



**Trinity  
Lutheran  
Church**  
LCMS



**December 1, 8, 15**  
**Midweek Advent Services**  
**4:00 PM**  
**with Advent Suppers**  
**5:00 PM**

**December 4**  
**Virtual Amy Grant**  
**Christmas Concert**  
**5:00 PM**

**December 6**  
**Men's Club at 8:00 AM**

**December 7**  
**LWML Red Boot Tea**  
**1:30 PM**

**December 12**  
**Voter's Meeting**  
**9:15 AM**

**December 24**  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
**4:00 & 7:00 PM**

**December 25**  
**Christmas Day Service**  
**10:30 AM**  
**(No Sat 4 PM Service)**

**December 27 & 31**  
**Office Closed**



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.’ And the angel departed from her.” (Luke 1:38)

I continually stand amazed every Christmas season at the degree of competition I witness among businesses and retailers as to who will be the first to introduce their products the earliest in the season and cross that Christmas line. For many it is around the time of Halloween, but as you walk through the stores you can instantly see where the Christmas inventory will be displayed. This year I was struck by a local radio station that began playing Christmas songs a few weeks before Thanksgiving or my neighbors who began decorating the outside of their homes about the same time. I have also noticed people are putting up their Christmas trees earlier as well. Not sure if it's friendly competition, or if there's something more people are wanting to do with Christmas.

What are you wanting to do with Christmas? You could do like many, I guess, and market it on social media and make some money. Use it as an excuse to schedule a party and invite your friends and family. Try out a new recipe to challenge your culinary skills. There are all sorts of things you can do with Christmas. But maybe the idea of doing something with Christmas is what keeps us from understanding the real meaning of it. After all, Christmas isn't something you do. Christmas is something that's done to you, for you, and in you.

If you doubt it, just ask Mary when the angel Gabriel came to her and announced she would be the mother of the Messiah. Did you notice how she responded to that news? She said in Luke 1:38, “Let it be to me according to your word!” Notice she didn't do anything with Christmas. Christmas was given to her. God showed her His favor. God gave her a baby. God dwelled within her and became her child. The mystery is not what she did, but what she received as a gift from God for the world in this Christ-Child.

That's faith. Faith is all about receiving, it's not about doing. It's being done to you, for you, and in you. It doesn't give, it gets. That's the secret to Christmas. It's all about faith. It's all about Jesus. Yet, we're so busy we don't have time to get it all done. We have no time to receive. Christmas becomes our work instead of God's. But the whole point of Christmas is God's doing and that's confirmed in Matthew 1:23 that states, “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel – which means, “God with us!” And the good news for us is that He's still Immanuel, and God is still everywhere with us today!

Where does our faith receive what He has to give? It comes to us wherever His Word is proclaimed and His sacraments are offered. It is here in His church where we receive grace upon grace, gift after gift, and it's this Child of Christmas that desires to come where we are and to make His home with us in our hearts and lives. He makes Christmas come alive within us as He takes away our sins and fills us with His Holy Spirit and we live our lives for Him.

I pray you will find this Christmas Season to be one of great blessing and that you will be able to join with us in celebrating the birth of our Savior. In this season of preparation, we will host our **Midweek Advent Services on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM followed with an Advent Meal at 5:00 PM, on December 1, 8, and 15th.**

**Make plans now to worship with us on Christmas Eve with our Candlelight Service and Holy Communion at 4:00 & 7:00 PM, and Christmas Day at 10:30 AM.** Please take note of the variety of different service times and dates as noted here in the Tidings and posted in our worship services from Christmas throughout New Years.

And from our house to yours, Kimberley and I would like to wish you and your family a “Blessed and Joyous Christmas and New Year!”

Your Servant in Christ,

*Pastor Blain*



# 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)

# VOTERS MEETING

## CONGREGATION VOTER'S MEETING

The December meeting of the Trinity Voters Assembly will be held on **Sunday, December 12, 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 church budget for 2022. All members of the congregation are invited to attend. The budget and agenda for the meeting are available in the Library.

## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### SUNDAYS IN ADVENT

SATURDAYS, DECEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00 PM COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>, 12<sup>TH</sup>, 19<sup>TH</sup>  
8:00 & 10:30 AM COMMUNION SERVICE

### MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> & 15<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00 PM ADVENT WORSHIP SERVICE  
5:00 PM ADVENT SUPPER

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>  
4:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE  
7:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE

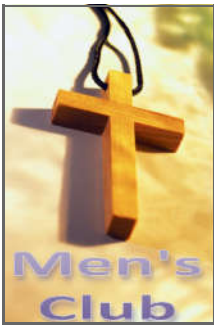
CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE- DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>  
10:30 AM CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION SERVICE

(No 4:00 PM SERVICE)

SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS- DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup>  
ONLY 10:30 AM SERVICE (No BIBLE CLASS)

NEW YEARS DAY-SATURDAY, JANUARY 1  
NO SERVICE





## **MEN'S CLUB**

We Need YOU! The Men's Club welcomed back five more members last month to bring our total to 25. **On Monday, December 6, we will be planning our service projects for the 2022 year.** First, we will enjoy a hearty breakfast at 8:00 am prepared by the Kitchen Club and a devotion to prepare us physically and spiritually for valued planning. Won't you please join us?



## **VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH AMY GRANT**

**Sponsored by The Men's Club & Thrivent**

**Saturday, December 4 at 5:00 PM**

**At 5:00 pm after the Saturday service on Saturday, Dec. 4,** everyone, congregation and guests, are invited to enjoy Amy Grant's Christmas Special on the screens in the Sanctuary. There is no charge and you do not need to pre-register. You may remember that Grant is a popular Christian music singer. She is probably best known for her popular "Breathe of Heaven" Christmas hymn. This will be a great way to kick off the Christmas season.



## **BOOKWORMS EXPLORE "PASSING"**

"The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett will be the next book for discussion with the Trinity Bookworms. Please join us **Wed., Jan 5, at 1:00 in Classroom One** for a look at a practice that is as old as the days after the Civil War of light-skinned Blacks attempting to "pass" for whites. Our book is about a set of Black twins, one light and one black, who go their separate ways in an attempt to find a better life for themselves. They are reunited when the daughters of each miraculously find each other and insist on ancestry answers. Even if you don't have time to read the book, please join us for what is always a lively discussion!

### **Head's Up for 2022: (subject to change)**

**Jan: "The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett**

**Feb: "Have You Seen Luis Velez" by Catherin Ryan Hyde**

**March: "The Elephants of Belfast": by S. Kirk Wash**

**April: "The Fourth Child" by Jessica Winter**

**May: "The Lager Queen of Minnesota" by J. Ryan Stradal**

**June: "The Girl Who Came Home" by Hazel Gaynor**

**July: "The Moonlight Child" by Karen McQuestion**

**August: "The Boys: A Memoir of Hollywood and Family by Ron and Clint Howard**

**Sept: "House of Salt and Sorrow"**

**Oct-Dec: TBA**

## SECRET PRAYER PALS REVEALED!

What a wonderful gathering of Trinity women for the 2021 Secret Prayer Pal reveal luncheon at Francesco's. Twenty-three women joined in celebration at learning who had been praying for her this past year! Pictures say a thousand words: Here are a few from our gathering.



**If you have not already submitted your participation form for 2022, please do so today!**

**We will be reviewing participants and assigning Secret Prayer Pals the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December for a January 2022 start.**





## 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.*



### RED BOOT TEA

A most blessed Christmas and Happy & Healthy New Year to all of the women of our congregation and their families. December is such a memorable time for so many of us, and we hope that 2021 will bring you more memories that you will treasure for years to come.

**We look forward to seeing many of you at our Red Boot Tea on Tuesday, Dec. 7th at 1:30 p.m.** Tickets will still be available at the door at the event. We will have the opportunity to enjoy some festive Christmas music and a presentation by Adoration in Motion, as well as share in our light refreshments and Nativity Scene display. The recipient of our Red Boot collection will be Esther House in Fruitland Park.

Programs have been planned for 2022, beginning with our January 25th meeting. Details will be in the weekly bulletins and the next issue of The Tidings.



### LWML Mite Box Collection



The next monthly Mite collection will be on **Saturday, December 4th and Sunday, December 5th.** Your contributions are very important in supporting many various projects/grants. Three of these are as follows:

- ⇒ Sharing Jesus' Love in India - Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000
- ⇒ Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus -- Belize Mission Society, \$100,000
- ⇒ Reaching the Homebound with God's Word - Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew), \$100,000

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!**



# 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.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE



Thank You. Thank You, Thank You for the wonderful response in completing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our congregation completed over 265 boxes. The Global Missions committee appreciates your help in spreading the Gospel around the world, especially to hard to reach areas where children may learn of Jesus Christ for the first time. How exciting that will be for them.

National Collection Week is November 15-22. We will be delivering Trinity's boxes to a church in Bellevue. This will begin the first leg of their long journey. The next stop will be in Atlanta, the processing center. If you registered the online number of your boxes, you will be able to check their destination after Christmas or in January. We hope you will continue to pray for this rewarding ministry and the many lives touched with Christ's love and hope.

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: "They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever." -2 Corinthians 9:8-9

- See the Pictures on Page 10!

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### GLOBAL MISSIONS MEETING for January



Check out our updated website with new features and more information on the mission work here at Trinity Lutheran. Go to [trinitysummerfield.com](http://trinitysummerfield.com) and select Missions at the top of the homepage. Read about the dedicated service of our members and the good work happening locally and around the world.

We would like to thank the members of our congregation for contributing to all of our ministries in 2021. We look forward to your contributions in 2022 for helping people less fortunate than ourselves.

**Our next meeting will be on January 18, 2022 in Room 1 at 10:00 am.** All are encouraged and invited to attend. For more information, call or text, (352) 598-2048 or email [janandchloe@embarqmail.com](mailto:janandchloe@embarqmail.com).

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”- Matthew 28:19



# From Voice of the Martyrs—INDIA

## OVERVIEW:

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Hindu nationalist organization Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) has seen a 20 percent increase in membership. Its emboldened base seeks to forcibly unite India under Hinduism despite the country's great diversity of languages, cultures and religions. Although Prime Minister Modi has publicly said his government will not tolerate religious discrimination, his actions have proved otherwise. Vague policies such as laws forbidding the conversion of Hindus have passed in several Indian states, and the push for a similar federal law has gained support. These state anti-conversion laws have long been used against pastors, church planters and evangelists. Conversely, reconversion ceremonies known as Ghar Wapsi, or "homecoming," which return Indians to Hinduism (sometimes by force), have become increasingly common. Despite greater government restrictions on Christianity, churches are growing.

## MAJOR RELIGIONS:

About 80 percent of Indians are Hindus. India is also the birthplace of Buddhism, and more than 10 percent of India's people are Muslims. The Indian government does not release accurate statistics about its Christian population, so exact figures are not available. There are an estimated 30–70 million Christians in India, but this is no more than a 5 percent minority group within India's staggering population of nearly 1.4 billion.

## PERSECUTOR:

The main persecutors are well-organized Hindu extremist groups, local governments and nationalist Hindus who seek to "purify" India by making it entirely Hindu. They seek to appease Hindu deities by eliminating Christians, and they view Christian converts as traitors to the Hindu homeland.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST IN INDIA:

Hindu-nationalist informants live in nearly every village and report on the activities of Christians, resulting in attacks and arrests. When Christians are attacked, they often drop charges against their attackers to show forgiveness as a witness for Christ. Churches have been demolished and burned, worship gatherings have been disrupted, crosses in graveyards have been vandalized, and Bibles and other Christian literature have been confiscated and burned. Many pastors have been beaten and jailed, and several are martyred each year. Christians are often arrested and held for up to three weeks after being falsely accused of forcing Hindus to convert to Christianity. With legal assistance, they are normally able to post bail or show that the charges are unfounded.

## ACCESS TO BIBLES:

Even though India has one of the largest Bible societies in the world, many rural Christians have never had access to a Bible. Bibles remain unaffordable for those who suffer severe poverty resulting from oppression in Hindu- and Muslim-controlled areas. In addition, the remoteness of some areas and widespread illiteracy continue to pose challenges for Bible distribution.

## VOM WORK:

VOM responds to persecution incidents and supports persecuted pastors and their families as well as front-line workers. We provide Bibles and other practical help to Christians living in India's most hostile areas.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

*Pray for church planters and pastors taking the gospel to unreached people groups.*

*Pray that God will soften the hearts of government leaders and they will come to know Christ.*

*Pray for new converts who are experiencing persecution.*

*Pray that God will change the hearts of persecutors and that they will turn to Christ.*

*Pray for the encouragement of Christians experiencing prolonged persecution.*

*Pray for the many widows whose husbands were martyred for Christ.*

*Pray that believers in India will have access to Bibles and grow in faith.*

# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU** for the 278 Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes that are now on their journey to spread God's love and good news. What a wonderful way to hear about the birth of Jesus and how much God's loves us. The Global Missions committee hopes you have a beautiful holiday season filled with the wonders of God's love.—Jan Garner

## FROM THE BOARD OF STEWARDSHIP

It's the season of gift giving. I know that you're going to think that its another "Money" talk, but here is the surprise, you and I are the ones getting a gift! Yes, the baby Jesus is born! How's that for a gift?

God's way of being charitable to each of us. Simple, yet not one of us can top it. So, what's there to do if we can't top God's gift? Plenty! And this board of stewardship would just like to share a big "Thanks" to all of you for the work that each one of you does here at Trinity. It's the time and talent side of this boards purpose, but really its "You" that makes it work with your gifts of time and talent.

So, to help all members of Trinity meet our manpower needs here, we have been updating our web site under the heading of "Service and Small Groups" to include descriptions and contacts. I must confess it's a bit of a work in progress at this time, but it's being built to help better understand what's involved in a particular role that you may consider serving in.

For new members and existing members, it's a way to connect with one's skill, interest and love of Trinity and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May your Christmas be merry and bright and remember to be thankful for all things. Again, our board says "THANK YOU" to each of you.

Merry Christmas

# **THE RESCUE TOUR**

## **Dave Anderson & Roger Walck**



## **PLANE CRASH SURVIVOR TO APPEAR IN CONCERT**

**Sunday, January 16 6:00 PM**

**On Sunday, January 16 at 6:00 pm plane crash survivor, Dave Anderson, joined by his colleague Roger Walck, will appear in concert at Trinity Lutheran with a Reception at 5:00 pm.**

In August, 1993, Dave Anderson, his wife Barbara, and five others were returning from a mission in the Russian Far East when their chartered twin-engine plane crashed into the Bering Sea, 144 miles south of the Arctic Circle and 22 1/2 miles west of Nome, Alaska.

This group of missionaries spent nearly an hour in 36-degree water without life jackets or rafts. Life-expectancy in 36-degree water is between five and thirteen minutes. They were spotted after they had been in the water for twenty minutes and twenty minutes after that, two commercial helicopters came to carry out what has been described as one of the most dramatic air/sea rescues in history...anywhere in the world.

As part of the evening concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, Dave will retell parts of The Rescue Story which has been seen and heard by millions of people around the world in person, on TV and radio and in many languages. The Rescue Story book and DVD will be available at the concert.

August 11-13, 2018 this music team, along with several others who survived this amazing rescue, will be in Nome, Alaska to celebrate the 25th anniversary of The Rescue.

The public is invited to enjoy the concert and to hear Dave tell this incredible story.





***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS***  
***November 7, 2021***



**Tom & Kathie Adams**



**Bill Schwieger**



**Wayne & Carol Greenwell**



**Dwight & Debbie Stokes**



**Steven Glenn & Shelly Leiner**



**Steve & Regina Kalbach**



**Butch & Vickie Verbeck**

**Trinity Welcomes 13 New Members!**



Not Pictured: Carol Greenwell, Steven Glenn & Shelly Leiner, and Butch & Vickie Verbeck.



## ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES– Wait Upon the Lord

The season of Advent is characterized by waiting—waiting upon the Lord for his presence to be revealed to us on Christmas. In this worship series for Advent, we look back in Scripture at those who waited upon the Lord for his promises to come to pass through the Christ Child. We also look forward, contemplating how we should wait upon the Lord in this present moment of our lives, as God continues to make himself known to us.

Please join us on **Wednesdays, December 8th, and 15th at 4:00 p.m.** as we gather to worship and deepen our appreciation of the greatest Gift ever given, a Savior from sin. It promises to be a meaningful preparation for Christians. Each Service will be followed by an Advent Supper in the Fellowship Hall. Join us to prepare yourself for a spiritual celebration of what Christmas really means!

**Wed. Dec. 8 at 4 PM** -Week 2 • Wait Upon the Lord with Hope (Psalm 130:5): The prophet Isaiah declared the coming of the Lord, which gave the people of Israel hope for the future. We wait with hope for the future because we know what the future holds—a Savior.

**Wed. Dec. 15 at 4 PM**-Week 3 • Wait Upon the Lord with Rejoicing (Isaiah 25:9): Elizabeth rejoiced as she waited for the coming of her son, John the Baptist. And Mary rejoiced as she waited for the birth of her son, Jesus. In the same manner we rejoice as we wait for the coming of the Son of God.



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:

**Dec. 8th is Beef Stew, Biscuits, and Salad.**

**December 15 it is Gary's Chicken, veggies, Salad and rolls.**

**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.

## **No Easy Answers: Part 12**

**Twas' 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38  
when 20 beautiful children stormed through heaven's gate.  
their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.  
they could hardly believe all the beauty they saw there.  
they were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say.  
they remembered nothing of what had happened earlier that day.  
"where are we?" asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.  
"this is heaven." declared a small boy. "we're spending Christmas at God's house."  
when what to their wondering eyes did appear,  
but Jesus, their Savior, the children gathered near.**

**He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.  
then He opened His arms and He called them by name.  
and in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring  
those children all flew into the arms of their King  
and as they lingered in the warmth of His embrace,  
one small girl turned and looked at Jesus' face.  
and as if He could read all the questions she had**

**He gently whispered to her, "I'll take care of mom and dad."  
then He looked down on earth, the world far below  
He saw all of the hurt, the sorrow, and woe  
then He closed His eyes, and He outstretched His hand,  
"Let My power and presence re-enter this land!"  
"may this country be delivered from the hands of fools"  
"I'm taking back my nation. I'm taking back my schools!"  
then He and the children stood up without a sound.  
"come now my children, let me show you around."  
excitement filled the space, some skipped, and some ran.  
all displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.  
And I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight,  
"in the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT."**

**(anonymous)**

This may sound a little strange, but my favorite Christmas story is not found in the Synoptic Gospels, but the Maverick Gospel. John chapter one verses four and five read, "Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Again, in chapter eight and verse twelve Jesus states, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Light, the essence of life itself. Without it we simply would have nothing. It's incredible to think that something we often don't notice simply because it is always present, though not tangible, is the most valuable resource on this planet. Light is the main source of energy for all living organisms. Plants, main sustainers of life, are crucial in this conversion process and need light for photosynthesis that enables them to make their own food and food for others. And, perhaps more importantly, photosynthesis produces oxygen too!



During this process, some of the sugars plants produce get stored in fruits and vegetables, so basically, we eat converted and stored light. Since we cannot live without food and oxygen, the impact of photosynthesis on our daily life is crucial. Photosynthesis creates all our major sources of energy, not only for our body's activities but also regarding the fossil fuels we use today. They are made of ancient layers of compressed organic matter stored underground which originally got their energy from photosynthesis as well. Since many of us are experiencing the short winter days, and we look forward to when the days will get longer, let's discuss how light can improve our health and wellbeing.

From the biblical words 'Let there be Light' to the age of 'Enlightenment', light has played a big role in the development of human culture. But it actually started many years before. Nature has taught our ancestors that when light breaks the darkness, there is a new beginning, a new day. Every sunrise awakens every lifeform. Light is life.

Many ancient cultures from all over the world already had an understanding of the importance of light in healing and sustaining a healthy life. The ancient Greeks, for example, had a special place for light therapy which they called, Heliopolis (The City of Sun). In this health center, they started to use filtered sunlight. Each component of light was used to treat a particular ailment. In addition, The Greeks had specific places to use for sunbathing called, Solaria. They were designed to cure skin diseases and promote the general health.

It's no surprise that sunlight has many health benefits. People need direct exposure to sunlight simply because the ultraviolet rays (also called UVB) help the body produce vitamin D. Vitamin actually is not the right name because in reality it's a hormone, but nonetheless truly essential. Its function is active in many parts of the body, taking care of a variety of important processes, from boosting our happiness and immune system, to fighting all kinds of infections and serious illnesses.

Now that you know the importance to our physical life, what about our spiritual life? Without the light coming into the world, we would be no better off than the world at the time of the birth of Jesus. We would still be in darkness. How unfortunate. But fortunately, there was a man, "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." My second favorite Christmas story.

My third favorite Christmas story is found in Revelation and reads, "There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. And they will reign for ever and ever." Remember, in your darkest day, Jesus has been and is "the Light of the world. My prayer, "let the light of your face shine on us:" continually.

-Doug Mussey: Chair; Board of Christian Education.



## SCRAPPY QUILTERS

Bountiful blessings abounded in the Scrappy Quilters ministry in November!

The infant and Toddler Pantry received 58 crib sheets, 17 cloth books, 27 receiving blankets, 22 burp cloths, 20 baby washcloths, 13 onesies, 7 hats, 4 pair socks, and 1 pair of baby booties.

G.G.'s house in association with the Community of Gratitude received 43 floor pillows, 108 soapy washcloths, 125 Santa bags, 33 fleece ponchos, 54 crocheted hats, 5 crocheted sit-upons, 8 small crocheted rugs, 1 crocheted sleeping roll, and 562 Christmas card ornaments with beautiful crocheted edges. A big thank you goes out to Debbie Zwolak for all the beautifully crocheted items she contributed to bring blessings to many who live in extreme poverty.

Also we wish to thank Dale and Delores Korff for their continued support in delivering batting scraps from a long arm quilter in Ocala. This month they delivered to my house 8 bags that were about 5 feet tall and 2 foot wide! Mixed in with it were the filling from some bed pillows which also works very nicely. If you have some bed pillows whose covers are clean but stained, and no longer suitable to use we can use them to fill floor pillows!

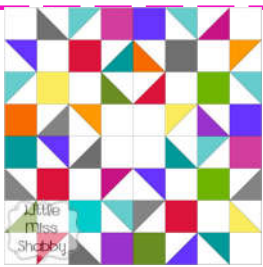
The Santa bag project was our major focus this month. They are made from fabric that is not suitable for use in quilts. They requested them to be made from non Christmas fabrics so they would be used throughout the year to store their treasures. Finished size of most of the bags was 18" x 22" . We also made smaller sized ones which will be used as hygiene bags and will be filled with toiletries. Hilda Kovacs appropriated \$250.00 from Thrivent which was used to purchase things to help fill the Santa Bags. Thank you Thrivent ! Thank you Hilda! Julia Mack also helped collect items to help fill the bags in her generous Del Webb community as well as coordinating some sewers in her community to help sew them.

Also in November 6 quilts were given to the Cancer Treatment Center to bring comfort to those receiving treatment. One Quilt was presented to a family mourning their loved one.

**In December we will meet every Friday except Christmas Eve day and New Years' Eve day. We meet from noon until 3:00 p.m. in Room 1 next to the Fellowship hall.**

If you would like to be a part of this awesome outreach we would love for you to join us! If you know of someone suffering physically or emotionally that could use the comfort of a quilt or could use a walker/ wheelchair bag please help yourself! They are located in the closet under the stairs in the fellowship hall.

Blessings to all! and Thank you for your continued support !- Sue Lehota



# SCRAPPY QUILTERS



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



## SECRET PRAYER PALS



All women of Trinity are invited to participate in this very rewarding ministry. It's simple to enroll....just complete the **form on the next page** and return to Marilyn DeTizio, 2284 Wade Meadow Lane, The Villages, FL 32162 prior to December 1, 2021. Forms are also available at the Welcome Center.

So how does this all work? Once your form is received, you will be assigned to another woman of Trinity to pray for throughout the year. Our committee will make the assignment for you. During the year, you may pray for your Secret Prayer Pal regularly.....incorporating any special needs recorded on her form. You may also like to send cards: for her birthday, wedding anniversary, holiday greetings or just for "thinking of you". Small, inexpensive gifts may also be given for a special occasion. But most of all, remember to never reveal your identity until the special reveal luncheon in December 2022.

In mid-December, the committee will send information on your assigned Secret Prayer Pal for 2022 along with further information on how to make this a rewarding experience for both of you.

*"Sometimes all it takes is just one prayer to change everything"- anonymous*

## PRAYER SHAWL GROUP-



The Prayer Shawl Group will not meet in December. Enjoy your holiday season. January, 2022 has 5 Mondays. **We meet on the 4th Monday which is January 24th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in Room 1** in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join us for any part of the time.

## COLOR BOOK GROUP NEWS



We have **canceled the color book group for December**. We are then changing the day that we **meet to Friday** and the room will change to **Room 3 of the Sanctuary building**.

We will be meeting the **first and third Friday of the month, at 1-3 pm in Room 3 on January 7 and 21**. Park on the west side of Church. Any questions call me at 352-750-4021.



2022

## Trinity Lutheran Church Secret Prayer Pals Sponsored by LWML

*All women (seasonal or full time) are invited to participate.  
Complete the form below and return by December 1, 2021 to:*

*Marilyn DeTizio, 2284 Wade Meadow Lane, The Villages 32162*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

For months of: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Flower: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Favorite Candy: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Coffee or Tea? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies/Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Prayer  
Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following information in case we need to contact you. This is used only for administrative purposes. *Thank you!*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

# TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

October, 2021

## GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR-TO-DATE			
<b>INCOME</b>								
Envelope Giving	\$50,459.	Under Budget	(\$8,541.)	(14.5%)	\$546,147.	Under Budget	(\$96,853.)	(15.1%)
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$21,303.	Under Budget	(\$1,757.)	(7.6%)	\$228,614.	Over Budget	\$13,899.	6.5%
Special Services	\$15.	Over Budget	\$15.		\$19,290.	Over Budget	\$9,290.	92.9%
Plate Offering	\$3,361.	Over Budget	\$1,361.	68.1%	\$32,158.	Under Budget	(\$7,842.)	(19.6%)
Interest	\$18.	Under Budget	(\$32.)	(63.1%)	\$91.	Under Budget	(\$2,059.)	(95.8%)
Memorial gifts	\$255.	Over Budget	\$255.		\$455.	Over Budget	\$455.	
Misc Income	\$14.	Over Budget	\$14.		\$74.	Over Budget	\$74.	
PPP Forgiveness					\$130,000.			
TOTAL INCOME					\$956,829.			
TOTAL INCOME w/o PPP	\$75,425.	Under Budget	(\$8,685.)	(10.3%)	\$826,829.	Under Budget	(\$83,036.)	(9.1%)
		Under Last Year	(\$158.)	(0.2%)		Under Last Year	(\$52,617.)	(6.0%)
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Board expenses	\$50,918.	Under Budget	\$14,700.	22.4%	\$690,583.	Under Budget	\$38,076.	5.2%
Mortgage interest	\$5,723.	Under Budget	\$359.	5.9%	\$59,148.	Under Budget	\$10,483.	15.1%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$56,641.	Under Budget	\$15,059.	21.0%	\$749,731.	Under Budget	\$48,559.	6.1%
		Under Last Year	\$17,025.	23.1%		Under Last Year	\$1,998.	0.3%
<b>CASH FLOW ITEMS</b>								
Mortgage Principal	\$21,717.	Over Budget	(\$6,054.)	(38.7%)	\$144,819.	Under Budget	\$2,908.	2.0%
Capital Expenditures	\$0.		\$0.		\$0.		\$0.	
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$21,717.	Over Budget	(\$6,054.)	(38.7%)	\$144,819.	Under Budget	\$2,908.	2.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$78,358.	Under Budget	\$9,005.	10.3%	\$894,550.	Under Budget	\$51,467.	5.4%
Net Income vs. Expense	(\$2,933.)				(\$67,721.)			
<b>DEDICATED ACCOUNTS</b>								
Receipts	\$9,260.				\$573,816.			
Disbursements	(\$1,768.)				(\$568,729.)			
<b>CASH ON HAND</b>								
	\$197,523.	Up this month	\$5,447.		\$60,000.	CD's		
		Down since Jan 1	(\$64,775.)		\$24,916.	Money Market Acct		
CD's w/LCEF					\$33,167.			
<b>MORTGAGE DEBT</b>								
Loan #1 (Fellowship Hall) w/Trivent	\$0.	Down this year						
Loan #2 (Sanctuary) w/Trivent	\$1,535,189.	Down this year	\$173,811.		\$49,266.	ENDOWMENT		
Loan #3 (Bushnell Campus) w/LCEF	\$277,212.	Down this year	\$20,751.					
Loan #4 (Bushnell Campus) w/FL-GA DIST	\$143,020.	Down this year	\$6,340.					



Treasurer's Report



# MEMORIALS

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

*Kim Withun*

*Jack McClelland*

A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of

*Charlotte Leidner*



## “THANKFUL....GRATEFUL.....BLESSED”



Yes, I am truly, Thankful....Grateful and Blessed in both my personal life and the life I share here at St. Theresa's Ministry to the Poor. Every month, I report on how many guests we serve through our Ministry wanting to share the knowledge of where your donations are being spent. For the Month of October 2021, we served 5,314 meals from our Soup Kitchen and feed 2,054 family members from our Food Pantry totaling a support to 7,368 guest. This is a 12.75% increase in one month period of time.

It is not your imagination ....groceries do cost more every month for our households ....and this holds true to our expenses in our Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry. We sincerely thank everyone for their generosity via groceries and monetary donations and Pray that our success in providing to those less fortunate will continue to come. God Bless and Keep you Safe, Sincerely,

-Mary Ann Gricar, Assistant Director Food Service Manager for St. Theresa Roman Catholic Church Social Services Ministry



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

The deadline for the January 2021 Newsletter is  
**\*\* Wednesday, December 15th\*\***



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



## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes November 16, 2021

Present were: Gil Dahnke, Pam Bixler, Gary Eckoff, Rusty Ryan, Doug Mussey, Chuck Wilt, Jerry Iseler, Patti Paxton, Dennis Esch, Jeff Bixler, Jill Esposito and Pastor Blair Clark. Gil Dahnke opened the meeting. Minutes of October 18, 2021 meeting were approved via e-mail on October 22, 2021.

**PASTOR REPORTS:** Pastor Blair reported that we are still making good progress with the Music Ministry search. Cottage meetings went well. Final vote was announced on the prayer chain Monday. Men's Club is picking up speed, working individually through Thrivent with water purifying projects. Thirteen new members joined the church on November 7, 2021.

**MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:** Jill Esposito did not have an updated membership report. She did hear back from the District that it was OK to proceed with the ERC (Employee Retention Credit) - if we think it will be to our advantage.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT:** (Copy attached.) Rusty Ryan presented the October 2021 report.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** (Copy attached.) Gary Eckoff reviewed the October 2021 report. Patti Paxton made the following **MOTION:** *Council shall accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports for October 2021 as presented.* Dennis Esch seconded. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:** President Dahnke reported that President Walton was e-mailed the results of the IIM vote. President Walton responded that he will start a search for IIM's and get back to Gil as quickly as possible. Gil then reviewed the dates of the Council schedule for the remainder of 2021 and 2022.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 2022 Board nominations were distributed. (Copy attached.)

Gary Eckoff reviewed the 2022 Budget. (Copy attached.) Dennis Esch made the following **MOTION:** *Council shall accept the 2022 Budget as presented by Gary Eckoff, Treasurer.* Jerry Iseler seconded. Some discussion was held regarding cost of health insurance to the staff. Several members of the Council will look into costs with companies other than Concordia. Motion carried.

Gary Eckoff presented the Finance Committees recommendation for the following three motions to address the generous gift from a member's estate.

**MOTION:** *Council shall approve 10% of the funds received from a member's estate for missions. Of these funds, (1) 10% will go to the Florida-Georgia District; (2) 10% will go to Trinity Missions as directed by the Pastor; and (3) 80% will be distributed to National/International Missions per the Evangelism Board, with Pastor's input.* Dennis Esch seconded. Motion carried.



**MOTION:** *Council shall approve designating 10% of the funds received from a member's estate to be used by and for Trinity Lutheran Church. These funds will be distributed at the Council's discretion.* Patti Paxton seconded. Motion carried.

**MOTION:** *Council shall approve designating 80% of the funds received from a member's estate to be used to pay down the principal on our Sanctuary loan with Thrivent.* Jerry Iseler seconded. Motion carried.

Gary Eckoff made the following **MOTION:** *Church Council shall direct the Treasurer to report/ book miscellaneous funds received as General Fund - Miscellaneous Income.* Patti Paton seconded. Motion carried.

Doug Mussey moved **MOTION:** *Council shall allow the Treasurer to amend the Missions item of the 2022 Budget to reflect the Bushnell principal and interest payments so that it represents 10% to Missions.* Dennis Esch seconded. Motion carried.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

***Christian Education:*** Doug Mussey reported that there are now 4 board members.

***Elders:*** (Copy attached.) The Elders are still working on their member contacts. Men's Club is sponsoring the Thrivent Amy Grant concert on December 4, 2021 after the 4PM service.

***Evangelism:*** (Copy attached.) Jerry Isler **MOVED:** *Council shall approve a seminar by Tom Derosa, of the Creation Studies Institute, on January 22, 2022 from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the sanctuary.* Chuck wilt seconded. Motion carried.

***Fellowship:*** (Copy attached.) Patti Paxton reported that the Board of Fellowship will host a supper after each of the Advent services on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>.

***Stewardship:*** (Copy attached.) Dennis Esch passed out copies of the website showing the new Time/Talent Volunteerism Page, with built in safe guards for e-mails.

***Trustees:*** (Copy attached.) Jeff Bixler reported that Wayne Greenwell, a new member a skill set that will be very beneficial to the church, would like to become a Trustee. Gil Dahnke appointed Wayne Greenwell to the Board of Trustees. Council approved.

The Voters Meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2021 between Sunday services for the Election of Officers and approval of the 2022 Budget as approved by Council. The next Council meeting will be January 18, 2022 at 1:30 PM in Room 3. Gary moved to adjourn. Doug seconded. Meeting was adjourned.





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**Come & Worship With Us**

Saturdays

4:00 p.m.

Sundays

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

**Come & Learn With Us**

Sundays

Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

