



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church
LCMS**



DECEMBER TIDINGS

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Vol. 24 Issue 12

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- **Dec. 6– 2:00 p.m.**
LWML Red Boot Tea
- **Dec. 4,11,18– 4:00 p.m.**
Advent Midweek Services & Fellowship Meal
- **Dec. 8– 4:00 p.m.**
Prelude to Christmas Concert
- **Dec. 9- 8:00 a.m.**
Men's Club Breakfast Meeting
- **Dec. 13 – 10:00 a.m.**
Secret Prayer Pal Reveal Brunch
- **Dec 24– 4:00 & 11:00 p.m.**
Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
- **Dec. 25– 10:00 a.m.**
Christmas Day Service
- **Dec. 25 & 26 –OFFICE CLOSED**
- **Dec. 28– 11:00 a.m.**
Friendship Luncheon
- **Dec. 31 -New Year's Eve-**
OFFICE CLOSED

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings to you in this season of Advent and Christmas!

I don't know about you, but just hearing those words a week before we've even celebrated Thanksgiving seems overwhelming to think it's that time of year again. I'm nervous just mentioning it, as though in some way, I might be joining with those in the retail business who've been putting Christmas on display for quite some time now. Looking at the calendar and the start of a new Church Year, I take comfort in knowing that's not the case. Instead, it confirms for me that Advent and Christmas are very much alive as we turn our calendars and enter this wonderful season of preparation and celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. It got me to thinking about what I'm going to do with Christmas this year? Maybe you've had that same question and you're already making plans for it right now.

Years ago, whether good or bad, Kimberley and I started what has turned out to be a Clark family tradition where we do something with the family and Christmas each year. What do I mean by that? After all the presents have been opened, we announce a surprise trip and tell everyone to pack their bags immediately for this year's Christmas Vacation. The first few years we were off to a cabin in the Smokey Mountains as an example and ever since we've tried to come up with a similar activity if possible. With our children coming here for the holidays, they're already asking, "What are we going to do with Christmas this year?"

The more I thought about that, the more I questioned, "What can you do with Christmas?" I looked around and saw how one could market it and make some money. Some could use it for hosting a party with family and friends. Others for baking those traditional Christmas Cookies. It seems the choices are endless as to what you can do with Christmas. But could it be that the idea of doing something with Christmas is what often stands in the way of us understanding what Christmas is really all about? After all, Christmas isn't something you do. Christmas is something that's done to you, for you, and within you.

If you doubt it, just ask Mary and Joseph! An angel of the Lord appeared to both of them in separate cases announcing the work of God's Holy Spirit in Mary's conception and the Christ-Child she was carrying. For Joseph, "*to take Mary home as his wife and to name Him Jesus and he did as was commanded*" (Matthew 1:20-25). For Mary, the Angel Gabriel announced that, "*she had found favor with God and that the Holy Spirit would be upon her and she would give birth to the Son of God.*" She then replies, "*May it be to me as you have said*" (Luke 1:26-38). Neither one did anything with Christmas as it was all done to them, for them, and within them.

And that's faith, isn't it? Faith is receiving. Martin Luther would often refer to faith as the hand receiving the gifts of God. Faith doesn't - do. It's done to. It doesn't give. It gets. Christmas is all about faith. Christmas is all about Jesus. But we're all so busy, aren't we in this season? Our busyness leaves no time to receive and so Christmas becomes our work and not God's. The whole point of Christmas is to demonstrate that it is God's doing - that it's His work - that it's His gifts of grace - on a Cross - in an open tomb - for the forgiveness of our sins, eternal life, and salvation.

Where is He today? He's everywhere! But how will you receive Him? Where does your faith receive what He has to give? Wherever His Word is proclaimed and where His Sacraments are freely offered. In His Church and among His people. That's where we receive grace upon grace, gift upon gift, and where the Christ-Child comes to make His home with us. Make the most of every opportunity to worship this holy season. Whether on Sunday mornings, or during our Midweek Advent Services, or during our special Christmas celebrations, it's my prayer that you'll discover Christmas anew this year as His miraculous work to you, for you, and within you and because of it, you will never be the same again. And from our house to yours, may you have a, "Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!"

Your Servant in Christ, *Pastor Blair Clark*

DECEMBER PRAYERS



SUNDAY

Holy Father, I pray for Your guiding hand to touch the lives of all the people during this holiday season. I pray this so they might know Christmas is to be celebrated not just one day, but everyday. Christmas is love in the greatest form. May I share the love of Christmas with others and may my example of love reflect the love of our Lord Jesus. As I reflect on the great love of God in His gift of a Savior, help me to remember the words spoken in **1 Corinthians 13:4-7**: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (NIV)

MONDAY

My Lord God, Our Savior came, so we might be saved. As I celebrate the birth of my Savior Jesus, may I be reminded of who He was and why He came to earth in human form. Help me to remember the great love He has for me and the great sacrifice He made for me. In doing so, may I also sacrifice and let go of any hate, jealous and unforgiveness I hold in my heart toward others. I acknowledge I am a sinner also, and in need of Your forgiveness. **Colossians 3:13**: Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. (NIV)

TUESDAY

Gracious Father, while everything is uncertain around us, we have the sure and solid foundation of God and His grace through Jesus Christ. Without the Lord's foundation and His forgiveness we would be without hope in the world. I thank You through Your Son, Jesus Christ, I have a foundation which will never collapse. Keep me strong in my faith in Jesus Christ, my one firm foundation. **1 Corinthians 3:11** For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NIV)

WEDNESDAY

Gracious Lord, this is the season when many will be traveling. I pray Father, for the safety of all. May Your heavenly angels, abide with them, keep them safe and healthy. Bless them with joy as they visit family and friends and then return them safely to their homes. **Psalms 32:7**: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (NIV)

THURSDAY

Lord as I watch the news each day I see the evil surrounding us. I believe God can and will bring good out of evil, even out of the greatest evil. I also, believe he will give us the guidance and strength we need to resist evil at all times. When evil and temptation come my way, may the Holy Spirit give me the strength to resist and say "get behind me Satan." **John 16:33**: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (NIV)

FRIDAY

Lord Jesus as You walked the earth, You perform many miracles of healing. Father I believe with all my heart You are in the business of miraculous healing. That is why I come to You lifting up those who are sick this day, who feel there is no hope for them. Those who are fighting cancer, diabetes or other dreadful diseases. I pray now in the name of Jesus You would lay Your healing hand upon them. If their time here on earth is at an end, then bless them with peace, relief from pain and give them hope, hope in Your promise that You are with them to the very end. Most of all Lord, I pray for Your will to be done. **Romans 12:12**: Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. (NIV)

SATURDAY

Dear Lord, help me not to take the little things in life for granted, for they bring joy to me and others. A smile, lifts up the heart, a hug brings comfort, an encouraging word from a friend or family, lifts up, the falling rain feeding the earth You created, the shining sun, making our day a joy, a phone call just to say, "how are you?" These are little things, Lord, but they give so much to so many. I thank You Lord for the little things in life, which bring great joy. **Psalms 100:4**: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. (NIV)

VOTER'S ASSEMBLY

Sunday, December 8 at 9:15 a.m.

The December meeting of the Trinity Voter's Assembly will be held on **Sunday, December 8 at 9:15 a.m.** following the early service. The main items on the agenda will be the election of officers and board members and the approval of the 2020 church budget. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. The 2020 budget and Agenda for the meeting are available in the Library.



"COME, LORD JESUS" ADVENT SERIES- "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest..." So begins the common table prayer. In the spirit of Revelation 22:20, during Advent services we will apply this petition to Advent devotions. Through short and simple daily practices we will learn to pray, "Come Lord Jesus" in a way that gives daily strength and hope. "Daily devotions." That sounds like a huge challenge to many of us. Whether you are a household of one, two, three, or more, having daily devotions can be a struggle.

Our Advent series will use God's word to equip disciples for this struggle and provide simple and effective ways to help meet this challenge. With God's help we can learn to daily pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," not only to daily bless our food but our lives, finding strength and hope in Jesus. The hope and strength that Jesus gives comes in his victory over the "unholy trinity": the devil, our sinful nature, and the sinful world. This includes the promise of fully flourishing in the life to come. In this series we will explore how God's word teaches and guides us in following our victorious Lord as we look to him in daily devotion to his word. "Advent" means "coming." During this season of Advent our focus will be on Jesus's "three comings" to save us-past, present, and future. Jesus has come and accomplished his saving work. He continues to come by the power of the Holy Spirit through the word and sacraments. He will come again on the last day for our final deliverance. This series will match Christ's three "comings" with his "overcoming" of the "unholy trinity," the enemies of his saving word.

WEEK 1 (Dec. 4): Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Has Come to Defeat the Devil

WEEK 2 (Dec. 11): Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Comes to Lead Us in Daily Life

WEEK 3 (Dec. 18): Praying, COME, LORD JESUS, to Him Who Will Come Again to Bring Final Victory

Each service will be at 4:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays noted, and be followed by a fellowship meal. Please take these extra moments to prepare yourself for His coming again at Christmas and His coming at the end of time!



COLOR BOOK GROUP

Calling all "snow birds" and yes, our year round adventure minded people. When was the last time you got together to meet potential new friends? Just bring a coloring book or two or three and some colored pencils and or pens and join us for some fun coloring (inside the lines). **Come join us on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m.** We meet in Room 1. Any questions please give Janice a "jingle" at (352) 750-4021.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

8:00 & 10:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

10:30 AM TRINITY SOUTH SERVICE

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH, 18TH

4:00 PM ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM SUPPER

PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

3:45 PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

4:00 PM PRELUDE TO CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 7TH, 14TH, 21ST

4:00 PM COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 8TH, 15TH, 22ND

8:00 & 10:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

10:30 AM TRINITY SOUTH SERVICE

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

3:30 PM PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

10:30 PM PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

11:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

9:30 AM PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

10:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE



We invite **EVERYONE** to join your church family at our **ADVENT SUPPERS** during this season of hope and anticipation. Trinity's Board of Fellowship will be serving a complete meal following the Advent services in the Fellowship Hall, with the traditional free will offering.

The menu is as follows: **December 4th** is Baked Mostaccioli, **December 11th** is Patti's Beef Stew and on **December 18th** is Gary's Chicken. We are continuing our tradition of asking you to bring 2 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookies that everyone will be able to enjoy during the suppers. No, they don't need to be home-made unless you have time and enjoy baking. Feel free to bring home for your enjoyment any left over cookies and "baggies" will be available. During this busy holiday season, relax and enjoy a great meal and fellowship, as we prepare for the celebration of Christmas.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Lutheran
Women
in Mission

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



We began our November meeting with a beautiful prelude to Christmas. We want to thank faithful Trinity member, Gerry Sandaker for touching our hearts reading **A Cup of Christmas Tea**. This heartwarming poem brought the true meaning of Christmas joyfully to all attending the meeting.

THANK YOU



It is with heartfelt gratitude that we extend our appreciation to **EVERYONE** for all the wonderful donations for our recent **LWML Kitchen Shower**. Your gifts will make a huge difference to our groups preparing numerous meals to our parishioners. We are able to replace many items that have served their purpose, and also purchase new items that will benefit our kitchen. Several people expressed their desire to give their donations in memory of a loved one. Because of this, Karen Crook, Jerry Galvin and Dot McClure who helped in the kitchen for several years will always be remembered, for their willingness to be a part of our many events. Once again, thank you for your generosity. *Patti Paxton*

RED BOOT TEA



Our LWML Red Boot Tea will be held on **Friday, December 6th 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Details are in the November Tidings and bulletins. We hope you've gotten your tickets and look forward to having you join us during this festive occasion.



We're approaching the end of the year and the LWML is busy planning activities for 2020. We'd also like your help. We're asking for any suggestions you would like to offer for our monthly programs, and interesting nearby outings during the summer months. You can do this, by dropping your ideas in a container marked "LWML Suggestions" at the Welcome Center. We are blessed to have a group of women at Trinity supporting our LWML and look forward to hearing from you.

JANUARY MEETING



We will not be having our regular meeting in December, but hope to see you at the Red Boot Tea. We invite all women of Trinity and guests to join us on **Tuesday, January 28th at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Please look for details in the bulletins and January Tidings. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year with your Trinity LWML sisters. Come and see what we're all about.



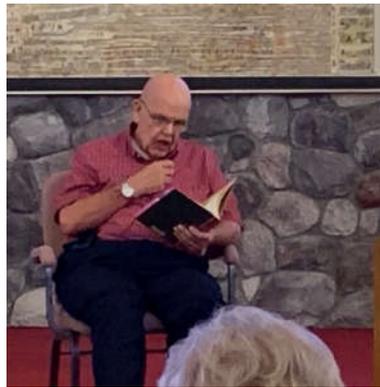
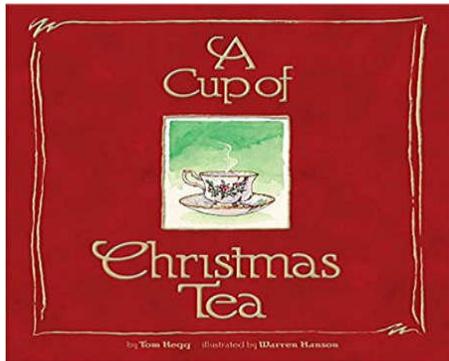
A sincere thanks to Betty Bell for taking photo's at our LWML meeting on October 22nd.



WE NEED YOUR HELP! Please contact our LWML Treasurer, Janet Sandaker 352-753-1948 if you gave a check for our recent Kitchen Shower and Mites offering at the October 22nd LWML meeting. Checks were inadvertently destroyed and Janet will be happy to explain the steps needed to replace them. Thank you for helping to resolve this unfortunate situation and we apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.



*"Joy to the World, the Lord has come!"
May those words give you meaning and joy this Christmas.*



LWML MITE BOX COLLECTION

The next Mite Collection will be on **Saturday, November 30th and Sunday, December 1st**. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants.

The following item comes from a recent issue of Lutheran Life which I feel explains what the giving of Mites is all about. *"We may not be able to go on mission trips to spread the love of Jesus. But through LWML, our mite offerings support the work of the Orphan Grain Train, KFUE, Lutheran Bible Translators and many more. They install clean water tanks in Kenya, and provide services to children with learning disabilities here in the United States. Mite offerings support US seminary students and church workers through scholarships and food and clothing co-ops, and provide training for local church workers in Africa."* The mission goal for the 2019-21 biennium is \$2.1 million.

Always remember that A LITTLE CAN HELP SO MANY!

FROM YOUR BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Remember: You and I can never ever out-give God in anything!

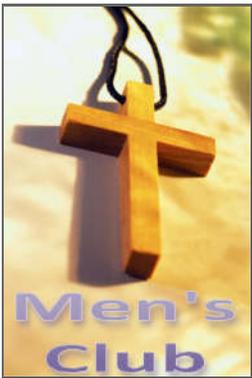
Not Time! Not Talent! Not Treasure!

His gifts are too numerous to count.

But God does appreciate you trying...

PS. If you plan on using the Charitable IRA/MRD option, you must complete the process by the end of December 2019 deadline per IRS rules. Don't overlook its advantage for end of the year charitable gifting with tax planning benefits. Please, consider Trinity Lutheran in your gift plans.

ARNIE AAGESEN – TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH MEN'S CLUB



Meeting of November 4, 2019

The Nov. 2019 meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall beginning with a round of Bible Trivia. Seven questions were presented to the 46 men present. The winning table got all seven correct but an irregularity was ruled out of order as 2 members of the table are currently serving as Elders. None the less the event was declared to be fun, exciting, and a learning experience. A first time attendee, Manny Olmos was introduced and welcomed by applause.

The hearty breakfast, with perfectly prepared scramble eggs, was served and, as usual enjoyed by all. Prior to the breakfast Andy Anderson offered a premeal prayer and Nick Bock read a prayer written by Arnie Aagenson that was presented at the very first Men's Club breakfast meeting. Two members present were in attendance on that day. During breakfast the Treasurer and Secretary reports were presented and read into the record.

President Jeff called for a round of applause to recognize the efforts of the Breakfast/Kitchen crew for the great breakfasts. Toney Kendrick took the floor to update the group on the purchase of new dinner ware for use in the fellowship hall events. Toney asked for a contribution by the Club for purchasing additional sets. Action on this will be taken by the Board before the next meeting. The meeting was adjourned with the Lords Prayer at 9:15am. Respectfully submitted, Stu Vogt, Secretary

THANK YOU



Many thanks to all Trinity members from Groups 1, 2 & 3 that attended and helped to make our annual picnic a success. The food was delicious and the fellowship inspiring. We look forward to our next gathering. -Vita

*"Then the just will be glad; they will rejoice before God;
they will celebrate with great joy." -Psalm 68.4*

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Overview

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows IRA holders, age 70 ½ or older, to donate to a qualified charity from their Traditional or Roth IRA (including inherited) tax-free.

Requirements

- The donating IRA holder must have attained age 70 ½ on or before the date the QCD check is issued. If an inherited IRA, the beneficial owner must have attained age 70 ½ or older.
- The funds must be issued directly to a qualified charity from a Traditional or Roth IRA. Generally, a qualified charity includes: most public charities, including religious institutions, certain veterans' organizations, fraternal societies, and community foundations that provide scholarships. The charity also must be one to which deductible contributions may be made.
- The donor cannot receive any benefit from making a QCD and the QCD cannot be deposited by the charity into a donor advised fund.
- The amount cannot exceed \$100,000 annually, per donor.
- Checks must be issued by December 31st in order to apply to the current calendar year. If a Money Market check is written, it will apply to the year in which it is cashed by the charity.

Best Practices/Steps

1. Consult your tax professional to ensure it is in your best interest to complete a QCD and your distribution qualifies.
 - Notify the charity they will be receiving a check from you and obtain the following important details:
 - How the check should be made payable
 - Mailing Address
 - Contact person responsible for issuing a receipt to you, upon receiving the funds
2. Contact your Edward Jones Financial Advisor to request the funds be issued from your Traditional or Roth IRA as a QCD. You will need to discuss liquidating securities if the account does not have cash and/or money market funds available.
3. Follow up with the receiving charity 7-10 business days after the check is issued. Verify they received the funds and have mailed a receipt to you.
4. After obtaining the receipt from the charity, mail a copy to your tax professional and keep the original with your permanent tax records.

Complete and Retain

If funds have been issued from your Traditional or Roth IRA and sent directly to a charity, following the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) requirements, complete the information below and retain for your individual records. This does not replace the need to obtain a receipt from the receiving charity.

Traditional or Roth IRA Withdrawal for Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

Edward Jones Account Owner: Trinity Lutheran Church Account #: See Jill
 Qualified Charity: Trinity Lutheran Church
 Contact Person: Cathy Carr Telephone: 352-307-6385 Ext. _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Check amount: _____ Date issued: _____
 Date of receipt from charity: _____

Do not return to Edward Jones – keep with your permanent tax records

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors do not provide tax or legal advice. Clients should review this information with their tax advisor or legal professional for information regarding, or issues concerning the tax implications of the above information prior to acting on this information.

MUSIC NOTES

[Prelude to Christmas concert, Dec. 8th, is upon us.](#) We want to fill our sanctuary **by 3:45 p.m.**, with your neighbors, friends, relatives, and YOU. It will be a wonderful concert, with all the bells and whistles! A scrumptious reception will follow. Please make sure to greet our choirs, dancers, and musicians.



Christmas Eve: 2 services. **COME ½ hr. EARLY for special music and shared carol singing.** 3:30 pm and 10:30 pm. Lovely music, with strings and organ, bells, choirs, and trumpet to accompany our singing.

Christmas Day: YOUR SURPRISE will be waiting, when service concludes. This is the BEGINNING of our Christmas season, which lasts 12 days until Epiphany, and the arrival of the Wise Men. In some cultures, gifts are exchanged each of the 12 days of Christmas. So, wait to pack away Christmas until the 12 days are concluded!

We are celebrating **Epiphany on January 4th and 5th (Saturday and Sunday)** with special music by our Glory Road Singers on Saturday, and joyful music of Epiphany at Sunday services. ‘We Three Kings’ - with our bells, will be sung, and our gentlemen of the choir featured in ‘I saw three kings come riding in,’. ‘Jesus, what a wonderful Child!’ will be sung by our Glory Road Singers.

Come out and be spiritually filled to the brim this entire season – to all of our worship services. Let us praise our God, for the glorious gift of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. The Sussex Carol, from the south of England, carries the season’s joy to us:

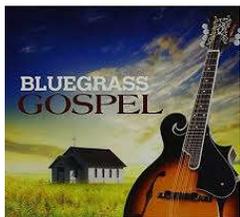
*On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King’s birth.*

*‘When sin departs before Thy grace,
then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men wit joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.*

*All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night;
‘Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.’*



BGD Evening January 31 at 6:30 p.m.



LASTLY: Your Music Department is having a **BGD evening. January 31, FRIDAY NIGHT, at 6:30 PM.** – no this is not a new gender but a **BLUEGRASS, GOSPEL, and DESSERT night.** Numerous musical groups are coming, from other churches, and from Rocket’s friends in the Villages, to play and sing. We will have banjos, guitars, a dobro, fiddle, mandolins, possibly accordion...this is in the works, so the number of instruments is not yet fixed. **SAVE THE EVENING.** Come and enjoy the music! Stay tuned for updates, but the Date is fixed now!

Do you have a special dessert from your cultural background? If so, this is an Epiphany opportunity to share your dessert. Perhaps we will have a story to go with it? See Rocket.

Community Event

Trinity Lutheran Church
17330 S US HWY 441
Summerfield, FL 34491
www.trinitysummerfield.com

Sunday, December 8 @ 4pm



Prelude to *Christmas* Concert

This special music event features uplifting and inspiring Advent selections featuring vocal & hand bell choirs, orchestra, organ, special soloists, liturgical dancers, chimes, flute & sax

Refreshments following concert

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

November 3, 2019



Welcome
Our *New*
Members



Bronson-McCrary, Joy
3256 Wise Way
Pine Hills
The Villages, FL 32163
260-466-0775



Calpin, William & Monica
13673 SE 91st Ave
Del Webb
Summerfield, FL 34491
570-780-2079



Dolan, Larry & Linda
1032 Sugarloaf Key Loop
Green Key Village
Lady Lake, FL 32159
706-853-9397



Henderson, William & Suzanne
9661 SE 173rd Place
Spruce Creek South
Summerfield, FL 34491
352-307-1515



Magrowski, Jeffrey
17593 SE 95th Circle
Summerfield, FL 34491
314-520-1927



McKenzie, Madeleine
1477 Huey Street RM:219-B
Harbor Chase
Wildwood, FL 34785
352-446-1934



Olmos, Manuel & Carol
1731 Lorelei Ln
St. James
The Villages, FL 32163
303-888-3328

WELCOME TO TRINITY!!!



PRAYER SHAWL PATTERN

We often receive requests for the prayer shawl pattern. So in order to make it accessible to everyone interested here it is:

Knit pattern Needle size: 11 or 13. Or 15 depending on your knitting preference and style.

Note: *Because this is a spiritual practice, before you begin the knitting (crochet) process say a prayer for the person who will eventually receive your shawl.*

Pattern: cast on 57 stitches. First Row: k3,p3 to end Second row: k3,p3 Knit the piece until it measures 57-58 inches long Bind off with a knit row. Use what yarn you have to make a fringe on both ends. Make an 8 strand fringe 4-5 inches long.

Crochet Pattern Use size M,N, or P crochet hook Pattern: Chain 54 stitches Chain 1,turn,single crochet in each of stitches to end. Chain 3 and turn Double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row 2 more times. Chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet to end. Chain 3 and turn Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double) End with 1 row of single. Finish with fringe.

It takes about 555 yards of yarn for knitting and 740 yards for crocheting.

There is a supply of yarn in the closet in classroom 1. Simply take the color you want and when completed you can bring the shawl to the church or attend one of our monthly prayer shawl meeting For more information, regarding the prayer ministry: www.prayershawlministry.com or call Wanda David at 219-508-5847 or Darlene at 419-367-0373

**Just another way to
"SPREAD THE WORD OF GOD"
Introducing: Yvette's Working Tea Parties!!**

A few years ago, the Board of Evangelism and Pastor Dan were looking into more ways to reach new people and the unchurched in our area. They decided that sending letters to the new people who moved into our area would serve three purposes: a welcome to the area, introduce Trinity Lutheran Church as a Bible-believing church, and share a pastoral letter. With the help of Yvette Parenteau, a program is now in place that sends letters to an average of 350 new residents each month. Follow-up flyers include Christmas and Easter mailers.

She recruited and organized a group of volunteers who get together once a month to prepare flyers, letters & envelopes, and enjoy each other's company. When the work is done, the ladies gather around for a Tea Party, compliments of Yvette. Finally, after the mailings are brought to the office, an office employee or volunteer delivers them to the post office. Volunteers: Bonnie Bartholomay, Betty Cleal, Barb Fuehrmeyer, Liz Koch, Joyce Lindstrom, Judi Terraciano, and Yvette Parenteau.



ADORATION IN MOTION



Join this senior adult worship dance team that is an outreach ministry of Trinity Lutheran's Board of Evangelism! We have weekly instructional sessions in lyrical/liturgical dance and expressive sign language. No previous dance experience is needed--just a love for God and a desire to show God's love to others through worship and the creative arts!

You will learn interpretive choreography to several hymns and worship songs throughout the year that are done as outreach presentations to the community such as: assisted living & memory care facilities, nursing homes, local community events, and church/charity events.

Interested or have questions? Contact Eleanor to sign up to attend a brief informational meeting at our open enrollment Tuesday, January 21st, 10:15am, in the Fellowship Hall. Eleanor Bresky (352) 630-5410



There are many people in our community who haven't crossed the doorstep of a church in years; in fact, some may have never been in church. Still, that doesn't mean they won't be receptive to the Gospel. Sharing God's Good News in Jesus doesn't need to be an awkward or anxiety-filled encounter. Making one on one contact with others is a privilege but, as we all know, that doesn't make it easy. Outreach is a great opportunity to touch people in your area. From the extrovert to the introvert, everyone can participate! The LHM Project Connect booklets can equip you with valuable resources that make outreach less stressful for the doer and of the no-guilt variety for the receiver. Be creative!

How about checking the Project Connect display in the narthex sponsored by Trinity's Board of Evangelism and using them as an opportunity to let others know about how Jesus can make a difference in their lives.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ
of the Heart of Florida

Christmas Blessings

is designed to be a relational way to provide families with a traditional Christmas through the generosity of local churches.

3 Ways to Participate:

Donate to Children!
Gift Card Sponsorship

Serve at the Event!
1.5 hour commitment

Shop with Parents!
1.5 hour commitment

www.loveinchof.org

dparker@loveinchof.org

(352) 245-8774

1.

Give a gift card, any \$ amount, from one of these stores to be used to buy gifts for children in need.

- ✓ Walmart
- ✓ Target
- or

Donate Cash, Check (payable to Love INC), or Online



Return the gift with the form below to your church no later than Dec. 8th...

Fill out the bottom portion (front & back). Cut off and turn into the church. A Love INC Volunteer will contact you soon.

I would like to get involved by _____ shopping, _____ donating, or _____ both, shopping and donating.

2.

Volunteer at the Event (1.5 hr commitment)

Volunteer Deadline: Monday, December 2nd

The event part of Christmas Blessings will be held on December 7th from 10-11:30am at Oxford Assembly of God.

Volunteers will help with: Set-up 9am-10am, children's crafts 10:15am-11:45am, scheduling parents to shop 10:15am-11:45am, Greeter/Check-in 8:45am-10:15am



3.

Shop with Parents (1.5 hr commitment)

Volunteer Deadline: Monday, December 2nd

As a shopper you will help with selecting items, tracking their budget, and have the opportunity to share the love of Christ.

Shopping Dates, Times, & Locations



WALMART

Oxford, Tuesday 12/10 10am, 11am, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 4:30pm

Summerfield, Thursday 12/12 10am, 11am, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 4:30pm

TARGET

The Villages, Wednesday 12/11 10am, 11am

Call Love INC at (352) 245-8774 or www.loveinchof.org/christmas.html to sign-up.

Fill out the bottom portion (front & back). Cut off and turn into the church. A Love INC Volunteer will contact you soon.

Name : _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____



SCRAPPY QUILTERS

Bountiful Blessings were out poured again this month in the Scrapy quilter ministry. Below is an outline of the distributions that were made this month:

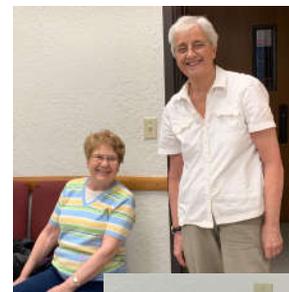
- ⇒ Delivered by Pam Bixler to Alpha Center, Ocala Pregnancy Center, H.O.M.E, Shepherd's Lighthouse, and Infant and Toddler Pantry: 23 quilts, 22 crib sheets, 60 baby hats, 9 receiving blankets, 68 burp cloths, and 45 baby washcloths
- ⇒ Community of Gratitude Santa Sack project: 15 pillows
- ⇒ Sozo- 23 floor pillows
- ⇒ Leesburg Humane Society- 10 pet beds
- ⇒ Love Inc. Birthday box project- 7 children's quilts
- ⇒ Sent a quilt to the Grandmother of the girl mourning the loss of her grandfather
- ⇒ Former member Suzanne Mc Clelland visited after a memorial she attended here and requested a lap quilt to show the ladies at her new church, Lake Mary Presbyterian Church in hopes of encouraging them to start a quilt ministry there.
- ⇒ One of our members is Guardian Ad Litum to a boy in the foster care system. She picked out a quilt for him.
- ⇒ Nancy Fausner delivered 6 cat beds to Sheltering Hands
- ⇒ Evelyn Schultz received a farewell Quilt to put in her new home in Texas
- ⇒ 10 more walker bags were taken to the welcome center. Please feel free to stop at the welcome center and pick one out if you do not have one.



We are making great strides in our Christmas Stocking Project. We were blessed with a great crew and were able to assembly of all 100 stockings in 2 weeks! We also had a great crew in charge of sorting all the donations. I hear these ladies had great fun testing the toys!!!! The name of each child was embroidered on the cuffs of the stockings by Susan Sebastian, a neighbor of Julia Mack. Attached to each stocking is a plastic canvas cross made by Sandra Horne and beautiful hand made ornaments made by Debbie Zwolok and Karren Gockel and a jingle bell! Debbie made 731 and Karren made 371 of these beautiful ornaments from the Christmas cards that were donated. We had such fun picking out which one coordinated best with each stocking! We are torn between keeping the rest to use in years to come or donating the rest to Operation Shoebox to put in the stockings for the troops. Also special thanks goes to Anna Thompson whose friend Linda is a manger at one of the Dollar Tree locations for her generous contribution of toys.

We are looking forward to our annual Stocking Stuffing Party on December 7th from 10:00- 4:00. We will begin with sorting last minute donations and organizing our tables for each age group/ gender, then break for a pot luck lunch from noon till 1:00. After lunch we will begin the stuffing! If you would like to help please R.S V.P. Pam Bixler, Julia Mack, or Sue Lehota. This will be the last meeting of the Scrapy Quilters for 2019.

Questions?, Comments? Suggestions? Call or text Sue Lehota 330-414-8406 or email suelehota@aol.com

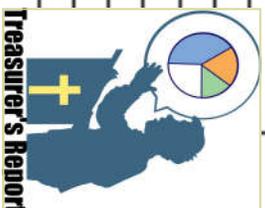


TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

October, 2019

GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR-TO-DATE			
INCOME								
Envelope Giving	\$50,899.				\$814,251.			
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$18,917.				\$192,844.			
Total Envelopes	\$69,816.	Under Budget	(\$2,482.)	(3.4%)	\$807,095.	Under Budget	(\$34,507.)	(4.1%)
Special Services	\$0.	Under Budget	(\$200.)		\$27,291.	Over Budget	\$8,349.	30.3%
Plate Offering	\$5,726.	Under Budget	(\$344.)	(5.7%)	\$72,829.	Over Budget	\$8,354.	13.0%
Interest	\$526.	Over Budget	\$344.	289.2%	\$1,986.	Under Budget	(\$172.)	(9.1%)
Memorial gifts					\$425.	Over Budget	\$425.	
Gifts & bequests								
Other Misc. Income								
TOTAL INCOME	\$76,069.	Under Budget	(\$2,682.)	(3.4%)	\$909,606.	Under Budget	(\$19,551.)	(2.1%)
		Over last year	\$2,611.	3.6%		Over last year	\$44,887.	5.2%
EXPENSES								
Board expenses	\$81,579.	Over Budget	(\$4,845.)	(6.3%)	\$717,923.	Under Budget	\$28,559.	3.8%
Mortgage interest	\$8,973.	Over Budget	(\$113.)	(1.3%)	\$91,595.	Over Budget	(\$646.)	(0.8%)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$90,552.	Over Budget	(\$4,958.)	(5.8%)	\$809,518.	Under Budget	\$27,913.	3.3%
		Over last year	(\$10,609.)	(13.3%)		Over last year	(\$38,756.)	(5.0%)
CASH FLOW ITEMS								
Mortgage Principal	\$12,480.	Under Budget		0.9%	\$122,927.	Under Budget	\$644.	0.5%
Capital Expenditures	\$0.	Under Budget		100.0%	\$48,689.	Over Budget	(\$34,651.)	(247.2%)
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$12,480.	Under Budget		33.1%	\$171,596.	Over Budget	(\$34,007.)	(24.7%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$103,032.	Under Budget	\$1,210.	1.2%	\$981,114.	Over Budget	(\$6,094.)	(0.6%)
Net Income vs. Expense	(\$26,964.)				(\$71,508.)			
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS								
Receipts	\$24,273.				\$108,441.			
Disbursements	(\$22,848.)				(\$92,804.)			
CASH ON HAND	\$190,449.	Down this month	(\$5,371.)		\$45,000.	CD's		
		Down since Jan 1	(\$98,473.)		\$15,252.	Money Market Acct		
CD's w/ LCEF					\$32,280.	CD's w/ LCEF		
MORTGAGE DEBT								
Loan #1	\$579,014.	Down this year	\$85,559.					
Loan #2	\$1,769,151.	Down this year	\$59,515.		\$57,129.	ENDOWMENT		



THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACCORDING TO JOHN

The Christmas story as we know it comes to us from both the gospels of Matthew and of Luke. Without these, we would not have a manger with shepherds, sheep and cows lowing the baby awake, the stars in the sky looking down, camels and magi or wise men. Think of all the Christmas carols that have come out of the first two chapters of each gospel. What kind of pageantry could be presented at Christmas without these two writers bringing us accounts of the birth of Jesus?

There is another Christmas story that we do not hear much about, maybe because it is not in the Bible. That is the story of the fourth magi or wise man. As the story goes, he starts out with three precious gifts and along the way he donates his gifts to the betterment of individuals he meets along the way to Jerusalem. He does eventually arrive in the Holy City just in time to see Christ's crucifixion. A sad ending, but in reality, that is where we all end up when we seek the Savior.

The Fourth Gospel, or better known by the title John, has a formidable and untold Christmas story. Unfortunately, it is overlooked and never gets the reading that I feel it deserves. Why? It begins like all love stories; "in the beginning." Where does that line come from? Well, two places. *The first* is Genesis 1:1 and the second is John 1:1. Is it possible that John plagiarized Genesis? Not really. After the opening adverbial clause, the story in Genesis and John follow the same track. They explain creation and how everything came into being, by the spoken word.

The second part of the story starts in verse 10 and is the same as in the second chapter of Matthew. In Matthew the citizenry of Israel were so busy doing life that they missed the birth of their king. John states it simply, "He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him." Was this a fulfillment of prophecy? Consider what the prophet Isaiah wrote in the 53rd chapter, that the Messiah would be despised and rejected.

In Genesis, the first of God's acts of creation is to bring light into being. John tells us in chapter 1 verse 9 that the true light was coming into the world. When the early church initiated what we now call Christmas, it was to celebrate the returning light. Not that it went anywhere, but now the days would be getting longer and the sun would shine even longer. It signified the light of Jesus coming into the world. As the Hymn states; "light and life to all He brings."

In verse 14 John writes that the word became flesh and dwelt among us. The word for "dwelt" better translates to the Hebrew word tabernacle. In other words, Jesus came and pitched His tent among us. How important is this? Consider the Hebrew children wandering in the desert, Moses was instructed to build a tabernacle. The tabernacle was also known as the place of meeting. It is where the Hebrew people met to hear instructions from God. And today, when we want to meet God, we go to meet Jesus.

One more element in John's Christmas story is the word. The Psalm 119 states that God's word is a "light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path." We sing "come to the light that is shining for me, sweetly the light had shined upon me." And, "once I was blind, but now I can see, the light of the world is Jesus." Think about all the light we see at Christ. Do you see the Christ everywhere?

John's gospel provides the whole story of Christ. The beginning, creation, the spoken and visible word, light for our path, and like the 4th magi, a place to meet the Christ. What more could we ask for in a love story. Merry Christmas.

FIVE WISHES®

Five Wishes, Aging with Dignity

Five Wishes is a United States advance directive created by the non-profit organization Aging with Dignity. It has been described as the "living will with a heart and soul". (Reference: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Five_Wishes)

Jessica McQue, Marion County Hospice Monarch, will provide a presentation to Trinity Lutheran Church on **January 21, 2020 from 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.** The program presentation will be held in the Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. A sign-in sheet will be available by 12/1/2019.

Any questions: please contact Janet Sanner, phone number 352-452-0708 or email: jsanner@lightningspeed.net Board of Human Care ; Get Healthy For "Christ" Presentation.

PILLOWCASE MINISTRY MEETING

January 6 at 10:00 a.m.

The pillowcase ministry group will meet on **Monday, January 6th at 10:00 a.m.** to discuss future plans for the group. We invite anyone interested to join us in room 1 off the kitchen on January 6th.

-Lori Yahr and Karen Hoerauf



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

Are you aware of all the resources available to you from Lutheran Hour Ministries? Do you know all the ways they are reaching the unchurched both here and around the world to spread the message of Jesus Christ? Have you considered joining one of Lutheran Hour Ministries podcasts? If you're looking to hear real people having a real conversation about life and what it means to them, considering joining the "Speaking of Jesus" podcast. LHM encourages you to invite Jesus into your everyday conversations too.

Real people having a real conversation about Jesus. That's it! LHM wants to encourage you to invite Jesus into everyday conversations. The weekly dialogue is centered around Christ and his relevance. This program is a dialogue between a variety of Christians from different walks of life, different stages of life, and different family backgrounds.

Unscripted but not unfocused.

Each week will unfold between 4-5 individuals about an excerpt from the Bible, what it means to them, and how it applies to daily life. They are the ones Speaking of Jesus. Why Is It Important? The Barna Group found that less than 1 in 10 Americans has a conversation about God, faith, and spirituality once a month. The research also revealed that 70% of self-identified Christians are reluctant to have a spiritual conversation with anyone, even with other Christians. Lutheran Hour Ministries aims to inspire you to have more spiritual discussion in your home, digitally, and all throughout your community. This is an opportunity to get more and more individuals to speak of Jesus, so that they may come to know him personally.

Want to know more. Go to lhm.org/podcasts and select "Speaking of Jesus" (available through LHM website, & iTunes)

MEMORIALS

A gift was given for the Board of Fellowship in memory of *Sal Vanacore*

A gift was given for the Lutheran Hour in memory of *Sal Vanacore*

Gifts were given to Building Debt Reduction in memory of the following:

Pat Miller

Sal Vanacore

Gifts were given to the Music Fund in memory of the following:

Ted Hall

Sal Vanacore



A gift was given for the Board of Fellowship in memory of *Dot McClure*

A gift was given for the Scrappy Quilters in memory of *Dot McClure*

A gift was given for the Bells of Trinity in memory of *Pat Miller*

A gift was given to the LWML Mites in memory of *Karen Crook*

SECRET PRAYER PALS REVEAL



Our fall season is upon us bringing much needed relief from the hot summer temperatures and storms, and the opportunity to start focusing on the upcoming holidays and the beginning of a new year. **On Friday, December 13 we will gather in the Fellowship Hall at 10 a.m. for refreshments and the revealing of our Secret Prayer Pal.** Please bring a wrapped gift for your Secret Prayer Pal with her name on the outside and an attached card with your name inside. If you cannot attend, let us know and we will see that your Secret Prayer Pal receives her gift.

Please call for regrets or to RSVP no later than Monday, December 9 to:
Patty Talbott: (352) 562-4952 or Joyce Lindstrom: (402) 290-1361

It is our sincere hope that being a part of this ministry has been rewarding for you and your Secret Prayer Pal.



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 JANUARY 2020 Newsletter is ** Sunday, December 15th ******



COUNCIL MEETING NOTES November 19, 2019

BUDGET PRESENTATION:

Gary Eckoff presented the 2020 Budget Request. He then moved: ***MOTION: Council shall approve increasing mission giving at a rate of 7.3% for 2020 with the express intention of moving to a tithe (10%) of our overall income.*** Dennis Esch seconded the motion. Motion carried. Gary moved: ***MOTION: Council shall approve the 2020 Budget as presented.*** Patti Paxton seconded. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT (copy attached): Pastor Dan reviewed the Pastors' Report. The Wednesday afternoon Revelation Class is going strong with over 100 in attendance. Saturday Morning Men's group is doing well also.

Pastor Dan brought to our attention a Global Mission Committee effort called Sewing for Cuba where donations of goods or funds are being collected to support evangelism efforts of missionaries in Cuba through making and distributing clothing. Bob Behrends moved: ***MOTION: Council shall approve support for the Global Mission Committee effort called "Sewing for Cuba" to support evangelism efforts. Support can be either financial or physical in the form of sewing notions/items.*** Gary seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Blair commented that small groups are doing well. Doug Mussey has resigned as Chair of Christian Education. A replacement as Chair is being sought.

BUSINESS MANAGER'S REPORT:

Jill Esposito distributed some information regarding the Dallas Lutheran School in Dallas, Texas that was significantly damaged by an EF-3 tornado on October 20, 2019. She is bringing the request to Council seeking approval to donate some or all of the Missions-Misc. account money of \$1,300. Gary Eckoff moved that: ***MOTION: Council shall approve donating the remaining Missions-Misc. money, \$1,300, to support the Dallas Lutheran School, Dallas, Texas that was damaged on October 20, 2019 by an EF-3 tornado.*** Chuck Wilt seconded. Motion carried.

The church has historically sponsored the Lutheran Hour Ministries radio broadcast. At this time (November 2019) the bill of \$5,200 will become due to continue that sponsorship. However, the dedicated account for this is short \$3,435. Jill is seeking help in deciding whether to continue this support or contact them and stop our support. After discussions, Bob Behrends moved: ***MOTION: Council shall instruct the Business Manager to send the balance of \$1,765 in the LHM Radio Broadcast Account to the LHM radio broadcast, with notice that this will be the extent of our support.*** Lester Boretsky seconded. Motion carried.

Jill informed Council that there are two Citizens Bank accounts that are going to be moved to Edward Jones to earn more interest. Also, there were some necessary changes made to the balance sheet, which she thanked Susan Sullivan for assisting her in making.

There has been a noticeable lack of police presence on Sunday mornings. This is due to lack of volunteers to direct traffic after the Sunday morning services. Jill will look into whether or not there are other authorized groups to be utilized. Can Citizens Patrols be utilized?

OLD BUSINESS:

Jill Esposito reported on the Nominating Committee results. Attached is the 2020 Nominees list. This will go before the Voter's and the Committee will be dismissed with thanks at the Voter's Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bill Myers distributed a document regarding Roberts Rules of Orders. It was brought to his attention that Council By-Laws require that we following these Rules. We have not been doing that. Susan Sullivan inquired as to a quorum and proper notice. He has asked that we all do a better job of staying on topic when discussing motions, minimizing unnecessary and side conversations, etc.

Bill also reported that the church has received a request from the Gideons to come and make a presentation. Lester Boretsky moved: **MOTION: Council approves inviting the Gideons Bible group to speak before the services, at a date to be determined.** Chuck Wilt seconded. Motion approved. Pastor Dan agreed to contact them and make the arrangements.

BOARD REPORTS:

Elders (report attached): Chuck Wilt reported they held discussions regarding Trinity South Campus. Pastor Dan asked that starting in January the Elders rotate regularly to Trinity South. Also they discussed the importance of the feedback through the LRP Survey. Volunteers will be in the narthex to assist in passing out and collecting the surveys through December 1.

Evangelism (report attached): Bob Behrends reported that Jan Garner, who is new to the Board, is championing Global Missions. She will head up a new Global Missions Committee.

Fellowship (report attached): Patti Paxton reports that next week is the Thanksgiving Eve Meal. Wednesday evening Advent meals will take place on December 4, 11, and 18.

Human Care (report attached): Martha Mitchell reminded everyone to take a card off of the Christmas tree in the narthex in Support of Love, INC. There are various ways to support this important mission.

Stewardship: Dennis Esch distributed a Time & Talent Survey (copy attached) and has asked for each Board's input. This survey is for Board Chairs only.

Trustees (report attached): Lester Boretsky reported that they are going to meet with the people about the new tablets for the Memorial Garden.

December 8th is the Voters Meeting. Our next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2019 at 1:30 PM. Lester Boretsky moved that the meeting be adjourned, Dennis Esch seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Pastor Blair closed the meeting with prayer.



Trinity Lutheran Church
17330 S US Hwy 441
Summerfield, FL 34491

Return Service Requested



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LADY LAKE, FL
PERMIT NO 58

God's Blessings to...

Phone: 352-307-4500
Fax: 352-307-4502

E-mail:
office@trinitysummerfield.org

Web:
www.trinitysummerfield.com

Come & Worship With Us

Main Campus:

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

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

South Campus:

Sundays at 10:30 a.m.

at Harbor Chase

(1477 Huey St. Wildwood)

-Take Elevator to the 3rd Floor

Come & Learn With Us

Saturdays

Men's Bible Study 8:00 a.m.

Sundays

Pastor Paul's Bible Study: 9:15 a.m.

