list will be presented to the Council, who will make decisions about seeking congregational input and moving forward. This is a very valuable process for the Finance Committee, which is charged with developing a budget for 2018.

Please hold the chairpeople and the Council in your prayers as they grapple with this difficult and important issue in the life of our congregation.

*...transform our community...*

### November's Mission of the Month

By Nathan Ruble

November's Mission of the Month is The Salvation Army. The Salvation Army is an international movement in over one hundred countries, sharing in the mission of Christ for the salvation and transformation of the world. It is an integral part of the Christian Church. Its doctrine follows the mainstream of Christian belief, and its articles of faith emphasize God's saving purposes. Its objectives are the advancement of the Christian religion, education, the relief of poverty, and other charitable objectives beneficial to society or the community of mankind as a whole.

Please be generous and give to November's Mission of the Month.



**Blessings abound!** Thank you to two special people who gave money recently so that we could pay our Feeding America bill in full!—Chris Langer

**Our meal program** recently received a generous Super One Foods gift card from Buck Masters.

**Cinnamon rolls** will be sold Sunday, November 26. Suggested donation is \$2 each. Pre-orders can be called in anytime. Call the church office, 774-2545, or call/text Cindi Strehlow at (906)221-1094. All proceeds will benefit the annual North Dakota mission trip.

**United Methodist Women's  
Potluck Luncheon,  
Thursday, November 2 at noon.  
All women of the  
church are welcome.**

**Special Mission Recognition:** The United Methodist Women honors special people each year with a monetary gift to be used for global mission to help women and children. This year, we honored Adam and Kristy Ryan. This couple does a lot here at Trinity and in the Iron Mountain/Kingsford community. A certificate and gold pin were presented during the 10:30 service on October 22.

**“Prayer Shawl Ministry**—Throughout history, shawls have come to symbolize shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. In this ministry, they have become symbolic of an unconditionally-loving God. Who do you know who could use a ‘hug from God’? They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, and beautify. This message of caring is simple and enriches the giver as well as the recipient. If you know of someone in need of a shawl, please call the office, 774-2545, and a shawl will be made available for you to pick up and deliver.” –Dawn Riutta

**‘Community Connect Event’** in November to bring together people in need (focusing on the homeless) with area service providers at a single location on a single day. The event will be in Iron Mountain at the YMCA on Nov. 17 and in Iron County at the Windsor Center on Nov. 14, and it gives people the opportunity to meet with area service providers, go to a ‘free store,’ and have something to eat before they depart. The ‘free store’ contains items donated by the community, such as blankets, clothing, shoes, winter coats, hats, boots, scarves, personal hygiene items, kitchen utensils/pots/pans/dishes, cleaning items, etc. Area churches play a huge role in collecting donated items. This opportunity is available to Trinity. Is anyone interested in promoting it to our congregation? Let Pastor Geri know.

### **Minutes of the Church Council Meeting, October 16, 2017**

Roll Call: Lucy Shampo, Blair Daugherty, Kristy Ryan, Cindi Strehlow, Pastor Geri, Scott Ritsema, Emily Ritsema, Jack Noyce, Dean Laitinen, Adam Ryan, and Lea Varda

Pastor opened the meeting sharing some information of the larger church on the Commission on the Way Forward. The group is putting some ideas together and sharing thoughts. A special conference will be held in 2019 and a vote by the larger church in 2020.

**The Agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented. The September minutes were reviewed. Jack motioned to accept minutes. Dean seconded. Minutes approved.**

### **NURTURE**

**Worship Team** –November 12 there will be a Veterans Day observation during worship, honoring all veterans. Thanksgiving service will be at Trinity on Wednesday November 22. Christmas Eve services will be on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Morning service will be a family-friendly Christmas Eve service. New

Year's Eve service will be at 10:30 am only. No 8 am service. November sermon theme "Moving out of Scare City" and Advent sermon series "Tradition/Angels." The team had some discussion on the altar flower sign-up sheet that has been done in the past. This is being looked into and possibly starting up again. December 17 choir cantata "Love Came Down" at 10:30 a.m. The Sunday school children will join the choir.

**Pastor Parish Relations Committee** – The comments in the survey box are collected, read, and shared with Pastor. Dean shared the process of (paid) staff evaluations. It's a time to keep in touch with staff to be of support.

**Membership** – Pastor continues to work with the confirmation class preparing them to make membership decisions.

**Christian Education Team** – Jack Noyce is seeking to begin a Bible study to read the Bible in one year. He will be requesting money to buy some Bibles for participants to use so all may be reading the same version. His goals: \*See if there is interest. \*Set up discussion opportunities once a week. \*Development of small groups forming. And an overall interest in reading the Bible. More information to come.

**Sunday School** – All is going well. The numbers have been the same each week. There will be no Sunday School November 26, December 24, and December 31.

**Youth Group** – The group has enjoyed a few game nights together. They will follow the Sunday school schedule for the holidays. The youth help out with the cinnamon roll sales. And there will be opportunities to help setting up and meal prep for the homeless shelter.

**Coffee & Connection** – Bonnie reports that all is going fine.

**United Methodist Women** – Nine women from Trinity attended the District Meeting in Newberry. A total of 80 women from across the district were in attendance. UMW will have a General Meeting in November. The church Mini-Fair is October 21. A catered Christmas meal for the women is being planned for December.

## **OUTREACH**

**Community Meal Program** – The number of meals served is down a little. A request has been submitted to get the unused portion of the Camp Michigamme scholarship money set aside from the Bleecker funds.

**Mission Trip** – The September cinnamon roll sale went well. The fundraiser will continue once a month. The North Dakota mission paperwork will be available soon. Trip dates are June 17-22, 2018.

**United Men in Ministry** – The September Car Care Clinic went well. Approximately 49 cars were serviced. The spring clinic is being planned. November 11, a potato drop is planned.

**Feeding America** – Jack reported that the September truck had additional supplies that had not been covered by allotted funds. Chris Langer had received additional funds and was able to cover the extra cost with a couple dollars to spare.

**College Student Ministry** – A request for candy and treats for the student care packages would be helpful as well as cash for postage. An average of 12 packages goes out.

**Camp Michigamme** – Pastor Geri shared a written report on the involvement to support the Iron Mountain cabin. In the absence of a camp liaison, the Pastors of each church will relay information to the congregations. At the District meeting in November, there will be a moment of ritual blessing to let everyone know that Iron Mountain is taking this step. **Lucy made a motion to proceed with the support of the Iron Mountain cabin. Blair seconded. Motion passed.**

**Light at the Inn** – A training session for volunteers held on October 19. The rotating LATI schedule is being printed and will be distributed. Trinity will host LATI November 19-26 and December 31-January 7. LATI has communicated to all the groups using the church for gatherings of the host weeks.

## **WITNESS**

**Website** – The opportunity of a website operator is still available. The website could be updated from home with internet access using information from the current church Tower. Dean said he is trying to find alternatives to recording and uploading the sermon without the audio challenges.

**Communications** – The lawyer for the Barbara Alquist estate has been in contact with Pastor Geri. A \$10,000 gift has been approved by the court to go to Trinity. \$1,000 has been designated to go to the Giving Tree. Pastor will meet with Ron to see if Barb had any other areas she would have wanted her gifts to go.

## **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND RESOURCING REPORTS**

**Finance & Treasurer's Report** – September General Fund ended with \$539.35. Apportionment payments are up-to-date. October statement will reflect payments. A reminder has been given to the special groups to continue keeping track of their sales tax information. Hammer out the Debt Campaign raised \$3,300.60.

**Jack made a motion as a recommendation from the Finance Committee to hold a 13<sup>th</sup> Month Campaign in November and a Paper Poinsettia campaign in**

**December to bring in additional funds to the General Fund. Dean seconded. Motion passed. Jack made a motion to move the \$3,000 of Bleecker Funds set aside for camp scholarships back to available Bleecker funds. Lucy seconded. Jack made a motion to allocate \$3,000 of available Bleecker Funds to the Meal Program per request by Cindi. Emily seconded. Motion passed. Jack motioned by recommendation of Finance that the \$1,000 ‘use as needed’ gift received by Trinity UMC to go to the General Fund. Kristy seconded.**

**Stewardship/Generosity Team** – The 2018 Pledge Drive begins in November. Giving Goal cards are due back by November 26. November Generosity Project: “I will be more generous by...” (Growing in Generosity)

**Trustees** – Committee thanked Scott Ritsema for doing the lawn care at the parsonage. It was recommended to keep up the lawn maintenance to prevent the grub issues. Trustees approved Jim’s Music to hold a recital at Trinity December 2. November 1, OSF Hospice will be ringing bells out in front of Trinity calling attention to Hospice.

**Endowment Committee** – No report

**Leadership/Nominating Committee** –Tom Slagle agreed to serve on the Finance Committee. **Lucy made a motion to accept Tom Slagle to serve on the Finance Committee beginning January 2018. Jack seconded.**

**Vital Church Initiative** – A congregational luncheon meeting is scheduled Sunday, November 5 after worship. A potato bar will be available for lunch. Friday, November 10, a group from the Conference will discuss with Trinity to see if we are ready and interested to go to phase 2 of the VCI. The Congregation is invited to attend that meeting as well.

**Pastor’s Time** – Thank you to everyone who attended the Charge Conference. Pastor thanks the congregation for all the prayers, food, etc. during her recovery from eye surgery. The District meeting is Saturday, November 4 in Escanaba. A gravesite prayer service for Donna Poquette was planned for anyone from Trinity. Ruth Carlson continues to recover and plans to return to her home on October 18.

Lucy motioned to adjourn. Scott seconded. Next meeting: Monday, November 20, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lea Varda



## **Minutes of the Trustees Meeting, October 9, 2017**

Present: Lucy Shampo, John Erickson, Betsy Trumbell.

Lucy opened with a prayer.

Betsy moved to approve the minutes from September 11, 2017. John supported. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Betsy will check with Zambons about sandblasting and painting the five or six register covers.

John thinks we need to get quotes on elevator inspections. He’ll check with Blair.

Fahrner Asphalt came back and resealed some spots in the parking lot.

A few more items were added to the scheduled maintenance list:

- Check the boilers and record once a week.
- Strip and wax the Fellowship Hall floor once a year.
- Clean the carpeting in the church annually or as needed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Lucy did the annual parsonage review and found the following needs:

- Rain gutters are needed at the back of the parsonage to keep water out of the basement.
- The birch tree is dying, and a new tree is needed to replace it when it is taken down.
- There are dirt and bird droppings on the siding; maybe a work crew could wash it.

Scott Ritsema thinks we need a riding lawn mower at the parsonage. We’ll discuss this when more Trustees are present.

Jim’s Music wants to hold a recital on December 2 and pay \$75. The Trustees approved this via email.

The Conference decided that starting in 2018, the church is responsible for carpet cleaning at parsonages.

A group will be ringing bells for hospice on the corner of E Street and Carpenter Avenue on November 1 from noon to 12:30.

### **PASTOR’S TIME**

The Trustees have been asked to look at their line items and reduce them from \$20,000 to \$18,000. We will discuss this at the next meeting.

### **BILLS PAID**

\$3,560.26 paid to Fahrner Asphalt for the parking lot.

John moved to adjourn. Lucy supported. Motion carried.

Submitted by Betsy Trumbell, Trustee Secretary.

Trinity United Methodist Church  
808 Carpenter Ave.  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Iron Mountain, MI 49801  
Permit No. 81

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

**November 2017**

Enter  
his gates  
with  
thanksgiving...

Psalm 100:4



**Trinity United Methodist Church**  
**808 Carpenter Ave.**  
**Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4704**  
**Vol. 17, No. 4, November 2017**

**THE TOWER** is published 10 or 11 times a year by Trinity United Methodist Church for distribution to its members and friends.

Pastor.....Rev. Geri Hamlen  
Choir Director.....Emily Ritsema  
Organist.....Sue Saxon  
Pianist..... Jean Larson  
Custodian.....Larry Marlett  
Nursery Attendants.....

Sally Verley, Ian Driscoll & Kane Driscoll

Secretary.....Sally Verley  
Sunday Worship.....8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School, age 3 to high school.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday School for adults.....9:15 a.m.

Nursery Available Each Sunday

Office Hours.....Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Friday, 8 a.m.-noon

Website..... [www.imtrinity.org](http://www.imtrinity.org)  
Phone 774-2545.....Fax 774-3123  
Email.....[imtrinityumc@gmail.com](mailto:imtrinityumc@gmail.com)

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**The Men of Prayer** meet on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. November 27, we'll meet at Quinnesec UMC. The children have VBS. The women have circles. Men need something, too! Come and check it out. We'll compare notes on life and where God is working things out. Prayer time will then be followed by Holy Communion. Come and see what it's all about. For more information, please call Scott Ritsema, (906)282-4549.



Be sure to set your clocks back one hour when you go to bed, Saturday, November 4.

**Our Vision Statement**

Trinity United Methodist Church actively invites people to explore the life-changing message of Jesus, connect with others, mature as disciples, and be sent to transform our community.