



Pastor's Message

April 2020

### Building Community in a COVID-19 World

One of the chief tasks of ministry is building community. Now I know that "religion" often carries with it a lot of negative connotations, which is why many people now say they are "spiritual, but not religious." They do not want to be associated with the Inquisition, the Crusades, colonialism, etc. (neither do I). They adopt practices that make them feel good, but by doing what they want and when they want to do it, they are not stretched to grow or challenged in their beliefs.

The root of the word religion is *ligare*, which is the same root word for ligament as well. Ligaments connect one bone to another bone, or a bone to a cartilage. Without ligaments there are many joints that would not be stable or function.

Religion, at its best, connects one person to another. Martin Luther taught us that the Holy Spirit calls, **gathers**, enlightens, and sanctifies us. This means that it is God's intention to gather us together so that we learn how to be God's people in community. I think one of the great gifts congregations provide is community.

"Social distancing" seems to go against everything we have been taught about our faith. We are now asked to stay home and keep away from others. That, however, is not quite true. There are two words in social distancing. Yes, we are to keep our physical distance from one another, but we are still social beings. We can continue to be social – keeping the emotional and spiritual connections in tact – by calling people on the telephone, or by sending a text or an email. We can still be religious people who value community, who follow our God's call and command to connect with other people and keep our physical distance from one another.

This is a challenging time to be the church. But let us see this as an opportunity for us to get to know others in the congregation we may not know so well. Pick up the phone and call someone, let them know that you are a member of Trinity and that you are using this time to get to know others in the congregation. Check in and see how they are doing. Find out if they are too isolated from others and if they have close family or friends who are helping them. Find out if they are in a high-risk category and if they have enough food and supplies on hand. There are many ways that we can still be religious and connect to people in spite of the virus.

Peace be with you...

Pastor Tim



## Cantor's Notes

**“We believe that the holy act of singing together shapes faith, heals brokenness, transforms lives, and renews peace.”**

The guiding stance of *The Center for Congregational Song* of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada.

**God Whose Will is Health and Wholeness.** This is a new hymn for the time of Coronavirus written by Rev. Carolyn Wynfree Gillette, a Presbyterian pastor serving in Owego, NY.

*Some tunes that fit this text are: There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing; Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.*

1. God whose will is health and wholeness, hear your people as we pray:  
Many now are facing illness; more face sickness every day.  
As we lift our song toward heaven, may we use the gifts you give —  
Science, justice, and compassion — to help others safely live.
2. Jesus taught that your commandments call for us to use the mind.  
May we use the gifts of science to seek health for humankind.  
Bless the ones who work for healing; bless the ones who seek to be  
Builders of a health care system that protects society.
3. God, you call for love and justice, yet our laws are far from wise:  
Many don't have good insurance; lack of health care threatens lives.  
Many workers must keep working, sick or not, to pay the bills.  
Turn us round when we have sanctioned greed that leads to greater ills.
4. Loving God, we ask your blessing on the sick and those they love,  
And we pray for those now grieving as they lift their cries above.  
There is trouble all around us; illness causes pain and fear.  
Give compassion, love and kindness as we serve your people here.

*Text: Copyright © 2020 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.  
Permission is given for use of this hymn in local churches.*

+ **Singing the Psalms.** The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) is planning a Saturday event about singing the Psalms in worship. We at Trinity sing the appointed Psalm every week in worship in a variety of ways, but many congregations don't sing them at all! Pastor Vince Iocona will provide an overview of the Psalms, I will lead a session on how to chant the psalms, Deacon Ryan Hostler will lead a session on using various instruments to accompany the Psalms, several choir anthems based on Psalms will be explored, and there will also be a presentation about using American Sign Language (ASL) in worship. The event is being planned for Sat., April 25 at St. Mark By the Sea Lutheran Church in Palm Coast but may need to be postponed until later in the year. Visit [alcm.org](http://alcm.org) to register. Please talk to me if you would like more information.

+ **The Story of Handbells.** (*Continuing from last month*) The need for handbells originated in England. Tower bell ringers were unable to practice the art of change ringing by using the huge bells and so found that by using smaller bells, they could practice the pealing before actually performing the peals on the much larger and louder tower bells. The English still use handbells to practice change ringing. Americans, however, have developed the art of handbell ringing to a greater extent – into a musical performance. P.T. Barnum is the person credited with introducing handbells to this country. Mr. Barnum wanted a group of English Change Ringers for his circus. Unfortunately, he did not think that their act was attractive enough and so dressed them in Alpine costumes and introduced them as “Swiss Bell Ringers.” (*to be continued ...*)

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)  
Brian Larson



... to Barbara Perry on the recent death of her son, **Phillip Perry III**. Phillip died in his sleep last week. He was 55 and living in South Carolina at the time of his death.

... to the family and friends of **Dee Anderson**. Dee died on Thursday, March 12 and there was a graveside service for her at Sea Pines Memorial Gardens on Thursday, March 19. She was 89.

*May the Lord comfort these families at this tender time. For "if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live whether we die, we are the Lord's." (Romans 14:8)*



On behalf of Halifax Urban Ministries,  
 Thank you for your monetary gift and your on-going effort towards making a difference. Your commitment and passion are greatly appreciated. We are grateful for your generosity & dedication, and hope that you will continue to remember us in your prayers. Thank you for your support!

April	
2	Arthur Slack
5	Dave Faller
9	Rita Lipinski
10	Mary Mathews
23	Elizabeth Slack
24	Denise Valenzisa
28	Jonathan Weinrich
30	Grace Kellermeier
	Tim Sherry



May	
3	Linda Muchow
4	Larry Muchow
5	Marcia Evans
9	Roy Coons
17	Betty Srock
20	Doris Lawrence
21	Annette Sowder
24	Ron Jacobsen
25	Jack Bright
29	Larry Schaefer
30	Larry Topham

### Communication & Ministry

**Don't miss important updates from Trinity.** Do we have a current address, phone number, cell phone and email address on file for you? Would you like to add an emergency contact person to your profile?

Please keep us informed of any changes by emailing the office at [trinitylutheran485@gmail.com](mailto:trinitylutheran485@gmail.com) or by mailing a change in address, phone or email address to the church at 485 Turnbull Bay Road, NSB 32168



# TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Please note that these numbers are not approved by the Finance Committee or Council since we are unable to meet at this time. However, we believe it is important for you to be informed.

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
February	\$22,398	\$20,206	\$2,192	
Year-To-Date	\$46,425	\$40,483	\$5,942	\$24,749.46

## **FEBRUARY GENERAL OFFERINGS**

- During the month of February, our General Offering Income was greater than our expenses. It also exceeded our estimated monthly income of \$22,088, which is very encouraging as we seek to meet or exceed our estimated monthly income to reach the year end goal.

## **GENERAL FUND BALANCE**

- We started the year with a General Fund Balance of \$18,807. Since our expenses year to date have been less than the year to date General Offerings received, we were able to add \$5,942 to it for a balance of \$24,749.

Please open your hearts to continue to give as generously as you are able to Trinity during the time of the COVID-19 crisis. Our expenses are on-going even though we are not gathering together

**QUESTIONS?** If you have questions or concerns about our budget and finances, please call or email Paula Bernbaum to set up a meeting at church. We can sit down together and go over the budget line by line so that it is clear and understandable! 386-405-6668 or [nsbide@aol.com](mailto:nsbide@aol.com)

**JOIN US!** If you're interested in Trinity's finances, please consider joining the Finance Committee. Contact Paula Bernbaum

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,  
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9*



## **On the Road to Florida team says ... THANK YOU!**

We are grateful to everyone for their participation in our fund- raising campaign to help with moving expenses to bring Pastor Tim to Florida. As of the time of this publication, we reached \$14,300 of our \$15,000 goal. Additional donations continue to be accepted.

The tremendous success of this project is a statement of the commitment and resolve of this congregation to work together and give our full support to our spiritual leader Pastor Tim. Let's focus on the important work of Trinity, "Making Christ known to our neighbors and the world through word and deed."

Planning and communication were vital to the success of our project. Thank you, team members Gary Hopkins, Chris Williams, Rosalie Kalman, Kate Mingle, Joady Schroth, Bob Seaton, and Else Abel for your passion in serving.

Pastor Tim, we are happy that you are here!! And as you have said, "TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS".

God Bless,  
Bob Horak, Team leader

## Coming Soon

### Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Columbarium

The congregation approved at the Annual Meeting the construction of a Columbarium on the north side at the northwest corner of the parking lot. The contract has been signed to purchase a beautiful Columbarium from Sunset Memorial & Stone LTD of Canada. The foundation has been poured where the Columbarium will be constructed.

What is a Columbarium? A Columbarium is a place where urns of cremated human remains (cremains) are stored (inurned) in niches, with each niche storing urns for one or two subscribers. There will be 24 Nylene Niches, 12"x12"x16" that can be purchased. Additional niches may be added in the future.



#### Prices are:

Trinity members and immediate families: \$2,000 per Niche  
Non-members: \$3,000 per Niche

#### Fees include:

The right of inurnment, granite Niche faceplate, opening and closing of the Niche and perpetual care. Several Niches have already been purchased.

**For information** about the Columbarium and how to purchase a Niche, please leave a message with the church office (386) 428-4307; Jean Haughwout (386) 428-4276; or Marilyn O'Connor (386) 402-4304

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#### Council 2020

Larry Muchow – President  
Kate Mingle – Vice President  
Nancy Hopkins – Secretary  
Rosalie Kalman – Treasurer  
George Cramer      Bob Horak  
Jean Haughwout      Raeann Purcell  
Colleen Sumner      Gary Williams  
Marie Smith      Doris Will

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Tim Bernard</b>
<b>Cantor:</b>	Brian Larson
<b>Office Admin:</b>	Phyllis D'Alessio
<b>Custodian:</b>	Laura Jones

#### Administrative Information

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Florida-Bahamas Synod [www.fbsynod.org](http://www.fbsynod.org)  
ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

**The Church Building and Office will remain closed until further notice. Please check your emails or our website [trinitylutherannsb.org](http://trinitylutherannsb.org) for updates.**

**Editorial Policy** - In order to maintain consistency and unity of church policy and to conform to layout requirements, the pastor, editor, and office staff reserve the right to edit for space and content all material for the *Beacon*, the Annual Congregational Report, and other official publications of Trinity. (Adopted 12-14-06)