

From the Pastor ...

October 2020

Nostalgia and *Dugnad*

When some of us who are older look back on our years of being the church in the world (*remember that the church is the people, not the building!*), when is that time that you think of with fondness? When is that time when you remembered the people of God were the most engaged, most alive, most Spirit-filled, most filled with the possibility of making positive change in the world? When was that? Was it in the 1950s, 60s, 70s, or 80s? Is it now?

One of the things that makes me cringe during this pandemic is when people say, “When things get back to normal...” First of all, I need to say that things will never go back to normal anytime soon. Even if there is a vaccine, we will still be wearing masks maybe for the next couple of years. Epidemiologists note that the first round of vaccines may only prove to be effective for 55–70% of the people. That means that you could be in that 30–45% of the people who gets a vaccine and you could still get Covid-19, and this means that wearing masks, washing hands, and physically distancing will be with us for the foreseeable future.

The second thing that comes to mind when I hear the lament about “when things get back to normal...” is the question, “Normal for who? Who is included in your view of ‘normalcy?’” There are many people who are protesting now who feel like they are finally making headway into cracking open white people’s hearts and minds, exposing the systemic injustices that have been inflicted upon Blacks in our country. Blacks certainly do not want to go back to what was considered normal before the protests erupted following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Daniel Prude, Rayshard Brooks, and so many others. Blacks do not want to go back to the Jim Crow era, segregation, “whites only” rest rooms and drinking fountains, lynchings, and, of course, slavery. Those of us who are white would do well to pause and think about our desire to rush back to a normal that benefits us but is harmful to others.

The third thing I think about when I hear about the desire to “get back to normal” is the power of nostalgia. Nostalgia is not only the ability to remember things “from a long time ago” or “from yesteryear,” but it is actually a way for us to misremember the past. We tend to remember the past in rosier ways than what it actually was and romanticize life “back then.” This is a human phenomenon and it is even recorded in the Bible. The Israelites had been slaves in Egypt, but God liberated them through Moses. As they walked through the wilderness, they got hungry and complained to God and God provided quails and manna (a white, flaky substance the name of which means, “*What is it?*”). After months and

months of eating the same thing over and over again; of eating quails and *What is it?* the Israelites complained to God once again. They suffered from nostalgia and forgot all about the back-breaking work of slaving under the hot sun, and said, “We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at.” (Numbers 11:5–6) Instead of remembering the whole experience – the good *and* the bad – they misremembered and only recounted the good things: the free fish, cucumbers, melons, leeks, and onions.

What if we used this time of having the church building closed as way for us to re-imagine Christ’s ministry for a new century? What if we were to use this time NOT to pray for a return to a normal that may not have been as rosy as it actually was, but a time to pray for a new future; to pray for an openness to the Spirit’s leading that is more hospitable and welcoming for all?

My sister sent me an article recently about the Norwegian word *dugnad*. The author wrote:

“Few [Norwegians] would recognize the word *dugnad* if it were brought up in casual conversation, though. It’s a concept that is untranslatable but plenty explainable.

“*Dugnad* (pronounced doog–nahd); a Norwegian cultural tradition where community members work together towards a common goal, for the greater good for all.

“*Dugnad* derives itself from the Old Norse word *dugnaðr*, which means ‘help’ or ‘good deed.’ It can be traced back to as early as the Viking Age, where villagers would work shoulder to shoulder to bring their ships on to land from the sea after excursions. And in the 14th and 15th centuries, it was used by rural farming communities to prepare for harsh winters, disease, and other hardships in order to survive together. Everyone had skin in the game; therefore, everyone needed to help out.”

What if we resisted the impulse “to get back to normal” and instead adopted a new way of being church together? What if we sought to live out the gospel where all of Trinity’s members had “skin in the game”? What if we believed that when the ‘least of these’ are better off, we are all better off? What if we believed that we all need to work together towards a common goal, for the good of all, instead of private goals, for the good only of us at Trinity?

Words are powerful. Words have the power to shut down dreams and stifle creativity. They also have the power to expand our views and breathe new life into us. Nostalgia is powerful, but it is not very helpful for us as we cope with the pandemic and try to move forward. I found *dugnad*, however, to be life giving. Even though it is an ancient word and concept, it caused me to ponder the gospel in a new way; a gospel that is not about me, or even about us, but is about how we can love and serve our neighbors... together.

Pastor Tim

Sunday Morning 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

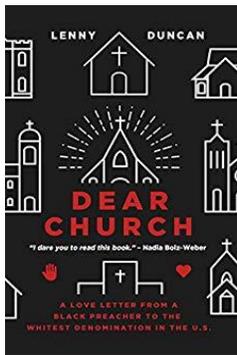
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 820 1127 1593



Book Study on Racism

Zoom Book Study – Sundays at 11:00 am



The news lately has been filled with images of protests. Race has become a hot topic in our country. Trinity will start a book study to learn more about race and the ELCA. 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. We hope many people will join us as we learn together about church and race.

Join Book Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89438961775>

Meeting ID: 894 3896 1775

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

Dial the number closest to your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 894 3896 1775

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 894 3896 1775

We have the following schedule for the Book Study:

- | | | |
|-------|-------------|---|
| 10/4 | Chapter 5. | Decolonizing the Liturgy and the Power of Symbols |
| | Chapter 6. | The Church is Queer |
| 10/11 | Chapter 7. | Toxic Masculinity Is Killing Us |
| | Chapter 8. | Resisting Nationalism Is the Way of Jesus |
| 10/18 | Chapter 9. | Dear Church, I Love You |
| | Chapter 10. | Stretching God's Tent is Frontline Freedom Fighting |
| 10/25 | Chapter 11. | It's Time for a Revolution |



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.

+ **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!

+ **Singing the Psalms.** The song of the Christian assembly has its roots in the psalms of the Hebrew people, our forebears in faith. Jesus’ own prayer relied on the psalms. The apostle Paul encouraged the faithful to sing “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God” (Col. 3:16). Christians through the centuries have sung them daily. Martin Luther considered the psalms the summary of all scripture, speaking to many situations and allowing the expression of a wide range of human response, such as adoration, praise, thanksgiving, lament, confession, intercession, and teaching. The psalms proclaim hope and faith yet make room also for deep distress and questioning. Fun fact: in our ELW hymnal, the psalms are the first 150 hymns.

+ **Hymn Story: *God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage.*** At the end of October, we will observe Reformation Sunday, everyone will wear red (yes, even at home), and we will sing “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God.” Did you know there is another hymn in our hymnal that uses the same tune? It was written by Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig (1783-1872) as part of his Danish version of Martin Luther’s hymn. He translated the first four stanzas of the hymn and then added his own fifth stanza! It has since been “peeled off” as a separate hymn and is often used at church festivals. Here are the words, you already know the tune, so sing boldly!

*God's word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever.
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.*

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

[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.

A NEW BIRTHDAY SONG

Using the tune KREMSER, *We Praise You, O God*

We celebrate with you the life that God gave you.
 We thank him for letting us share in your joy.
 God bless you and keep you and shine his light upon you.
 With love we sing together happy birthday to you.



October Birthdays

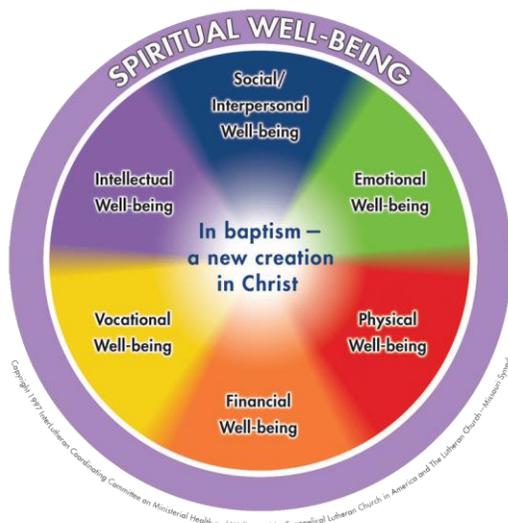
November Birthdays

| | | | |
|----|---|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Kate Mingle Ellen Peppas Karen Teehan | 8 | Paula Bernbaum |
| 2 | Pat Seaton Jan Syverson | 9 | Ralph Snyder |
| 3 | Joan Materna | 11 | Chuck McCain |
| 4 | Colleen Sumner | 18 | Robert Evans Rusty Norris |
| 5 | Connie Newcomb | 20 | Mary Parada |
| 7 | Danny Shaw | 21 | Kevin Bockus |
| 11 | Louise Armstrong | 25 | Peg Buzby |
| 12 | Sam Shoup | 27 | Gary Hopkins |
| 16 | Ann Horak | 30 | Twila Davis |
| 24 | Terry Roe | | |
| 27 | LuAnn Kurfis | | |
| 30 | Barbara Perry | | |

If your name is missing from the Birthday Blessings, please email the church office to let us know. Thank you.

Introducing the Stewardship Team

We want to introduce you to a growing Stewardship Ministry Team. Team members are Bob Horak, [team leader], Ron Johnson, [assist. team leader], Grace Kellermeier, [secretary], Kate Mingle, Marilyn O'Connor, Gary Hopkins, and Larry Muchow. Gary Williams is our council liaison.



Our “year around” stewardship emphasis, this year, will be on the ELCA Wellness Wheel. Each month we will have an emphasis of a different “well – being” from the Wheel that we hope will give us focus and direction that will broaden our understanding of what stewardship is.

As Pastor Tim says, “Stewardship is everything we do once we say, ‘I believe.’” It is the choices we make with our lives. Please watch for monthly information on how we care for ourselves, our families, our congregation, our neighbors, and our world.

Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom at 11 am

Feel free to join us! (Zoom information is shown after the lessons)

10/4 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 *The song of the vineyard*

Psalms 80:7-15 *Look down from heaven, O God; behold and tend this vine. (Ps. 80:14, 15)*

Philippians 3:4b-14 *Nothing surpasses the value of knowing Christ*

Matthew 21:33-46 *The parable of the vineyard owner's son*

10/11 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 *The feast of victory*

Psalms 23 *You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)*

Philippians 4:1-9 *Rejoice in the Lord always*

Matthew 22:1-14 *The parable of the unwelcome guest at the wedding feast*

10/18 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7 *An earthly ruler as the instrument of God's will*

Psalms 96:1-13 *Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 *Thanksgiving for the church at Thessalonica*

Matthew 22:15-22 *A teaching on giving to the emperor and to God*

10/25 Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:31-34 *I will write my law in their hearts, says the Lord*

Psalms 46 *The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)*

Romans 3:19-28 *Justified by God's grace as a gift*

John 8:31-36 *Jesus says, Continue in my word and you will know the truth*

Zoom information for the Monday Bible Study:

Join Zoom Meeting for the Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504774403?pwd=VUpUUGJPRkNlVlYyHhVSXBHUKh3UT09>

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Password: 017896!



Upcoming Zoom Meetings in October

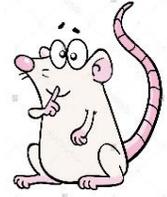
WELCA -Elizabeth Circle Bible Study & Fellowship: Tuesday, October 13th at 11 AM via Zoom
Mary Matthews will lead the bible study entitled, The Holy "now".

All church women and friends are invited to join us for bible study and fellowship!

Christian Education Team: Thursday, October 22nd via Zoom.

You are welcome join us in our Mission – Marie Smith, 609 439-3328.

Annie Mouse reporting here! Over the next four months our church mouse, Annie, will be interviewing Pastor Tim and the staff and you will be able to read all about them in The Beacon! For the month of October, we are highlighting our new pastor **Tim Bernard, and his wife Deborah!** We are so glad to have you among us and we look forward to our bright future as a congregation with you as our leader and shepherd! And congratulations to Deborah! Read on to see why.....



Where we you born? I was born in a hospital in Rochester, MN, but my dad who will be 88 years old in December has never moved. He was literally born in the house on our family's farm. He was the youngest of 9 children and when he was getting ready to marry my mom, his folks said, "You will be starting a family soon, so you stay here in the bigger house." Then his mom and dad moved a mile away into a house on another farm they owned. Not too many can say that they have *never* moved.

Where are some of the places you've lived? The farm between Chatfield and Stewartville, MN; Davao City, Philippines; Minneapolis, MN; Decorah, IA; Rochester, MN; San Diego, CA; Dubuque, IA; Guttenberg, IA; Champion, MI; Marquette, MI; Mounds View, MN; New Brighton, MN; and Edgewater, FL. In addition to the Philippines, I have traveled to Canada, Mexico (2x), Ireland, Germany, Norway, Israel, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua (2x), Tanzania, and South Africa (2x).

Do you have any hobbies or special interests? I like to walk a few miles most days, and I am a "lay" Hemingway scholar. I am connected via email to a group of scholars throughout the world who study and teach about Ernest Hemingway's life and his writings. I also like to do yard work and work on house projects.

What are your favorite things to do as a couple? We like to walk and look at the natural world that surrounds us - the creatures, the trees, grasses, and flowers. We enjoy sharing things we have read and talking about them. Often, we just like to sit and read in each other's presence without talking at all. At the end of our day, we like to retire and watch various TV series from Britain, Australia, Israel, and other countries. It is a way for us to "travel the world" without risking our health during the pandemic.

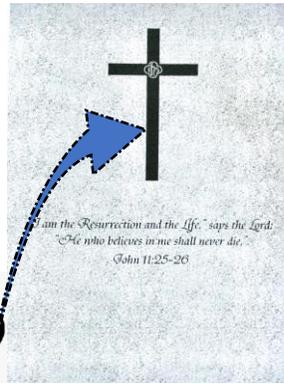
What has been most rewarding/one or two of your greatest blessings, since coming to Trinity? One, the people at Trinity, both the members and staff. Even though the church building has been closed, we continue to be God's people in the world and are finding new ways to be in relationship.

Two, I have really appreciated the thoughtfulness and participation of those who attend Monday's Bible study. Due to Zoom, we are able to study the scriptures together from the comfort of our own homes with others who are in other states and other countries. I don't think I would have considered doing a Zoom Bible study if it hadn't been for the pandemic. Now, I can't envision doing Bible study without it. I know that when the building is open once again our studies will continue with Zoom in addition to meeting locally.

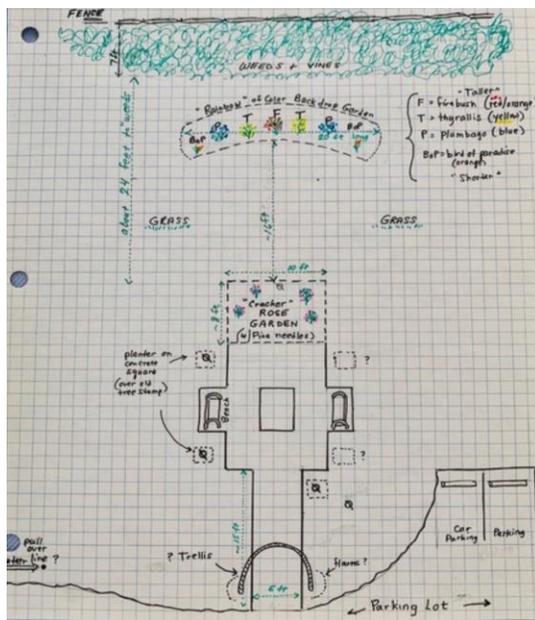
What are a few of your dreams and goals for Trinity? The council is working on clarifying our mission. All too often churches lose focus and their mission becomes too vague and abstract. Through the power of the Spirit, I seek to walk with the members of Trinity to identify our primary reason God has called us into being church, together.

Anything else? Thanks be to God; Deborah will have an internship with a congregation in Orlando starting October 1. It will all be done remotely via technology since ours is a household that is considered "high risk" if we contracted Covid-19. While I appreciate the desire that people have to meet us, we also know that our marital covenant requires that we do not do anything that could put our self or the other at risk. We like to see that ministry is not just "when the pastor shows up" but that each one of Trinity's members also is playing a role in the care of others. This is the way Martin Luther envisioned ministry when he talked about the "priesthood of all believers." Maybe the pandemic will make this vision more of a reality.

Columbarium Update



The Trinity Columbarium is on the queue for being built with the anticipated time for delivery in mid-October. In the meantime, the team currently removing the weeds in preparation for the landscaping. (photo above)



Landscaping Design for Columbarium

- 1) A 5 ft archway will be placed at the entrance of the site, by the parking lot.
- 2) A concrete walkway leads to the columbarium where two all-weather benches will be placed on each side, facing the niches.
- 3) A "cracker" rose garden would be planted at the rear of the columbarium site,
- 4) A variety of flowers will be planted around the columbarium, some in planters.
- 5) Soil will be added to fill in the site and grass will be installed
- 6). Behind the rose garden, approx. 16 feet, a colorful backdrop of bushes and plants would add a rainbow of color, with taller plants in the center and lower ones tapering on each end. This would include: Fire bushes (red/orange flowers); Thyralis (yellow flowers); Plumbago (blue flowers); and Bird of Paradise (orange). All these plants are relatively "low-maintenance."

DONATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR:

- 5 ft Archway (the type of arch has not been decided but ideas are always welcomed)
- 2 - 4 ft Benches: One bench has been donated. **NEEDED:** Donation: one more bench * Cost: \$483.44
- Florida Soil: \$225.00 for 18 cubic yards
- Sod/Grass - Cost: Unknown (Any help in this area, is appreciated.)
- Any additional ideas to make this a more peaceful environment, please contact one of the team members.
- Anyone interested in joining the Columbarium team or helping with any of the preparation projects, is encouraged to contact one of the Columbarium team members (names and numbers listed below)

Columbarium Team Members:

Blanche Johnson (281-610-5818)

Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650)

Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)

Judy Driesbaugh (570-650-3478)

Joe Kellermeier (386-785-7101)

Gary Williams (914-582-3515)

TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

| Month | General Offering | Expenses | Difference Offering/Expense | General Fund Balance |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| August | \$19,091 | \$26,509 | (\$7,418) | |
| Year-To-Date | \$180,857 | \$202,906 | (\$22,049) | (\$3,242) |

AUGUST GENERAL OFFERINGS

- During the month of August, we received \$19,091 in General Offerings. This was \$5,213 *more* than what was received in August 2019. Yet it falls \$7,751 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 added to that over the first 5 months. However, due to the shortfall in our income from May thru August, the General Fund Balance is now (\$3,242). Summer shortfalls are not unusual for us and our gratitude continues for the income we are receiving. We would ask that if you are able to keep current with your financial commitment or if you are able to give a bit more, it would help to meet our year end goal of covering all of our annual expenses with the income received.

QUESTIONS? If you have questions or concerns about our budget and finances, please call or email Paula Bernbaum. 386-405-6668 or nsbide@aol.com

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. ... Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!" Let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them! 1 Chronicles 16:3

Question Box – Council Liaisons and Team Leaders

Question: Who are our Team Leaders and what is the easiest way to contact them?

Answer: Here is a list of our current council liaison and/or team leader, contact information and the ministries they serve on. As always, this may be subject to change.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Christian Education | Marie Smith (liaison/leader) (609) 439-3328 |
| Columbarium | Jean Haughwout (liaison) (386) 478-9650 Blanche Johnson (leader) (386) 957-4070 |
| Fellowship | Bob Horak (liaison) (386) 337-9485 Mary Mathews (leader) (386) 690-4987 |
| Finance | Rosalie Kalman (liaison) (973) 568-8527 Paula Bernbaum (leader) (386) 428-9992 |
| Health | Kathy Barrick (leader) (856)506-5546 Betty Still (leader) (386) 427-0012 |
| Outreach | Larry Muchow (liaison) (386) 689-7471 Sandi Wirth (leader) (386) 409-9228 |
| Property | George Cramer (liaison/leader) (386) 847-8147 |
| Witness | Colleen Sumner (liaison) (386) 427-6167 Raeann Purcell (leader) (386) 760-4383 |
| Worship & Music | Doris Will (liaison) (443) 771-0562 John King (leader) (386) 663-7625 |
| WELCA | Doris Will (liaison) (443) 771-0562 Judy Driesbaugh (leader) (570) 650-3478 |

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

Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307
Office E-mail: trinitylutheran485@gmail.com
Pastor Tim: revtimtlc@gmail.com
Trinity website: www.trinitylutherannsb.org
Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org
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.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)

