October 18, 2011

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In your homes, the calendars say October – a month filled with fall colors and beautiful weather. In the church, our calendars are looking forward to the end of another *church year* with the season of *End Time.* During this four-week season, we will be biblically challenged to look ahead to the end – ahead to our own death, judgment, and then eternal life with the Lord! *End Time* is a season for us to open our eyes and celebrate the heavenly homecoming that awaits all who love the Lord Jesus: *“For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes”* (Revelation 7:15-17).

The Third Sunday of End Time is known in Lutheran churches as *Saints Triumphant Sunday.* Jesus promises us: *“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die”* (John 11:25-26). Through Jesus, his people – his saints – triumph over death! We pray that this precious promise has brought you comfort in the face of your loved one’s death this past year.

Which brings us to the purpose of this letter: your loved ones were also brothers and sisters in Christ to hundreds of other Christians here at Trinity. This Saints Triumphant Sunday, the name of your loved one will be read in worship as the bell rings and the congregation speaks Bible verses packed with the comfort of Christ. This reading of the “faithful departed” will take place in all services on the weekend of November 12-13.

**You and your family are being specially invited to the 10:45 a.m. service on November 13th.** At that service, there will be a brief recognition of the families present – not individually, but all together. Our prayer and purpose in doing this? That the promises of God might be a special source of comfort to you at that special service!

Finally, we would ask you to do us a favor: please invite any close family or friends you would like to join you on this special day. *Our church office is sending this invitation out to the closest relative we have on record.* There is no way for us to know everyone who could/should be invited. Some of you might be comfortable inviting many people, others few. Either way will be a blessing. The main thing we want to celebrate is the memory of our departed brothers and sisters in the faith together with God’s promises of our TRIUMPH in Christ!

We’ll see you in the Lord’s house on November 13th!

In Christ,

Pastor Aaron Christie Pastor Larry Gates Pastor Scott Oelhafen