



**Trinity
Lutheran
Church**
LCMS



Volume 27 Issue 1

January 1

New Year's Day— No Service

January 3

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

January 3

Office Closed

January 6

Epiphany of Our Lord

January 16

**Dave Anderson Concert
5:00 p.m. Reception
6:00 p.m. Concert**

January 22

**Creation Studies Seminar
9:00 a.m.**

January 25

LWML Meeting at 1:00 p.m.



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I write this month's newsletter article, it is just a few days before we turn the calendars and close out 2021 while at the same time welcoming the New Year and celebrating the arrival of 2022! So, let me be one of the first to wish you and our faith-family at Trinity a, "Happy and Blessed New Year!" The start of every New Year gives us the opportunity to reflect upon the past year and discover once again God's faithfulness in Christ. It also provides us with hope and joy as we look forward to the New Year and the many new adventures we will encounter along the way through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the leading of His Holy Spirit.

Speaking of new adventures, I came across an article detailing the adventures of 50 year-old Neal Moore who spent the past 22 months canoeing along America's rivers from Oregon to the Statue of Liberty by crossing 22 states when he finally culminated his 7,500 mile trek during the month of December. Asked what had inspired him to make such a trek, he said, "I felt like I followed that light shining all the way across the country...my journey was one of illumination...so, to finally see that beacon up close, that flame of liberty, after seeing it in so many people I met across this land, it was overwhelming!"

In the same way, this is the month God's people at Trinity launch their canoes into an exciting New Year. For it is in this season of Epiphany where we recount the adventures of the Magi as they followed the star to worship the One born King. Similarly, we too, will leave the comfort of our homes and follow this star throughout 2022. Yet, the question remains, "Where might this King be leading us as individuals and as a congregation in this New Year?" Like Neal Moore, any new adventure will include illumination, obstacles, and confidence in the promises of God that He will make all things new for us and His purpose for our lives. Scripture notes that "when the star stopped over the place where Jesus was, the wisemen from the east were overwhelmed with joy!" (Matthew 2:1-12)

With the star guiding our way, we will be overwhelmed with joy when we discover the mission and ministry God has prepared for us in this New Year. He has already provided us with a glimpse of that plan to include the following:

- The approval of the Intentional Interim Minister Program for defining our mission and ministry in this community and throughout the world.
- The formal Calling of an Intentional Interim Minister
- Staffing of a Minister of Music
- The Self-Study Report of the Transition Team

I am excited about these canoes and others to be released in this New Year to be led by the star illuminating the path to the very place where God wants us to be during this period of transition. It is a recipe for joy that will certainly need the spiritual commitment, involvement, and ardent prayers of our ministry staff, our lay leaders, and you as our members working together for God's plan among us. I have always enjoyed new adventures, and I hope you do too. With God as our guide and His Spirit leading the way, you just know that 2022 is setting up to be an exciting year for us and our congregation!

Your Servant in Christ, Pastor Blair Clark

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!" – From our family to yours, Kimberley and I would like to express our thanks and praise to God for you, the members of Trinity Lutheran, for all of the lovely Christmas cards, letters, and generous gifts you have so graciously shared with us during this Christmas Season. We praise God and give thanks to Him for the privilege we have to serve you in this ministry together. It is our prayer that God will grant you a, "Blessed and Happy New Year!"

January Prayers



SUNDAY

My loving God, I thank You for bringing me safely to another day of worship. As I speak and sing praise to You today, fill my heart with true praise and thankfulness for all You have done for me. Help me to fully appreciate the blessings of worship with my fellow Christians in a free world. May I be a faithful witness to all of the love I have for my Lord Jesus. **Psalm 100:2:** "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

MONDAY

Father, You have said "Call upon Me in the day of trouble and You will deliver me. When I am troubled, I think of nothing else. You Lord, know my thoughts and the true cause of all that troubles me. I am a sinner and do not deserve Your blessings, but You are merciful. So I pray You would remove this anxiety from my heart and fill it with Your peace. I trust in You, O Lord. **2 Corinthians 1:4:** (God) who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort, we ourselves have received from God.)

TUESDAY

Father, I lift up the families of our military before You. Bless them for the sacrifices they are making in service to our nation. Help them to deal with the stress and special challenges common for military families. Grant them hope as they trust in You. Send friends and family members to encourage and support them during tough times. Bring back their loved one, serving in the the military, safe and healthy. **2 Thessalonians 2:3:** But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

WEDNESDAY

Lord God, help me to be more content with what I have as I celebrate a new year. Teach me that true contentment is found only in You. The blessings You give truly are satisfying. Instill in me the understanding that the things of this world will pass away, but the blessings You give in Christ will last forever. **1 Timothy 6:17:** Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.

THURSDAY

Father, I thank You for the gift of earthly families and for the joys You have given me in and through my family. Thank you, for Your presence in times of troubles sometimes disrupting the peace of family life. Grant me the ability to love family members both because of and in spite of what I do for and with each other. Help me to know how best to show them Your love and my love for them. **2 John 1:6:** And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands, As you have heard from the beginning his command is that you walk in love.

FRIDAY

I thank You, Lord Jesus, for giving to us pastors and all workers in the church. Unite them in all they do. They equip us so we can serve You. Give them a strong faith. Prepare them to meet the challenges facing our churches. Help them to find the joy coming only from knowing and serving You. Teach me to love, honor and respect them as messengers sent from You.

Roman 15:5: May God give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus.

SATURDAY

Dearest Lord Jesus, May men and women who are joined together in marriage know Your blessings will be upon them. Problems do arise, so I pray You will help those who strive to do Your will, to find counseling and help when trouble comes. Lead them to work out their difficulties in a God pleasing way by leading both partners closer to You. Teach them to forgive each other the same way You forgave them. May they always speak the truth and respect each other in love.

Ephesians 4:2: Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.



Intentional Interim Minister

Following the special voters meeting sessions November 13th and 14th, and the voters approval for Trinity to proceed with calling an Intentional Interim Minister (IIM) as we continue going thru the transition to call a full time Sr. Pastor, we informed the District Office of our congregational vote and was advised to provide a letter making an official request for the IIM. That letter was provided to District on December 10, 2021 and we are awaiting names of prospective IIM's, with their background information, to interview and make a recommendation to the congregation of our choice. The process has been slowed somewhat as both President Walton and his wife tested positive for COVID around the Thanksgiving time and he was not in the office until mid December. When we receive the list on prospective IIM candidates, we will share those names with the congregation.

Music Director

The music committee is continuing their search for the music director here at Trinity. As of mid-December they had received 5 resumes and conducted 4 telephone interviews. The 5th individual was deemed not qualified, therefore, was eliminated. The cutoff date for candidates to submit their resumes was December 20th. Three candidates will be selected for in person interviews and auditions to be conducted in early January 2022. Two of those three will be ask to return to demonstrate their ability to lead and conduct the choir. Our actual choir will be brought in for that activity.

We continue to thank those individuals who are providing the music support for all our church services during this time of the music committee working through our search for our new music director.

Annual Voters Meeting

The annual December voters meeting, with the primary purpose of electing officers and board members, was held on December 12, 2021. Minutes of previous voters meetings from August 29, 2021 and the special voters meeting sessions of November 13 and 14, 2021 were approved as written.

The election of officers and board members were conducted with Paul Stieber being nominated from the floor to run in addition to Carolyn Fortin for Vice-President and Dave MacTrinder added to the board of Trustees.

The results of the vote for Vice-President was Carolyn Fortin receiving 73 votes and Paul Stieber receiving 23 votes therefore Carolyn Fortin is the Vice-President elected for the 2022-2023 calendar years. Joan Egeland was elected as Church Secretary and all board members were elected as presented.

Treasurer Gary Eckoff presented the 2022 proposed budget. After discussion on several items, the budget was approved for the 2022 calendar year. This is the first time in several years a balanced budget was presented to the voters assembly.

Gary then presented information that Trinity Lutheran Church is the beneficiary from a past member's estate and the Administrator has sent a preliminary report of the estates distribution and Trinity could potentially receive approximately \$470,000. The final dollar amount and distribution from the estate should take place during 2022.

The Finance Committee and Church Council previously discussed at length how we should distribute these funds. The recommendation from Church Council to the voter assembly is that Trinity do a 10%, 10%, 80% distribution with 10% being designated for Missions, 10% being retained by Trinity to be used by and for Trinity at the Church Council discretion and 80% be paid to Thrivent to be applied against the principle of our loan on our Sanctuary. Gary made three different motions for the 10% to mission, 10% to be retained by Trinity and 80% applied against the principle of our Sanctuary loan. After discussion on each motion, all three motions were approved by the voters.

Transition Team

We have 11 volunteers to be on the Transition Team: Carolyn Fortin (Chair), Pam Bixler, Roy Egeland, Bill Schwieger, Al Etzler, Jane Wood, Carol Keenan, Joan Egeland, Paul Stieber, Marilyn DeTizio, Joyce Mussey. Gil Dahnke and Jill Esposito both will be Ex-Officio members.

We plan to have a team meeting in early January to begin gathering information and data for our transitional documents which will aid the call team later.

A Happy and Blessed New Year to all!

2022 Church Officers

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

WE VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY OF GRATITUDE NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS

2021 was a very successful year for the Trinity Lutheran congregations Christian giving to the Ocklawaha Community of Gratitude Food Pantry. The food pantry continues to serve the needy in their immediate area with the addition of our food and cash donations. The November Thanksgiving food and cash drive resulted in the delivery of many pounds of food and nearly \$2000.00 in cash and checks to the pantry.

Our volunteers, who deliver weekly food donations to the pantry, deserve a thank you as they witness the gratitude shown by the recipients. The smiles that you witness as they receive the boxes of food can sometime be overwhelming.

There continues to be a need for volunteers to deliver food and/or assist the limited staff and volunteers in the weekly distribution to the needy. Food is distributed to the recipients every Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM and on Thursdays from 1 PM to 3 PM. Our volunteers routinely deliver the donations on Tuesday, for a month at a time, and there are currently 2 monthly opportunities awaiting volunteers. The months of November and December are now open for volunteers.

Again, thank you for your wonderful loving hearts and continuing efforts to feed the needy in our local area. If there are any questions or willingness to reach out and assist you may contact Jim and Nancy Steinmark at 352-299-0606.





GREETINGS!

No, this isn't a message from Uncle Sam's old Draft Board—it's from your Trinity Evangelism Board !! And it is asking you to Enlist - - in our Trinity Greeter Corps. No physical exam required; qualifications are simply a welcoming spirit and a smile!

If you would be willing to join us in welcoming folks to our worship services, please call your "local recruiter," Janet Simmons at (989) 506-2457.



COLOR BOOK GROUP

Meeting Friday, January 7 & 21 in Room 3

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.— Janice Collins



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY GROUP

Meeting January 24

The Prayer Shawl Group has been busy. In April, we donated 22 shawls to the Ted and Diane Bradley Home for Hospice. This fall we gave 50 shawls to Highpoint, to be given to new residents as they move in.

Highpoint's Director of Social Services requested a meeting with Darlene and Wanda. She told us that several residents loved the Prayer shawls they received, and they want to learn how to make some, and begin their own ministry. We will begin outreach with 2 meetings in January with their interested residents.

We will continue our Trinity Prayer Shawl Group on the 4th Monday morning of each month, January through May, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., in room 1 of the Fellowship hall.



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.



HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU

As we welcome a new year, we also welcome all of the ladies of the congregation to join us as we meet each month to share an afternoon and enjoy the friendships of the other women of the congregation. We were so pleased to have almost 80 ladies at our Red Boot Tea on Dec. 7th, where we shared holiday memories, had festive entertainment, and enjoyed delicious refreshments. Chairwoman, Donna Faiella, and her committee did a fantastic job, and we also thank Judy Hall & Adoration in Motion for providing our music and entertainment. Plus, a thank you to our ladies who provided their Nativity scenes from all over the world for our display. For those who were not able to attend and would like to participate in our ongoing Red Boot program, little red felt boots will be available at the Welcome Desk. According to the history of this tradition, women place change in the boots all year long, and donate their accumulations at a tea in December.



JANUARY MEETING-

On **Tuesday, January 25th**, we will gather in the **Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m.** for our regular monthly meeting. Our speaker for the day will be Judith Courter, founder of Esther House Reentry program in Fruitland Park, and the recipient of our Red Boot collection. This is a Christian based program for women who have been incarcerated and want assistance in returning to society.



Judi will speak about her program, her home, and we will present her with a check. We will also host an "in gathering" to provide additional assistance with their needs, and have been told that either Amazon or WalMart gift cards are always helpful and needed.

Pastor Blair will open our meeting with a short devotional message followed by a business meeting and election of officers for 2022. We will serve light refreshments and have an opportunity to mingle at the close of the meeting. We hope you will plan to join us for our first meeting of the new year.



LWML Mite Box Collection

The next monthly Mite collection will be on **Sunday, January 2nd**. Your contributions are very important in supporting many various mission projects/grants. One of these is as follows:

Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch - \$81,680

The healing ministry of the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, creates an eternal life-giving impact in the lives of children from the ages 10-18 who face unimaginable abuse, neglect, and trauma. This is especially true for female children who are often victimized by male figures, resulting in trust-related issues that are difficult for a child to bridge. With this mission grant, the specialized ministry of a deaconess will bridge this gap with the transformational care of Christ.

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!**

THANK YOU-



The Trinity Ladies Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) wishes to thank everyone for the great support given to the collection of Mites for 2021. **The total amount collected for the year was \$3,641.00.** Twenty-five percent of the Mite offering is sent to International LWML for their mission projects and the remaining seventy-five percent is used for our District's mission projects.



THE RESCUE TOUR

Dave Anderson & Roger Walck



PLANE CRASH SURVIVOR TO APPEAR IN CONCERT

Sunday, January 16

5:00 PM Reception

6:00 PM Concert

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 p.m.

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.

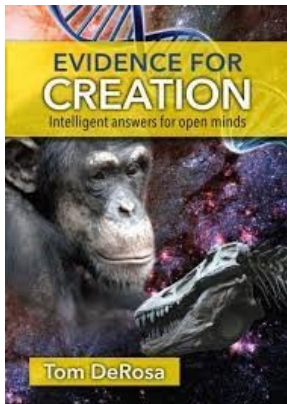
As part of the evening concert at Trinity Lutheran Church, Dave will retell parts of The Rescue Story which has been seen and heard by millions of people around the world in person, on TV and radio and in many languages. The Rescue Story book and DVD will be available at the concert.

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



JANUARY 22 CREATION STUDIES SEMINAR

Exposing the 8 Great Myths of Evolution!



- ⇒ **Does evolution oppose the Word of God?**
- ⇒ **Is Darwinian evolution science or is it a religion?**
- ⇒ **How do you explain the origin of life?**
- ⇒ **Is evolution making a monkey out of you?**
- ⇒ **Why is the fossil rock so incomplete?**
- ⇒ **Did dinosaurs coexist with humans?**
- ⇒ **Are there untold problems of the Big Bang?**
- ⇒ **What story do rocks tell us?**

The above myths will be engagingly addressed in two sessions with a dynamic presentation by Tom DeRosa, the Executive Director and founder of Creation Studies Institute. He is an experienced science educator who has taught on all levels, including college where he is currently an adjunct professor at South Florida Bible College and Theological Seminary. Tom's enthusiasm is contagious and he will make an impactful message for many of those who attend.

This event will be held from **9:00 am to 11:30 am on Saturday, January 22** in the sanctuary allowing for comfortable and adequate seating. It's a great time to bring friends, neighbors and family and it's an especially good way to learn how to talk to grandchildren who are indoctrinated throughout their schooling in evolution as the final and factual source of information on the existence of the universe and all it contains.



COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD OF EVANGELISM

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD UPDATE

Thank You. Thank You, Thank You for the wonderful response in completing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Our congregation completed 278 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.

On November 19th, we delivered Trinity's boxes to First Baptist Church of Belleview. This began the first leg of their long journey. Then they went to Atlanta for processing and are now on their way. We have found some of our boxes in Burkina Faso and Angola. If you registered the online number of your boxes, you will be able to check their destination at samaritanaspurse.org/activate. We hope you will continue to pray for this rewarding ministry and the many lives touched with Christ's love and hope.

More about Angola from Samaritan's Purse

Located on the western coast of Africa, Angola is known for its natural resource of oil as well as its recent recovery from decades of civil war. Operation Christmas Child began delivering gift-filled shoeboxes to children in this nation in 1997 and many have participated in our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey, since we launched it here in 2010.

Read Stories from the Field

José, a teacher of The Greatest Journey in Angola, writes, "I thank God and all who work in this ministry. May God bless you richly to continue this important work for Christ that has materially and spiritually helped thousands of needy children around of the world to hear the Word of God. Being a teacher of The Greatest Journey is an honor for me because I was chosen by God (Eph. 4:1). I give thanks to Him.

I liked teaching children to know, to follow, and to talk about Jesus. Many of these children did not read correctly, but after three months of the courses, I received so much praise from the school teachers that today their children can read and talk about Jesus with their friends."

2 Corinthians 9:8-9 - 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."

COMMITTEE ON GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD OF EVANGELISM



Please save these dates of our upcoming events:

- ⇒ World Day of Prayer, Friday, March 4, 2022
- ⇒ National Day of Prayer, Thursday, May 5, 2022
- ⇒ International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, Sun., Nov.6, 2022

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JANUARY MEETING

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

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

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From Voice of the Martyrs

Mission: The **Voice of the Martyrs** is a non-profit, interdenominational organization with a vision for aiding Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith in Christ, fulfilling the Great Commission, and educating the world about the ongoing persecution of Christians.

Because the New Testament was written to persecuted believers, it is filled with examples of how to pray for our brothers and sisters under attack.

Here are 5 examples from Ephesians:

- Please pray persecuted believers would know the hope God gives (Ephesians 1:18).
- Pray the Holy Spirit would strengthen them (Ephesians 3:16).
- Please pray persecuted believers would know how much God loves them (Ephesians 3:17)
- Pray they would know how to share the gospel (Ephesians 6:19).
- Please pray persecuted believers would fearlessly tell others about Jesus (Ephesians 6:20).

CHANGING PATHS

Thanksgiving 2021 | Volume 19 Issue 7



Though blessed with the loosening of restrictions, we were once again unable to hold our church's annual Thanksgiving meal in person. With the help of many hands, including those (such as Lily's classmate on the right) we invited to join with the hope of connecting them to our church, our group prepared and boxed up 125 meals for pick up and delivery. Fifty of these were shared with a ministry that provides meals and services to 'street sleepers.'

A life of thanksgiving is often easiest when we feel healthy, have little stress at work or home, enjoy the company of family and friends, and know where our next meal is coming from. When these change, we can be led to despair and forgetfulness of our Heavenly Father's eternal care for us.

As you celebrate Thanksgiving this year, no matter your circumstances, we pray you may do so with hearts recognizing that our Lord is truly with us. His plan of salvation for you, for us, and for the world is only possible through Jesus. Through faith in Him, we not only are guaranteed eternal life with our Creator, but are granted a new life on this earth. May we live this life giving thanks and praise for His undeserved goodness, sharing this Good News with others.

Like last year, we wanted to send a personal thought from each of us to each of you. But first, a word of thanks and praise from Psalm 28: *The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.*

Olivia: We are really grateful for all your cards and support!

Lily: We really appreciate all your faithful and encouraging prayers.

Dee Dee: We are thankful for our friends in Christ who encourage and support us. God's blessings to you!

Matt: Truly we are blessed with your partnership in this work. Your genuine care and generosity make it possible for us to be here and we give thanks to God for you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His mercy endures forever!



Matt, Dee Dee, Lily and Olivia Wasmund
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SOUTH KOREA



To support the LCMS through the work of the Wasmund family, you may send a tax-deductible gift to:

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; P.O. Box 66861; St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 -OR-

Mission Central; 40718 Highway E 16; Mapleton, IA 51034.

Make checks payable to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or LCMS. Include 'Wasmund - Korea' in the memo line.

Gifts can also be given securely online through the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/wasmund.



From the Board of Stewardship

Who will be blessed by gifts from my estate someday?

In 2021, Trinity was the recipient of 2 gifts that in a year of many challenges i.e. Covid, overseas turmoil, to name a few, God turned a tumultuous year into a blessing. With congregational financial matched gifts, over \$500,000 was raised to pay off our fellowship hall loan, and again at the end of the year an estate gift of almost the same amount to be used at Trinity for additional loan repayment and support numerous missions. All With God's Help!

Estate gifts given without heart-connections, rob the giver of the joy God encourages in the act of giving. Instead of leaving estate gifts to family only to be discovered when the will is read someday, gather your family together and openly share with them the blessings you hope these future gifts will bring.

Also, think now of the gifts you plan to give to ministry. Set up a meeting to discuss your gift with the pastor or stewardship board chair and talk about what you hope the gift will accomplish in ministry. They can offer considerations that are not normally applied via trusts or wills that can prove beneficial to one's planning.

With some work and careful planning and communication, you can bring the joy of giving into your life as you disperse God's gifts to the family you love and to the ministries you care about the most.

Here at Trinity, we are supported by our Florida District LCMS Foundation Gift planning Counselor Tony Hunt. His role is to support and help you discover this joy.

Feel free to contact Tony Hunt at (260) 222-1291 or email Tony.Hunt@LFND.org

THE SEWING ANGELS (AKA Scrappy Quilters)

Big News in the New Year! We have decided to rename our group! Years ago our founding sisters were busily working on their quilting projects. Pastor Abrams was passing by and jokingly said they were just a bunch of Scrappy Quilters! That is how we got our name. As years have gone by the mission of the Scrappy Quilters has grown beyond just quilts, to sew many things which bring joy and comfort to many. My sisters kept calling me their sewing angel and I thought that is exactly what the Scrappy Quilters are - a beautiful group of sewing angels. I brought the name change idea to the group and it was voted unanimously to be called The Sewing Angels of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Since I last wrote on November 15th my sewing angels have delivered to GG's house 8 floor pillows, 281 drawstring Santa bags, 31 soapy washcloths, 2 pillowcases, 8 ponchos, 100 crocheted Christmas Bell Ornaments and 37 crocheted Christmas card ornaments crafted by Debbie Zwolak. Our contact at Dollar Tree came through with a huge box full of toys to help fill the Santa bags. Julia Mack campaigned in her Del Webb community for help with donations to help fill 24 bags with hygiene items for the teenagers. Enough cash was donated to purchase toiletry items and washcloths. Extra bars of soap and the washcloths will be used to make more soapy washcloths.

Our main focus now is sewing blankets. We are using excess fleece fabrics from the poncho project and quilted fabric that was donated. We are pairing fleece or quilted fabrics with a coordinating fabric we have on our shelves, sewing them together and then tying the layers as we do the quilts. No batting is used in this project. We have about 20 in progress at this time. Distribution of the blankets will begin in January.

At our last meeting in 2021 on December 17th we set time aside to just relax, visit and enjoy some refreshments. We picked items from our shelves to contribute to a project one of my neighbors is heading up to bless Senior citizens in nursing homes in Leesburg who are lonely on Christmas.

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas. Thank you for your support of our sewing ministry. Together we can make a difference! The first meeting of The Sewing Angels in 2022 is January 7th. As always we meet from noon till 3 in meeting room 1. Please keep our ministry in your prayers and prayerfully consider joining us! Best wishes for a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Sue Lehota (call or text **330-414-8406** or e-mail suelehota@aol.com).

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

THE SEWING ANGELS (AKA Scrappy Quilters)



No Easy Answers: Part 13

“Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob me. ‘But you ask, ‘How are we robbing you?’ ‘In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the LORD Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. (Malachi 3:8-10)

It’s time to say good-bye to 2021 and hello to 2022. Will someone please tell me where the year went? Anyway, as one of my favorite songs states, it is time to “turn the page.” It is time to move on to new adventures and look forward with anticipation of what a new year will bring, and to also discover what the year has in store for Trinity.

Before I move on, I would like to reflect on the congregational meeting in December. I was told by several people that they were amazed at how much interaction there was by the congregation. Since this was my first December annual meeting at Trinity, I have nothing to compare it to. But it seemed to go remarkably smooth compared to other congregational meetings I have been a part of.

I was encouraged by the fact that there was more conversation about the financial state of Trinity than any other issue presented. And rightly so. It has been my experience that the financial health of a congregation speaks volumes about its overall health. Especially its spiritual health.

As I drove into Trinity on December 12th, I was met by a long stream of automobiles leaving the church. I thought to myself, I know the first service is over, but did I miss the annual meeting also? No, the people leaving the church were those who were disinterested in the inner workings of Trinity. And I get it. Sometimes church meetings are so Booooooring (like a Dean Smith four corner offense). They should be bottled and sold as a cure for insomnia. But still, each and every voice should be heard. And yes, it is important that you vote.

I spoke with a couple of people as they walked out to get in their car to leave and reminded them that their voice was important. I was shocked at their response. Which was, it the same old, same old, same old. No matter what good suggestions are brought out, they are voted down, and the leaders just get their way. So. they said, “why should I stay? I’m headed out to breakfast.” The sad part about the statement is that it contains a whole lot of truth. After they left, I went into the meeting with a new prospective. To judge for myself if what they said was true. I came to the conclusion that for the most part, they were correct. For the first part of the meeting the material presented was pretty mundane and not thought provoking. Passing minutes of past meetings doesn’t do much for the stirring of one blood and emotions. Likewise, the nomination of new committee members does not do much for arousing heated debate.

However, when it comes time to talk about money, that has the capability of awaking the almost asleep to being wide awake. Why do we worry so much about dollars and cents? Does not God own the cattle on a thousand hills, and could he not sell a couple and send the funds to Trinity? That is exactly what we found has happened. Some one has left us quite a sizeable bequest in their will. Now comes the important part. How are we going to spend it? Once that was settled and the funds designated and spent, we could move on. Yes, I know that that was one of the last items on the agenda.

No Easy Answers: Part 13

The biggest and most time-consuming item was the “Budget.” but what is a “budget?” A budget is an estimation of revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time, and is usually compiled and re-evaluated on a periodic basis. Budgets can be made for a person, a group of people, a business, a government, or just about anything else that makes and spends money.

To manage your monthly expenses, prepare for life's unpredictable events, and be able to afford big-ticket items without going into debt, budgeting is important. Keeping track of how much you earn and spend doesn't have to be drudgery, doesn't require you to be good at math, and doesn't mean you can't buy the things you want. It just means that you'll know where your money goes, and you'll have greater control over your finances.

Now that there is an operational definition for what a budget is, let's move on. First of all, I do not like the term “budget” for a church. To me it indicated that we do not have any ministry or any plans for the ministry. But of course, we do. I prefer the term “Ministry Plan.” It implies that we have ministries, and we have plans for those ministries. There is an old saying in the non-profit world. It goes, “donors give to programs and not to budgets.” If it is true, that may explain why Trinity's finances are eighty-five thousand in the red for 2021 (that is as of this writing and what was presented to the congregation). It would be even more in the red if you took away the PPP funds we received in 2020.

Whether you give to a budget or a ministry plan, or even if you do not give at all, and yes, it is about the tithe, or some may say giving of offerings to God our Father. First of all, we who call ourselves Christians, follow a Jewish Messiah. Jesus was never a Christian. He is, was and always will be Jewish. Christianity could be and in some places is considered a sub-set of Judaism. If that be the case, we are to follow the laws and precepts that God handed down to the Jewish people. If that is true, then we are still commanded to follow God's teachings when it comes to giving. Just in case you are not familiar with them let me fill you in.

If you read the books of Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, or go the Biblegateway.com and search for tithe, you will find that for the Jew there were three offerings they were to bring. The first was a tithe every year for the maintenance of the temple. The second tithe, due each year, was to support the temple feasts and festivals. The third tithe was due every third year and went to the benevolence fund to support the widows and orphans and sojourners in the land. If you broke it down and wanted to pay it each year that would mean your tithe to the church should be twenty-three and one-third percent. A whole lot more then we are asked to contribute today.

The scriptures tell us to bring all the tithes into the storehouse so that the floodgates of heaven will be opened and blessings from God our Father will be so many that we will not have room to receive them. If you do not want to give to a “Budget” try giving to our “mission” which “is to share the good news of Jesus the Christ by serving the spiritual, social, family and personal needs of the community.” What do you say? Do you want to give it a try and see what happens? I think we should.

Doug Mussey: Chair; Board of Christian Education.

November, 2021
GENERAL FUND



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



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
February 2022 Newsletter is
**** Saturday, January 15th ****





VOTERS MEETING MINUTES

Trinity Lutheran Church Voters Assembly Minutes December 12, 2021

Council President Gil Dahnke called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. Pastor Blair opened the meeting with prayer. There were 113

voting members present.

The minutes of the Voters Meeting of August 29, 2021 were presented. There being no changes, Col. Carlan moved: **MOTION:** *The minutes of the Voters Meeting of August 29, 2021 shall all be accepted as presented.* Motion was seconded and carried. The minutes of the three sessions of the November 13 & 14, 2021 Special Voters Meeting were presented. There being no changes, Jan Garner moved: **MOTION:** *The minutes of the three sessions of the November 13 & 14, 2021 Special Voters Meeting shall all be accepted as presented.* Motion was seconded and carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: Jane Wood nominated Paul Stieber for the office of Vice President. Nominations were closed for Vice President. By a show of hands, the current Vice President **Carolyn Fortin, received 73 votes; Paul Stieber received 23 votes.** Carolyn Fortin was elected Vice President for her first full term January 1, 2022-December 31, 2023. President Dahnke appointed Gary Eckoff as Treasurer for his third term from January 1, 2022-December 31, 2023. Joan Egeland accepted the nomination as Recording Secretary for her first half term January 1, 2022-December 31, 2022. There being no objections, Joan Egeland was elected as the Recording Secretary. Board members up for re-election for a two year term to end December 31, 2023 (copy attached) were presented. Col. Carlan moved: **MOTION:** *The Board Members shall be accepted with Dave MacTrinder being added to the Board of Trustees and Hugh and Lou O'Brien being removed from the Board of Human Care.* Motion was seconded and carried.

2022 BUDGET: Gary Eckoff presented the Treasurer's report (copy available from the office) for the first 10 months of 2021. Gary then reviewed the Proposed 2022 General Fund Budget (copy attached). Patti Paxton moved: **MOTION:** *The General Fund Budget for the 2022 be accepted as presented.* The motion was seconded by Col. Carlan. Bob Behrends moved that the motion on the floor *be amended to take the Bushnell mortgage out of the Missions line of the Operating Expenses, and put it back into the General Budget.* Jan Garner seconded. Votes **FOR the Amendment 29;** Votes **AGAINST the Amendment 64.** The amendment did not pass, and the original budget motion was voted on and carried. The 2022 General Fund Budget was approved as presented.

Gary reported that Trinity Lutheran Church is the beneficiary of a past member's estate. The administrator has sent TLC a preliminary report reviewing the estate's distribution to each beneficiary. TLC's share is 25%, which means we could potentially receive approximately \$470,000. Final distribution should take place in the next 6-10 months. The Church Council discussed, at length, how these funds are to be distributed/spent in 2022 and beyond. It was resolved that TLC do a 10%-10%-80% split as follows: 10% given for God's Mission work; 10% to TLC; 80% principal payment to Thrivent on the Sanctuary loan. Gary Eckoff moved:

MOTION #1: *Voters shall accept the following designation of 10% of the total amount received from the member's estate for MISSIONS, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Of these funds, (a) 10% to Florida-Georgia District; (b) 10% to Trinity Missions as directed by the Pastor, and (c) 80% to be distributed to National/International Missions per the Evangelism Board, with the Pastor's input.* Patti Paxton seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #2: *Voters shall accept the designation of 10% of the total amount received from the member's estate, as recommended by the Finance Committee, to be used by and for Trinity Lutheran Church. These funds will be distributed at the Council's discretion.* Mike David seconded. Motion carried.

MOTION #3: *Voters shall accept the designation of 80% of the total amount received from the member's estate, as recommended by the Finance Committee, to be used to pay down the principal on our Sanctuary loan with Thrivent.* Patti Paxton seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Music Director Update: Music ministry has received five candidates. The next meeting will be December 13, 2021 with in-person interviews with 4 of them. Interviews will continue.

Intentional Interim Minister Update: President Walton asked for an official letter from TLC requesting the IIM and it has been sent.

Transition Team Update: Eleven people volunteered to be on the Transition Team: Carolyn Fortin, Chair, Pam Bixler, Marilyn DeTizio, Joan Egeland, Roy Egeland, Al Etzler, Carol Keenan, Joyce Mussey, Bill Schwieger, Paul Stieber, Jane Wood, Gil Dahnke, ex-officio, and Jill Esposito, ex-officio.

There was no new business to come before the meeting.

The next Voters Meeting will be June 26, 2022. There being no further business, **Jeff Bixler moved to adjourn.** Motion was seconded and approved. President Dahnke adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

Faithfully submitted,
Pam Bixler
Recording Secretary

VOTERS
MEETING
MINUTES



MEMORIALS

*A gift was given to the Music Fund in memory of
Auguste Micketeit*



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 **JANUARY** 2022

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Come & Worship With Us

Saturdays

4:00 p.m.

Sundays

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

(No Service Sat., Jan. 1)

Come & Learn With Us

Sundays

Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.