



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**
LCMS

Vol. 26 Issue 4



April 1 Maundy Thursday
4:00pm Communion Service

April 2 Good Friday
4:00pm Worship Service

April 3 Easter Saturday
LWML Mite Box Collection
4:00pm Communion Service.

April 4 Easter Sunday
LWML Mite Box Collection
7:45am Pre-Service Music
8:00am Communion Service
10:15am Pre-Service Music
10:30am Communion Service

April 25
9:15am Voter's Meeting
9:15am New Member Classes

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“Christ is risen! He’s risen indeed! Alleluia!” Now what do we do? Our Lenten journey is over. We traveled through Matthew’s Gospel to, “The Places of the Passion,” where we walked with Jesus to some of the most prominent locations of His Passion that transformed our faith and life. During Holy Week we travelled with the crowds shouting, “Hosanna” on Palm Sunday. We made our way to the Upper Room for the Lord’s Supper on Maundy Thursday. We travelled to the foot of the cross at Golgotha on Good Friday where Jesus uttered His last words, “It is finished!” And we traveled with the women to the empty tomb on Easter where once more we heard those life-giving words of the angels, “He is not here! He has risen!” Here we discovered Easter is not a location – it’s a celebration!

The month of April reminds us that Easter is more than just one day. Easter is an every-Sunday celebration during which we come together to receive the gifts of the cross and resurrection of Jesus – the forgiveness of sins and the certainty of eternal life through faith in Him. Easter is an every-day celebration in which we daily trust in God through Christ, knowing that “Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25).”

So, *what* do we do once we leave the empty tomb? We can follow the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the two angels reminded them that Jesus had risen, Luke tells us that they, “*remembered the words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest (Luke 24:8-9).*” They went from the tomb transformed by Christ’s resurrection to bring an “every-day witness” of God’s power” to the people and community around them.

So *where* do we go when we leave the empty tomb? We can follow the example of Jesus’ first disciples. After Jesus walked through locked doors to appear to the disciples and to show Himself to Thomas, they went back to their vocations and positions in life and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They lived in the joy of the resurrection while carrying out their daily lives.

Similar to the women at the tomb and the disciples, we are “every-day” witnesses in the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is the time that we point back to the reality that the One who rose-up out of the tomb is the One who now rises-up in us. He makes us, “*More than conquerors through Him who loved us (Romans 8:37).*” We have the hope of eternal life. We have the joy of the resurrection living inside of us. We may not be fishermen, but all of us have one or more callings: father, husband, mother, wife, son, daughter, sister, grandparent, retiree, friend, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with responsibilities. As repentant Christians, by God’s grace we wrap them in the joy, love, peace, and forgiveness of Christ. We pray others will take notice and that God will bless our lives with opportunities to, “tell all these things to all the rest (Luke 24:9)!” Yes, we go from the celebration of the empty tomb free as God’s forgiven people in Christ. We go empowered by God’s Holy Spirit living and active within us to live in the joy of the resurrection as “every-day witnesses” of His glory proclaiming, “Christ is risen! He’s risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Your Partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Blair Clark



A Match Promise for Trinity Summerfield

The debt reduction match program provided to Trinity from an anonymous member family to be used for the reduction of our loans on the current facilities here at the Summerfield Campus is progressing very well. As of the end of March we have surpassed the \$100,000 mark toward the goal of \$250,000 match as committed by this family. This match program continues thru the end of May, so hopefully we reach that goal, which will then fully pay off the debt on our Fellowship Hall and allow additional reduction on the loan of our Sanctuary. This is a great opportunity, and challenge, to continue the work of our Lord and Savior here at Trinity within our community. We ask all Trinity members to participate in this program we have been offered so may we accomplish this goal, as God has truly Blessed us. Please mark your donations as “Match Funds” so they are properly accounted for within our financial records.

* * * * *

Communion

When attending Communion during Church services, please do not approach the Communion tables until those serving have the table set with both the bread and wine. Wait for the ushers to direct you to the table, or if unsure, wait for the Elders to acknowledge they are ready for you to proceed and accept the Lords Supper. This is to allow for proper distancing for the Elders and those communing.

Drive through Communion schedule continues for the second Wednesday of each month at Trinity, until further notice, for those members who do not feel comfortable attending in person Church services. This provides an opportunity to regularly attend Communion for those individuals.

* * * * *

Continuing COVID-19 CDC Guidelines

When attending Church services, you will notice some minor changes as all pews are now open for seating, but are marked with tape as to where to be seated, which allows for staggered seating and no one is sitting directly in front of those attending services. For those who may not feel comfortable with this arrangement, the overflow areas and narthex will still have chairs separated to allow more distance between seats. We continue to request that everyone attending properly wear a face mask at all times, continue to social distance to help protect everyone during these uncertain times. The church continues to be sanitized after each service as we continue our precautionary measures.

* * * * *

OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR

Gilbert Dahnke – President, Gary Horton – Vice President,
Pam Bixler – Recording Secretary,
Gary Eckoff – Treasurer, Rusty Ryan – Financial Secretary

Due to the COVID-19 situation, a January thru April 2021 budget was approved by the Voters in December and the council will provide either another 4 month or 8 month budget (depending of the status of the pandemic) to **Voters for approval on April 25, 2021.**

Gilbert Dahnke – President

April Prayers



SUNDAY

Lord, Sunday is my day of worship. I pray my worship will not be in vain, but pleasing to You, Father. Help me to follow the right teachings of my God and not the teachings of men. Then Father, grant me the wisdom to know the difference. When I sing the songs of praise may my heart truly praise You.

Psalm 86:9-10 "All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, O Lord; they will bring glory to Your name. For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God."

MONDAY

Holy Father, as I read the bible, I am amazed by all the miracles You performed during Your time here on earth. May I pray believing You still perform miracles today as I see the answers to all of my prayers. Praise God!

James 1:16 "Don't be deceived, my dear brothers. Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."

TUESDAY

My Lord, I profess my faith by worshiping God and acting towards others in a loving way, yet faith without works is a dead faith. So, I pray Father, You would give me the opportunity to show my faith in action, by helping those who are in need.

James 2:14-17 "What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds?" Can such faith save him?"

WEDNESDAY

Dear Lord, there are times when I get angry, I know anger is a God given emotion when used in righteousness, but there are times when my anger is senseless and a waste of time. It is these times when I need You to help me to handle my anger quickly and let it go, before it becomes a threat to me and others. May I always carry in my heart Your command to love others, as You love me.

James 1:19 "My dear brothers, take note of this; Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."

THURSDAY

Father, thank You for Your Word. I see myself in so many of the people in the bible. I am a Mary, but then also a Martha. I am like the apostles, at times one of little faith. But then I am also like King David, a sinner, but righteous according to God. I am only righteous because I trust in the Lord and believe He is my Savior. Lord I pray Your Holy Spirit would increase my faith daily and remind me I have Your unconditional love because of what Jesus did for me.

Psalm 145:17 "The Lord is righteous in all his ways and loving toward all he has made."

FRIDAY

Holy Lord, each day we age and as the years go by we realize we are not able to do the things we have in the past. Help those who are up in years to remember Your promise, that even in their old age You are with them. As our bodies change and wrinkles appear we are reminded we will enjoy an eternity in heaven with a perfect, glorified body.

Isaiah 46:4 "Even to Your old age and gray hairs I am He, I am He who will sustain You."

SATURDAY

Son of God, we pray for all those who are unemployed and experiencing hard times. Provide for their needs. Help them in their pain to see clearly the difference between needs and wants. Grant them grace when bills mount up and doors of opportunity close. May they continue to trust You, knowing You have compassion for their difficulties and that You are in control.

Hebrews 4:16 "Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Holy WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



April 1 Maundy Thursday
Communion Service 4:00 PM

April 2 Good Friday
Worship Service 4:00 PM

April 3 Easter on Saturday
Communion Service 4:00 PM

April 4 Easter Sunday
Pre-Service Music 7:45 AM
Communion Service 8:00 AM

Pre-Service Music 10:15 AM
Communion Service 10:30 AM



Thank you to all who attended our last Wednesday Workday to clean all of the wood surfaces in the sanctuary!

These workdays are organized by the Board of Trustees. If you would like more information about these workdays please contact Jeff Bixler, Board of Trustee Chairperson at jlboxler@embarqmail.com



On Friday March 5th a group Trinity Pew Mates met at Orange Blossom Country Club to bid fond farewell to Shirley Kenney. She is leaving Florida to return to Michigan at the end of March. Those who attended: Carol Bach, Shirley Kenney, Jack & DJ McElwain, Rudy & Ellen Rentola, Sue Schnabel



From the Committee on Global Missions Board of Evangelism

The Trinity Lutheran Church committee on Global Missions works to inspire our fellow Christians to spread the Gospel throughout the world by any and all God pleasing methods.

From the LCMS website on International Missions, Education:

"What is Asia Lutheran Education Association?"

Originating in 2002, Asia Lutheran Education Association (ALEA) is a collegial organization of educators, administrators, PS-12 schools and post-secondary institutions focused on the highest quality education. ALEA brings Lutheran schools and institutions together to learn from each other and network with schools and universities regionally and internationally. Since 2006, ALEA has been registered as a non-profit society in Hong Kong. ALEA is governed by a self-appointed and representative board of various stakeholders and constituencies from Lutheran education in Asia.

What are ALEA's goals?

- To act as a focal point of liaison and **communications** for all Lutheran educators and Lutheran schools in Asia.
- To promote **training** of educators and administrators and facilitate the development of curriculum within the Asian context.
- To promote **service learning** development and training through the Allan and Sandy Schmidt Service Learning Fund.
- To engage and **connect Lutheran educators** to employment and service opportunities in Asia.
- To assist in the preparation for and establishment of more Lutheran schools in Asia.

Where are Lutheran schools operating in Asia?

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has established three international schools in **Hong Kong (SAR)**, **Shanghai, China** and **Hanoi, Vietnam**. The Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod has established international schools in Hong Kong (SAR), Shenzhen, China, and Foshan, China. Lutheran church bodies have established schools to serve local citizens in Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, South Korea and Taiwan. Additionally, early childhood and English-as-a-Foreign-Language schools are operated in Thailand and Macau.

From the Committee on Global Missions

Board of Evangelism

How is ALEA membership established?

Membership in ALEA is open to individuals, schools, and other related associations, synods, and institutions, by application, based on the acceptance and commitment to the stated mission and goals of ALEA. Dues are paid on an annual basis in five categories: Benefactor, Large School/Entity, Small School/Entity, National School, and Individual. **ALEA member schools** may apply for service learning grants and have access to the **Member Portal**. Attendance to the **ALEA conference** is open to all."

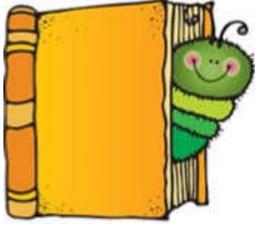
In 2020, Trinity contributed to the LCMS school in Shanghai and we hope to contribute to the other two LCMS schools, in Hong Kong and Hanoi, this year. Thank you for your support of Global Missions. Please pray for these schools and their mission to educate young Christians in the service of our Lord.

Deaconess Sandra Rhein serves The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Asia, based in Taiwan. In her role as Sacred Music Educator, she responds to partner church needs and requests for Lutheran hymnals and hymnody, guides them in developing musical and liturgical resources, and helps build their churches in their ability to share the Word of God in local languages. In this role, she seeks to foster the appreciation for church music, worship and hymnody among the varied people of Asia. Her work promotes the furthering of the Gospel proclamation using the highest forms of art available to the church. Sandra also continues to consult on two existing hymnal projects of LCMS' Office of International Mission and will see them through to their completion. Sandra's hometown is South Bend, Ind. She earned a bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Arts in Theology degree, with her deaconess certification, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Pray for Sandra as she serves in Asia. Ask God to give her peace and strength as she continues to understand the culture and traditions and strives to acquire a stronger grasp of the language. Pray that God would open doors for the Gospel in Asia and that He would empower, through the Holy Spirit, those who hear it to believe and be saved. Ask God to break down barriers to the development of a churchly music culture in Asia where music serves the Word of God, and Christ and His cross are at the center of it. Let us give thanks to God that Sandra is serving His children in this part of the world.

The Global Missions committee will meet on April 19, 2021 in Room 1 at 10:00 am. You are invited to join us as we explore the many ways Trinity works globally to spread the Gospel throughout the world.





BOOKWORMS

Have you ever heard of The Blue People of Kentucky? No not Smurfs, no not KY football fans--actual blue-skinned people. The book for our Wednesday, April 7, 2:00-3:00 Bookworms Meeting is, "The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek" by Kim Michelle Richardson. Although historical fiction, this book enlightens the reader about the WPA programs during the Great Depression, especially those that attempted to bring education and better jobs to the Appalachian mining areas. You will also learn about The Blue People who came from France, migrated to the hills of KY, and what made their skin blue. Even if you haven't read this book by April 7, please come to join in our interesting discussions. Wear a mask and enter either through the office or kitchen door, by classroom one. Questions: Call Carol Keenan 352-216-8106

Head's Up: Our May 5 book will be "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate. This is also a historical fiction about the slaves trying to reunite with their families who were sold to other plantations. The author wrote "Before We Were Yours" which we read several months ago.



Kind hearts are the gardens.

Kind thoughts are the roots.

Kind words are the flowers.

Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden

and keep out the weeds.

Fill it with sunshine,

kind words and kind deeds.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



An irate subscriber called the newspaper, demanding to know where her Sunday edition was. "Ma'am," said the employee, "today is Saturday. The Sunday paper isn't delivered until Sunday." After a brief pause, the caller spoke with a ray of recognition: "So *that's* why no one was in church today."



Did you know that you can generate donations while shopping, at no extra cost?

Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0670734 to confirm "Trinity Lutheran Church" as your charity of choice, and AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our organization.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Lutheran Hour Ministries continues to serve the body of Christ in church communities, its members, as well as those who are new to God's kingdom. This past year 2020, and into 2021, has been a challenging year for all of us. "The pandemic has deeply impacted people's lives on every level and, in addition to the ongoing threats to public health, economic and social disruptions continue to threaten the long-term livelihood and well-being of millions", according to Kurt Buchholz, President & CEO of Lutheran Hour Ministries..... *SO, WHAT CAN **YOU** DO TO STAY CONNECTED TO GOD'S MESSAGE AND LET OTHERS KNOW THE GOOD NEWS?*

- **LHM Learn** has launched three short courses that can be completed in 10 minutes!
 1. **Chat and Relate:** Learners will seek to "gain a hearing" with someone who is "unreceptive" to the Gospel.
 2. **Share and Connect:** Learners hope to "give good news" to one who is "receptive" to the Gospel.
 3. **Explore and Clarify:** The goal is to "guide toward faith" the person who's in a "seeking" spiritual posture.

These courses are great ways to share God's message within your household or via "zoom" with your entire family and friends in a small group. Go to LHM.org/learn to get started!

- **#HOPEABOUNDS**

All around the world, individuals are desperately searching for HOPE. Here are two ways you can provide the hopeful Gospel message during these uncertain times via your cell phone, pad, laptop, or computer.

 1. Share how you are spreading hope using #HOPEABOUNDS on your social media accounts.
 2. Join LHM's Facebook community group of LHM Prayer Warriors. Visit facebook.com and search "LHM Prayer Warriors" to join.

Learn more and share your story at lhm.org/hopeabounds.

Stay tuned for more resources coming this spring from Lutheran Hour Ministries. If you have any questions about Lutheran Hour Ministries, please give me a call.

Donna Mallardi, LHM Ambassador.

941-276-3720

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



The Lutheran Women's Missionary League is the official women's auxiliary of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). All women of Trinity Lutheran Church are members and are encouraged to serve others through mission, education, inspiration and service. We invite you to attend our meetings and learn what we are all about as we "Serve the Lord with Gladness" *Psalm 100:2 our motto.*



LWML Mite Box Collection

The next monthly Mite collection will be on Saturday, April 3rd and Sunday, April 4th. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants. Two of these are as follows:

God's Closet Community Trailer #2 - \$3,400.00

The Mission Board of Christ Lutheran Church asks for this money to expand God's Clothes Closet by adding a second mobile trailer. Making prayer, clothing, feminine hygiene products and sundries accessible to many community members who do not have access to transportation .

All Access Education - Providing Economically Disadvantaged Youth Access to Technology - \$4,397.95 Our Lord has placed in the heart of Holy Cross Lutheran School to serve the needs of the economically disadvantaged students. This funding would allow them to provide students with Chrome Books to enhance their education and experience with technology.

If a contribution cannot be made at the beginning of the month, it may be made at any time since the Mite Box is always available in the Narthex. Always remember that A LITTLE CAN HELP SO MANY!

LWML NEWS

Our plans are to resume our regular monthly meetings and activities this month. On Tuesday, April 27th we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm. Social distancing guidelines will be followed, and masks should be worn. We will begin with a short devotional message from Pastor Blair Clark, followed by a business meeting and program.

Our speaker this month will be from Kid's Central in Wildwood. They will give us highlights of their program and let us know what we can do to help assist them. We will be hosting an "In Gathering" and are asking for donations of: Baby wash/shampoo, Diaper rash ointment, Baby lotion, Baby wipes, and Diapers / Sizes 4, 5 & 6. They also have an ongoing need for adult shampoo & conditioner, body wash, deodorant for both men & women, Feminine hygiene products, and men & boys underwear. Whatever you can bring will be gratefully appreciated. We will conclude our gathering with light refreshments. Please make plans to join us.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



We would also like to take this opportunity to thank **Lori Yahr** and her group of seamstresses for all of the work that is done making the pillowcase dresses and britches which have been sent to Mission Haiti over the past several years. **Lori & Tom** have moved back to Wisconsin, but the program will continue. For those who sew, the supplies will remain in the cabinet for your use. If you find that you are running low on items, please contact Robbie Myers (352-245-3357) Donations of pillowcases, thread, binding tape, buttons, rick rack, etc. are always welcome. We intend to keep this ministry going for these children in need.



ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, May 23

CELEBRATE TRINITY'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY!

We're happy to announce **EVERYONE** is cordially invited to an "All Church Picnic" on **Sunday, May 23rd** after the **10:30** service. We will also be celebrating Pentecost and Trinity's 25th Anniversary, and the reopening of gatherings. During the past year, we've all experienced different emotions and this will be an opportunity to celebrate with our Trinity friends once again. The Board of Fellowship is hosting this event and they are known for their ability to prepare and serve delicious food. Please mark your calendars, come and enjoy the joyful times we need and greatly miss. Details will be available in the upcoming Tidings, bulletins and on the church website. We look forward to seeing you again and thank God for this festive occasion.



MUSIC NOTES

Easter brings 2 trumpets, timpani, organ, choral quartet, and hand bells...a very stirring and joyful morning in praise of our Savior. Be sure to arrive 15 minutes early for both the 8am and 10:30am services.

Also, we have returned to regular worship format. After Holy Communion we return to our pews for singing, closing hymn, the benediction, and a rousing postlude.

Lastly, the Elders agreed that our 2 gospel groups can return to Saturday worship beginning April 10.

As someone once said, 'music expresses the inexpressible.'



SCRAPPY QUILTERS

In the month of March the Scrappy Quilters once again were astounded by the abundant blessings we received and shared with many. Our regular efforts to help support the needs of the most impoverished of the Ocala National Forest through the ministry of GG's House resulted in 224 soap filled washcloths and 12 floor pillows being delivered, providing much needed comfort and cleanliness! We will continue to provide these items through the generous donations of **washcloths** and **bars of soap** (full sized or hotel sized). The cheap washcloths that come 18 in a package at Walmart are the best deal and are easiest to sew and dry quicker when used. You can drop these items off at the Church office or place them in the Scrappy Quilters donation box in Room 4 of the Sanctuary. To fill the floor pillows we use fabric and batting scraps and reuse stuffing from pillows (floor or bed) that have seen better days.

We received a call from Debbie Zwolak whose neighbor is a Sherriff in Marion County. He had requested 10 small sized children's quilts to comfort the innocent children who he encounters in his work. We quickly set to work selecting tops we had already pieced and assembled them and had them ready to deliver within a week and a half. It brings us great joy to know children who are frightened from being in a car stopped in a high speed chase or being the witness to domestic abuse are comforted by the quilts we provide.

Our work to spread God's love in the form of a quilt to the people ministered to at the Christian Care Center in Leesburg continues. The 23 Bear Quilts which we made for the Men's Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Center were recently delivered. We were told the Men's Facility is often overlooked with such acts of kindness. We contacted the Women's Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Facility and are currently working on completing 20 quilts for them. We plan to deliver them on April 7th when we are scheduled to take a tour of the Christian Care Center Complex. If you would like to join us on this tour there will be a few slots open. Please contact me and I will share the details and add you to our list of participants.

This month we also received some very nice donations from Barbara Powell, a friend of Dorothy Flowers and Judy Kelly who joined our group. Recently she has not been able to fellowship with us on Fridays but continues to help with our ministry in many ways. She has a sewing / alterations booth at a flea market and shares with many willing ears what it is the Scrappy Quilters does to spread comfort and joy to those in need. By doing this many have been led to donate items that help with our cause. The most recent donations were a bag full of beautifully home sewn items which you will see pictured below, and another bag full of children's cloth book panels which we will cut apart and sew into quilts. Many of the panels are stories from the Bible! Also coming soon is the donation of a couple floorless tents which we will take to GG's to deliver to the SOZO kids Ministry. I am sure they will find many uses for them. At a later date we will decide who to bless with the home sewn items.

It's Spring! What better time to start our Spring cleaning? Before Covid shut downs there were plans to reconfigure the closet we are currently sharing with the Prayer Shawl ministry for a much needed kitchen pantry expansion. That project was delayed, but they

are now gearing up to proceed. This means we need to pare down and reorganize what we are storing to make room for them. We will be spending a few weeks in April working on this much needed Spring Clean out. We will be keeping the best and sharing the rest with other sewing ministries and charities. Do you love to clean and organize? We could use your help! Join us on Fridays form noon till 3:00. NOTE: We will not be meeting Good Friday April 2nd.

Blessings to all!
Sue Lehota

You can call or text me at 330-414-8406 or email me at suelehota@aol.com or suelehota@gmail.com.

Questions or comments? Know someone that could use the comfort of a quilt or needs a walker bag?
email - suelehota@gmail.com
call or text me at (330) 414-8406



No Easy Answers: Part 4

I have been asked the question, “Does God have a sense of humor?” Since I have never been in the physical presence of God, I cannot say for sure. But to the best of my ability and my understanding of God, I would say with one hundred percent certainty that, yes, He has a sense of humor. I base it on the fact that if He did not, the world would have come to an end much sooner. In addition, there are several places in the Bible where He is required to have a sense of humor.

Defense evidence number one, Elijah. He has just called down fire from heaven and has defeated the seven hundred prophets of Baal. Does he go to the nearest temple to rejoice in the victory that God has given him? No. What does he do? He receives a message from the lady Jezebel that she is going to take his life by this time tomorrow. Does he laugh it off, does he turn the problem over to God, or does he say I need to make sure my house is in order? None of the above. He pulls a Jonah, and heads for places unknown.

We are not told how far he had gotten, but we are told that he had a conversation with God. I was not privileged to the whole conversation, just the important parts. The one where Elijah asked God to take his life. In modern day vehicular, God would have said, “really?” And Elijah would have responded, “Yes, really.” I would like to think that God told Elijah that if that is really the case, just turn your butt around and go see the queen. Elijah’s response, “If I do that she will kill me.” Elijah really did not want to die, he just wanted to be extricated from the present situation.

I also believe Jesus picked up His sense of humor from His father. On Thursday night after having supper, Jesus and His disciples headed off through the valley and up the hill to the garden. Jesus retired to a place a little distance from the others, and left instructions for them to pray. Then He headed off to have a conversation with His Father. However, after having a good meal of roasted lamb, bread, herbs and wine, sleep overcame the disciples, and that as the song stated they were, “a sleep on the hay.” When Jesus returned the first time to find them asleep, He just stood there and hung His head. He thought how to handle the situation. He could pick up some rocks, small ones to be sure, and lob them in the direction of His disciples. Either the rocks would hit the disciples, or they would hear the sound of them hitting the ground, and by the time Jesus arrived where they were the disciples would be wiping the sleep out of their eyes.

Now is where the story turns, Jesus in His best Scottish brogue asked the question, “can you no stay awake for one hour?” You see in my mind, Jesus has a great sense of humor. Why? He needed to. If not, He probably would have gone crazy. Look at all He had to deal with. Oh, by the way, look at all He is still dealing with today. Now tell me He does not have a sense of humor. Of course he does.

Back to the garden. Jesus when back to pray, and the disciples went back to sleep. Now comes the part where He really needs a sense of humor. He is arrested and to be crucified because He has disrupted the power players system. He has had the nerve to speak out against the system, and point out its flaws. And by the way, He was spot on each time. He ruffles a few feathers. He ate with sinners, He knocked over a few tables and he pronounced some woes on a few of the up-t-ups. For all that he had to be eliminated.

In his sermon, S.M. Lockridge made a quote that many have used over the years. It is, “it’s Friday, but Sunday is coming.” I would like to believe that each and every time something happened to Jesus between His arrest and His death, He looked at the crowds of sorrowful followers and gleeful haters and said, “it’s Friday, but Sunday is coming.” And He would say it with the biggest smile on His face.

Did Jesus have a sense of humor? Of course He did. He knew the final outcome. He wrote the last chapter, and He knows how history here on this present earth will end. He knows that a new earth and a new heaven will come down from the clouds. Luckily, I have been given that last chapter also. So, I too know how the story will end. In that regard, I too can have a sense of humor about this life. I too can have the assurance that it may be Friday, but someday Sunday is coming. And He is coming back for me. And you, hopefully.

The world seems to take everything so seriously, except for the fact that, “Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again.” We call it the mystery of our faith. I call it the pledge of Christ to His followers. It is our declaration that life will go on after we leave this earth. It is the testimony of, according to the Book of Revelations, the one who is called Faithful and True.

There is an old saying about he who laughs last. Like he who laughs last is slow witted, or he did not get the joke. I do not know if either one of those sayings is true, but this I do know. Laughter can turn to sorrow real quickly, and happiness can turn on a dime. It would seem natural that God and Jesus will get the last laugh in the end. But that is not the way I see it. The way I see it is that when the time comes for the new creation, and the new earth, there will not be much happiness in heaven. If indeed Jesus loves all the little children of this earth, which I am one of, His heart will break on that day, and it will bring tears to His eyes just like when He wept over Jerusalem. I do not see Jesus cheering over those who did not chose Him as Lord and Savior. I see Him lamenting over their death, sorrow and eternal pain. That is no laughing matter.

Likewise, although we shall rejoice at being with our Lord and Savior in our new home, we shall grieve over our loved ones who are not with us. The Book of Proverbs tells us that, “Even in laughter the heart is sad, and the end of joy is grief.” On that day, I will count my blessings that God will wipe away all remembrance of pain and sorrow, and I shall live in and with Eternal Joy. That is what awaits us. If you are having trouble finding pleasure in this world may I suggest this, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face. And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

There is not much this world can guarantee, but I will make you a promise. If you do look into His face, you will see that most wondrous smile you have ever seen and I guarantee it will bring a smile to yours, ninety days, double your money back guarantee. That you can take to the bank.



Doug Mussey: Chair; Board of Christian Education.

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

It was asked of our board to share some information for those of you that are either hesitant, concerned about safety and/or just a bit not sure if it works.

Regarding the “Give Plus” electronic tithe/gift screen, located on Trinity’s web site under the “Tithe/Gifts tab (see screen shots below), one can be confident that it is a secure screen as it directs one’s tithe/gift through the services of Vanco. A quick spin looking at numerous church web sites, and it is clear, “Give Plus” is here to stay and serve congregations throughout.

Yes, there is no end in sight for the continued use of weekly envelopes. But we do as the Board of Stewardship encourage those that are inclined and like the flexibility, confidence, security, privacy that this system offers us to consider moving to e-giving. It serves our congregation well as it introduces an efficiency to the tithe/gift process.

For those that direct your gift from your own bank to Trinity, that is ok too, but it unfortunately does not save any extra steps for the church members that have to handle your gift manually. “Give Plus” on the other hand, electronically forwards your dollars directly into the church account. It is seamless.

We ask that if you have any questions, please forward your request to our church office. They will offer an answer or direct your question to the Board of Stewardship for follow-up. We have fielded numerous calls this way and it was a genuine pleasure in assisting and sometimes learning too as an answer is found. You can try to play, “Stump the Board” but to date, no question has gone unresolved.

This message may fall under a “housekeeping” perspective, but its every bit as necessary and may we each experience a personal joy in the act of giving while having a true “Attitude of Gratitude” lifestyle. Blessings to all.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Online Donation

View Mobile Site Return to our Home Page

Donations

-If using Give Plus for a "One Time Gift", no log-in is needed.
Select one or more fund options below and add your gift amount(s), then scroll down to "Donation Frequency" and from the drop down box, choose "One Time", then press "continue" to 2nd page to complete gift payment info.

-If you previously created a profile and wish to edit, continue to the "Log In" box to the right. You will be redirected to your profile page. There you can add/subtract gift/tithe amounts, change dates, or cancel. Please do not create a new profile again!

-First time users setting up a recurring gift/tithe, (i.e. weekly/monthly), **you will need to create a profile.** Use the "Create Your Online Profile" box to your right. (Remember, you can edit your gift/tithes through the edit function by following the directions from the paragraph directly above this one).

Questions: Contact the church office at 352-307-4500

Donation Frequency: Choose One

Consider Recurring Donations

Recurring donations provide a steady stream of support. It is a great way to manage charitable giving without the worry of missing a payment- you set the frequency, select the payment method and your gift continues to give over time.

Donation Start Date: 03/25/21 mm/dd/yy

Donation End Date: (optional) mm/dd/yy

* = Required

Continue

GIVE PLUS

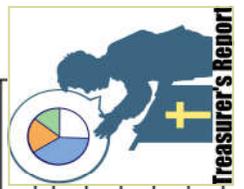
GENERAL OPERATING FUND:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
All Things Trinity	
Matching Debt Reduction Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Enter name if in memory of:	<input type="text"/>
ORGAN REPLACEMENT FUND:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
For Sanctuary	
TRINITY SOUTH FUND:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Future Funding Gift	
CHRISTMAS/ADVENT GIFT:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Repeat per service	
EASTER/LENT GIFT:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Repeat per service	
MISSIONS/MISSIONARY GIFT:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Add Entity or Person(s):	<input type="text"/>
Special Service Gift:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Free Will Offering For:	<input type="text"/>
MEMORIAL GIFT:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
In memory of:	<input type="text"/>
Altar Flowers:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Enter occasion or name if in memory of:	
LWML Mite Collection Fund:	<input type="text" value="0.00"/>
Total:	\$0.00

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

February, 2021

GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE			
INCOME							
Envelope Giving	\$25,268.	Over Budget	\$5,861.	30.2%	\$49,628.	Over Budget	\$11,085.
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$38,118.	Under Budget	(\$20,692.)	(35.2%)	\$120,822.	Under Budget	(\$35,880.)
Envelopes – Total	\$63,386.	Under Budget	(\$14,831.)	(19.0%)	\$170,450.	Under Budget	(\$24,795.)
Special Services	\$2,401.	Over Budget	\$1,115.	86.7%	\$2,451.	Over Budget	\$1,103.
Plate Offering	\$3,633.	Under Budget	(\$6,395.)	(63.8%)	\$6,496.	Under Budget	(\$14,341.)
Interest	\$8.	Under Budget	(\$151.)	(94.9%)	(\$251.)	Under Budget	(\$626.)
Memorial gifts	\$50.	Over Budget	\$50.		\$100.	Over Budget	\$100.
PPP Forgiveness		Over Budget			\$ 130,000		\$130,000.
TOTAL INCOME					\$309,246.	Over Budget	\$91,441.
TOTAL INCOME w/o PPP	\$69,478.	Under Budget	(\$20,212.)	(22.5%)	\$179,246.	Under Budget	(\$38,559.)
		Under Last Year	(\$17,103.)	(19.8%)		Under Last Year	(\$13,556.)
EXPENSES							
Board expenses	\$66,006.	Under Budget	\$8,091.	10.9%	\$127,508.	Under Budget	\$14,953.
Mortgage interest	\$7,562.	Over Budget	(\$13.)	(0.2%)	\$8,555.	Under Budget	\$6,584.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$73,568.	Under Budget	\$8,078.	9.9%	\$136,063.	Under Budget	\$21,537.
		Under Last Year	\$5,795.	7.3%		Under Last Year	\$14,045.
CASH FLOW ITEMS							
Mortgage Principal	\$14,197.	Over Budget	(\$2.)	0.0%	\$16,881.	Under Budget	\$11,468.
Capital Expenditures	\$0.		\$0.		\$0.		\$0.
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$14,197.	Under Budget	(\$2.)	0.0%	\$16,881.	Under Budget	\$11,468.
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$87,765.	Under Budget	\$8,076.	8.4%	\$152,944.	Under Budget	\$33,008.
Net Income vs. Expense	(\$18,287.)				\$26,302.		
Memo: Payroll Protection Program (PPP)	Loan Forgiven (January, 2021)						
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS							
Receipts	\$17,767.				\$52,569.		
Disbursements	(\$1,829.)				(\$2,829.)		
CASH ON HAND	\$339,391.	Down this month	(\$2,729.)		CAPITAL RESERVE w/ EDWARD JONES		
		Up since Jan 1	\$77,093.		\$59,000.	CD's	
CD's w/LCEF					\$17,740.	Money Market Acct	
					\$33,074.		
MORTGAGE DEBT							
Loan #1 (Fellowship Hall) w/Thrivent	\$465,022.	Down this year	\$4,389.				
Loan #2 (Sanctuary) w/Thrivent	\$1,701,883.	Down this year	\$7,117.		\$48,016.	ENDOWMENT	
Loan #3 (Bushnell Campus) w/LCEF	\$293,868.	Down this year	\$4,095.				
Loan #4 (Bushnell Campus) w/FL-GA DIST	\$148,080.	Down this year	\$1,280.				





TLC COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

BUSINESS MANAGER: Jill Esposito reported that the Financial Review (performed by Barb Fuehrmeyer, Joyce Moote, and Susan Sullivan) has been completed. Gil Dahnke then released the Financial Review Committee. Jill was contact by Lifeline Screening. She would like Council's opinion on whether or not we are ready to allow outside people to come in. Gary Eckoff moved **MOTION:** *Council shall approve allowing Lifeline Screening to hold its screenings in the Fellowship Hall, lobby, and Room 1 at a date to be determined.* Patti Paxton seconded. Since this activity is most likely still several months away, most thought it would be OK. Motion carried. Jill distributed a copy of the statistics that she reports to the Synod.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Rusty Ryan reviewed the February 2021 report.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Gary Eckoff reviewed the February 2021 report.

OLD BUSINESS: Bushnell Campus Update (Property Insurance). The property is sitting dormant at this time. Gary Eckoff reported that our insurance carrier will no longer insure it if it remains unoccupied. Gil will work toward finding something to do with it prior to the insurance coverage lapsing in April.

NEW BUSINESS: Voters Meeting for budget approval will be held at 9:30 AM on April 25th.

BOARD REPORTS:

Elders: Chuck Wilt reported that the pews were re-taped to allow for more seating in the sanctuary. Chuck reviewed Pastor Blair's report to them. The Sheriff's Department has been scheduled for traffic control on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Evangelism: Jerry Isler reported that there is a possibility of a Veteran's Day Program, similar to that of the 4th of July event held in 2019. The Board needs to secure more volunteers to help with this program so that it doesn't rely so heavily on just a few people. Jerry Isler moved **MOTION:** *Council shall allow the attached announcement to be run in the bulletin for the next couple of weeks.* Jeff Bixler seconded. Motion carried.

Jan Garner would like to run Operation Christmas Child (through Samaritan's Purse) by packing up to 100 boxes. Several groups around the church have worked with Operation Christmas Child. Jerry would like Council to think about this. He will bring it back to Council at a later date.

Fellowship: Patti Paxton reported that the all church picnic has been moved to May 23rd to celebrate Pentecost, Trinity's 25th anniversary, and also the end of the matching funds

program. The Board is moving forward with plans. They have rented a canopy, long tables and 200 chairs for outside.

Stewardship: Dennis Esch reported that the Board met using FaceTime. Dennis discussed possibly adding a “Job Openings” page on our Website for volunteer opportunities.

Trustees: Jeff Bixler discussed the formation of a “DIY” day on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. The first workday was very successful with all of the backs of the pews being cleaned and all of the batteries being changed in the alarm sensors at all doors and windows.

Dennis Esch suggested that we look into possibly using the Fellowship Hall as overflow seating for services. It was suggested that the Elders might look into that.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021. Voters Meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2021. At this point the only item agenda for the Voters Meeting is approval of the budget for the next four months. Patti Paxton moved that the meeting be adjourned, Gary Eckoff seconded. Meeting was adjourned. We closed the meeting with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Bixler
Recording Secretary



If you have any submissions for the Trinity Tidings or if you just have comments or suggestions, please email us at staff@trinitysummerfield.org

The deadline for the May 2021 Newsletter is **** Thursday, April 15th ****



May 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



Trinity Lutheran Church
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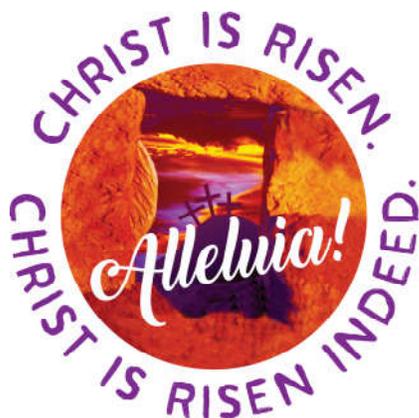
Phone: 352-307-4500

Fax: 352-307-4502

E-mail:
office@trinitysummerfield.org

Web:
www.trinitysummerfield.com

God's Blessings to...



Come & Worship With Us

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

Sundays at 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Adult Bible Class 9:15am