



From the Pastor...

August 2020

The late Phyllis Tickle, theologian, author, and scholar, wrote that beginning with the reign of King David up to now, every 500 years or so, there were tectonic shifts in our faith tradition, resulting in huge changes of both understanding and practice. And give or take 100 years, we have largely had just that. King David reigned about 1,000 years before Christ was born. In 586 BCE, there was the destruction of the first Temple and the Exile to Babylon. In year 0, or thereabouts, was the birth of Jesus the Christ. We had Christianity becoming the dominant religion of the Roman Empire in the late 4th century. In 1054, we had the Great Schism between the Eastern (Orthodox) Church from the Western (Roman Catholic) Church. In the 15th century we had the Protestant Reformation, begun by our own Martin Luther, that further divided the Western Church. And guess what? We are due for another major change. In fact, we are overdue.

Given that information, what does this mean for us? What are some of the signs that point toward the future of the Christian church for the 500 years? Here are some of my thoughts (in no particular order):

- **The Christian Church will not be centered in places of affluence, but economically challenging places.** We have already witnessed some of this. There are more Roman Catholics in Latin America than in North America or Europe, and their most recent pope, Pope Francis, from Argentina reflects this shift. We have seen a similar shift in the Lutheran Church. For decades and decades, the largest Lutheran Church has been the Lutheran Church of Sweden. Today, both Mekane Yesus (Place of Jesus) Lutheran Church in Ethiopia and the Lutheran Church in Tanzania are larger than the Lutheran Church of Sweden.
- **The Christian Church will be centered in local congregations but will have “tentacles” that are more global.** It used to be that national church bodies, like the ELCA, would send missionaries to other countries in a national church body to national church body arrangement. Then, the ELCA moved to a synod to synod relationship whereby Now, individual congregations build relationships with individual congregations, often based upon the travels of just a few of their members. In a former congregation, they had a formal relationship with a synod in Tanzania through their own synod. But due to a friendship between a couple of pastors, they developed a congregation to congregation relationship with a congregation in Colombia. Through technology, we can have “face to face” conversations via various media platforms.
- **The Christian Church will be more relationship based, where we can “take our congregation with us”.** As relationships are built with people, we can now keep in touch with them when they move away. Even right now we have people who faithfully attend our Bible study via Zoom, with Joan and Rusty in Colorado and Judith in Italy! As long as a congregation is willing to use various technologies, people will not have to change congregations. Much like a turtle that carries its home on its back, we will take our “church homes” with us.
- **The Christian Church will utilize more technology to build relationships and make ministry happen.** Much like the printing press was the latest technology of the Reformation and helped spread the writings of Martin Luther, we are only going to be relying on technology more and more. Take Facebook as an example, for most of us once we graduated from high school, we remained friends only with those closest to us, but many of our classmates just fell off our radar only to be seen again at the 25th class reunion. Now, Facebook allows us to keep tabs on those people we once knew, and knew well but were not our “inner circle” of friends. Now, even if people move away from Trinity, they can still be connected to us via technology forever.

This is my list, and I hope you will ponder and discern what you think as well. It is not a fixed list, but an open list that can move, shift and change. I offer this as a way for us to think, dream, and plan, for not only for how we “do ministry” today, but also to prepare us for the future. As always, I invite your thoughts and insights for we are in this together.

Pastor Tim

Worship in The Home (WITH)

Many of you have responded to our Trinity Loving Care Callers how you really appreciate the videos. I have heard from our snowbirds, friends, and relatives in other states, stating how they really like the WITH videos. Feel free to share the email that has the link or direct them to our website. It is another way we can work together to proclaim the gospel.



Zoom Coffee Hour



There is no agenda to this meeting. It is just a time for you to see others, or hear other people’s voices, that you have not seen or heard since the building was closed. So, get a cup of coffee or tea and join us. It will be on Sunday mornings from 10 am to 11:00 am. Here is the information:

To join via **computer**: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82011271593>
Meeting ID: 820 1127 1593

To join via **telephone**:

Dial by your location

- +1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 820 1127 1593

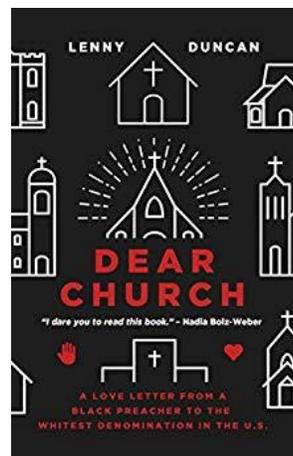
Zoom Book Study

Beginning Sunday, September 13 at 11:00 am

The news lately has been filled with images of protests. Race has become a hot topic in our country. In September, Trinity will start a book study to learn more about race and the ELCA.

Beginning **September 13th**, a zoom book study will meet every **Sunday at 11:00**. We will begin with the book Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US by Lenny Duncan. Facilitated by Raeann Purcell and Karen Weinrich, we will discuss small portions of the book each week.

If you want to join us, please order a copy of the book. You do NOT need to read the entire book ahead of time. In next month’s newsletter a specific schedule will be published that shows which chapters we will discuss each week. We hope many people will join us as we learn together about church and race.



Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom



After just starting this last month, we have been getting good attendance at each of them. These studies focus on one or more of the readings we will have for the coming Sunday in worship. Some people show up so that we can see each other, while other people have been calling in and participating that way. Either way is good, and you do not need to have any experience ahead of time. We simply ask that, if you can, read the lessons ahead of time. The lessons for the next month are:

Bible Study readings for August

- 8/2** Isaiah 55:1-5, Psalm 145:8-9, 14-2, Romans 9:1-5, Matthew 14:13-21
- 8/9** 1 Kings 19:9-18, Psalm 85:8-13, Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-33
- 8/16** Isaiah 56:1, 6-8, Psalm 67, Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32, Matthew 15:10-28
- 8/23** Isaiah 51:1-6, Psalm 138, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 16:13-20
- 8/30** Jeremiah 15:15-21, Psalm 26:1-8, Romans 12:9-21, Matthew 16:21-28

This is the same information as last month:

To connect via **Computer**:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVlYhHhVSXBHUkh3UT09>

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Password: 017896

To connect via **Telephone**:

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 (This number works great for us in Florida)

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Password: 017896

August Birthdays



2	Margie Barnes	18	Vivian Heck
	Marilyn Dontigney	20	Jane Peirson
4	Evelyn Hinkle	24	Lyn Carter
6	Jay Droz	29	Marilyn DeMilio
11	Stephanie Sherry		Thelma Reus
13	Jean Haughwout	30	Gail Roe

If we forgot to include your name in the monthly Birthday Blessings, please email the church office to let us know. Thank you.

TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
June	\$17,300	\$27,626	(\$10,326)	
Year-To-Date	\$144,175	\$150,082	(\$5,907)	\$12,900

JUNE GENERAL OFFERINGS

- During the month of June, we received \$17,299 in General Offerings. This was \$5,404 less than what was received in June 2019. It also falls \$9,542 short of the estimated monthly income needed to support our spending plan.

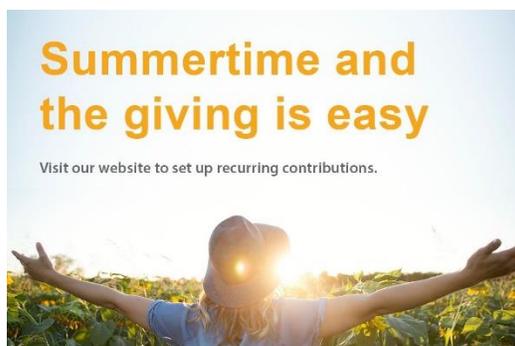
GENERAL FUND BALANCE

- The General Fund Balance was \$18,807 at the beginning of the year we and have added to that over the past 5 months. However, due to the shortfall in our June General Offering the General Fund Balance is now \$12,900. We are grateful for the income we are receiving during the time of this pandemic and thank everyone for continuing to share in the support of Trinity.

ON-GOING EXPENSES

- It seems as if we should be saving a lot of money since we are not physically present together at church. However, expenses are on-going, falling into the categories below. We are saving a small amount on our variable expenses which is helpful.
- FIXED EXPENSES – these remain the same month to month. For example:
 - Salaries and Benefits
 - Lawn Care and Pest Control
 - Storm Water Assessment
 - Copier Lease and Maintenance
 - Telephone
 - Insurance Fund Accrual
 - Reserve Fund Accrual
- VARIABLE EXPENSES – vary from month to month. For example:
 - Utilities
 - Paper Supplies
 - Sunday School Supplies
 - Various Committee Expenses

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.” Lamentations 3:22-23



Online Giving is Now Available
Visit our website

www.trinitylutheranssb.org

**“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.

+ Virtual summer music conferences are the “norm” this year thanks to technology! Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube are essential these days!

The American Guild of Organists presented performances by young “rising star” artists playing recently composed music. It was amazing to see and hear organs in churches and concert halls around the world.

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada presented hymn festivals and workshops, one of which was about hymns and worship styles in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, India, and Palestine, with presenters in all those locations.



The Handbell Musicians of America offered seminars, workshops, and concerts by handbell choirs from Oregon, Connecticut, Florida. The “Magic of Bronze” handbell choir from Orlando presented the closing concert! One concert also featured solo ringing where one person plays an entire set of handbells, sometimes with one, two, three, or even four bells in each hand!

One participant commented that she was exhausted after attending a week-long online event, even though she had never left her home!

+ Please sing at home when you are watching and participating in our worship services. The music for the hymns, psalm, and gospel acclamation is included in the PDF file of the worship service that is emailed each week. When we record the worship services at Trinity, please know that “in our minds’ eyes” we see you in the pews and hear you singing with us! Trumpet tunes will continue as organ postludes during August and will feature music by contemporary composers.

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson

[Our Facility is Closed but Ministry is Happening!](#)

Collection Dates and Times

For Our Annual Collection of School Supplies, Undies and Non-Perishable Foods

Monetary donations are also accepted at drop off location, mailed in to church, or online giving.

Dates: Thursday – August 6 from 10 am to 2 pm

Saturday – August 8 from 10 am to 2 pm

Thursday – August 13 from 10 am to 2 pm

Saturday – August 15 from 10 am to 2 pm

Location:

Back Parking Lot of Trinity, 485 Turnbull Bay Road, NSB

Volunteers will take your donations at the designated times and location.

Needs:

Undies & Socks

Girls’ & Boys’ Undies: Sizes - 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 (xs-med)

Low no-show Socks: Sizes 1-4

School Supplies:

pencils

colored pencils

crayons (24count)

three-prong pocket folders

spiral notebooks (1 subject)

composition notebooks

plastic pencil boxes

tissues

sanitizing wipes

copy paper

cap erasers

Nonperishable food supplies for Gifts of Love - Special Needs: Cereals, Ramen Noodles, Canned Fruit

Council Members 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

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ELCA www.elca.org

Pastor: **Rev. Tim Bernard**
Cantor: Brian Larson
Office Admin: Phyllis D'Alessio
Custodian: Laura Jones

**Our Facility is Closed,
but Ministry is Still Happening!**

**Please check your emails or our website
www.trinitylutheransb.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)*

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the joy of the
**Lord**
is your strength