



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**
LCMS



Vol. 26 Issue 3

SPECIAL DATES

- **March 3,10,17,24—4:00 p.m.**
Lenten Midweek Services
- **March 6 & 7—**
LWML Mite Box Collection
- **March 10- 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**
Drive Thru Communion
- **March 14**
Daylight Savings Time begins
- **March 20**
First Day of Spring
- **March 20— 5:00 p.m.**
Casting Crowns Concert
- **March 28**
Palm Sunday

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"I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

ROADS AND CELL PHONES

I remember clearly when I first decided that I needed to get a cell phone. I was on my way to conduct a graveside memorial for one of our members. It was in Milwaukee, so I took the highway to the exit I had been told, then started driving east, looking for my next direction. I kept driving until I reached what I thought was the right road and rolled down my window to ask someone if I should, as the directions indicated, turn right. He told me "No, the cemetery you're looking for is to your left. Keep driving for several miles until you see it." I drove and drove and drove. No cemetery. Finally, frantic, I retraced my route and continued on the road where I had been told I should turn right. I found the cemetery, and the people waiting for me had been patient, but I was embarrassed and very apologetic. I knew that my secretary knew exactly where the cemetery was (this was before the days of GPS), and if I had been able to call her I wouldn't have made the mistake of driving so many miles in the wrong direction. I got a cell phone soon after.

I don't know whether the person who misdirected me did so intentionally or not. He seemed like a nice person; perhaps he just made a mistake, or maybe he was thinking of a different cemetery, or maybe he misheard me. There's a clear analogy with our spiritual lives here. There are more than a few people who are willing to give you life directions. Some would love to intentionally lead you astray, some view different things as more important than we do, and some can't really help you because they're lost themselves (that's true of most people). Besides that, the signs and mile markers are often wrong, too.

You need a phone. With a phone, you can call and speak directly to a person. With the Bible, you can hear and listen to the God whom we love. He knows exactly where everything is, and He knows exactly what happens and why, and He knows perfectly what path you should take to get to the right destination. In eternity terms, that destination is heaven, and because Jesus travelled death and hell road by himself, you don't have to go there. He alone can lead you, by faith, to the heaven that He's won for you.

I've often picture life like this: At the start of every day, Jesus sees us on the side of the road, somewhat dazed and confused. He stoops, leans over, extends His hand, and says "Let me help you up and brush you off. You've made mistakes, but don't worry, I've covered them. Now, walk with me today as we enjoy the day and keep hiking to heaven." Isn't that the way it is? Maybe we don't remember that often enough, and we end up struggling on our own, hoping to find our way by ourselves, heading off in wrong directions and trying troubles. In my observation of my own life, this doesn't happen infrequently; it happens every day in many ways, some small and some big.

But how wonderful the picture of Jesus waiting for us on the road today, and tomorrow, and forever! How wonderful that He will never get tired of walking with us, working with us, and leading us home! How wonderful that, though we are misled easily, we are blessed with this Lenten season to reflect on and confess our sinful unworthiness and watch Jesus go to the cross to wash away all the things that would lead us astray and captivate us forever.

Members of Trinity and all of our friends, every time you use your cell phone, remember our connection with God, Jesus, that is far better than 5G. Use that connection, and the journey will be far more pleasant, and the end will be heaven. By God's grace!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dan" with a stylized flourish at the end.

PRESIDENTS CORNER

A Match Promise for Trinity Summerfield

We have been blessed with the promise of a \$250,000 match program from an anonymous Trinity family to be used for debt reduction on the current facilities here in Summerfield. If our Trinity families commit to donating the \$250,000, with the Families match, it will provide us \$500,000 to be used for the debt reduction. The focus is to use the funds to pay off the loan on the Fellowship Hall, and use the balance to reduce the amount we owe on our Sanctuary. What a great opportunity we have, and also a challenge to continue doing the work of God, so we ask all our Trinity families to prayerfully consider this great Blessing we have been offered and consider participating in this match gift program as God has truly Blessed us. Please mark your donations as “Match Funds” so they are properly logged in our financial records. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

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Drive Through Communion

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

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Continuing COVID-19 CDC Guidelines

We continue to practice the CDC guidelines for in person Church services. We request that everyone attending properly wear a face mask, continue to social distance to help protect everyone during these uncertain times. The church continues to be sanitized after each service as we continue our precautionary measures.

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OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE 2021 CALENDAR YEAR

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

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

Gilbert Dahnke – President

March Prayers



SUNDAY

O Lord God Almighty I praise and magnify You, for you are a gracious and merciful God. I praise You, Lord, for you are my mighty rock and I stand firm on the foundation you have laid for me. There is no other as great as you are Father. Praise and glory be to our Lord and Savior. **Isaiah 45:5** "I am the Lord, and there is no other, apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me."

MONDAY

Lord God, heavenly Father, I am so grateful You are the Ruler of heaven and earth. The rulers of today have no power except what you have given them. It gives me peace knowing all things are in Your hands. I pray in the name of Jesus, you would raise up a voice in our nation who would stand firm for Christian values and restore us to a higher morality.

James 1:21 "Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you."

TUESDAY

Thank You, Lord, for this day. May I accomplish the task You have prepared for me to do. Grant me the energy, the joy and peace as I work, knowing all I accomplish is to Your glory. I thank you Lord, that even if I am unable to do much physically, I can always pray for others and in this way share the joy and peace which I enjoy. **Colossians 3:23** "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men."

WEDNESDAY

Lord, help me to handle your answers to my prayers. Open my eyes to see your answers, as I know they often come in a way I least expect them. I want to recognize them and give You all the glory. Let me not get discouraged when Your answers do not come as fast as I expect them. Grant me a spirit of patience, knowing without a doubt all my prayers are answered according to Your will, Your way and in Your time.

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

THURSDAY

Gracious God, our families are in Your care. Continue to bless them, as You have blessed me in Your Son. I pray for the parents of the world to treat their children in a loving way. To encourage, and not discourage with bitter words bringing pain. To comfort in a loving way, and not bring upon them more discomfort. To always encourage them to walk in the ways of the Lord, which is Your desire for all mankind. **1 Thessalonians 2:11:12** For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His kingdom and glory.

FRIDAY

Heavenly Father, help me to grow stronger each day in my faith. I know I need daily growth in faith and it is not where it should be. When hard times and heart ache come my faith begins to sway. Help me to persevere in all circumstances. I only need to remember to trust in the One who loves me. Keep me strong so I will never give up or give in to whatever I am dealing with in my life. Thank you Father, for forgiving my failures and for granting me strength to persevere.

James 1:12 "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love Him."

SATURDAY

O Lord, please bless those individuals who are unhappy this weekend due to circumstances beyond their control. Bless those who are struggling with heart ache, loneliness, and other situations which are draining them. Fill them with love and grant them a new supply of hope. Bring into their lives loved ones and grant them new friends. Supply for all their needs according to Your gracious will. May they also use this time in getting to know You better, Father.

Psalms 145:14 "The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."



LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

All Midweek Services will be at 4:00 p.m.

March 3– Midweek Service #2 “Mt. of Olives”

March 7– Third Sunday in Lent

March 10– Midweek Service #3 “Gethsemane”

March 14– Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 17– Midweek Service #4 “The Courtyard”

March 21– Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 24– Midweek Service #5 “Pilate’s Judgment Hall”

**Note: Meals will not be served this year on Wednesdays.*



Holy Week:

March 28– Palm Sunday

April 1– Maundy Thursday

April 2– Good Friday “Golgotha”

April 4– Easter “The Garden Tomb”

From the Committee on Global Missions, Board of Evangelism



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

Dr. Rick Warren writes, in *The Purpose Driven Life*, "You are going to give your life for something. What will it be -- a career, a sport, a hobby, fame, wealth? None of these will have lasting significance. Service is the pathway to real significance. It is through ministry that we discover the meaning of our lives. As we serve together in God's family, our lives take on eternal importance. God wants to use you to make a difference in His world. He wants to work through you." (Page 230)

Do you currently provide a service to the Lord through your church as a volunteer? Think about what interests you may have and where you might like to serve. Most committees have openings and would appreciate your attendance, thoughts and ideas. Be a volunteer to make a difference.

Set the Date: Trinity Lutheran Church recognizes World Day of Prayer on March 5, 2021. Worldwide Movement of Christian Women World Day of Prayer is a worldwide, ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year, and who, in many countries, have a continuing relationship in prayer and service.

- ⇒ It is initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions.
- ⇒ It is symbolized by an annual day of celebration observed on the first Friday in March to which all people are welcome.
- ⇒ It brings women of different races, cultures and traditions together in fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year.
- ⇒ Through World Day of Prayer, women affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and have immeasurable influence in the world.
- ⇒ The motto of World Day of Prayer is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action."

The Voice of the Martyrs is committed to drawing Christians in the U.S. into fellowship with persecuted Christians around the world. We are excited, therefore, to offer you this unique opportunity to hear inspiring testimonies directly from three former prisoners of faith.

On March 5 at 6:30 p.m. CST, The Voice of the Martyrs is hosting a FREE virtual event featuring Petr Jasek, Andrew Brunson and Dan Baumann. Hear how these men were persecuted and imprisoned in three different countries — Sudan, Turkey and Iran — where it is dangerous to follow Christ. Be inspired by God's faithfulness and challenged to a deeper, bolder walk with Christ. Listen to an engaging panel discussion moderated by VOM Radio host Todd Nettleton, and enjoy encouraging worship music from eight-time Grammy nominee Natalie Grant.

Join us for this special evening, and learn how you can get involved in helping persecuted Christians around the world. **Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on March 15th at 10:00 am in room 1 or the Fellowship Hall depending on allowed church activities.** We hope you are well and hope to get back to our focus on Global Missions. Please continue to pray for persecuted Christians around the world. We hope to see you at our next meeting.

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



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

Pillowcase Ministry Update for Monthly Tidings

Our year of living with the Covid Pandemic has certainly caused some negative situations. However, the pillowcase ministry has had the opposite result. It was a very wonderful revelation for me to open our closet and find so many dresses left by very humble servants who didn't even identify themselves! What a blessing you are to so many poor, needy children! From the bottom of my heart I say THANK YOU! 4 more jam packed boxes are being sent to our district's MISSION/HAITI project. They all have crosses (also made by more humble servants!) attached to them as a witness of Jesus love. We have sent well over a thousand dresses, shorts and pajamas to date.

As Tom and I are now in the process of moving back to Wisconsin, I wish to sincerely thank you for your faithful support of this needed project. The closet is full of supplies and I pray that this program continues. Any questions can be directed to Robbie Myers at (352) 245-3357 –Lori Yahr.

LWML Mite Box Collection



The next monthly Mite collection will be on Saturday, March 6th and Sunday, March 7th. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants. Two of these are as follows:

Lalisa Dukem Lutheran School - \$4,397.95

Grace Lutheran - Jacksonville, Florida has been supporting orphans with its sister congregation, Lalisa Dukem Congregation (Mechane Yesus) in Ethiopia. The next step is to provide Lutheran education for the orphans and the children of the congregation by building a school.

Luke Comfort Dog, Alpharetta, Georgia - \$10,000

Luke Comfort Dog of Christ the Shepherd, Alpharetta, Georgia, travels to bring the mercy, compassion, and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need. Grant funds will allow travel for our team. The Gospel is Touch!

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!

NO EASY ANSWERS part 3

Before I retired, one of the most frequent questions I was asked was; “Do you believe God still blesses America?” Now that is a serious question, and there are many parts to the answer. My first response was, “I believe that God still blesses those who walk close to Him, and walk according to His ordinances and statutes.” Beyond that I’m not so sure. Then I was asked the second question, “what about this country?” My response was always the same, “If you were God, would you bless this country?” Almost to a T, every individual walked away to think how to answer that question. I was left there standing alone. Please let me explain.

How does the last paragraph have anything to do with God blessing America? In the second chapter of John, we read that Jesus made a whip. In order to fully understand the story you must understand that Jesus gathered the reeds and braided the whip for the sole purpose of clearing the temple. There are those who say that Jesus never got angry. What He had was righteous indignation. For me, to deny the emotions of the man is to deny His humanity. If He was fully human and fully divine, he had emotions. As my son used to say, “He was fired up.” I also believe that you could hear the emotion in His voice and see it in His eyes. They had defiled the house of God, or put another way, they defiled the temple of God.

Moving on to the eighth chapter of John, we find that a group of men are bringing a woman who was caught in the very act of adultery to Jesus. It is not the main desire of the men to have the woman stoned, but to use her to disqualify Jesus with His followers. What they have succeeded in doing is to make Jesus extremely angry. Why did Jesus get so angry? The answer is so simple. If He got angry over the abuse of the House of God, how do you think He feels when a Child of God was about to be abused. Better yet, we as His children are His temple. If He got hostile over a physical temple, how do you think He felt over the possible destruction of a spiritual temple, the woman?

I am a Right to Life individual, plain and simple. I have dealt with women who went to Planned Parenthood for counseling and were told the physical implications of an abortion, but not the psychological after effects. One statement I heard over and over was, “no one ever told me about the mental pain I would suffer.” The only help I could offer was to let them talk through their pain and anger. Sometimes it helped, and at other times there was no relief. On the spiritual, I would tell them that there was nothing they could do to make God stop loving them. The hardest part would be to go to Him and confess and ask for forgiveness. I could guarantee that the forgiveness would be forth coming. However; once God has forgiven you, the hardest part will be to forgive yourself. Remember that God told the first couple to choose life. I believe God has not changed His mind. We are to choose life.

That is just one example of how the American society has rejected the Word of God in order for it to live as it wants. Another is that more pornographic material is produced in this country than any other in the world. I doubt seriously if God thinks it is an alternative art form as was decided by the Supreme Court. In addition, I believe that God intended, when possible, for the family unit to be a functional cohesive unit where the nurture and care of each member is maintained; not government.

Now consider 2020 and Covid-19. What happened to our freedom to congregate as a family of faith and worship our creator? What does it mean when keeping liquor stores open becomes more important than allowing churches to minister to the faithful, or allowing individuals to come and pray. I will not talk about the hatred that exists. What happened to love your neighbor and do unto others? God bless America? I prefer to spend my time praying for God to have mercy of America. He knows how much we need it. What is your prayer for America, and is it something we really need? I hope so.

-Doug Mussey: Board of Christian Education

CASTING CROWNS VIRTUAL CONCERT



Saturday, MARCH 20 5:00 p.m.

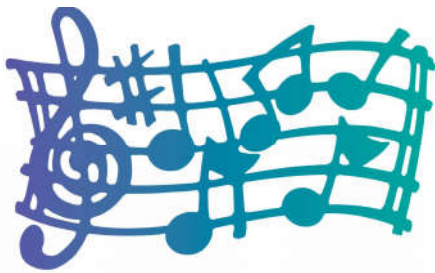
Thrivent Concert Series

Join us for an uplifting virtual concert in our Sanctuary on the screens with the award-winning Christian band, Casting Crowns. Sing along with their greatest hits and let your heart go on a journey of faith. Enjoy an exclusive interview with lead singer, Mark Hall, as he shares what's new in his life and the importance of having a godly financial plan. Don't miss this virtual music concert and interview full of encouragement and hope! We will present this on Saturday, March 20 after services at 5:00 p.m. Bring a friend!



About Casting Crowns:

Casting Crowns is a Grammy Award and Dove Award winning Contemporary Christian/Christian Rock band. Casting Crowns was started in 1999 by youth pastor Mark Hall at First Baptist Church in Downtown Daytona Beach, Florida as part of a youth group. He now serves as a lead vocalist. Later they moved to Stockbridge, Georgia and more members joined creating the band now known as Casting Crowns.



MUSIC NOTES

Greetings from Rocket –to Trinity Music Lovers:

While the Elders put all choral/instrumental music on hold temporarily, they DID agree to a small musical ensemble for Palm & Easter Sundays.

Our choirs and musicians are sorely missed! We have a Love fest, a weekly party whenever we get together. It's been a rough year for our music ministry, and we all miss one another, and making music together for the glory of God, and sharing our weekly rehearsals. But I expect, by fall, to have all our groups back together singing and playing the Lord's praises. I live in hope.

To keep you informed, here's what I have put together for Palm/Easter Sundays. If I can't have option #1 – ALL OF OUR MUSIC CHOIRS FROM TRINITY – I go to option #2.



Trinity will have the THE FINEST PLAYERS AND SINGERS AND RINGERS IN FLORIDA on PALM/ EASTER SUNDAYS. And, you will not be accusing me of 'Liar, liar, pants on fire!' after you hear them.

They are busy preparing now. The choral quartet I am naming '*Abiding Love Ensemble.*' Cass and her husband, Torlef, sang at Trinity on Christmas Eve. For any of you who heard them, I know your hearts were stirred. They have 2 young children, live in Deland, and recently finished their performance of 'Hansel and Gretel,' in Orlando. Zoe Rosado, our alto, has a deep rich voice. She is studying voice in college. Zoe was to sing with us last Easter before COVID arrived. Mani Cadet, our tenor, just finished up a solo performance with the Orlando Symphony orchestra.

The four of them make a gorgeous sound, and are enthusiastically looking forward to leading our worship on PALM/EASTER SUNDAYS.

Dave Czohara will return on trumpet for Palm Sunday. He was with us on Christmas Eve, and has played at Trinity for many years as a soloist. On EASTER Sunday, Lew Buckley will join Dave. He is a retired musician with the US Military Band, and just moved to The Villages. He is playing "The Trumpet Shall Sound" on the high 'C' trumpet, as well as a fanfare preceding our opening hymn. Lew and Dave will play a wonderful arrangement of 'O Sons and Daughters' as well as Easter hymns.

Frank Kelly returns as timpanist. You all know what a thrill it is to have our timpani played!

And, happily, our **BELLS** are allowed to ring on Easter. We begin rehearsals this Wednesday. So far, we have 8 ringers – which is enough for us to really add a lot of beauty to our worship on Easter.

MUSIC NOTES CONTINUED



I INVITE YOU TO COME EARLY – we will have a 15-minute prelude on both PALM & EASTER SUNDAYS.

The music will be stirring and reverent and fill you with spiritual blessings.

Bring your friends and relatives. We will have the finest sacred music of any church in Florida on these two Sundays.

AND, hopefully by next fall – we should be back to our regular outstanding choirs and musicians. I hope you will give one of our choirs a ‘try.’ As the Uncle Sam poster says, ‘WE NEED YOU!!!!’

Lastly, I send you my grateful heart for your many prayers for my recovery from COVID and pneumonia. I was miserable, but every time a card or call, or knowing you were lifting me to the Lord in prayer – and that you cared about me – I felt better. Thank you.

Rocket is now all fired up again, and ready for musical blast-offs each weekend.





MEMORIALS

Gifts were given to Live Streaming in memory of *Art Loesel*

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of *Art Loesel*

A gift was given to Building Debt Reduction in memory of *Ralph Fagge*

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

Art Loesel

Harriet Scharr

Lisa Biesaga (Daughter of Dave and Jan MacTrinder)

Daniel Housholder (Son of Jerry and Annie Housholder)

ABLE & WILLING WORKERS NEEDED



There are many projects that need to be completed on Trinity's north campus. If you are physically able to help with outside cleaning, changing of light bulbs, fixing of fencing and washing exterior windows, etc. we would appreciate you joining us!

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday Workdays on March 10 & 24 from 9:00 a.m.-Noon**. Any questions please call Jeff Bixler at 352-347-6534.



Don't Forget! Don't Forget!

Spring Ahead one hour on Saturday, March 13 before you go to sleep.

Daylight Savings Time begins March 14

SCRAPPY QUILTERS

In the month of February our primary focus has been to make 23 quilts for the men's substance abuse rehabilitation facility on the campus of the Christian Care Center in Leesburg. I am happy to say that at our meeting on February 13th we assembled the last 6 quilts. By the time this article goes to print I have no doubt all 23 will be ready for delivery. Sometime in March we plan to take a field trip to the Christian Care to deliver them and take a tour .

Here is a list of the items distributed in February:

- ◇ GG's house received: 9 teddy bears, 1 crocheted blanket, and 231 soapy washcloths
- ◇ Dr. Col. Carl Carlan blessed an Army Veteran with a quilt sewn by Pam Bixler
- ◇ One memorial quilt was given to bring comfort to surviving loved ones.

We had many blessings in February. Blessing number one was that after couple of weeks of being unable to meet because of covid we could meet once again. Blessing number two is our new member Marilyn De Tizio . We learned that in her former church she was a member of a choir that performed in senior care facilities. This choir blessed the residents not only with their voices but they sewed fidget quilts to give out when they visited memory care units. She has 17 of them ready to distribute when Senior care centers once again are open to visitors. At our first meeting she mentioned her friend Jan who was also a part of that group. I told her I hoped she would continue to come and bring her friend! The next meeting Jan was there and was very helpful! Blessing number three is the bountiful donations that came in that help to keep our ministry going.

Below is a list of items we can use. If you have any you would like to contribute you can drop them off at the church office or in room 4 in the back of the sanctuary in the Scrappy Quilters bin.

- ⇒ **Soap (full or hotel sized bars)**
- ⇒ **Washcloths (the lighter weight inexpensive ones are best)**
- ⇒ **Fabric (all weights)**
- ⇒ **Sheets (any size, flat or fitted)**
- ⇒ **Tablecloths(used for quilt backs)**

Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow!!!! In March we are looking forward to sewing quilts for the ladies substance abuse rehabilitation facility on the campus of the Leesburg Christian Care Center. We would love to have you join us.! **We meet in Room 1 on Fridays from noon until 3.** We wear masks and practice social distancing and sanitize. We also bring a beverage and if you need a snack or packed lunch. You do not need to be a talented quilter to participate. There are many tasks that require no sewing skill whatsoever!



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

FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

Trinity's Stewardship Board has been watching the progress of the "Matching Debt" for closure of the remaining loan on our fellowship hall and would like to offer our thanks and gratitude to all of you that have been early supporters to this program. It's still early, steady progress has been made to meet this generous gift match of \$250k from our congregation. IT IS DOABLE!

Reviewing some tax planning options for members to consider, there are several items that the board of stewardship found particularly interesting.

1. The Cares Act has been extended into 2021. There is a provision offered that the tax deduction for charitable giving will be doubled for a household filing jointly of \$300 each for a total of \$600 per joint return. This is a above the line deduction, so this is offered with the preservation of the full standard deduction intact and not having to itemize which is a very standard practice by most taxpayers and church membership.
2. Again for 2021, If itemizing, the option to deduct 100% of a cash gift to a charity against income, vs the normal 60% of income has been extended. Again, a very generous gift deduction for larger gifts that extend beyond using the standard deduction. This gift deduction amount can be used against deferred gain which is likely what our debt benefactor is using as a prudent use of the tax code. Note: it is a great option to reduce built-up tax exposure in deferred accounts thereby converting an IRA to a Roth IRA, or to remove built up gain from non-qualified deferred annuities.
3. An option to consider is gifting up to \$100k if 70 and older as a direct gift of one's IRA to your favorite charity so that it completely bypasses reporting this as an income source. No deduction, but no income to report. This removes taxes from future RMD's or from passing along IRA monies to family only to have them pay a tax at sometimes a much higher rate in the future.

These options offered here are not to be relied upon as being the complete source for information. You will want to look them up yourself to ensure that they can be useful for your own planning needs. Consult a tax planner should you need assistance.

Please keep in mind that our blessings are many within our congregation. We hope that you will be a "cheerful giver" of that what God bestows upon you and your responsibility of being a good steward.

Blessings.....



AMAZON SMILE

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

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



EASTER LILLIES FOR SALE-

Easter Lillies for the Altar during Easter are on sale March 8 to March 24. Because of the virus we will not be able to sell as we usually do instead a form is listed below or on our website.

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EASTER LILLIES on Sale March 8 to March 24, 2021 ----- Price is \$8.00
(For the Altar during Lent & Easter 2021)

NAME: _____

HOW MANY: _____ **PAID:** _____

IN MEMORY OF:

Or

IN HONOR OF:

For any questions, please call Dorothy Frenz at 352-748-0283

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Fill it out and place it in the collection plate, or send it to office@trinitysummerfield.org, or mail to the church (17330 S US Hwy 441 Summerfield FL 34491), and you can also call Dorothy Frenz at 352-748-0253 for help filling out the form.

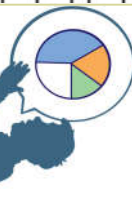
The price will be \$8.00 and you may make the check out to Trinity and in the memo line mark it for Easter Lillies and place in collection plate or bring to the office. Thank You for your help with this.

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

December, 2020

GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE				
INCOME							
Envelope Giving	\$52,997.	(\$14,407.)	(21.4%)	\$751,825.	(\$45,974.)	(5.8%)	
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$31,032.	\$10,866.	53.9%	\$261,205.	\$17,705.	7.3%	
Envelopes – Total	\$84,029.	(\$3,542.)	(4.0%)	\$1,013,031.	(\$28,269.)	(2.7%)	
Special Services	\$15,450.	(\$821.)	(5.1%)	\$27,394.	(\$21,606.)	(44.1%)	
Plate Offering	\$6,336.	(\$3,567.)	(36.0%)	\$51,719.	(\$44,281.)	(46.1%)	
Interest	\$454.	\$237.	109.0%	\$2,652.	\$152.	6.1%	
Memorial gifts	\$1,000.	\$1,000.		\$1,936.	\$1,936.		
Gifts & bequests				\$25.	\$25.		
Other Misc. Income							
TOTAL INCOME	\$107,269.	(\$6,693.)	(5.9%)	\$1,096,757.	(\$92,043.)	(7.7%)	
		(\$23,837.)	(18.2%)		(\$32,498.)	(2.9%)	
EXPENSES							
Board expenses	\$160,020.	(\$73,570.)	(85.1%)	\$879,650.	Under Budget	\$61,724.	6.6%
Mortgage interest	\$1,000.	\$7,225.	87.8%	\$92,922.	Under Budget	\$9,385.	9.2%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$161,020.	(\$66,345.)	(70.1%)	\$972,572.	Under Budget	\$71,109.	6.8%
		(\$64,072.)	(64.7%)		Under last year	\$7,630.	0.8%
CASH FLOW ITEMS							
Mortgage Principal	\$13,266.	(\$36.)	(0.3%)	\$169,575.	Over Budget	(\$14,455.)	(9.3%)
Capital Expenditures	\$0.	\$4,836.	100.0%	\$156,324.	Over Budget	(\$140,164.)	
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$13,266.	\$4,800.	26.6%	\$325,899.	Over Budget	(\$154,619.)	(90.3%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$174,286.	(\$61,545.)	(54.6%)	\$1,298,471.	Over Budget	(\$83,510.)	(6.9%)
Net Income vs. Expense	(\$67,017.)			(\$201,714.)			
Memo: Payroll Protection Program (PPP)				Funds Received	\$130,000.		
				Funds Disbursed	\$130,000.	Loan Forgiven (January, 2021)	
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS							
Receipts	\$83,418.			\$172,306.			
Disbursements	(\$34,352.)			(\$109,868.)			
				CAPITAL RESERVE w/ EDWARD JONES			
CASH ON HAND	\$262,298.	Up this month	\$48,027.	\$60,000.	CD's		
		Up since Jan 1	\$71,421.	\$14,886.	Money Market Acct		
CD's w/LCEF				\$33,000.			
MORTGAGE DEBT							
Loan #1 (Fellowship Hall) w/Trivent	\$469,411.	Down this year	\$80,018.				
Loan #2 (Sanctuary) w/Trivent	\$1,709,000.	Down this year	\$48,375.				
Loan #3 (Bushnell Campus) w/LCEF	\$297,963.	Down this year	\$2,037.		\$46,335.	ENDOWMENT	
Loan #4 (Bushnell Campus) w/FL-SA Dig	\$149,360.	Down this year	\$640.				





Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Notes
February 16, 2021

BUSINESS MANAGER: Jill Esposito has been contacted by Narcotics Anonymous. They would like to have an additional meeting at the church. Chuck Wilt made the following **MOTION: Council shall allow the Narcotics Anonymous group currently meeting to hold an additional meeting on Monday nights at 7:30 PM in Room 1.** Jerry Iseler seconded. Motion carried. Betty Jo Bock is retiring and her Veterans Support Group would like to have a pot luck dinner for her on May 4, 2021 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. There may be up to 60 people. **MOTION: Council shall approve a pot luck dinner for the Veterans Support Group in May. They have agreed to follow safety guidelines that have been established by the Church and the CDC. This dinner shall not exceed 100 guests. If COVID circumstances change, Council may require this dinner to be canceled.** Gary Eckoff seconded. Motion carried. Jill has also received a request for a TOPS (support) group to meet here. They would like to meet every Thursday at 9:00 AM. They have 30 members, but average 15 per meeting. They will also require storage of scales, tubs/bins, and signage. Due to concerns regarding conflicts with our groups, COVID and the request for storage, Council directed Jill to decline to allow them to meet here.

Jill introduced Lou Rebeck to briefly outline his role in reviewing the TLC Personnel Manual. Copies of the Original wording and the Proposed Changes were previously provided to Council and are attached. Gary Horton moved: **MOTION: Council shall accept the proposed changes to the Personnel Manual, as stated in the 2/16/2021 copy attached.** Chuck Wilt seconded. After much discussion centered mostly on the vacation pay-out policy, the motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORTS:

Because of the pandemic situation, 2021's initial budget consisted of January-April. At this time, Gary requested that budget numbers for the next four months, May-August, 2021, be completed by March 15th. The new proposed budget will be e-mailed to Council by April 1st. Council will have to approve it by April 7th. The proposed budget will go to the Congregation for approval at a meeting on April 25th.

Jill filed for tax exemption for the Bushnell property. Several meetings have been held regarding what to do with it. At this time, it has been decided that we should not pursue renting the property.

Jim Moore made a presentation on Deaconess Sandra Rhein (see information attached.) Ms. Rhein translates Lutheran hymnals, music, and liturgies into a variety of languages. She is currently serving in Asia. Jim is asking permission to show a video at all three services which will describe her mission. Jeff Bixler moved: **MOTION: Council shall approve showing the video from Sandra Rhein at all three services, at a date to be determined in conjunction with the Global Missions Committee, and make available to the Congregation various forms for donations.** Gary Eckoff seconded. Motion carried. Gil Dahnke suggested that we make a contribution from the Missions Budget. The Board of Evangelism will consider and bring back to Council.

BOARD REPORTS:



Elders: Chuck Wilt reported that they met in January and February and have organized as follows: Chuck will continue as Chair, Bryce Buuck as Secretary, Ron Lilley as Scheduler, Jim Keenan as Usher Relations, Bob Anderson as Traffic Control, and Jim Moore as New Member Orientation. The Lenten Schedule was approved.

Evangelism: (copy attached) Jerry Isler reported that they met In November and December 2020. They discussed having a 4th of July Celebration at the church, but will have to wait to see what COVID restrictions will be in place this summer.

Fellowship: (copy attached) Patti Paxton reported that they would like to have a church picnic on Monday, May 31 – Memorial Day. This event would be held outdoors, with only simple food being served. Details will be discussed at future meetings.

Trustees: (copy attached) Jeff Bixler has been named Chair of the Trustees, with Toney Kendrick serving as Co-Chair. Jeff discussed the formation of a “DIY” day every Wednesday at 9:00 AM to address issues that the Trustees can handle within the group. However, we may have to hire a handyman to assist the Trustees with small tasks that cannot be done by current volunteers. All of the chandelier bulbs in the Fellowship Hall have been replaced with LED bulbs, using the lift that was already at the church.

Gary Eckoff reported that there is some miscellaneous income from several Boards (i.e., funds from Fellowship free will offerings). This has been put against certain expenses for those Boards. Going forward, Gary would like to put those funds not being used toward debt retirement. Gary moved: **MOTION: Council shall allow the Treasurer to use certain miscellaneous income generated from several boards to be handled as debt retirement.** Patti Paxton seconded. Discussion was held. Five voted in favor, three against. Motion carried.



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 **APRIL 2021** Newsletter is **** Monday, March 15th ****

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



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



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

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PERMIT NO 58

Phone: 352-307-4500

Fax: 352-307-4502

E-mail:
office@trinitysummerfield.org

Web: www.trinitysummerfield.com



Come & Worship With Us

North Campus

Saturdays at 4:00 p.m.

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

