



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**
LCMS



Volume 27 Issue 2

February 2

Bookworms at 1:00 p.m.

February 7

Men's Club at 8:00 a.m.

February 13

Voter's Meeting at 9:15 a.m.

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 16

**Transfer the Blessing-
LCMS Presentation
at 4:00 p.m.**

February 22

LWML Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

February 26

**Friendship Luncheon
at 10:50 a.m.**

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of the great hallmarks celebrated during the month of February beyond that of love and Valentine's Day, is Ground Hog Day on February 2, and the predictions that are made that accompany the national tradition and the official celebration of the appearance of Punxsutawney Phil. You will recall that if he sees his shadow due to clear weather he will retreat to his den and winter will persist for another six weeks; if it does not see its shadow because of cloudiness, spring will arrive early. While the tradition remains popular, studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival of spring-like weather. /

Where am I going with this you ask? Well, first of all, predicting whether the ground hog sees a shadow or when winter turns to spring often seems irrelevant when living in the Sunshine State, and secondly, I would like to focus on this idea of predictions. Recently I had people ask me if I have any predictions for our church and ministry in the coming months and years? It is an interesting thought to say the least and one that I am sure many people are asking themselves during our transition period. Unfortunately, when I first accepted the Call to serve as your Associate Pastor, I had no predictions as to where God would lead me and the ministry that would develop here. Who would have ever predicted the COVID Pandemic, the Harbor Chase Campus, our Trinity Online Campus, the Bushnell Campus, the reduction of our debts, and more? No one could - except God - and His infamous wisdom confirming His infinite purpose through the leading of His Holy Spirit to the place where we are today!

What an exciting time to be in fellowship at Trinity Lutheran! As the Lord continues to work through you, it is important that we, as a family, look together at where the Lord desires to lead us. We must be asking ourselves, "What kind of church are we? And "What kind of church does God desire us to be?"

To answer those questions takes more than simply going outside on February 2 and seeing your shadow or not. It means being a people who are deep in the study of God's Word, active in regular worship, engaged in prayer, and a life of witness testifying to the power and grace of God through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. It is taking to heart God's promise when He states in Jeremiah 29:11,

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Blair Clark

SUNDAY

Holy Father, like most, I tend to worry. I worry about Health, finances, safety, relationships, family and countless other things in my life. I know I should take my worries to You Father and I know You are more than capable of handling my worries, and yet I don't always do this. It isn't until I am tired out from carrying my worries that I give them to You. Father, I need to be more disciplined in my life, I need to give to You all my worries. I acknowledge I can not manage my own life and need You. Remind me of this daily.

Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything You need, always giving thanks."

MONDAY

Lord, one of the greatest gifts You give me is the Bible. Teach me to use it, Father. When I stray from Your word, bring me back. How can I live my life without knowing what You demand of me? How can I make decisions and know they are right if I do not study Your word? When I am in the Word I am encouraged, lifted up and find peace. May Your words remain in me, instructing and teaching me to be righteous. **2 Timothy 3:16-17** "All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

TUESDAY

Father in Heaven, Help me to become a prayer warrior. You have told us to pray early and often and it is my desire. Lord You already know exactly what I need, but I need to have the experience of talking to You and developing an intimate personal relationship with You. My Heart desires this, but my flesh is weak. May Your Holy Spirit encourage me daily to come to You with all my concerns, thanks and worship.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants You who belong to Christ Jesus to live."

WEDNESDAY

Lord, free me from the bitterness sometime overtaking me. At times I am quick to anger and blame others. I am slow to forgive as I should. Sometime just a word spoken by another creates anger in me. Father remove the bitterness and anger from my Heart and replace it with forgiveness and love, as I realize I am a sinner and need forgiveness. Thank You Father, for forgiving me. **Ephesians 4:31-32** "All bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from You, along with all wickedness. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave You in Christ."

FEBRUARY PRAYERS



THURSDAY

Dearest Lord, may my light shine brightly before others so they might know I am a child of God. I want to set a good example of my Christian faith for others, so through You they might come to faith. May my actions and words show everyone what it means to be a follower of Your Son, Jesus.

1 Timothy 4:12 "Be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith and in purity"

FRIDAY

Father, sometimes it is hard to keep my faith, especially when the media keeps pumping out messages contrary to my beliefs. They seem to tell people nothing is wrong, do your thing, and yet I know it is not true. Help me to focus not on the things of this world, but on the gospel of Jesus - to stand up for my beliefs and speak against those messages going against what I believe. **1 John 2:15** "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If You love the world, the love of the Father is not in You."

SATURDAY

Loving Father, You are my strength and my protector. When trouble comes bring me comfort. When I feel discouraged and alone, lift me up. When fear over takes me give me peace. When I am weak, You Lord, are strong and will carry me. Even though I do not always understand why something is happening, I do know Your plans and will for my life are perfect. May I always lift You up, giving You glory, praise and thanks, for You are God of all. **James 1:2-4** Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever You face trials of many kinds, 3 because You know that the testing of Your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that You may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.





Intentional Interim Minister

In mid-December we received from District, a list of 5 names with information of Intentional Interim Ministers as candidates to be considered for our IIM position. As directed by District to have 5 leaders of Trinity congregation to evaluate and interview these candidates, the IIM Team of Gilbert Dahnke (President), Carolyn Fortin (Vice President), Chuck Wilt (Head Elder), Joan Egeland (Secretary), Dennis Esch (Stewardship Chair) began meeting to evaluate all candidates.

The 5 candidates are Reverend David Boyd, Staunton VA., Reverend Gary Boye, Tempe AZ., Reverend James Kirschenmann, Mundelein IL., Reverend Roger Schoolcraft, Fayetteville AR., Reverend Dale Skurla, Prescott AZ.

We contacted candidates to inquire as to their availability and desire to temporarily relocate to Florida, serving as our IIM during our transition and call process.

Pastor Roger Schoolcraft became our candidate of choice with his experience, recommendation from his District President and information he provided to us.

He has served as Pastor to churches in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Arkansas and served as an IIM Pastor to churches in Maryland, North Carolina and Virginia.

Our IIM Team invited him for a personal visit to Trinity to meet with our leadership, see our campus facilities and tour the surrounding areas. That meeting did occur on Tuesday January 18 and Wednesday January 19. During the visit he met with Pastor Blair, the IIM Team, Staff, Church Council and Elders. Our time together was very well received and positive by our Leadership and also by Pastor Schoolcraft.

After the visit, the IIM Team recommended to the Church Council that Trinity extend a call to Pastor Schoolcraft to serve as our IIM, and the Church Council recommends to the Congregation to accept this recommendation and issue a call to Pastor Roger Schoolcraft.

We will have a Special Called Congregation Voter Meeting on February 13, 2022 at 9:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary between Sunday Services.



During the meeting we will present 2 items for a Congregation vote. One for issuing the IIM Call to Pastor Roger Schoolcraft.

The other for the Congregation to vote on Trinity's Delegates to the Florida-Georgia District convention in June 2022. Dennis Esch (Stewardship Chair) has volunteered to be the Lay Delegate for Trinity and Gilbert Dahnke has volunteered as the alternate should Dennis be unable to attend. Pastor Blair will be the Pastoral Delegate.

According to District Guidelines, these Delegates must be approved at a congregation voter meeting.

A very important decision and vote at the District convention this year is for the District President position. Current President, Rev. Dr. Gregory Walton is term limited and will not be able to continue in that position. - Gil Dahnke, President

2022 Church Officers

**Gilbert Dahnke – President Carolyn Fortin – Vice President Joan Egeland – Secretary
Gary Eckoff – Treasurer Rusty Ryan – Financial Secretary**



ATTENTION MEN OF TRINITY!!!

All Trinity men are invited to meet with fellow members for a delicious breakfast, discussion on upcoming fund-raisers, and a new Bible Study. We will also be organizing a new golf team.

Our next meeting will be **Monday, February 7 at 8:00 in the Fellowship Hall.**

Questions? Call Jim Keenan 216-8106 or 245-4915.





TRINITY TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE

The initial transition team meeting on January 14, 2021 was opened with a very informative Zoom meeting and briefing provided by Pastor Greg Walton, President LCMS FL/GA district. He explained the importance of the various processes through transition and call for a new Pastor.

Once again, he emphasized the need for patience, that this is a marathon and not a sprint. It is very important to do a self-study and evaluate our Mission, Vision and Long-range plans for Trinity. Two work groups within the team have been formed to begin the tasks at hand. We have two members leading the teams; Joyce Mussey is leading the Mission, Vision and Long-Range Plan working group; and Bill Schwieger is leading the demographics and accountability working group.

Transparency and congregational involvement are critical components. You can expect to be well informed as we move through these processes. We are planning additional cottage sessions to be held for the congregation in the future. Afterall, you are the church, and your opinions are valued. Routine updates will be provided in our weekly bulletin and in person after the whole transition team meetings which will likely be monthly.

We are thankful that the Holy Spirit has provided faithful volunteers to join us in serving as the Transition team for Trinity Lutheran church.

Please continually keep our team and the transition process in your prayers as we all work together preparing to call our Senior Pastor.

Blessings,
Carolyn Fortin, Transition Team Lead

UPDATE TO OUR MUSIC MINISTER SEARCH



While our team has accomplished much of the ground work in the development of a complete job description and the spiritual gifts that we are looking for in our next music leader, we have not found the right person for us. We had a total of five candidates, however each one dropped out of the interview process due to various personal reasons. The team will continue on with our search process and

everyone can help with getting the word out in your own personal networks about our opportunity. Just point them to our website. God is still preparing the heart of our next Music Minister.

“Transfer the Blessing Seminar”

George and Betty were with church friends last Friday, playing cards. During the evening, one of the couples began talking about the estate plans they had just put together. They bragged about the 120-page living trust their attorney had given them, saying, “With a document that long we must have a really great plan.”

Betty asked, “So tell me about what is in your plan. Does it meet your family goals? Does it include a gift to support the ministry of our congregation that we all love?” The couple sat very quiet for an uncomfortable pause. Finally, they said, “We really don’t know, but we have a great plan.”

The “plan” is the culmination of a lot of thinking and putting together goals that you want to accomplish. Those broad goals are the focus well before you ever dig into the intricate details of a full, complete estate plan. Without that planning, your “plan” will be empty. With planning, you will express your faith and look to bless others with the blessings God has blessed you. That is the simple core value. All the details build on that.

Have you thought about your core values? Our stewardship board will be offering an opportunity using “**Transfer the Blessing**” an LCMS Foundation program making available a Christian perspective way to review one’s estate plan with the assistance of our LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor, Tony Hunt. **On Wednesday Feb 16th at 4pm the Board of Stewardship will host in our Fellowship Hall a presentation with meal catered by Francesco’s Ristorante, Summerfield, Fl.**

IMPORTANT: **Registration will be required.** Please e-mail dennis.esch@yahoo.com (stewardship chair) with name(s) of those attending in your group.

There is no cost nor anything to buy. This presentation is in partnership with our Board of Fellowship (meal assistance), Board of Stewardship and the LCMS Foundation. If afterwards you are motivated through love and faith and share a charitable heart to make use of the services of the LCMS Foundation, a private and confidential meeting at your convenience will be made available. If during the consultation process there are legal matters that require your attention, only then may there be costs by a lawyer of your choice to update/amend legal documents on your behalf.

Tony Hunt may be reached directly at (260) 222-1291 or Tony.Hunt@LFND.org. Feel free to look at the foundation website www.lcmsfoundation.org



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.



*You're
Invited!*

Greetings to all women of Trinity! We hope you will make plans to join us at our next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, Feb. 22nd at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.** We have an interesting and informative program planned with the Marion County Sheriff's Office Foundation. A director of the board, Sandra Grabczynski, will join us with a short video presentation of their outreach programs in the community and will speak to and take questions from the audience. This will include the Citizens' Patrol, MERT, Funeral Escort, Rive & Lake Watch, and the K-9 Unit.

We begin each of our meetings with a short devotional message from Pastor Blair, followed by a business meeting, and conclude with refreshments and a time for fellowship with the ladies of the congregation. Please come and join us this month and bring a friend.



Our sincere thanks to Thrivent Financial for their financial assistance and support of our Red Boot Tea in December. We were able to purchase the food for our luncheon buffet so that all profits could be donated to our charity, Esther House Re-entry program of Fruitland Park.

The ladies of the Trinity LWML would also like to thank everyone who donated to the Red Boot Tea collection. We were able to present Esther House with a check for \$1,200 at our January meeting. We also thank the Sewing Angels for the five quilts they donated for the residents of the house.



LWML Mite Box Collection

The next monthly Mite collection will be on **Saturday and Sunday, February 5 & 6, 2022**. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants. One of these projects is:

“Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa’s Children” – \$100,000.

Lutheran missionaries in Africa have witnessed a thirst to learn about the Savior and have expressed a deep need for easy-to-understand Lutheran books to be printed in the language of the people.

These books will introduce parents and children to Jesus. Through this mission grant, Lutheran Heritage Foundation can fulfill this mission to publish high-quality Lutheran books for children such as A Child’s Garden of Bible Stories, Luther’s Small Catechism, and Bible Stories in Pictures for a cost of less than \$3.00 each.

MEMORIALS

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

Mary Wood

Charlotte Grubb





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.

Next month, Trinity Lutheran Church will join churches around the world recognizing **World Day of Prayer**. It is celebrated on the first Friday in **March, March 4, 2022**. We hope you will put this date on your calendar and set aside some time to pray.

“And in all things, whatsoever you shall ask for in prayer, believing you shall receive.” - Matthew 21:22

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The origins of World Day of Prayer date back to the 19th century when Christian women of the United States and Canada initiated a variety of cooperative activities in support of women's involvement in mission at home and in other parts of the world.

Women had a strong sense of identification with the needs of women and children and searched for ways to provide support. Despite strong resistance from all-male mission boards, beginning in 1861 women founded many women's boards for foreign and home missions where they could work directly with other women and children.

Women were encouraged to engage in personal prayer and take leadership within their mission auxiliaries and associations. This emphasis on prayer led to annual days and weeks of prayer. In 1887 Presbyterian women called for a day of prayer for home missions and Methodist women called for a week of prayer and self-denial for foreign missions. A Baptist day of prayer for foreign missions began in 1891.

Women had a vision of Christian unity that was essential to their exercise of mission. By 1897 six denominations had formed a committee for a united day of prayer for home missions. In 1911 women celebrated the 50th anniversary of women's missionary activity by organizing a series of speaking engagements across the US providing other women with a powerful experience of ecumenical cooperation and fellowship. Women of the six participating denominations wrote a common worship service on a rotating basis and in 1912 called for a united day of prayer for foreign missions.

After the devastation of World War I, women incorporated the conviction that world peace was intrinsically tied to world mission and renewed their efforts for unity. The first Friday of Lent was established as a joint day of prayer for missions and celebrated for the first time on February 20, 1920. Due to the enthusiasm of denominational and interdenominational women's groups, world spread rapidly throughout the USA. In 1922, Canadian women who had begun celebrating a day of prayer in 1895 took up the same date.

COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD OF EVANGELISM



In 1926 women in North America distributed the worship service to as many countries and partners in mission as they could. The worldwide response was enthusiastic. By 1927 the call to prayer was issued for a World Day of Prayer for Missions. The title was shortened to World Day of Prayer in 1928 and that same year; this statement came from the World Day of Prayer Committee:

It is with deep gratitude that we recognize the growing power inherent in our World Day of Prayer. A very decided expansion of this prayer fellowship has come during the past year. The circle of prayer has expanded literally around the world. We have learned the great lesson of praying with, rather than for, our sisters of other races and nations, thus enriching our experience and releasing the power which must be ours if we are to accomplish tasks entrusted to us.

Check out our updated website with new features and more information on the mission work here at Trinity Lutheran. Go to 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.

“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

Our next will be on **February 21, 2022 in Room 1 at 10:00 a.m.** All are encouraged and invited to attend. For more information, call or text Jan Garner, (352) 598-2048 or email, 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





LENTEN MIDWEEK SERVICES

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

Wednesday, March 2– *Ash Wednesday*

Wednesday, March 9- *Midweek Service #2*

Wednesday, March 16– *Midweek Service #3*

Wednesday, March 23– *Midweek Service #4*

Wednesday, March 30 – *Midweek Service #5*

Wednesday, April 6– *Midweek Service #6*



Holy Week:

April 10– Palm Sunday

April 14– Maundy Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

April 15– Good Friday at 4:00 p.m.

April 17– Easter 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

***Note-No Service on Saturday, April 16**

LENTEN SUPPERS



It has become a tradition at Trinity to have a Lenten Supper immediately following the Wednesday Night Lenten Services. On **Wednesday, March 9**, the first meal will be served. The menu will be available on Saturday March 5 in the weekly bulletin. We look forward to having you join your church family at the suppers that will also give an opportunity to reflect and remember God's great love for us. Our traditional free will offering will be available and appreciated.

February 22, 2022

7pm



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

Free

P R E S E N T S

Melody OF Love

Open to the Public

Fairway Christian Church
8400 East CR 466
The Villages



Michael Coppock



David Berardi



Julia Coppock

Love Offering To Benefit Love INC of the Heart of Florida

////////////////////////////////////
Melody of Love is a concert showcasing local talent.

THE SEWING ANGELS

Since I wrote on December 15th the following items have been distributed:

G.G.'s House : 74 soapy washcloths, 11 blankets, 4 floor pillows
SOZO kids: 6 children's quilts
Esther House: 5 ladies quilts
Leesburg Nursing homes (Christmas gifts for the forgotten/ lonely seniors):
16 quilts
9 walker bags

Esther house is a halfway house for women who are adjusting to coming back into society after spending time in prison. They are given guidance and care as they make this adjustment. They take five women at a time. The quilts are going to be given to Esther house at the January meeting of LWML.

We have finished our work on assembling blankets to help keep the poverty stricken living in the Ocala National Forest warm during the cold nights. We still have many in the last stages of tying the layers together with embroidery floss. We hope to get these finished and delivered soon.

Our next focus is assembling the balance of the patriotic quilts in preparation for the April Honor flight. We have about 1/2 of the 65 needed ready to be given out. We have enough quilt tops sewn to complete what we need and just need to assemble the layers and get them tied.

By the time, you get this newsletter we should be done with the honor flight quilts and will be turning our focus on getting quilts and other items read to distribute to baby and children's charities and replenish our supply of adult quilts for memorials, etc.

We have an ongoing need for the following items:

- ⇒ wash cloths
- ⇒ soap (any size bar)
- ⇒ Stuffing for floor pillows (can be taken from old throw or bed pillows, scrap fabric or batting)
- ⇒ Sheets (flat or fitted, we even take stained which we use for middle layers for camp blankets)
- ⇒ macramé cord to use for drawstrings

Donations of the above items can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the donation box in Room 4 in the back of the church.

We could also use more help! No skill needed. We have many very simple tasks we can teach you how to do. We meet every Friday from Noon until 3 PM in Room 1

If you know of someone who is suffering physically or emotionally and would be blessed by a comfort of a quilt, we have a supply in the closet under the stairs. When you take one, please register it in the notebook on the shelf with the quilts.

THE SEWING ANGELS



CONTACT
information



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 14

“Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.” (2 Corinthians 13:11)

In the third chapter of Ecclesiastes we read: “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.” And I might add, I swear it is not too late.

Paul writes in Second Corinthians that we are to encourage one another, live in peace and be of one mind. Again, in First Thessalonians, Paul tells us that we are to encourage one another with words. So, what does it mean to encourage one another? In this case, it would mean, “to make (someone) more determined, hopeful, or confident.” Maybe that is why Paul wrote in Colossians that our conversations should always be full of grace and seasoned with salt. Paul also writes in Ephesians that we should do this for the building up of the body.

Other definitions and words that could be used for encouraged are inspired, hearten, and embolden. Inspired implies instilling life, energy, courage, or vigor into something. Hearten implies the lifting of dispiritedness or despondency by infusing of fresh zeal or courage. Embolden implies giving the gift of courage to overcome timidity or reluctance. All of which mean to fill or strengthen with purpose.

I am reminded of a television commercial that went something like this. A wife tries on a new dress and she then asked her husband if the dress made her look fat. Trying to be diplomatic the husband says, “It is not the dress.” Well, we all know where that husband was sleeping that night, with Rover. I’m sure that husband’s intention was well meaning and not specifically designed to be hurtful. But, I am sure the words cut her to the core. I’m not too sure what the husband could have said, this I do know, silence at the right time is golden. Or just maybe, he could have said, “what do you think?”

Sometimes we are like the husband, we do not mean any harm or disrespect, but the words just slip out. Over my forty years as a priest, I have had to learn what is acceptable speech and what is not. I have had to learn when it is time to be silent and when it is time to speak. Sometimes the lessons have been hard and sometimes they have been easy. Sometimes I have spoken out of turn without having all the relevant information. Sometimes I should have remained silent and just walked away. And I thank those who have mentored me over the years, and those who are still teaching me.

C. Roy Angell in his book, Baskets of Silver reminds us of a custom that was followed in the time of Solomon. At a royal banquet, a silver basket would be placed on each table as a centerpiece. The basket was filled with apples made of gold. At some time during the meal, the basket was passed, and every guest was invited to select one of the gleaming golden apples as a gift from the king.

Proverbs twenty-five tells us; “A word properly spoken is like apples of gold in a basket of silver.” I like what Solomon says, that a proper word is not like an apple but apples of gold.

We who live centuries after Solomon have come to adopt an understanding that words do not really matter that much. That we have the right to use and arrange our words so that they carry thoughts and meanings without regard for another’s feelings. I wonder why that is? Is it because we have freedom of speech? Is it because we have lost touch with what hurtful and slanderous words can do to a person’s ego? Do they make us feel better about ourselves?

I am especially concerned about the way congregations use their words today. For example, I overheard two ladies talking about their preacher. One comment I remember, oh so well, was “He thinks he owns the church.” The other lady agreed and put in her two cents. Then there was the time the pastor had retired and left the church. It seemed that everything that was wrong after he left was laid at his feet. Did they really need a fall guy that badly? I guess so. One of my all-time favorites was spoken by a church leader when he said about the current pastor; “he is holding us hostage.” Really! Will someone please explain to me how a pastor can hold a congregation hostage? To me, it is the other way around.

Joyce Landorf calls people who only know how to criticize or demean people as “irregular people.” She further states that it is not their intention to hurt or insult. They do not know how to love, not even themselves, and worst of all, they do not know how to be loved. (That is the real tragedy.) They just do not know any better. It is their way of elevating themselves by trying to bring others down to their level. Which by the way, works only if the other person has very low self-esteem. So, why do people act this way? Here again I do not know. But my guess is, it is easier to criticize than to give someone a complement and a word of encouragement. Think for a minute, you would cross a busy intersection just to speak to someone who has given you a complement. And rightfully so. But you would walk around the block just to avoid a face-to-face confrontation with someone who has criticized you.

I have searched the Bible, and nowhere do I find the command to downgrade another. Nowhere. I find it disappointing that the language of church-going individuals could be so harsh. Ah, maybe that is the problem. They are church goers. But what about Christians who are there every time the church doors are open. Do we ever hear a negative word coming from their lips? Do we always hear the truth and nothing but the truth? No. Do leaders in Christian churches ever try to spin their words so that something sounds better than it is? Do they ever try to place the blame on someone else? The unfortunate answer to those questions is, “yes”. And here again I must ask, “why?”

It is my hope and prayer that during this time of transition, we as a congregation will hear nothing but the truth and no spin. That the words that proceed from all our lips will be pleasing to our Father and to one another. It is not necessary that we always think alike, but it is mandatory that we respect each other. We always need to remember that if I disagree with you, it does not make me right and you wrong. Likewise, it does not make you right and me wrong. What needs to happen is meaningful conversation, because, just maybe, there is third and better way. Do you agree, or disagree?

-Doug Mussey, Chair; Board of Christian Education.

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT

December, 2021

GENERAL FUND

	CURRENT MONTH				YEAR-TO-DATE			
INCOME								
Envelope Giving	\$66,864.	Over Budget	\$18,864.	39.3%	\$673,513.	Under Budget	(\$77,487.)	(10.3%)
Electronic Giving (Give Plus)	\$23,956.	Under Budget	(\$3,876.)	(13.9%)	\$273,513.	Over Budget	\$15,733.	6.1%
Special Services	\$10,259.	Over Budget	\$9,509.	1368.0%	\$31,538.	Over Budget	\$20,538.	286.7%
Plate Offering	\$5,309.	Over Budget	\$2,059.	163.4%	\$40,292.	Under Budget	(\$4,708.)	(10.5%)
Interest	\$162.	Under Budget	(\$188.)	(53.8%)	\$237.	Under Budget	(\$2,313.)	(90.7%)
Memorial gifts	\$0.				\$455.	Over Budget	\$455.	
Misc Income	\$11.	Over Budget	\$11.		\$96.	Over Budget	\$96.	
PPP Forgiveness					\$130,000.			
TOTAL INCOME					\$1,149,644.			
TOTAL INCOME w/o PPP	\$106,561.	Over Budget	\$26,379.	32.9%	\$1,019,644.	Under Budget	(\$47,686.)	(4.7%)
		Under Last Year	(\$708.)	(0.7%)		Under Last Year	(\$77,113.)	(7.0%)
EXPENSES								
Board expenses	\$68,134.	Under Budget	\$11,340.	14.3%	\$816,624.	Under Budget	\$61,142.	7.0%
Mortgage interest	\$5,539.	Under Budget	\$448.	7.5%	\$70,356.	Under Budget	\$11,297.	13.8%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$73,673.	Under Budget	\$11,788.	13.8%	\$886,980.	Under Budget	\$72,439.	7.6%
		Under Last Year	\$89,472.	54.8%		Under Last Year	\$85,592.	8.8%
CASH FLOW ITEMS								
Mortgage Principal	\$16,206.	Over Budget	(\$449.)	(2.8%)	\$182,796.	Over Budget	(\$3,603.)	(2.0%)
Capital Expenditures	\$0.		\$0.		\$0.		\$0.	
TOTAL CASH FLOW ITEMS	\$16,206.	Over Budget	(\$449.)	(2.8%)	\$182,796.	Over Budget	(\$3,603.)	(2.0%)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$89,879.	Under Budget	\$11,339.	11.2%	\$1,069,776.	Under Budget	\$68,836.	6.0%
Net Income vs. Expense	\$16,682.				(\$50,132.)			
DEDICATED ACCOUNTS								
Receipts	\$226,085.	Note: \$212k from member's estate and paid to loan principal			\$805,210.			
Disbursements	(\$234,412.)				(\$808,830.)			
CASH ON HAND	\$204,900.	Up this month	\$8,354.		\$60,000.	CD's		
		Down since Jan 1	(\$57,398.)		\$26,825.	Money Market Acct		
CD's w/LCEF					\$33,209.			
MORTGAGE DEBT								
Loan #1 (Fellowship Hall) w/Thrivent	\$0.	Down this year						
Loan #2 (Sanctuary) w/Thrivent	\$1,273,754.	Down this year	\$435,246.		\$48,519.	ENDOWMENT		
Loan #3 (Bushnell Campus) w/LCEF	\$272,921.	Down this year	\$25,042.					
Loan #4 (Bushnell Campus) w/FL-GA DIST	\$141,770.	Down this year	\$7,590.					



Trinity Lutheran Church

Blessings of 2021

	Budget		Actual			
	Jan-Dec 2021		Jan-Dec 2021	Remaining		
Income	\$ 1,067,330.00	Income	\$ 1,019,643.97	\$ (47,686.03)	Under Budget	
Expense	\$ 959,419.00	Expense	\$ 886,979.56	\$ 72,439.44	Under Budget	
Net Revenue	\$ 107,911.00	Net Revenue	\$ 132,664.41	\$ 24,753.41	Under Budget	
Income	Match Program	Match Donor	Gift Prin	Debt Reduction Dedicated	Total	
\$ 1,019,643.97	\$ 285,820.71	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 212,773.86	\$ 16,395.96	\$ 1,784,634.50	
				Save on Int/Exp vs Budget	\$ 11,297.46	
				Total	\$ 1,795,931.96	
Principal Reduction						
Fellowship Hall	\$ 469,411.29					
Sanctuary	\$ 435,246.50					
Total	\$ 904,657.79					

Prayer Shawl Group branching out -- *More Help Needed.*

When prayer shawls are made, whether knit or crocheted, there are small balls of yarn left-over.

If making a shawl is too much, you can help us a bunch, by making a few Granny Squares.

These squares can be made into lap robes like this, for use by a Mr., Mrs., or Miss.

If you can make squares, but don't like to sew, someone else will put them together, you know.

We wish you would help, you don't have to eat kelp, just snack on your favorite treat.

If you don't crochet, you can still help out.

Before these are blessed and passed about,

We attach a card and a cross.

The crosses are made from plastic and yarn.

Just use a needle and yarn. And sew them to match.

Then we can attach, without doing any harm.

All supplies are located in the closet off Classroom 1 in the Fellowship Hall.

They can be accessed during office hours, when someone can let you in the hall.



—Any questions, call Wanda David at (219) 508-5847, or Darlene Baney at (419) 367-0373



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
March 2022 Newsletter is
**** Tuesday, Feb. 15th ****



BOOKWORMS DISCUSS MITCH ALBOM'S CONTROVERSIAL NEW NOVEL

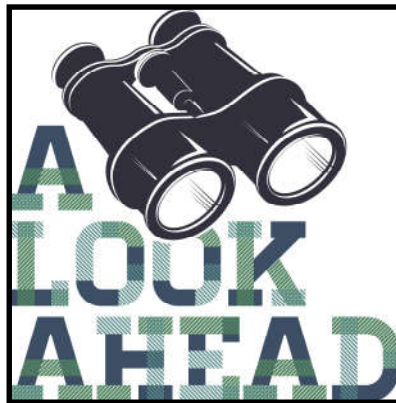
Nine survivors find themselves thrown together in a lifeboat after the luxury yacht, Galaxy, mysteriously explodes far from land. Suddenly, another person is seen in the water, unbruised and without a floatation device like the rest. Who is this stranger?

This is how we are introduced to "The Stranger in the Lifeboat". You may remember other books we have discussed by this author, "Tuesdays with Morrie", "The Five People You Meet in Heaven", and "Finding Chika". Just like his other books, this is a short, easy read but will leave you with lots of theological questions.

This latest novel is currently Number Two on the New York Best Seller List. Even if you haven't read the book, please join us **Wednesday, Feb. 2 in Classroom 1 at 1:00 p.m.**

Head's Up: In March we will be reading "Have You Seen Luis Velez?" by Catherine Ryan Hyde, who wrote the book that started the pay it forward project.

Questions?: Carol Keenan (352) 216-8106



Easter is on April 17!

February 2022						
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					

March 2022						
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 January 18, 2022

Present were: Gil Dahnke, Carolyn Fortin, Joan Egeland, 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 November 16, 2021 meeting were approved via e-mail on November 19, 2021.

PASTOR REPORTS: Pastor Blair reported that the Advent/Christmas services went well. Installation of officers will be this weekend at all services, January 22 & 23. He then explained that this year's Lutheran Convention will be June 16-18 in St. Augustine, FL. As in the past, one pastoral and one layperson are elected to attend. Information can go out to the congregation to see who would like to attend. Deadline for submittal to the convention is March 18th, with the final layperson having been approved at a voter's meeting to be scheduled.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: (copy attached) Jill Esposito presented our current membership after much review and updates from the Elder group. She also indicated that the work on the Employee Retention Tax Credit was completed and amended tax forms will be filed providing an estimated refund amount over \$72K. Jill then presented a review of the sick leave arrangements as stated in the personnel manual with regards to COVID and CDC Guidelines. Carolyn Fortin made the following **MOTION:** **Council shall accept the sick leave arrangements to read: Employees who test positive for COVID 19 will be required to abide by the current CDC guidelines.** Jerry Iseler seconded. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT: (Copy attached.) Rusty Ryan presented the December 2021 report. Doug Mussey made the following **MOTION:** **Council shall accept the Financial Secretary's Report as presented.** Dennis Esch seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Gary Eckoff will be sending out the final year-end report after all postings have occurred.

OLD BUSINESS: Joan Egeland presented an update to Music Director search. We have exhausted all current applicants, most withdrawing from considerations based on various personal needs. The team is starting the job posting again and will review our interview process going forward.

NEW BUSINESS: Carolyn Fortin provided an update regarding the Transition Team. There are two groups tasked with completing the documents, but our main focus is to look at the mission and vision of the church. All aspects of the church will be reviewed included but not limited to our constitution and long range plans. Focus will also be on communication, transparency, and additional cottage meetings.

President Dahnke provided an update on the IIM search. The council had the opportunity to meet with candidate Pastor Roger Schoolcraft. Gil also review the status of other candidates.

Doug Mussey made the following **MOTION**: **That the Finance Committee be directed to devise a five-year financial plan for Trinity Church. Such a plan would include a predetermined level below which cash on hand should not fall and actions that would be taken should the operation capital fall below a predetermined amounts.** Jerry Iseler seconded. Vote: 2 for, 5 against, 3 abstained. Motion failed.

BOARD REPORTS:

Human Care: Martha Mitchel reported that the group is getting back together but there are several replacements needed in some of the ministries at this point mostly due to COVID.

Stewardship: Dennis Esch explained that Time/Talent website is still a work in progress. The emails seem to be working for most of the Chairs. The Gift Planning Seminar is scheduled for February 16th from 4pm – 6pm in the Fellowship Hall. Communication will be going out in the Tidings and then during services. Signups will be required. We are hoping to have these seminars several times a year.

Trustees: (Copy attached.) Jeff Bixler requested that Franco Esposito be added to the board. Gil Dahnke appointed Franco Esposito to the Board of Trustees. Council approved. A brief discussion was held regarding smoking policy and further investigation was needed.

Fellowship: (Copy attached.) Patti Paxton reported that the Lenten suppers will not need Board support, however cleanup assistance is always welcomed.

Elders: (Copy attached.) Chuck Wilt presented the scheduled dates for the Lenten season as well as specific Elder responsibilities.

Christian Education: Doug Mussey had nothing to report.

Evangelism: (Copy attached.) Jerry Iseler suggested that we return to whole printed bulletins.

The next Council meeting will be February 15, 2022 at 1:30 PM in Room 3. Patti moved to adjourn. Gary seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Egeland
Recording Secretary





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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.

