



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**
LCMS

Vol. 26 Issue 5



May 6

National Day of Prayer

May 9

Mother's Day

May 13

Ascension Day

May 15

Armed Forces Day

May 23

**Pentecost
All Church Picnic
Blood Drive**

May 31

**Memorial Day-
Office Closed**

Inside This Issue:

PASTOR'S LETTER	2
PRAYERS	3
PRESIDENT'S CORNER	4-5
GLOBAL MISSIONS	6-7
LWML	8
Community of Gratitude	9
ALL CHURCH PICNIC	10
MEMORIALS	11

Prayer for Memorial Day	11
Lutheran Hour Ministries	12
TREASURER'S REPORT	13
SCRAPPY QUILTERS	14-15
EDUCATION (PART 5)	16-17
COUNCIL NOTES	18-19
BOOKWORMS	19



“THE MORE THINGS CHANGE ...”

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.” I think that’s true if you’re a Christian. There have been monumental changes in our lives over the course of the last year plus. The worldwide spread of Covid made for conditions which we have never seen before.

Society was quarantined and left to wonder what the world would look like when (if) it got back to normal. People couldn’t work, and the government issued stimulus checks to soften the blow of lost income. Racing to keep up with the changing dynamic, scientist and medical experts voiced their opinions on what would come next. Sometimes they were right and sometimes they were wrong.

Perhaps most difficult was the isolation experienced by older people, more susceptible to the disease, who stayed at home and far away from other people. Some older people in nursing homes and care units, were not allowed any visitors, not even family. Still others, on the front line of the pandemic, put themselves at great risk as they stepped in and helped in whatever ways they could.

As I write this, the world seems to be slowly getting back to “normal,” though we are reminded that there will be a new “normal” ahead. It’s something like the days after 911, when we all came to see that a world inhabited by terrorists cannot exist like one that doesn’t. Some people have returned to their employment, some are now working from their homes and, sadly, too many people are not working yet.

As the saying goes, “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future.” That truth is so comforting today as we are reminded of the constancy of change. In the middle of this epic transformation, is there anything that we can hold on to? Yes! ***“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Heb. 13:8).”*** That wouldn’t mean much if you didn’t know who He is and what He stands for. But we know. Jesus is love, and mercy, and forgiveness, and He will never change. The God who gave His life for our salvation will not suddenly change. ***“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (Ja. 1:17).”*** If you or I were to plan the future, I’m quite sure we would make a mess of it. But that’s why it’s so wonderful to know that our all-knowing God rules all things, even the changes, for our ultimate benefit!

It’s been so wonderful to see so many of our members and friends returning to worship over the past few months. Our fellowship committee is planning to celebrate our return to “normal” with a special outdoor picnic and entertainment May 23rd. Did you know that we’re actually celebrating our 25th anniversary this year as well? How wonderful it would be if we could celebrate by responding to the \$250,000 matching challenge for debt retirement! I’m told that we’ve already raised over \$175,000, but we still have a little way to go. How about thanking God for His blessings here by giving to this matching fund and completing our challenge? Praise God!

Pastor Dan

May Prayers



SUNDAY

Praise the Lord, this is the day the Lord has made and I will rejoice and be glad in it. Father may I rejoice and give You praise every day. For there is none as worthy as You are. Help me to complain less about the little things and more to rejoice and give You thanks for all things great and small. **Psalm 97:12** "Rejoice in the Lord, you who are righteous, and praise his holy name."

MONDAY

Father, when fear comes into my life, may the Holy Spirit strengthen me as I remember You are more powerful than the fear bringing me down. May I place my complete trust in You, for You Father, are the ruler of the earth. Let fear have no hold over me, for Jesus my Savior has conquered all fear through His death and resurrection. **Isaiah 41:13** "For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, "Do not fear; I will help you."

TUESDAY

Lord, each day is a new day, a new beginning. As I confess my sins to You daily, help me to remember those sins are gone and forgotten. Let me not live in the past sins, but remember You Lord, have washed me clean in the blood of the Lamb, promising to not bring up my sins of the past. Father, help me to be as forgiving to my family and friends as You have been to me. **Matthew 6:14** "For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

WEDNESDAY

Dear Lord, we are people of want. Wanting this and that. Often it seems we are never satisfied with what we have. You provide all we need, yet we want more, more money, more health, more pleasures. Gracious God, You provide all I need. Lead me to be grateful with what I have and especially grateful for the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, my Lord. **Psalm 145:16** "You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing."

THURSDAY

Father, there are times when I find myself judging others, by the way they look or act. I know this is wrong, because You are the only one who has a right to judge. Often appearances will mask the true nature of an individual and not what is in ones heart. I cannot look into the heart of others. You alone know the hearts of others. Forgive me Father when I judge others and remind me I am in no position to judge. Help me to accept all and to love unconditionally as you love me. **Matthew 7:1** "Do not judge or you too will be judged."

FRIDAY

Lord Jesus Christ, this month we celebrate and honor our mothers. We lift up all Christian mothers to Your care, asking You continue to bless them and provide for their needs as You have done in the past. Grant them strength, wisdom and faith for each day. May they be a witness of Your power and love. We pray also for those mothers who do not know You as their Savior. May other Christians be a witness to them and bring them to know and love our Lord. **Ephesians 6:2** "Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise."

SATURDAY

Lord God, we pray for missionaries and Bible translators all over the world. May they be filled with the Words only the Holy Spirit can provide. Grant them a love for the truth and wisdom. Send Your guarding angels to be with them at all times. Surround them with a hedge of protection from all evil, harm and sickness. May they meet the needs of those who are lost and bring them into the saving grace of our Lord. **John 15:16** "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you, to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the father will give you whatever you ask in my name."

PRESIDENTS CORNER



A Match Promise for Trinity Summerfield

The debt reduction match program provided to Trinity from an anonymous member is progressing very well. As of this writing, we have received over \$156,000 toward the goal of \$250,000 match as committed by this family and continues thru the end of May. In mid March we surpassed the \$100,000 mark and in discussion with the donating family, it was suggested that Trinity send \$100,000 to Thrivent to apply against the principle of the loan on the Fellowship Hall and the donating family would also match that and sent \$100,000 to Thrivent, to reduce our loan principle by \$200,000. This has been done, which also saves us Dollars in Interest on that \$200,000, and reduces our loan balance from \$460,000 down to \$260,000.

So to reach our goal we need to receive another \$94,000 by the end of May which will completely pay off the loan on the Fellowship Hall and allow for a reduction of our loan on the Sanctuary. With our Church picnic on Sunday May 23rd, outside under the big top (tent), and celebrating Trinity's 25 anniversary, what a great time to prayerfully consider a gift to this great 'match program'. Please mark your gift donations as "Match Funds" to aid in properly identifying these funds and assisting with bookkeeping.

+++++

Trinity Church 25 Year Anniversary June 2, 2021 – A little early history of Trinity

The founder of Trinity Lutheran Church was Reverend Dr. Oscar A. Gerken (retired Pastor of Faith Lutheran, Eustis) in early 1996. An exploratory meeting was held in April 1996 to serve the Tri County area. A Task Force was formed to advertise and find a place to hold services. Orange Blossom Garden Community Hall, (known as the Bingo Hall) on Hwy 27/441 approximately 5 miles North of the Villages was selected. The first service was held on Trinity Sunday, June 2, 1996 and the name of the Mission Congregation was the "Tri-County Lutheran Church" serving Lake, Sumter & Marion counties.

The "Charter Sunday" service was held on January 5, 1997 with 68 Communicants, 2 baptized & 6 Associate members. Also in January, members of "Tri-County Lutheran Mission" voted to request the District & Synod to accept the name "Trinity Lutheran Church" as our congregational designation.

On April 6, 1997 the name was official changed to Trinity Lutheran Church during a congregational meeting. In May 1997, a call was submitted to Pastor Richard Markworth and his wife Marlene as the first called Pastor and was commissioned on August 17, 1997 as the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church.

On November 23, 1997 in a congregational meeting, the 21.5 acres site 2 miles North of Morse Blvd., North of Spruce Creek on the West side of Hwy 27/441 was selected from 7 different sites as the location for Trinity Lutheran Church. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund agreed to supply the loan with a proviso that we sell half the land (about 11.5 acres), to help reduce the amount of the initial debt. Purchase of the property was finalized on March 20, 1998.

In April 1998, the Building Committee recommended to the congregation to build a Multipurpose Building rather than a permanent Sanctuary. Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Multipurpose Building (Fellowship Hall) was held on May 9, 1999. On July 27, 2000 the “Certificate of Occupation” was issued to Trinity by the Marion County Board of Commissions of Ocala and on Sunday July 30, 2000 Trinity conducted the first Sunday Service in the new Church (Fellowship Hall).

+++++

Continuing COVID-19 CDC Guidelines-Questions continue to be asked as to when can we return to normal church services here at Trinity. The Elders and Church Council continue to review the status of the COVID pandemic on a monthly basis and will make decisions, erring on the side of safety, when to begin returning to ‘normal’ services when appropriate. With the new variants of COVID which are being identified it makes it more difficult to predict when ‘normal’ may return. We have made some minor adjustments to our seating arrangements, utilizing all pews and seating in the area where tape has been applied on the top back of the pews, but still maintaining areas in the overflow seating with at least 6’ spacing for those who feel more comfortable in that environment.

Gilbert Dahnke – President





COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The Police Captain's Story-A Bible Smuggling Story

An aging man boarded a bus in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with a long journey ahead of him - possibly a 12 hour ride. In his hands, he clutched a box of about 30 bibles that he was taking to tribal Christians in the highlands. As he looked for a seat on the crowded bus, he pondered how he would get through the many checkpoints along the way without his precious goods being discovered.

After finding an empty seat along the aisle, he sat down and placed the box of bibles on the floor against his leg. A police captain who had followed him onto the bus then took the seat across the aisle from him, casually removed his hat and placed it on the man's box.

As the bus coughed and sputtered its way down the road, the man occasionally glanced down at his precious cargo, wondering if he would succeed in delivering it to its destination. All too soon, they reached a checkpoint. Police officers boarded the bus to check a few ID cards, but they were especially focused on any boxes the passengers had with them.

The man's heart skipped a beat as the officers advanced down the aisle. Soon, they were standing by his box of bibles, and he expected the worst. But when they looked at the box and saw the police captain's hat resting on it, they continued down the aisle to the next passenger. Eventually, the man reached his destination and safely delivered God's Word to awaiting believers in the highlands.

Miracles occur in different and sometimes simple ways. God's hand was at work protecting His precious Word. When we think about it, miracles happen often. In the rush and bustle of life, let us not fail to recognize God's hand lest we miss the blessing.

The above story was written by Merv Knight, serving the persecuted for more than 50 years, he is a Voice of the Martyrs board member and co-founder of the Voice of the Martyrs - Australia.

COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD OF EVANGELISM

The following prayer is from Voice of the Martyrs.

Please pray;

Heavenly Father,

I boldly approach Your throne of grace on behalf of global Bible distribution in restricted nations and hostile areas. I pray for the success of ministry efforts to place Your Word in the hands of every believer living in a difficult or dangerous place to be a Christian. I pray that roads will be open, bridges will be sound, weather will not impede progress, vehicles will remain operational and those smuggling Bibles will be undetected by all trying to stop them.

May the power of Your Word bring the men, women and children who receive it into an abiding relationship with the incarnate Word, Jesus Christ. And may they act on the words of Scripture to become bold and faithful witnesses as they make disciples of all nations. Direct each audio, print and children's bible into the hands of a receptive soul. May those who do not yet believe be drawn to faith by the power of Your Word. May our brothers and sisters who take great risks to distribute Your Word remain fearless, trusting solely in You, the God whose message they are delivering. Give them great courage and strength as they carry out this crucial work. Thank you, Father, that Your Word will never pass away and will always accomplish Your redemptive purpose.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

The Global Missions committee thanks you for your contribution last year to VOM Bible distribution and hopes to continue contributing this year in this very valuable service to our Lord. **The Global Missions committee will meet on May 17, 2021 in Room 1 at 10:00 a.m. You are invited to join us as we explore the many ways Trinity works globally to spread the Gospel throughout the world.**



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 our motto.

MAY MEETING



Spring is here, and before we take a break this summer from our regular monthly meetings, we would like to invite all of the ladies of the congregation to our meeting our **Tuesday, May 25th, at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. At the time this article was submitted, our speaker from the Appleton Museum in Ocala has not been confirmed, but we will make sure everyone is notified when these plans have been finalized. We will have a short business meeting which will include plans being made for a summer luncheon. Pastor Blair will provide a devotional message, and we will conclude the meeting with refreshments. Social distancing will be observed. Please watch the weekly bulletins for more details.

LWML Mite Box Collection



The next monthly Mite collection will be on **Saturday, May 1st and Sunday, May 2nd**. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants. Two of these are as follows:

Body and Soul Ministry Food Pantry - \$10,000

The Body and Soul Ministry Food Pantry, Forest Oaks Lutheran, Spring Hill, Florida, has requested a grant of \$10,000 to replenish their supply of large print and Spanish translation Bibles - \$2,500; replacing aging refrigeration - \$3,800; and replacing worn carpeting - \$3,700. Obe Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement \$4,397.95

Lutheran Bible Translators is continuing to serve the Obe people through Bible Translation and Scripture Engagement of God's Word in their own heart language. This amount will help fund the translation work and Scripture Engagement for one year.

If a contribution cannot be made at the beginning of the month, it may also be made at any time since the Mite Box is always available in the Narthex.

Always remember that A LITTLE CAN HELP SO MANY!



We are a food pantry serving individuals and families who fall below the TEFAP income guidelines. Our clients come once a month to receive food. We offer grocery boxes, fresh fruit and vegetables (when available), and frozen meat items to individuals and families in need. We thrive on volunteers and donations from the local community, and we have been especially

blessed by members of Trinity Lutheran. We are grateful for your support, you are helping to feed local families, many of whom are in great need. Thank you! We strive to offer healthy food choices whenever possible. Each month we attempt to include the following items in our grocery boxes:

Peanut Butter	Jelly	Oatmeal
Cereal	Nuts/Dried Fruit	Potatoes
Dried Lentils	Canned Beans	Cooking Oil
Canned Fruit (various types)	Canned Vegetables (various types)	Spaghetti
Macaroni & Cheese	Rice	Canned Fish (Other than Tuna)
Canned Tuna	Canned Chicken	Snacks



****The Community of Gratitude will still have specific weekly requests; however, you can select any of the above items that will also meet their needs.**

We are requesting volunteers to assist in the delivering of donated food from Trinity to the Community of Gratitude for the following months: June, July, August, September, November and December. It only requires one day a week throughout the month, normally Tuesdays, to cover this obligation. In the case of those who wish to help but cannot do an entire month Jim Stienmark will fill in for the day(s) needed. Any questions or concerns will be addressed by calling Jim at 352-299-0606.***



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 June 2021 Newsletter is
** Saturday, May 15th ****

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, May 23

We're happy to announce **EVERYONE** is cordially invited to an "All Church Picnic" on **Sunday, May 23 after the 10:30 service**. We will be celebrating Pentecost and Trinity's 25th Anniversary!!

DETAILS- The picnic will be held outside under the cover of a 40x40 ft. rented canopy, but still open air. For people feeling more comfortable there will also be some seating inside the Fellowship Hall.

FOOD & DRINKS- The Board of Fellowship is hosting this event and known for their ability to prepare and serve delicious food. They will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, coleslaw, pasta salad, chips, cupcakes, water and soda. There will be a free-will offering.



ENTERTAINMENT- Entertainment will be provided by our very own David Berardi with his Comedy Magic. He is funny and engaging. Come and see!

RSVP please! -For planning purposes we ask that you **RSVP on the prayer chain, sign up in the Narthex Clipboard area or call the church office at 352-307-4500** and let us know if you will be attending. (You will still be welcome if you weren't able to let us know and feel you would like to attend.)

Please mark your calendars, come and enjoy the joyful times we need and greatly miss. We look forward to seeing you again and thank God for this festive occasion.



MEMORIALS

A gift was given to Live Streaming in memory of *Art Loesel*

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of *Betty Giertz*

Gifts were given to Building Debt Reduction in memory of *Betty Giertz*

Gifts were given to Loan Match in memory of the following:

Lisa Biesaga (Daughter of Dave and Jan MacTrinder)

Betty Giertz

Jane Hertel

Nancy Cuccia

Gifts were given to the Music Fund (Bells) in memory of *Bob Hughes*



Prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MEMORIAL DAY





LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES



Speaking of Jesus is a new podcast offered by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Join each week to hear real people having a real conversation about life, Jesus, and what he means to them. You are encouraged to invite Jesus into your everyday conversations, too. Want to see what it is all about, go to LHM.org and click on the *Speaking to Jesus* icon.

Real people having a real conversation about Jesus. That's it!

LHM wants to encourage you to invite Jesus into everyday conversation. 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 a discussion 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 this important?

The Barna group found that less than **1 in ten** 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.

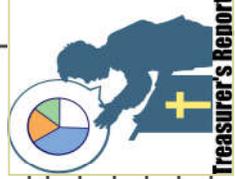
-Donna Mallardi, Trinity LHM Ambassador

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

March, 2021

GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH			YEAR-TO-DATE		
		Over Budget	%		Over Budget	%
INCOME						
Envelope Giving	\$25,753.	Over Budget	31.2%	\$75,381.	Over Budget	\$17,210.
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$94,996.	Over Budget	51.5%	\$215,819.	Under Budget	(\$3,592.)
Envelopes - Total	\$120,749.	Over Budget	46.7%	\$291,200.	Over Budget	\$13,618.
Special Services	\$5,614.	Over Budget	106.6%	\$8,065.	Over Budget	\$3,999.
Plate Offering	\$3,684.	Under Budget	(10.9%)	\$10,179.	Under Budget	(\$14,791.)
Interest	(\$10.)	Under Budget	(97.5%)	(\$261.)	Under Budget	(\$1,046.)
Memorial gifts				\$100.		\$100.
PPP Forgiveness				\$ 130,000.		\$130,000.
TOTAL INCOME				\$439,283.	Over Budget	\$131,880.
TOTAL INCOME w/o PPP	\$130,037.	Over Budget	45.1%	\$309,283.	Over Budget	\$1,880.
		Over Last Year	27.7%		Over Last Year	\$14,631.
EXPENSES						
Board expenses	\$95,612.	Under Budget	6.8%	\$223,119.	Under Budget	\$21,881.
Mortgage interest	\$7,506.	Under Budget		\$16,061.	Under Budget	\$6,586.
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$103,118.	Under Budget	6.3%	\$239,180.	Under Budget	\$28,467.
		Over Last Year	(0.4%)		Under Last Year	\$13,602.
CASH FLOW ITEMS						
Mortgage Principal	\$14,254.	Over Budget	(0.1%)	\$31,135.	Under Budget	\$11,451.
Capital Expenditures	\$0.			\$0.		
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$14,254.	Over Budget	0.0%	\$31,135.	Under Budget	\$11,451.
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$117,372.	Under Budget	5.6%	\$270,315.	Under Budget	\$39,918.
Net Income vs. Expense	\$12,665.			\$38,968.		
Memo: Payroll Protection Program (PPP)		Loan Forgiven (January, 2021)				
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS						
Receipts	\$165,240.			\$217,810.		
Disbursements	(\$209,004.)			(\$211,833.)		
CASH ON HAND	\$306,795.	Down this month	(\$32,596.)		CAPITAL RESERVE w/ EDWARD JONES	
		Up since Jan 1	\$44,497.		CD's	
					Money Market Acct	
CD's w/LCEF				\$33,084.		
MORTGAGE DEBT						
Loan #1 (Fellowship Hall) w/Thrivent	\$260,605.	Down this year	\$208,807.			
Loan #2 (Sanctuary) w/Thrivent	\$1,694,745.	Down this year	\$14,255.			
Loan #3 (Bushnell Campus) w/LCEF	\$291,810.	Down this year	\$6,153.			
Loan #4 (Bushnell Campus) w/FL-GA DIST	\$147,440.	Down this year	\$1,920.			



Treasurer's Report

SCRAPPY QUILTERS



The Scrappy Quilters were busy as bees in the month of April with spring cleaning our storage spaces and showering many with blessings. Our Spring-cleaning is nearing completion. In process of doing our clean out we shared some of our excess abundance of fabric with a quilting group in the Villages that sews quilts for cancer units, Operation Shoebox of the villages who sew drawstring bags to send care packages in for those serving our country overseas, and a group that sews bears for children in cancer units.

On April 7, Five of the Scrappy quilters went on a tour of the Christian Care Center located in Leesburg. The girls were amazed by the extensive outreach that includes a food pantry, Pregnancy center, Substance abuse rehabilitation facilities for men and women, and a free health clinic. They got quite a walk in as the campus is 30 acres in size and worked up an appetite for going out to lunch at Denny's on the way home. They were amazed by the heartwarming stories of those who have been touched by the various ministries. They also delivered 20 quilts for the women's Substance abuse rehabilitation center. They were thrilled to receive them. In my last article, you may recall we had delivered 23 quilts for the men's facility. Someday when the Home for Unwanted Children reopens, we hope to provide them with quilts as well.

G. G.'s house, which serves some of the most impoverished people living in the Ocala National Forest, was blessed with the following in the month of April: 13 floor pillows, 184 soapy washcloths, 12 ponchos, 26 facemasks. Marion County Sheriff's Department received 3 quilts, 4 receiving blankets, and 4 camp blankets.

We got word that the Infant and Toddler was having a baby shower to help replenish their shelves before reopening. Pam Bixler delivered to them 7 crib sheets, 12 blankets, 260 baby washcloths, 2 bibs, 1 pr. of baby shoes, 2 baby shirts, 1 onesie, 1 bonnet and dress ensemble, 3 pr. of socks, and 170 baby hats. In addition, this month 3 quilts went out to family members grieving the loss of a loved one.

We are currently working on finishing 11 quilts for veterans, requested by Dr. Colonel Carlan. He has quite a network of veterans he has kept in touch with. We are glad to share them with those who served so valiantly.



SCRAPPY QUILTERS

We hope to continue our soapy washcloth ministry and could use your help in the form of donations of soap and washcloths. The thinner less expensive washcloths are the easiest to sew. Soap can be full sized or sample sized. Donations can be left in the Scrappy quilter's collection box on the back of the church in meeting room 3 or dropped off at the church office.

We have 2 more meeting in May before I begin my migration to Ohio for the summer. We would be happy to have you join us on Fridays from noon until 3. We follow all C.D.C. guidelines so you can be sure it is safe. Just bring a willing heart of service. You need not be a master sewer to participate in this rewarding fellowship. Meetings in the summer are at the discretion of my wonderful co- leader Pam Bixler. If I do not have a chance to write one more article before I go have a safe and blessed summer! See you in the fall!- Sue Lehota

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 5

Let me begin by saying that I am not writing this to any one person in particular. I mean no offense to anyone or anybody. I am simply attempting to answer a question that I have been asked many times. It is one of the toughest questions I have ever had to answer. So what is the question, you ask? Here it is, "How must I dress when I come to church?" Over the years I have had to come up with several answers, and here they are.

When I was younger, the answer was simple. I would look at the person asking the question, and ask them this question in return. "If you were invited to a the Whitehouse for a formal state dinner with the President of the United States or to Buckingham Palace to have dinner with the queen of England what would wear?" The looks I received ran anywhere from bewilderment to downright anger. It was obvious that that was not the answer they were looking for. Then I asked them a second question, "What do you think you should wear?" At that point most would walk away with their heads lowered and looking at the ground.

The reason I would answer that way is twofold. First, God, the King and Creator of the universe has invited you to His house to have a meal with Him. How you show up, and what you wear, speaks volumes about what you think of Him. Secondly, I am not your parent and I should not have to tell you how to dress. However, now that I am older, my answers have changed. I am a little less formal.

It has been many years since I have donned a suit and clergy shirt to come to worship. In fact when I am in the Florida Keys and attend church, my Sunday morning attire is shorts and a comfortable shirt. I might add that I do not stand out from the crowd as most others are dressed the same.

I only know of one place in the Bible where the wearing of clothes to church is addressed, and it is directed to women, but certainly applies to the opposite sex as well. Timothy writes, "also that the women should dress themselves modestly and decently in suitable clothing ... (and not) expensive clothes." Now if you want to go on HSN and purchase all their bargains, (so you stand out, like the women in their TV ad) that is fine with me. But the reason Timothy told us to dress in decent and suitable clothes is that we are not to call attention to ourselves. We come to worship the King of Creation and Him alone. If we come to call attention to ourselves, we have come with a wrong motive.

But you say that in the book of Deuteronomy, God gave the Hebrew children instruction on how to dress so that they would be set apart, and you would be correct. It was done so that each tribe could tell other members of their own tribe, and that members would know to what tribe other individuals belonged. In addition, the scribes and priest dressed differently. Just like we Scots with our kilts. They define our clan and our affiliation. It also lets us know who to stay away from.

No Easy Answers: Part 5 (continued)

Consider this, you are on a journey, your car breaks down on a deserted back road. A group of individuals stop to help, but instead of helping, you are beaten and your car stolen. You are left in the middle of the road clinging to life. After a while, you see a priest coming down the road and you say to yourself, finally someone to help me. You know he is a priest because of his uniform, and you know that he has been commanded to render aid to those in need of such. However, he passes you by as if you were not there.

God never intended for our outward appearance to define who or what we are. We may wear a uniform to work, but that only defines what we do or did for a living, like the priest in the above paragraph. What delineates who we are is regulated by and how we clothe our heart. If we clothe our heart with the fruit (singular) of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), whose we are will radiate from deep within us, which is where it should come from.

Please remember, we can fake who we are by pretending we are someone else by wearing expensive and the latest fashionable clothes. We can adorn ourselves with gold and flashy gem stones, and just maybe fool some of the people some of the time. But we will never fool God. We will never be able to fake it when we stand in the presence of God. It is our heart that will give the answers when we are questioned by God. The Psalmist wrote, “But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.” That is where God looks to find who we really are.

When we arrive at our final home, we will receive our clothing to wear in heaven, it will be a plain white robe. It will have no gold trim, no ensigns to tell our importance, no fancy lace and embroidery, just a plain white robe. Why will they all be the same? Because we will all be in the same family, brothers and sisters in Christ. It will be made of the finest material and at a cost we cannot afford. You see the cost was the life of our Father’s Son and it is designed to cover our old nature. Therefore, it is not seen through by any, not even our Father. What a great time we will have; however, there may be only one problem, if I ask you if you have seen my wife, please do not ask what she is wearing.

Doug Mussey: Chair; Board of Christian Education.





TLC COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

PASTOR REPORTS: Pastor Dan informed us that there were almost 700 people worshipping at Easter, in person, but there were still 438 hits for the on-line service. The on-line numbers continue to be strong.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Jill Esposito said that Alzheimer's Association is holding an on-line community forum for anyone affected by the disease. This group is looking for someone to head up a zoom meeting. They would like to become a conduit for members who have families who might be affected by Alzheimer's and are seeking someone to head that group.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: Gil Dahnke reported that the debt on the Fellowship Hall building has already been reduced by \$200,000. We have until the end of May to continue the matching debt reduction program.

TREASURER'S REPORTS: Gary Eckoff reviewed the March 2021 report. The finance committee reviewed the four-month budget last month. Copies are in the library for members to review prior to the Voters Meeting.

Dennis Esch made the following **MOTION:** *Council shall accept the Financial Secretary's and the Treasurer's Reports as presented.* Patti Paxton seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Bushnell Campus Update (Property Insurance). A contract was signed with Connie Mahon and she is occupying the property. Gary reported that he has investigated insurance policies for the property. He has received one quote, and heard from some others that do not insure commercial properties. He will continue obtaining quotes.

NEW BUSINESS: Calendar dates for 2021. Council discussed dropping July and August 2021 meetings. All were in favor of that. All were also in favor of not having a December 2021 meeting. When possible, business that needs to be conducted between the meeting dates can be accomplished via e-mails.

BOARD REPORTS:

Elders: Chuck Wilt reported that there was a lot of discussion around how long communion was taking. They are discussing going back to a more normal way of doing communion. They will report specifics after their May meeting. They also discussed the steps needed to be taken prior to Pastor Dan's retirement. The call process doesn't need to take place until September or October, but maybe the paper work could begin earlier.

Evangelism: (Copy attached.) Jerry Isler reported that they are looking for volunteers for their Veteran's Day celebration on November 11, 2021. They need many more people to come forward.

Jerry Isler moved: **MOTION:** *Council shall approve Trinity's participation in Operation Christmas Child. This program delivers gift-filled boxes (9-million last year) that contain toys, hygiene items, school supplies and a Gospel message to poor children around the world.*

The Global Missions group, under the direction of Jan Garner, will ask for volunteers during the week before Thanksgiving to fill the boxes and pay the \$9 fee for shipping. Gary Eckoff

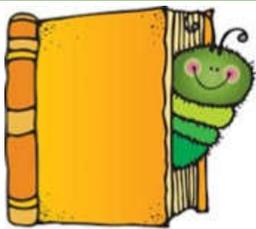
seconded. After discussion, the motion was voted on and the motion carried. President Dahnke appointed Dave Schuster to the Board of Evangelism.

Fellowship: Patti Paxton reported the plans for the all church picnic, May 23, are coming together. The Board is open to using this event in any way for publicity. Patti will be working with LWML to plan some kind of memorial/reception in honor of loved ones who passed away during the pandemic. They are looking at some time in October.

Stewardship: Dennis Esch distributed a Volunteer Center packet. This is an example of what the Board envisions going on the website.

Trustees: Jeff Bixler discussed one of their two major projects. The first is the kitchen expansion project. Chuck Lehota has a good start on that. Work will continue until all of the areas discussed have been reworked. The second is power washing. This is a very big job to attend to all of the areas that need washed. They are getting estimates to have it done by a commercial company.

Next Council meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2021. Jerry Iseler moved that the meeting be adjourned, Gary Eckoff seconded. Meeting was adjourned. Pastor Blair closed the meeting with prayer.



BOOKWORMS

Many books have been written about the Civil War and Reconstruction Era, but few have dealt with the tragedy of freed slaves attempting to find their sold family members. Once again Lisa Wingate, author of "Before I Was Yours", takes us to a place in history with which we may not be familiar. How did illiterate slaves find their spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones? This book is historical fiction, but tells the true story of a family reunion that was actually 200 years in the making thanks to "The Book of Lost Friends." Join other book enthusiasts **Wed., May 5 at 2:00 in Room 1 by the kitchen.** Don't forget your mask! For questions please contact Carol Keenan at (352) 216-8106

Head's Up:

June 2: "The Last Sin Eater" by Francine Rivers"

July 7: "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman

August 4: "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah

September 1: "The Book of Two Ways" by Jodi Picoult

October 6: "The Push" by Ashley Audrain



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

Phone: 352-307-4500

Fax: 352-307-4502

E-mail:
office@trinitysummerfield.org

Web:
www.trinitysummerfield.com

God's Blessings to...

HAPPY
Mother's
Day

Come & Worship With Us

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

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

Adult Bible Class 9:15am

New Member Class 9:15 a.m.

hope to
SEE
YOU SOON!