

# Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

www.trinityvalleylutheranparish.com

NOVEMBER 2021

## *Mission Statement*

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish is united to increase the vitality of our individual congregations by joining our talents and resources. Together we can better serve one another, share God's goodness, Sacrament, and bring Christ to our neighbors.*

## Church Locations

### **Gilman Lutheran Church**

N8107 330th St.

PO Box 386

gilslake@svtel.net

### **St. John's Lutheran Church**

S520 Church Ave.

PO Box 336

svstjelca@svtel.net

### **Spring Lake Lutheran Church**

N7724 County Rd B

PO Box 386

gilslake@svtel.net

## **Spring Valley, WI 54767**

715-778-4334 or 715-778-5935

Office hours (temporary): Monday/Tuesday by appt.

Wednesday/Thursday 9am—noon

Friday—closed

Office Staff: Linda Price

Pastor Amelia Houdek: cell phone 612-850-3904 email: [pastoramelia@gmail.com](mailto:pastoramelia@gmail.com)

## **Confirmation News!!**

Congratulations to all of our confirmands who have affirmed their baptismal promises, completed their requirements and activities which have guided them to deeper maturity in responding to Jesus' call to be disciples.

Gilman: Charlee Sorenson, Trevor Forster, Collin Hague, Samuel Miller and Taylor Traynor.

St. John's: Daniel Cipriano, Adrian Gregg, Carson Lynum, Shelby Wilman and William Schmitt.

## **Sunday School News!!**

Congratulations to all of our 3rd graders who received their Bibles on October 24th during worship service. Gilman: Clay DeGross, Natalie Vorlicek, Allie Timm and Callum Madson. St. John's: Grant Moore, Brennen Anderson and William Anderson.

## **PASTOR AMELIA'S MESSAGE**

*Email address: [pastoramelia@gmail.com](mailto:pastoramelia@gmail.com)*

*Cell phone: 612-850-3904*

Greetings Beloved People of God!

November is upon us! That means Thanksgiving! I love to gather with family and friends to share in God's blessings with food, football, games, and lots of joy. One tradition that we have in our family is for each person around the table to proclaim God's faithfulness and generosity by sharing something for which they are grateful. Sometimes it's something silly, like being thankful for turkey, but other times it is simply acknowledging God's presence in the midst of difficulties or hardship. I love that we take time to lift our heads, look at one another, and praise God. We then usually sing the table grace:

"Be present at our table Lord, be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we  
may strengthen for they service be. Amen."

It's part of who we are and what we do as a family. We never grow weary of this tradition. We know when we gather we had better be prepared to give thanks!

Friends, our church family is no different. When we gather we give witness and testimony to God's presence among us! In the midst of the ongoing pandemic, economic hardship, and unexpected life changes even though we may be weary this is the time to praise God and to encourage one another in faith. Some will be in need and some will have much to share. And we will be one and no one will be in need (Acts 2). This is part of being the church. It is part of gathering as the church. It is part of who we are as a people of God in Christ. We praise and give thanks. What are you thankful for? I encourage us to share with one another during fellowship, in church, at Team Oil for coffee, or wherever we meet to praise God together. Let's see what joy erupts among us!

Let us join with the psalmist of *Psalm 117: Praise the Lord, all you nations! Extol him, all you peoples! For great is God's steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!*

With Joy and Thanksgiving,

Pastor Amelia

### **Stewardship 2021 Update and Invitation!**

1. **Watch** your mailbox for a Stewardship letter & commitment card. With the challenging times the past 1 ½ years, there is no better time to reaffirm your faith in the Lord.
2. **Pray**. Pray to God to open your heart to how he is calling you to serve the church, the world, and all who are in need.
3. **Bring** your commitment card with you to worship on Stewardship Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. You are invited to place it in the offering plate for a blessing by Pastor Amelia.
4. **Enjoy** fellowship and treats before or after worship depending on your church's schedule to celebrate your faith commitment.



Greetings Members and Friends of Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish (TVLP): Gilman, Spring Lake, St. John's,

What do you think of when the Pastor or Council uses the word "**stewardship**"? Many of us automatically picture money, pledge cards, and constant cajoling from the pulpit because many of us have experienced this in church throughout our lives.

Here's the truth: **Stewardship is a dynamic invitation to live our Christian faith in ways that transform our relationship with God and others and the world in which we live.** Stewardship, just like being a Christian, is a lifestyle. It is a worldview. It is a lens in which we evaluate our Christian commitment so that we continue to learn, grow, and become the Church that God has intended through Christ. Four Christian ideals that comprise a wholistic approach to stewardship include:

- Gathering in Grace
- Growing in Faith in Life Giving Community
- Giving Generously and Joyously
- Going to Serve Others

These ideals give witness to the faith into which we are baptized, and these ideals are inspiring, faithful, and *actionable*! As your leadership partners in ministry, we invite you to join us to not only explore these ideals, but prayerfully consider how you might live into them. We then invite you to share with us in which ways you will join us in the ministry we share in transforming lives through Christ centered community.

GATHER-GROW-GIVE-GO has 4 engagement opportunities.

1. **Gather** with us on Sundays for worship at 8:30 (Gil), 9:45 (StJ), 11:00 (SL)
2. **Engage** online on Wednesdays for mid-week reflection, encouragement, and prayer
3. **Consider prayerfully** where the Holy Spirit is nudging you to grow
4. **Courageously commit** to life together by completing the enclosed commitment card and returning it to your home congregation on Sunday Nov. 21

Although this past year has been challenging, we give thanks and praise to God for faithfully providing what we need when we need it so that we continue to minister to the Church, our communities, and all who are in need. We are excited to enter our next phase together as a parish. We are thankful for your continued ministry support.

Growing in Faith Together,

Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish Stewardship Team

# Notices

## FOOD PANTRY HOURS

### **Spring Valley:**

2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wed.

10-11:30am & 4:30-6pm



### **Elmwood:**

1<sup>st</sup> Tues. 3-6pm

3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. 9-11am

4<sup>th</sup> Sat. 9-11am

## WELCA NEWS

### GILMAN:

**Meeting & Bible Study:** Thursday November 11th @ 1pm at church; Bible Study led by Pastor Amelia.

**Hostess:** Karen Jorgenson

### SPRING LAKE:

**Meeting & Bible Study:** Monday, November 15th @ 2pm at Welcome Home. Bible Study led by Pastor Amelia.

**Hostess:** Lil Chukel

### ST. JOHN'S:

**Tuesday morning** women's Bible Study every Tuesday Morning @ 10:00 in the fellowship hall;

Bible Study led by Pastor Amelia.

St. John's quilting workday is held every Thursday morning from 9:00 until 11:00 coffee is @ 10:00

All are welcome to come and participate.

**WELCA meeting:** November 18th in the fellowship hall @ 2:00

**Hostess:**

### GRACE PLACE

Gilman congregation supplied the supper to Grace Place homeless shelter for October. Marlene Aamodt, Lois Verges, April Miller and Melissa Hague prepared meals for October. The Spring Lake Volunteers for November 12th are Kim Davis, Sally Pierce, Kris Frankfurth and Trudy Rew. Please let Trudy Rew or Marlene Aamodt know if you are willing to commit to a meal next year. The 2022 sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. We thank all those who continue to provide casseroles.

### Looking for individuals to fill TVLP JOB OPPORTUNITIES!:

TVL Parish Accountant – Job may include paying bills, payroll, monthly financial reporting, bookkeeping. Possibly up to 5 hours per week if combined with St. John's bookkeeper needs. Knowledge of best accounting practices and accounting software required.

St. John's Bookkeeper – Job may include paying bills, reconciling bank accounts and auto payments, monthly financial reporting, bookkeeping. 2-3 hours per week (if separate from Parish responsibilities). Knowledge of best accounting practices and accounting software required.

If interested, or know of someone qualified, please contact the church office @ 715-778-5935 or Parish Council President @ 715-495-3155.

**THRIVENT REMINDER:** Don't forget to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars for the third quarter of 2021! Go to [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com) and click on What We Offer > Generosity > Thrivent Choice. Or you can call 1-800-847-4836 (when prompted say Thrivent Choice).

Spring Lake Lutheran depends on your support of these Choice dollars that have consistently supported the church budget.

Thank you,  
Joanne Baier and Donna Lien,  
Thrivent representatives SLLC

## **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Church Service**

**November 24th**

**7:00p.m.**

**@**

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
Spring Valley**

**Food shelf donations are welcome!**

### **ALL SAINTS DAY**

**November 7**

Join us as we remember and celebrate the Saints-Christians who have come before us and those living among us. Everyone is welcome to light a candle and remember that saint, and glorify Jesus Christ, who by His holy life and death redeemed the lost and made them saints through baptism and faith in Him.

### **SPRING VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE**

Friday November 19, 2021

10:30 AM to 4:30 PM

**Spring Valley School District**

**Middle School Gym**

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and enter: **springvalleyhs** to schedule an appointment.

## TVLP Joint Council Meeting – Oct. 12, 2021

The Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish joint councils met on Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2021 at 6:30p.m. at St. John's fellowship hall. Members present: Pastor Amelia Houdek, Ray Dohm, Nancy Cleveland, Mary Jane Hecker, Phil Verges, Dale Place, Rob Moore, Dawn Schmitt, David Butts, Mark Kotten, Leanna Larson, Melanie Wentlandt, Stacy Burr, Lisa Nelson, Dianne Hurtgen, Linda Anderson, Shawn Miller, Barb Esanbock, Shelli Wood.

In the absence of Parish council president, Karen Gunderson, the meeting was led by Pastor Amelia Houdek who called us to order shortly after 6:30 p.m. She led us in an exercise to determine the connection, call, and commitment we feel as church leaders and members of our parish and followed with prayer.

A motion was made by Dale Place to accept the September minutes, it was seconded and carried. Pastor Amelia's report had been sent to each member of the councils for preview prior to the meeting. There were no questions or concerns from the council. A motion was made by Ray Dohm, seconded by David Butts to approve the pastor's report as presented. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was a discussion regarding the article "From the Age of Association to Authenticity" which addresses the impact of shifting trends towards affiliation and participation in the church. Even prior to the Covid pandemic, participation and membership has been declining in most every church nationwide as many people, especially younger ones, don't have strong connections or involvement with the church anymore. This will require us to examine the way we do ministry going forward and make the changes to address the needs of all ages.

A stewardship meeting was held on Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Amelia is working on a letter to be mailed out to every household along with a commitment card inviting us to strengthen and nurture our Christian faith and commitment. Though there will be no formal sermon series during stewardship month in November, Pastor hopes to be able to offer an on-line midweek reflection. Then, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, the focus of the service will be on re-commitment. Please look for that mailing by November 1<sup>st</sup> and prayerfully consider how you will challenge yourselves to be good stewards.

The *Parish* Council, along with the treasurers/bookkeepers of all 3 churches, will meet October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30p.m. at St. John's to discuss the 2022 budget for the parish.

The next Joint Council meeting will be held on November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 at St. John's with the individual councils meeting either before or after the joint meeting.

Upcoming Events include: The Spring Lake Fall Festival on Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.; Presentation of Bibles to 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at all 3 churches on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>; and Confirmation on Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at Gilman and St. John's, where a total of 10 young people will affirm their baptism.

Melanie Wentlandt commended Pastor Amelia for the success of the recent confirmation retreat and reported that the kids were energized and engaged. There were no other questions or concerns raised, and so a motion was made by Dale Place, seconded by Ray Dohm to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The joint council meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. and individual councils met.

Respectfully submitted by Shelli Wood, Parish Secretary

**CHURCH ROTATION SCHEDULE 2022**

**JANUARY-MARCH**

GILMAN	9:45
ST. JOHN'S	11:00
SPRING LAKE	8:30

**APRIL-JUNE**

GILMAN	11:00
ST. JOHN'S	8:30
SPRING LAKE	9:45

**JULY-SEPTEMBER**

GILMAN	8:30
ST. JOHN'S	9:45
SPRING LAKE	11:00

**OCTOBER-DECEMBER**

GILMAN	9:45
ST. JOHN'S	11:00
SPRING LAKE	8:30

**JOIN OUR WORSHIP!**

**October thru December** Gilman will be at 8:30,  
St. John's at 9:45 and Spring Lake at 11:00.

**WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

**GILMAN**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
11-7	Connie Anderson	April Miller	Jake Hannack	VB 5
11-14	Jim & Tammy Anger	WELCA	Trenten Vorlicek	WELCA
11-21	Adam & DeeDee Mattison	Cheri Jacobson	Payton Jorgenson	VB 1
11-28	Sheryl/Vern Vanasse	Joy Holerud	Adelyn Kotten	VB 2

**Deacon: Luke Miller**  
**Altar Care Karen Jorgenson & Joy Wilson**

**SPRING LAKE**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>
11-7	Jim & Zona Hague	Zona Hague
11-14	Confirmation Students ( <b>Group 1</b> )	
11-21	Art Neiderhauser/Orv Pierce	Paul Blandford
11-28	Rita Jensen/Sue Wood	Nancy Christianson

**Deacon: Trudy Rew**  
**Altar Care: Sue Wood, Donna Lien**

**ST. JOHN'S**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>
11-7	Hennemann Family	Laura Hennemann
11-14	Confirmation Students ( <b>Group 3</b> )	
11-21	Mary Nelson/Julie Finch	Gretchen Cipriano
11-28	Esanbock Family	Barb Esanbock