

November 2025

The New Trinity Times

Trinity has Student Spirit & resources too...
Find details you may not know on page 4

Reading Night was SOOO Right!
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Showing Patriotism for Our Country
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LUTHER ON THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is an American holiday that was not celebrated during Martin Luther's life. Americans began celebrating it after a Presidential proclamation by Abraham Lincoln in 1863, during the Civil War. It became an official holiday in the United States in 1941. We think that Luther would have approved.

Luther recognized God's blessings to every living thing when he wrote about the First Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Large Catechism, saying, "Hence, since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank Him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to his service." (The Book of Concord)

Thanksgiving Traditions and Customs

by Ariana Mehrazar and Aubriella Miranda

You likely know a lot about Thanksgiving. There are many traditions, including gathering for a large meal with family and close friends. Classic Thanksgiving dishes include a roast turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. Believe it or not, one family passes an onion around the table, and they all take a bite. They call it a "communal onion."

Some families enjoy watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade (an event that's been held annually for 101 years!), while others watch NFL football.

Other families travel around the world—car, train, plane, you name it! Fun fact: Thanksgiving is often one of the busiest travel days of the year.

A traditional custom that some families practice is to break a turkey's wishbone. Two people make a wish, pull each end of the bone, and whoever gets the larger part of the bone, is said to get their wish.

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THE ROOTS OF THANKSGIVING

by Alice Hensley

Thanksgiving goes back to 1621, to the harvest shared by the pilgrims who sailed to the new world on the Mayflower, and the Native Americans who lived in the area.

When the pilgrims arrived, they didn't know how to work the land. They made friends with the natives who taught them the good crops to grow. The natives also taught them how to survive in their new home environment. As a sign of their friendship, they had a great feast together and together thanked God. I hope you have an amazing Thanksgiving, and fun with your family and friends.

The New Trinity Times is written by Trinity Lutheran School's 2025-2026 Journalism class. Staff reporters Abby Pilny, Addison Mann, Addison Meredith, Alice Hensley, Arian Gomez, Ariana Mehrazar, Aubrey Miranda, Ava Harrison, Bobby Hawn, Damian Gomez, Floyd Turner, Gunnarr Tully, Heidi Johnson, Jacob Garcia, Joshua Camiola, Juliana Rivera, and Keira Hager, are supervised by Trinity's Journalism instructor, Mrs. Lori Solyom.



Giving More Thanks!

Continued from page 1

Some of Trinity's Teachers' Favorite Thanksgiving Traditions

Mr. Baerenklau: "Picking names for the Christmas grab bag after Thanksgiving dinner. Also setting up all the Christmas decorations, including the tree, on the day after Thanksgiving."

Mrs. Curelo: "I enjoy going to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, with my family."

Mrs. Perez: "I get together with my daughter."

Miss Robertson: "I have dinner at my grandma's house."

Mrs. LaMontagna: "My family sings a silly song called Turkey Dinner."

Miss Kraegel: "We sing songs of thanks."

Miss Gibson: "I celebrate with the family I nanny for - we all wear our Christmas PJs!"

Mrs. Klein: "I fix a traditional Thanksgiving dinner for my family."

Mrs. Solyom: "My family sings **Turkey Dinner**." [She is Mrs. LaMontagna's mom and supplied the lyrics below.]



Turkey Dinner

Turkey dinner, Turkey dinner, Gather round, gather round.
Who will get the drumstick? Yummy, yummy, yum-stick.
All sit down, all sit down.
Corn bread muffin, chestnut stuffin,' Pudding pie - one foot high.
We were all thinner, 'Til we came to dinner.
Me-oh-my. me-oh-my!

(sung to the tune of "Frere Jacques")

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

While many Thanksgiving customs historically focus on the traditional foods and what we gather around the television to watch, there is a rich selection of other traditions. Sometimes the entertainment involves going to a local football game or a hometown parade rather than watching the big events on TV. Some families create a gratitude jar and write down all the things they are grateful for. They pass the jar around and fill it with those written thanks. People love to hang out with friends, so they might take part in a seasonal "Friendsgiving" to spend time with one another.

Thanksgiving is a time for everyone—and honestly, every family has a different tradition! What's a special tradition you and your family celebrate every year for Thanksgiving? Do you know anyone else that might celebrate the same tradition as you? Maybe your family could begin a new Thanksgiving tradition this year.

Fun Things to Do During Thanksgiving Break

by Arian Gomez

Holiday breaks are always fun, but Thanksgiving break is my favorite. One of the things that I like to do is catch up on sleep! (Most of the students in my class probably do that.)

Here are some ideas for things you can enjoy during your break from school:

- Bake, cook, and eat with your family (take turns creating new family recipes)
- Play games - board games, card games, video games, and active games
- Miss your teacher (and understand that breaks are good for your teachers too! You need a break from school and they likely need a break from you)

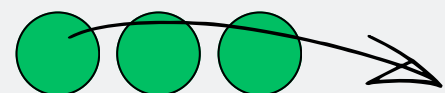
Trinity Lutheran Church Thanksgiving Services

Thanksgiving Eve:

Wednesday, November 26, 2026, at 6 p.m.

Thanksgiving Day:

Thursday, November 27, 2026, at 10 a.m.



#GiveThanks

Now Thank We All Our God:

The History *by Ava Harrison*



Lutheran Service Book Hymn 895, “Now Thank We All our God,” was first published in 1636. The popular Thanksgiving hymn comes from a place of struggle and strife, although it was once thought to be written in celebration at the end of the Thirty Years’ War in 1648.

It was written by archdeacon Martin Rinckart in Eilenburg, Germany. In 1637, a plague struck Eilenburg, killing other pastors, members of the city council, and even Rinckart’s wife, Christine. He officiated over four thousand funerals for those who passed away from the plague. He became a point of guidance for the civic leaders who survived. An extreme famine followed. Rinckart helped organize emergency assistance for the town and gave food to those who needed it. The hymn had previously been written as a mealtime prayer for Rinckart’s family. Two years after the plague started, Swedish soldiers marched to Eilenburg demanding payment of 30,000 thalers to keep the city safe. They pleaded, but when the pleading was refused, Rinckart gathered people together to sing and pray before the soldiers. The soldiers were moved so they lowered their demands to 2,000 thalers. Throughout these events, Rinckart believed that God would provide for himself and the people. He wore a ring inscribed with the word MVSICA, according to Companion to the Hymns. He explained it as abbreviating the sentence Mein Vertrauen Steht In Christo Allein (my trust is in Christ alone).

What we are planning to do over Thanksgiving break...



We asked a mix of students and teachers for their plans.

Sleep was a big winner - Addison (8th) is going to read and sleep, Aubrey (8th) plans to eat and sleep, Ava will sleep, eat, and play Roblox, Abby is ready to sleep, play Roblox, be a “biggie” on Thanksgiving, and enjoy time off of school, while Bobby is seeking rest and more rest, and Juliana plans to chill and play Roblox.

Seeing family and really celebrating ranked high...Keira’s going to have family and friend parties (and chill around the house), Heidi’s visiting her dad, going to her Grandma’s on Thanksgiving, having a sleepover with cousins - and writing her book! Floyd will also go to his Grandmother’s house and play games, and Addison (5th) will go to her Dad’s - and play games too. Alice is going to eat with her family and they’ll play Uno. Jacob’s going to help with the holiday - and EAT! Josh is looking forward to Thanksgiving and playing video games.

Mrs. Curelo and her husband will be going to his parents - they’ll bring the stuffing for the meal, Mrs. LaMontagna also spends Thanksgiving with her in-laws, Mrs. Hensley will be cooking up a nice big turkey at home while giving thanks and will also be spending great quality time with family and friends, Miss Kraegel will be at home, doing some yardwork and counting her blessings, while Mrs. Solyom plans to read and cook during the break.



Whatever you plan to do over Thanksgiving break, be sure to give thanks to God for His many blessings!

The Thirty Years’ War and Lutheran Hymns *by Bobby Hawn*

The Thirty Years’ War was fought primarily in Central Europe, between 1618 and 1648. It was one of the most destructive conflicts in human history. An estimated 4.5 to 8 million soldiers and civilians died from battle, famine, or disease during the war. Parts of Germany reported population declines of over 50%. Conflicts related to the Thirty Years’ War include the Eighty Years’ War, the War of Mantuan Succession, the Franco-Spanish War, the Torstenson War, the Dutch Portuguese War, and the Portuguese Restoration War. One of the unique aspects of the Thirty Years’ War is the many Lutheran hymns that were written during its time. Prolific hymn writer Paul Gerhardt penned many of his hymns during the Thirty Years’ War. He was born into a middleclass family and his hometown of Gräfenhainichen, Germany, was decimated in the plague. Seventeen of Gerhardt’s 100-plus hymn texts are in Lutheran Service Book.

Thanksgiving Turkey Cookies

by Juliana Rivera



For each of these fun, cute, no bake cookies, you'll need...

- 1 peanut butter cup mini
- 2 small candy eyes
- five small candy corn pieces
- orange frosting
- chocolate candy melts
- 1 Nilla Wafer cookie

Step 1: Take out a few cookie sheets or plates and prepare a flat surface for working.

Step 2: In a small, microwave-safe bowl, heat your candy melts on 50% power in a microwave for 3-4 minutes, stirring every 30 seconds until melted.

Step 3: Place a few Nilla wafers onto the prepared workspace with the flat side down, so that you can build on the top of the cookie.

Step 4: Dip the side of your peanut butter cup into your melted chocolate and place it onto the top of your Nilla Wafer (the front will form the turkey face and the back is the turkey body). You will want to place it in the center of the cookie.

Step 5: Using a pair of food tweezers to pick up your candy eyeballs, dip the backs of each eye in your chocolate frosting or place a bit of chocolate on each eye with a pastry bag. Place them onto the front of your peanut butter cups, towards the top of your turkey head.

Step 6: Dip the yellow ends of 3 candy corn pieces into your melted chocolate and place them onto the back of your peanut butter cup, on the bottom part – towards the Nilla Wafer. Make sure that the creamy frosting is up against the peanut butter cup so that it sticks.

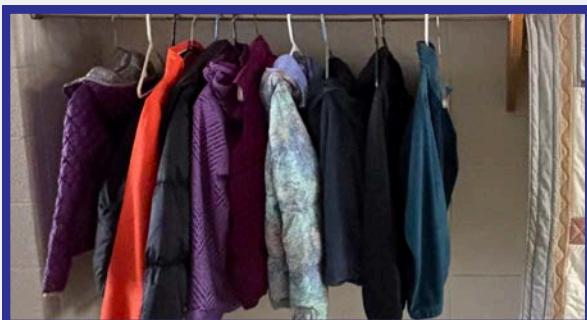
Step 7: Dip the white ends of two pieces of candy corn into your melted chocolate and place them in between the candy corn spaces, sticking the opposite way (towards the top of your peanut butter cup). These are your candy corn feathers.

Step 8: Use your orange icing to pipe frosting onto the adorable turkey cookies in the shape of a beak.

PARENT LENDING LIBRARY

by Gunnarr Tully

Parents, do you need help refining your parenting skills? Perhaps you've never raised a tween age girl before, your child's friend deals with ADHD, or you just want some suggestions for talking to a child about limiting TV viewing. Trinity's Parent Lending Library has got you covered! Browse the shelf in the front hallway, borrow a book, and return it when you are finished. It's all on the honor system. Just go to the shelf and take a book. You might get some hints on better communication with your child. If you have parenting to donate books, please drop them at the office.



Student Spirit Council

by Jacob Garcia

Trinity's Student Spirit Council works hard behind the scenes to plan fun things for students. When we have \$1 nachos, or \$1 hot chocolate and a cookie, that's Student Spirit Council, and when we celebrate Christmas Spirit Week, December 15 through 19, that will be Student Spirit Council too, as will other fun activities throughout the year. Kindergarten teacher, Miss Mainz, works with Trinity's Student Spirit Council members. One member of Student Spirit Council told me that her favorite Student Spirit Council activity was making bracelets for World Kindness Day last year.

children's winter gear exchange

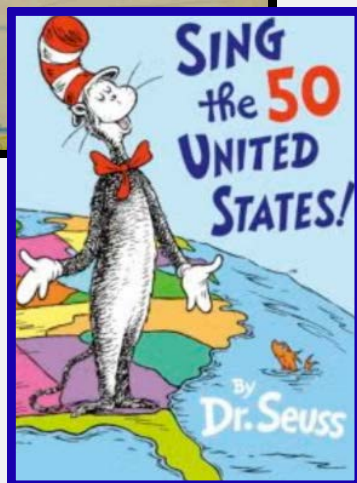
by Gunnarr Tully

For several years Trinity has hosted the Children's Winter Gear Exchange. If your children outgrow winter coats, snow pants, or boots, or have too many pairs of gloves, leave them to be "adopted" by another! And if your child is in need of winter gear, you are welcome to have them! Children grow so fast and clothes are pricey, so help each other out. It's in the front hallway, down the steps or ramp, to your right.

Trinity Family Reading Night Was SOOO Right



Even the adults were engaged by storyteller Chris Fascione, who entertained at Trinity's Family Reading Night



A Brand New Dr. Seuss Book!

by Addison Meredith

Recently, in the archives of the University of California San Diego Library, an original manuscript and cover sketch by Ted Geisel (known best by his pen name, Dr. Seuss) was found. The manuscript was for a previously undiscovered book, called **Sing The 50 United States**. This book invites children to learn and be able to name all 50 states with the help of the iconic Cat in the Hat, and awesome rhymes. This book is set to be published on June 2, 2026. So mark your calendars, and get excited for a whole newly discovered Dr. Seuss book!



HOLIDAY FOOD OFFERING: TRINITY STUDENTS LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS

by Floyd Turner

Trinity students have been collecting offerings for local food pantries. It's a harsh reality that some of our neighbors just don't have enough money to pay for groceries regularly.

For chapel offering over the last few weeks, Trinity students have been helping share God's love to neighbors in need by bringing nonperishable food items for the local food pantries that Trinity supports: St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at Saint Pius X Catholic Church (located three stoplights north of Trinity on Westmore-Meyers Rd) and the York Township Food Pantry (located two stoplights south of Trinity on Meyers Rd).

Students have been collecting different food items each week. The first week was cereal - we collected about 54 boxes. The second week, students brought in boxes of pasta and bags of rice. We're in the third week now with sauces and salsas - anything you might put on rice or pasta! When we return from Thanksgiving break, the fourth week is an ingathering of peanut butter and jelly, and the final collection week will feature snacks and condiments.



Lutheran Church Charities: K9 Comfort Dogs

by Bobby Hawn

If you have attended Trinity for a while, then you may know about the K9 Comfort Dogs.

In August 2008, Lutheran Church Charities began the K9 Comfort Dog Ministry. It is a national human-care ministry embracing the unique, calming skills and nature of a bunch of purebred Golden Retrievers. The LCC K9 Comfort Dogs are a bridge for compassionate ministry, one that is opening doors for conversation about the Christian faith and providing opportunities to share mercy, compassion, presence, and proclamation of Jesus Christ.

Comfort Dog Teams work with the dogs, who are trained to interact with people of all ages and circumstances who are suffering and in need. These dogs participate in scheduled and special events.

How this works is that the dogs are permanently placed with churches, schools, and other ministries involved with human Christian care. Permanent placement includes full training for handlers and caregivers along with support and coaching. The dogs live in the homes of their caregivers.

The dogs serve every day in the community where they are placed - and in bad times, such as disaster and crisis to bring comfort (Get it? It's literally in the name) to all those who are being affected, including the first responders and the volunteers who serve them.

Lutheran Church Charities currently has over 130 K-9 Comfort Dogs serving in more than 29 states. LCC operates three facilities in which they train the dogs in Illinois. LCC doesn't ask for money from the people they serve. They are able to do all this with the support of donors.

Learn more about the K9 Comfort Dog Ministry at lutheranchurchcharities.org.



All About Advent

by Keira Hager and Abby Pilny

Advent is the beginning of the church year. It comes from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming” or “arrival.” Advent usually starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and lasts four weeks to when we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

During Advent, we usually use a wreath with four candles for each week of Advent. Three candles are purple and one of them is pink. The purple ones symbolize hope, peace and love. While the pink one symbolizes joy. Some would call them The Prophecy Candle, Bethlehem Candle, Shepherd’s Candle, and Angel’s Candle. This tradition is a very big part of Advent’s history.

People are unsure how far Advent dates back to, but they do know it started around the early centuries of the church. Advent began, after Christmas was established, as a preparation time for a more important day. (Similar to how the season of Lent prepares us for Easter). The first written evidence of Advent dates to the fourth century. It was found in parts of Europe that are now modern Spain.

Advent sermons and practices in the fifth and sixth centuries have become easier to track. Advent celebrates two topics because of the Latin “adventus” and Greek word “parousia.” These words represent both Jesus’ coming to earth, and His second coming, giving us something to be grateful for and something to look forward to.

Advent is an important season for Lutherans. During this time, Christians take part in reflections, prayer and spiritual preparation for Christmas. Some people just skip right from Thanksgiving to Christmas - they worry about holiday shopping and getting the PERFECT Christmas gifts for people. Which can be a part of Advent, but instead of spending so much on material gifts, some Lutherans would focus on bringing offerings to our Lord. Advent is a time where we learn about how Jesus is coming soon, and we are waiting, JUST WAITING, for all the excitement when we celebrate His birth.

Advent Traditions and Customs

by Heidi Johnson

As Advent starts November 30 leading into December 24th, your Family may go to Advent services, listen to sacred music, read an Advent story together, assemble a nativity scene, have dinner and enjoy festive food with your loved ones, think about neighbors, inspire thankfulness, connect with history, or just *wait for Christmas* and be patient. Here are some of our Trinity teacher’s favorite Advent traditions and customs:

Mrs. Curelo: “I love to go to Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and visit my brother and family, and we have a Christmas fondue party.”

Mrs. Perez: “I like the lighting of the Advent wreath candles.”

Mrs. LaMontagna: “I enjoy going to church during Advent.”

Miss Kraegel: “During the last week of Advent, I like to sing one verse of *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* each day and the ancient antiphon that goes with it (Hymn 357 in the *Lutheran Service Book*).

Mrs. Hensley: “My favorite advent tradition is lighting a new Advent candle each week.”

Mrs. Solyom: “My favorite Advent tradition is an Advent wreath, each week we light another candle, and to set up a manger and each day put the wise men closer, add another piece of hay, and on Christmas day add the Baby Jesus.”



Trinity Midweek Advent Church Services
Wednesday, December 3 & 10, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Children’s Christmas Service
Thursday, December 18, 6:30 p.m.

The Trinity Children's Christmas Service

by Ariana Mehrazar

The Children's Christmas Service at Trinity Lutheran School is a great opportunity to spread the Word of God to those who do not know about Jesus yet. And we, Trinity's students, have come to share the message of Jesus with you! The Children's Christmas Service will be on December 18, 2025, and will start at 6:30 p.m. - but students must meet inside the school at 6:15 p.m. They will then walk over to the church as a group.

Songs in the Christmas service will include: *We Look for the Star, From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, Gentle Gentle Jesus, Glory to God, and Silent Night*. Our processional hymn is *Angels We Have Heard on High*, and our closing hymn will be *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. There will be some scripture and readings in between the songs, to illuminate the true story of the first Christmas.

After the service is finished, we will have refreshments in the parish hall for students and parents to enjoy.

The students of Trinity cannot wait for the Christmas service. They have all worked hard to sing for everyone - and so have the teachers. Dress up nicely. It will be great to see everyone.

Also, I know I'm speaking for the entire school when I say this...start getting ready for a...

Merry Christmas!

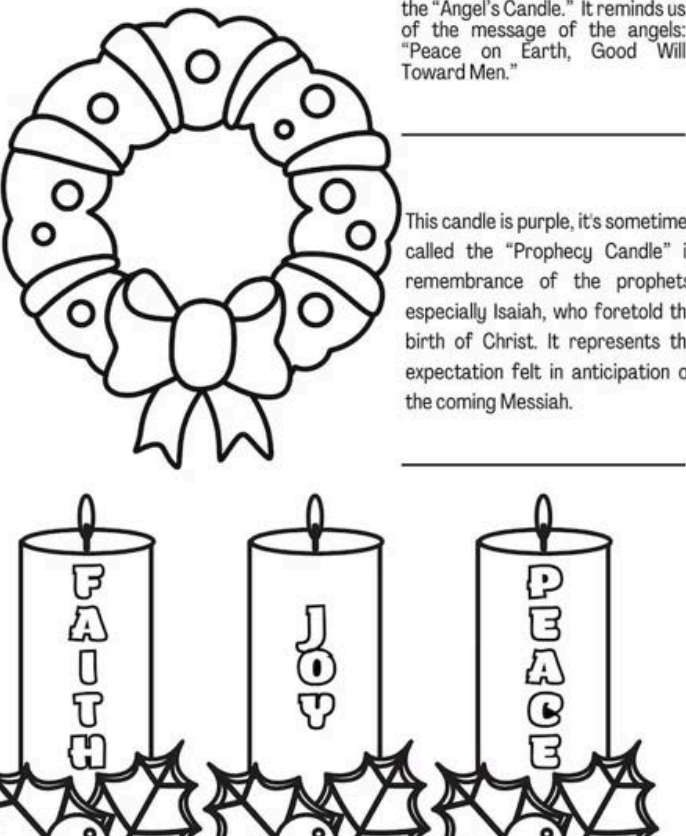
Put the name of each candle on the line according to the description.
Then color the candles according to the descriptions below

This candle is purple and it is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

This candle is purple and it is called the "Angel's Candle." It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

This candle is pink. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle." The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent.

This candle is purple, it's sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.



The Advent wreath is the circle of candles that you see in the church sanctuary during the season of Advent. At Trinity, the Advent wreath hangs from the ceiling by the pulpit (where Pastor preaches the sermon).

Each Sunday in Advent, a new candle on the wreath is lit. During the first week in Advent, only one candle is lit. During the second week in Advent, two candles are lit. What does it mean when four candles have been lit on the Advent wreath?

It means that Christmas is almost here! That's right! The day on which we remember the birth of our Savior is right around the corner!

A VERY SPECIAL VETERANS DAY VISIT FROM TWO TRINITY VETERAN DADS

by Addison Mann

On Veterans Day, two very special veterans, Mr. Hager and Mr. Tully talked to the 5th-8th grade students about their journeys as service members. Here's what their children said about their talk to the class.

Keira Hager, in 6th grade, said, "Mr. Hager (her father) and Mr. Tully told us why you're supposed to cut your hair short (in the military), otherwise you'll get made fun of and picked on by the sergeants because you stand out. And you can't stand out because they want everyone to be one and all the same in every way."

The dads shared how one of the hardest things about being in the military for them was seeing how crazy, self-centered, and animal-like people can be.

Gunnar Tully, in 5th grade, mentioned the tradition of military service in his father's family.

Mr. Hager served for 22 years in the United States Army and Mr. Tully served in the United States Air Force for 18 ½ years.

Jacob Garcia, 5th grade, has a United States Navy veteran father and Addison Meredith, 8th grade, has a dad who is active duty in the United States Navy.



Pictured at top, Mr. Scott Hager, at bottom, Mr. Kevin Tully.



HOW I AM SHOWING PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT FOR OUR COUNTRY

by Ava Harrison

Ava is this year's local VFW Lilac Post #5815 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest Winner.

I am showing my patriotism for America in many ways. Patriotism is an important thing to learn about. One way I show my patriotism is by celebrating Independence Day, Veterans Day and other holidays that foster pride in America.

Celebrating Independence Day, Veterans Day and other patriotic holidays is a great way to show love for your country and its values. Fireworks and wearing red, white, and blue are what many people think of when they talk about Independence Day. Learning the history of the United States can make Independence Day and Veterans Day so much more than a big, noisy party.

When you are aware of the history of these holidays, you become so much more appreciative of people who serve and protect our country. Learning about the history of America makes me realize how grateful I should be for having a country whose citizens have fought for freedom and respect.

Reciting the Pledge of Allegiance is something I do every day at school. This pledge is a simple but good way to remember our freedom and show our patriotism. Celebrating all of America's diverse people and cultures also exhibits our patriotism. Honoring the people who serve and who have served in our military, and respecting first responders and civic leaders is another good way to show our patriotism. Those people are part of the reason our country is the great free nation that it is.

Supporting small businesses and buying products made in America shows love and support for our country. This helps local communities thrive and creates jobs, while promoting fair production, good safety standards, and better labor practices. Donating to charities to help America and its people is an exceptional way to show patriotism and care to those in your town and across the nation. This helps build community and strength within our country.

There are many ways that I can show patriotism, but I believe that these are some of the best ways I can do so.

Each of Trinity's 6th through 8th grade students submitted an essay to this year's VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. In honor of the recently celebrated Veterans Day, here are their submissions.



My Patriotism for My Country by Keira Hager

There are many ways to show patriotism, and every person has their own way of doing so. My father serves in the Army, so I show my patriotism by giving the sacrifice of being the daughter of a veteran. In this essay, I am going to talk about my patriotism over the years.

When I was little, my father used to have to leave for many days. Sometimes the military required my dad to leave for a week or even three. He even had to miss parties and special events sometimes. Even though I was so little that I barely remember it, I remember asking my mom all the time, "Where's Daddy? When is he coming home?" My mom had to often take care of me and my younger sister alone. This is why my dad switched positions and is now in a branch of the Army where he doesn't have to leave for a long period of time. It makes my dad happy when people thank my family and I, for our sacrifice because of him being in the Army. He appreciates it because we have made great sacrifices as well for him.

Even though my father doesn't leave for weeks anymore, I still show my patriotism. Sometimes I get to have fun and honorable privileges because of his role in the Army. There are three big things I've gotten to do because of my dad's service. The first thing I was privileged to do was run the bases at a semi-pro baseball game against their mascot. I also got to ride in a fire truck as it participated in a parade. Finally, but the biggest honor for my father, was being on the sidelines as my dad was honored with a "hero's salute" at a Major League Baseball game on opening day! All this happened because of my dad's service in the military.

I have also shown patriotism independent of my father's service. Every day at school, I say the Pledge of Allegiance along with my class. One year, I wrote an original poem about soldiers and shared it with my family. Another time, I tried to start a goody box for veterans, but not enough people participated so it didn't work. Each night we pray for our country and the people defending it. I think that consistent prayer definitely makes up for the unsuccessful goody box effort. Every year on Veterans Day, I make a paper medal for my father and give it to him to show my appreciation.

I am very proud of my father, family, life, and nation!!!

MY LIFE IN AMERICA: SHOWING MY PATRIOTISM

by Joshua Camiola

I care so much about this country because it makes me feel safe. I value my life in America, and I know it is safe because United States soldiers have worked to keep it safe. My grandpa is a U.S. veteran. He tells me about the Vietnam war and shares stories of what he experienced. Because of what he and others fought for I really care about how I live, where I live, and why I live there. I really want to help other people get comfortable in this country because I know how it can feel like you don't belong, but you just have to push through. You might think that it only works for me, but it can work for you also - so please don't give up!

The reason why I came to America is because I was adopted. I have gone through a lot of bullying, harassment, and people who act like they hate me. But look at me now! I've made tons of friends and met family that I didn't even know I had! I got the push I needed to keep going and going!

I was born in another country and raised there for seven years and came to America in 2020. In my native land, it was very important that you stay within walking distance of your house at night. It was not safe - and we did not have the freedoms we do here.

I came here and I was scared that I wouldn't make any friends, I would be bullied and fail classes. But I rose to the challenge, and I got good grades. I now go to a different school, and I sometimes face challenges, but I always rise through it.

In America, I have the freedom to face challenges and even change schools. People like my grandpa fought to make those freedoms possible. Here, I have freedom of speech and freedom of religion. I can tell you to never give up - and I can tell you to talk to the Lord. In the country I came from, I could go to jail - or worse - for telling you that. The reason why I'm even still alive today is because I trusted in the Lord and the Lord had mercy on me! And I thank God and veterans like my grandpa for making that possible.





How I Am Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country

by Addison Meredith

For me and my family, patriotism is very personal. My father is a member of the United States Navy.

Leading up to his pinning ceremony, which was when he became an actual chief, he had to go through initiation. Every weekend my father had to wake up early, and travel to Great Lakes Naval Base, where he went through long days of working up to his pinning ceremony. He had to go through training, where he listened to retired and active Navy chiefs. My father also had to do all sort of random tasks he was told to complete. Even though some of these tasks were crazy, and often a lot to ask, he still managed to do his best and accomplish all he could. During this time, my father was very stressed, because he had to juggle a fulltime job, our family, and the Navy. He learned a very valuable lesson during this time, because on the morning when he got pinned, he knew that it was all worth it. My father had served for 20 years, and at that moment, all of the hardships for my whole family were worth it.

My father is still active duty and still goes on deployments. He has gone on about four or five eight-month deployments. Now one thing to realize about the Navy though, is that they almost always extend the leave. During this past summer, my father got back from an eight-month deployment that was actually about ten-months long, give or take. While he was deployed, my mother, younger sister, and I had to manage our lives without our family being complete.

When I was a toddler, my father watched me grow up through an iPad screen. And I've not mentioned all of the smaller month-long or week-long deployments. He missed all of this time with his family and his friends for the sake of our country.

Even though people might not agree with the political state of our country, we must not forget about those who continuously sacrifice for our freedom. Many people may think only about one person as the leader of our country, but we must not forget the people who are first to arrive at the sign of trouble – our active-duty military. To me being patriotic means supporting my father, and supporting the many others like him, because they are the real backbone of our country.

HOW I SHOW MY PATRIOTISM

by Arian Gomez

I show my patriotism by participating in Independence Day activities on the 4th of July, displaying the American flag, and learning about our American history in school.

On the 4th of July, I celebrate the independence of my country, which I hold so dear, by enjoying fireworks. Every year, we display a flag in our home as a remembrance of the sacrifices that the veterans in our country made for the freedom of the American people. I learn about the history of America, both in my classroom and sometimes on school trips, to understand the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the country I live in.

Additionally, I believe it's important to not only recognize the ideals America was founded on but also acknowledge the complexities and challenges our country has faced and continues to face. This balance of celebration and reflection allows me to understand that patriotism isn't just about honoring the successes but also striving to make the nation better by learning from its history and working towards a more inclusive future.

Whether it's attending local parades, spending time with family, or simply pausing to reflect on the significance of the day, I believe these acts connect me to the greater story of America and inspire me to contribute positively to the country's future.

This blend of action, education, and respect for history is my way of showing love for my country, by acknowledging both its beauty and imperfections, while always striving for growth and improvement. This is how I show my love and patriotism to the United States of America, my country.

So next 4th of July, I will fly my flag proudly and recall what I have learned about history and the sacrifices made for my country and for the freedom of the people, which is both inspiring and interesting.





HOW I AM SHOWING PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT FOR OUR COUNTRY

by Abby Pilny

I am showing patriotism for my country. Many people wonder what patriotism is. Patriotism is to show support to your country and stay true to it.

One of my favorite holidays is the 4th of July, Independence Day. It is my favorite holiday because I can easily show my patriotism for my country. You may ask why, so I am going to tell you all about it. Every year we participate in our city's local parade.

However, due to the fact that the 4th of July occurs only once a year, there are many other ways that I can show patriotism to my country.

Some people in my family were in the military and they fought for our independence. It means a lot because some of them are now gone. It really does mean the world to me that people gave up their lives just to fight for our independence and defend America against other countries. Just to imagine their personal sacrifice makes me feel really bad. Many of my friends also have relatives that were in the military at some point in time.

I also say the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of America, and also to the Christian flag of Jesus Christ. The Pledge of Allegiance is a promise of loyalty to the United States of America. On this flag there are 50 stars which represent to the 50 states in the United States of America. And the 13 stripes refer to the 13 original colonies from almost 250 years ago, back at the time when the United States of America was being formed. Speaking of which, red is one of my favorite colors and for it to be on the flag means a very lot to me.

The national anthem for our country, The Star-Spangled Banner, was written back in 1814, and that was a very long time ago, 211 years to be exact. Just to know that our country has been around even longer than that is amazing.

My country, America, means a lot to me in different ways. What does it mean to you?

How I Am Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country

by Ariana Mehrazar

America is known as "The Land of the Free." Many people come here to start a new chapter of their lives, and they usually stay here. America has a rich history—both good and bad. But that history is what makes America America.

When you walk around in the United States on any random day, you might see people wearing red, white, and blue, or holding—even wearing—American flags. This is a simple way to show patriotism.

However, patriotism is more than just wearing red, white and blue. Patriotism literally means loving your country. Some people don't realize it, but when they vote, pay taxes, or even sing the National Anthem, they are showing patriotism! You probably learned something about America's history in school, which is really important. I can't vote or pay taxes yet at my age, but I can continue to learn about the history of America.

I'm currently studying the Three Colonial Regions and have learned quite a lot. Not just from this particular section of American history, but in general. Even though tests and assignments can sometimes be challenging, I find it fun to learn about the history of our country.

Also, I like to be a good citizen by helping the people around me, even doing something as simple as picking up trash and putting it in the garbage.

I've exercised my creative arts to make a poster celebrating the Fourth of July. We can all be patriotic by celebrating national holidays—the most recognized one being the Fourth of July, America's Independence Day.

I realize that there are problems in our country, but even in our disagreements we should find ways to all stick together as Americans.

Last year, I went on a school trip—to Springfield, Illinois, and St. Louis, Missouri. While I did have a lot of fun, I learned a lot of things as well—not just from tour guides, but by reading information on historical markers near statues, or from people walking by—but also from my teachers. Whenever we stopped to look at a piece of anything, my teachers would give us information and answer our questions.

From doing something as simple as saying the Pledge of Allegiance every morning in school, or as committed as fighting to defend America by serving in the military, you are showing your patriotism and exercising your freedom to do so.





SHOWING PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT FOR OUR COUNTRY

by Damian Gomez

Whenever you see a military veteran, you should always thank them for serving our nation and protecting us from danger. Veterans always undergo extreme training in the military so they will be prepared to serve and defend us. They have to take risks that could lead to their harm or even death, but yet they would do anything to keep our country, the land of the free, safe.

We also honor the national symbols of our country, for example, the American flag, by putting our hands on our hearts to say the Pledge of Allegiance. When thinking of the bald eagle, people will reflect on America because the large bird of prey was chosen for the Great Seal of the United States in 1782.

Symbolizing strength, courage, and freedom, the bald eagle is native only to North America.

Our American military institutions are to be honored because they prepare individuals for leadership roles and service within the armed forces. There are five branches of the United States Armed Services - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and the Coast Guard. Each has an educational institution that provides a comprehensive college experience focused on leadership and military training, preparing students to become officers in their respective branches. These institutions include the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. There are other military institutions such as state supported military colleges, Reserve Officers' Training Corps, and graduate and professional schools.

There are national celebrations, like Independence Day, which commemorate the United States' declaration of independence from Great Britain on July 4, 1776, celebrating the nation's birth, freedom, and sovereignty. We can recognize Memorial Day to honor and mourn military personnel who have died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, reflecting on their sacrifice and the high price of freedom. We celebrate Veterans Day to honor all Americans who have served in the military, whether in times of war or peace, and to thank them for their service, courage, and sacrifices. It is a day to express gratitude for living veterans and acknowledge the contributions of all who have served.

These are the ways that I show my patriotism and support my country – and these are ways that you can do the same.

How I Am Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country *by Bobby Hawn*

I show patriotism for my country. How, you ask? Well for starters I recite the Pledge of Allegiance facing the American flag every school day. Every time I see an American flag I feel a sense of pride to be an American.

Also, I am interested about the Presidents of the United States of America. It is interesting to learn what things they like and what they believe, whether they are living today or historical figures from the past.

I enjoy celebrating patriotic American holidays such as Independence Day on the 4th of July and Memorial Day. My recognition of Memorial Day is also fed by the fact that on the same block as my house, there is a park with an actual village memorial for those who have died in wars fighting for our country.

As a patriot, I have chosen to give offerings at church to help others and try to treat everyone equally, out of respect for America.

I love America because there is a lot of freedom here, unlike North Korea – which among other odd restrictions, has made hot dogs an illegal food. A free country can be a lot more fun to live in.

Because I respect our nation, I don't toss litter on the ground, and I throw out all the trash I have.

I am always happy to meet a veteran, such as a father in our school who visited us last year on Veterans Day. He once protected the country and kept the people safe. That is a reason to respect all veterans.

I want to learn more about the country, where our United States Presidents lived, about national historical sites, memorial sites, and battlegrounds. I would like to travel to all fifty states.

I am proud to be an American. God bless America!



How I Am Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country

by Juliana Rivera

There are some ways I show patriotism to my country at home, Girl Scouts, and the YMCA.



Patriotism is a feeling of love and devotion to one's country, a sense of national pride, attachment to its culture and values, and a commitment to the common good.

One way I show patriotism is outside of my house, where my family has an American Flag. The large flag is on top of a flagpole and is lit up day and night to follow the United States flag code. When the flag wears out my family disposes of the flag through a local VFW location.

The next way in which I show patriotism is through my Girl Scout troop. In our group we participate in many community events. We keep the community clean by picking up trash along a popular local trail path. In our meetings, we recite the Girl Scout Pledge which includes the words, "to serve my country and to help people at all times." We also help by making care packages and cards of hope for Phil's Friends, which comforts and supports cancer patients nationwide.

Another way I show my patriotism is by volunteering. I volunteer at the local Young Men's Christian Association, known as the YMCA. I enjoy working with younger children to help teach them how to make crafts, enjoy music, and learn about the community they live in. We also travel to the local animal shelter and help make the animals feel loved and cared for. We do not know the story or background of these animals, but we can treat them well as cohabitants of our country. I continue to show patriotism in my community by helping pack backpacks with school supplies. The backpacks are provided to students in the community, as a gift to those families that cannot afford school supplies for their children.

I believe that a key part of being patriotic is to help our neighbors and show value and respect for all Americans. My family's public display of the flag, my community service with the Girl Scouts, and my volunteer work at the YMCA are all part of how I show patriotism for my country and work for the common good.

How I Am Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country

by Aubriella Miranda

There are a number of ways in which I show my patriotism and support for our nation. One way I support my country is by dedicating my time to volunteer to help with food banks, and with education. This is a way of caring for America at a grass roots level by addressing very basic needs of the people in our country.

By respecting the laws of my country and not breaking the rules that have been made for us to follow, to benefit us and keep us safe, I am supporting America. Through investing my time to make a campaign to find better and safer things to add to our country, I am working to make it a better place.

I support my country when I pay taxes when I go shopping. This money goes to the government so America's cities can grow financially. I like to shop from local businesses like flea markets and farmer markets. The sales tax from my shopping is often used to improve town roads and services.

When we go fishing as a family, we pick up any garbage we see on our outing, doing our part to keep our country clean and protect wild animals from harmful garbage.

On Thanksgiving our family makes individual bags with sandwiches, juice bottles and five dollars to hand out to people in need that don't have a home. The people that we gave the bags to seemed very happy and grateful for the meal we shared.

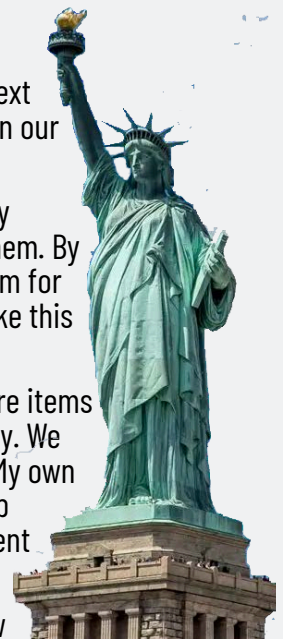
Showing my patriotism, I celebrate America's Independence Day on July 4th. And throughout the year, my family displays our USA flag outside of our house to show that we are faithful to our country.

I educate myself on the history of the United States because it provides context for current events that are happening in our country.

Additionally, I support America's military veterans, expressing my gratitude to them. By making cards for them, I can thank them for helping us preserve our nation and make this country better.

My neighbor is in the Army, and we share items from our garden with him and his family. We appreciate his service to our country. My own father is a police officer and helps keep us safe, serving our country in a different way.

These are some of the ways that I show my patriotism and service to America.



THANKSGIVING Search and Find

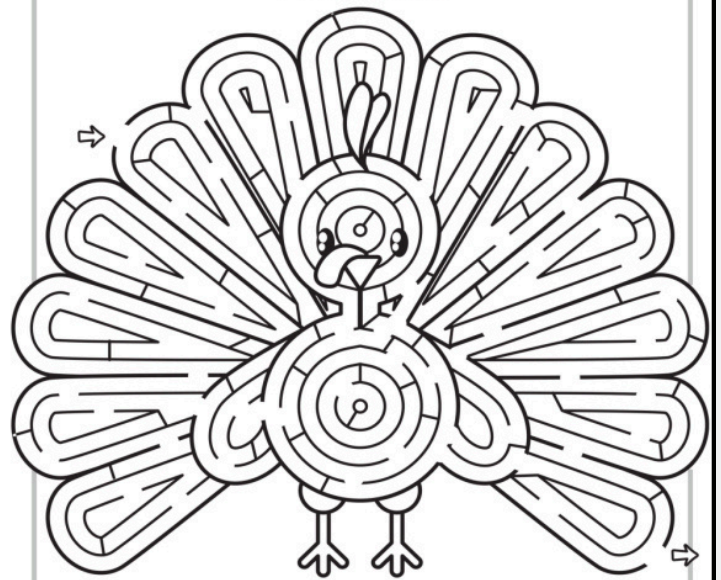
This table is loaded with treats! Can you find all the items listed below?

- | | | | | |
|------------|------------------|-------------------|----------|---------------|
| 4 Pumpkins | 2 Slices of Cake | 2 Loaves of Bread | 2 Forks | 1 Pear |
| 3 Pies | 2 Apples | 3 Cups of Cider | 3 Spoons | 1 Ear of Corn |

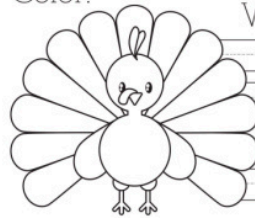


Crayola

Turkey Maze



Color:



What are you thankful for?

www.BrainyMaze.com

TURKEY JOKES



Why was the turkey put in jail?

Because the police suspected fowl play!

Why did the turkey refuse dessert?

Because he was already stuffed.

Why did the turkey join the band?

Because it had the drumsticks!



More than 300 words can be made out of the letters in the word
THANKSGIVING! Can you come up with eight words?

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

dates to Remember



- Friday, November 21 - **Hot Lunch: Pizza**
- Monday, November 24 through Friday, November 28 - **NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break**
- Wednesday, November 26 - **Thanksgiving Eve service, 6 p.m.**
- Thursday, November 27 - **Thanksgiving Day service, 10 a.m.**
- Monday, December 1 - **Classes resume, 8:15 a.m.**
- Tuesday, December 2 - **Hot Lunch: Pizza**
- Wednesday, December 3 - **Advent church services, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.**
- Tuesday, December 9 - **Hot Lunch: Mac 'n' Cheese**
- Wednesday, December 10 - **Advent church services, 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.**
- Friday, December 12: **Hot chocolate and cookies for \$1**
- Monday, December 15 through Friday, December 19 - **Christmas Spirit Week**
- Tuesday, December 16 - **Hot Lunch: Tacos**
- Thursday, December 18 - **Children's Christmas Worship**
- Monday, December 22 through Friday, January 2 - **NO SCHOOL - Christmas break**
- December 24 - **Christmas Eve church services, Family, 3 p.m., Candlelight, 11 p.m.**
- December 25 - **Christmas Day church service, 10 a.m.**

NOW *Now thank we all our God*
THANK *With heart and hands and voices,*
WE ALL *Who wondrous things has done,*
OUR GOD *In whom His world rejoices.*
Who from our mother's arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love
And still is ours today.

