



From the Pastor ...

January 2021

## Hoaxes, Scams, Phishing, and Conspiracy Theories are Contrary to our Faith

There are verses in scripture that for some might be obscure but that I have found deeply meaningful. One such verse is from Matthew's Gospel when Jesus sends out his disciples. He tells them to, "Be as wise as serpents, and as innocent as doves." (Mt. 10:16) This passage tells us, Christ's disciples, that when we interact with the larger world we have to be 'wise to the evil ways of the world,' yet we must not participate in that evil; we, as Christians, must be better.

Hoaxes, scams, phishing, and conspiracy theories are some of the situations where we really need every person to be vigilant about 'the evil ways of the world.' So, what are these and what are their differences? Here are some basic terms:

**Hoaxes** are deceptions that can either be humorous or malicious. Some hoaxes are meant to be practical jokes, while others are meant to cause financial suffering, mental anguish, emotional pain, or all of the above.

**Scams** are deceptive and malicious. Their basic intent is to defraud. Scams can be done face-to-face, over the telephone, and through other technology. The scammers often sound trustworthy and convincing, but they are really nothing but 'snake-oil salesmen.'

**Phishing** is the technological term for using electronic media (emails and texts, primarily) to get people to give over personal information that can then be used access bank accounts, credit cards, or other financial accounts. These are malicious scams that use technology to defraud, often by pretending to be a trusted and reputable organization (bank, credit card company, or your church) or a trusted and reputable person you know (a grandson or granddaughter, your pastor, or they are an 'approved company' working with your \_\_\_\_\_ [fill in the blank with 'bank, insurance company, utility company, etc.]). They may drop names of people you know to build trust.

**Conspiracy Theories** are the belief that many people are working covertly together to undermine an agency, institution, or fact. Conspiracy theories take facts and manipulate them in such a way that causes us to doubt the truth. These are manipulative and agenda driven. The proponents spread misinformation and take advantage of especially gullible people to make themselves wealthier, more powerful, and to make a name for themselves. They are using us. These are large, societal scams.

All of these are a part of the 'evil ways of the world' that Jesus warned his disciples about. And why am I bringing this up? Because right after Christmas, I was contacted by Joe Kellermeier, one of our council members. He had been contacted via text message by someone claiming to be "Rev. Bernard" and asked him to go out and purchase 2-\$100 iTunes gift cards so that I could minister to people who are unable to go out due to their cancer treatment. I know of at least three other members of Trinity who were contacted as well; people who have big, generous hearts who are willing to help their pastor minister in Christ's name. Thank God that all of these people sent the information on the cards to me and not to the number listed in the text.

So, what can we do? These criminals are very difficult to catch because they may be national or international, they create and use many different phone numbers and email aliases which they can delete in a moment's notice, and they are gifted at pretending to be someone else. There are things we can do, however, so that we remain 'innocent as doves' and do not devolve into hard-hearted, stiff-necked, apathetic people who do not care for others in the least. We do, however, need to be wise to the world.

Here are some things I have thought of to help us:

- 1) Double-verification – Many companies require double-authentication, meaning that if you are on your computer, they will send a code to your cell phone to verify your identity. We can do the same. If someone contacts you by text, call them or email them to verify their identity. If someone calls you, text them or email them. If someone emails you, call them or text them.
- 2) Know my name - I go by 'Pastor Tim.' If someone contacts you stating that this is "Reverend Tim" or "Reverend Bernard" this should be a clue that this is not me. I am not that formal.
- 3) Know my number - Put my number into your phone so that when I do text you, or call you, it is linked to my name and my name will show up on your screen. If someone contacts you stating it is me, but the number is not linked to my name, my name will not show up. Then you will know that it is someone else. My cell number can be found on the website or call the church to get it.
- 4) Know my church email address – it will come up as Tim Bernard, and when you check the email address it will be RevTimTLC@gmail.com. If the name comes up as Rev. Tim, Rev. Bernard, or Pastor Bernard, you will know it is not me. Then, if you go to check the actual address and it is something else, again, it is not me.
- 5) Personal information - Never give out personal information over the phone if you did not initiate the call. Remember, the IRS will never contact you by phone, text, or email. If banks, credit card companies, or computer companies contact you via email, do not click on the links provided in the email. Go to the institution's website, log in, and see if what the email states is true.
- 6) When conversing with the person who is phishing for information and trying to scam you, you can always 'create a scenario' to verify their identity. For example, if they are pretending to be a grandson asking for money, say, "By the way, are you going to send your sister, Julie, a birthday card? After all, her birthday is next week," where you know that there is NO Julie in your family. If they say, "Yes, I will do that next week." You know it is someone phishing. With the church you can text, "By the way, since we are chatting, I have been meaning to ask you if the mission trip to the Honduras still on for next fall?" Again, whatever they say would be a lie. I would say something like, "Where did you hear there was even a mission trip being planned? I have not heard of any such thing." I would sound truly confused whereas a phisher will give a definite answer, like "Yes, the trip is still on," or "No. Due to Covid we canceled it."
- 7) Always check with me or the church office to verify what is being asked is true. When in doubt, don't give anything.
- 8) If I am asking for money, a gift card, etc.
  - a) It will always be connected to an on-going ministry, like a collection for Gifts of Love food shelf, or school supplies/presents for Chisholm Elementary students, or a new ministry we are starting that you would have already heard of.
  - b) It will be publicized many ways, like in the announcements, the Beacon, or in emails.
  - c) It will not be urgent, like I need you to do this right now. The response time will be longer. For example, we ask start asking about Christmas presents for Chisholm in mid-November and give about a full month for people to respond. We give you time to verify the truth of the request.
  - d) It will not be a secret where other leaders or staff in the church would not be aware of it, so check with them.
  - e) Again, contact me. If you cannot get ahold of me, you can verify it with the church office, the council president, or council treasurer (since it is dealing with money, the treasurer knows about special requests!).

These are just a few ways for us to remain as innocent as doves in a world where some seek to harm us.  
Pastor Tim

## Phase II Congregational Meeting

We will hold our Phase II Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 17 at roughly 10:30 am**. It will be both in the parking lot and via Zoom just like we did the at the Phase I meeting. The main item for the meeting is the approval of the 2021 Budget.

### Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89861107277>

### Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 898 6110 7277

## Worship in The Home (WITH) available on our Website

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 link or direct them to our website.** It is another way we can work together to proclaim the gospel. [www.trinitylutheranssb.org](http://www.trinitylutheranssb.org)



## Outdoor Worship – Sundays 9:30am

Visit our website [www.trinitylutheranssb.org](http://www.trinitylutheranssb.org) for updates

## The Sunday Study (New)

This fall we have read two books that discussed racism. In January we are going to discuss a social message from the ELCA titled: *Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy*. It is available on our website ([www.trinitylutheranssb.org](http://www.trinitylutheranssb.org)) along with the study guide. If you would like a copy mailed to you so that you can join us, please contact the church office.

- 1/10 Social Message vs. Social Statements and What Is The Problem Today And What Have Lutherans Taught About Government? Part 1: Introduction
- 1/17 Off due to the Phase II Congregational Meeting
- 1/24 Part 2: God's Two Ways of Governing
- 1/31 Part 3: Governmental Roles and Functions – Is the Neighbor Being Served?
- 2/7 Part 4 and Conclusion: Called to Civic Engagement

### Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415640321>

### Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 814 1564 0321

## Monday Morning Bible Study on Zoom at 11 am

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

### Bible Studies for January

#### 1/4 **Baptism of our Lord**

Genesis 1:1-5 *God creates light God creates light*

Psalm 29 *The voice of the Lord is upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)*

Acts 19:1-7 *Baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*

Mark 1:4-11 *Revelation of Christ as God's servant*

#### 1/11 **Second Sunday after the Epiphany**

1 Samuel 3:1-20 *The calling of Samuel*

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *You have searched me out and known me. (Ps. 139:1)*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 *Glorify God in your body*

John 1:43-51 *The calling of the first disciples*

#### 1/18 **Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 *Repentance at Nineveh*

Psalm 62:5-12 *God alone is my rock and my salvation. (Ps. 62:6)*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 *Living in the end times*

Mark 1:14-20 *The calling of the disciples at the sea*

#### 1/25 **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *The prophet speaks with God's authority*

Psalm 111 *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. (Ps. 111:10)*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 *Limits to liberty: the case of food offered to idols*

Mark 1:21-28 *The healing of one with an unclean spirit*

#### 2/1 **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

Isaiah 40:21-31 *The creator of all cares for the powerless*

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c *The Lord heals the brokenhearted. (Ps. 147:3)*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 *A servant for the sake of the gospel*

Mark 1:29-39 *The healing of Peter's mother-in-law*

### Monday Bible Study Zoom information:

#### Join Zoom Meeting via computer

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

#### Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403 Password: 017896





## 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.

+ **Thank you for singing** at home when you are watching and participating in our **online 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 online worship services, please know that "in our minds' eyes" we see you in the pews and hear you singing with us! If you are attending our **outdoor worship services**, I am sure you are glad to be singing together again even while wearing masks, socially distanced, and being outdoors. These are all layers of necessary protection at this time.

+ **Hymn Story: *You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore***. This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the revival of religious song in Spain in the 1970s. Not only did it spread quickly to all Spanish-speaking countries, but also it was translated into more than eighty languages within the author/composer's lifetime. The text is based on the story of the calling of the four fishermen, Peter, Andrew, James, and John. It is an imagined monologue by one of the four, who becomes the spokesperson for anyone who has felt the call of Christ.

The text gains depth and perspective because it is not limited to a paraphrase of the Gospel account. In stanza 2, "seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy," for example, is an allusion to 1 Corinthians 1:26, "Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth." On the other hand, the details of the disciples' narrative are not forgotten: "On the sand I have abandoned my small boat" is a feature of all three gospel accounts. The affirmation that Christ has "fished other waters" is a detail not found in scripture. Yet Christ does say that he has "sheep that do not belong to this fold" (John 10:16). Mixing sheep and fish is an interesting comparison! The final line, "O loving Friend, you have come to call me" is from John 1:15b, "I have called you friends."

The customary way of referring to this song in Spanish is "*Pescador de Hombres*" (Fisher of People), which we now use as the tune name for this hymn. The stanzas are set in a low musical range, and then the refrain leaps to much higher notes. This has been described as the sonic equivalent of the sun coming from behind a cloud: it is thrilling and invigorating. This hymn is unabashedly folkloric, in keeping with the text's emphasis on Christ's call to ordinary people.

[Information gleaned from several hymnal companions.]

*You have come down to the lakeshore seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
but only asking for me to follow.*

*Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes; kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat; now with you, I will seek other seas.*

*You know full well what I have, Lord: neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,  
just these my fish nets and will for working.*

*You need my hands, my exhaustion, working love for the rest of the weary--  
a love that's willing to go on loving.*

*You who have fished other waters; you, the longing of souls that are yearning:  
O loving Friend, you have come to call me.*

Text: Cesáreo Gabaráin, 1936-1991; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946  
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Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)  
Brian Larson

## TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
November*	\$20,514.14	\$33,209.90	(\$12,695.76)	
Year-To-Date	\$243,313.24	\$295,619.40	(\$52,306.17)	(\$33,498.97)

\*The November Treasurer's Report has not been approved by Finance or Council. These teams did not meet in December.

### NOVEMBER GENERAL OFFERINGS

- The actual General Offering income for November was \$17,514.14. We added the \$3,000 grant received from the Volusia Non-Profit Grant program, bringing the income to \$20,514.14. Our Budget Plan was based on an estimated November income of \$26,842 which means that we fell short of our income goal.

### DECEMBER GENERAL OFFERINGS

- The General Offerings from December 1, 2020 – December 16, 2020 total \$13,729. This is half of what is estimated for the December income.

### GENERAL FUND BALANCE

- The General Fund Balance is now **negative** \$33,498.97. This is a **significant** shortfall and will impact our year end plan. Due to the size of the shortfall, it is anticipated that this will also impact how we start our 2021 financial year.
- It is truly a blessing to receive financial support especially during the challenging time of the pandemic. The Finance Team appreciates every effort given to keep our mission moving forward. Thank you, everyone.

### ON-LINE GIVING

- On-line giving is now available thru the church website: [trinitylutherannsb.org](http://trinitylutherannsb.org)
- Please note that Trinity is assessed a fee when donations are made with a credit card. The fee varies depending up the credit card used and the amount of the donation. You may wish to add 3% - 5% to your donation to cover this cost when using a credit card.
- When on-line donations are made with a check or debit card, Trinity is not assessed a fee.

### AMAZON SMILE

- Please remember that anything ordered on Amazon Smile with Trinity as the designated charity earns .05% for us. For more information, please email Paula Bernbaum at [nsbside@aol.com](mailto:nsbside@aol.com)

**QUESTIONS?** If you have questions or concerns about our budget and finances, please call or email Paula Bernbaum. 386-405-6668 or [nsbside@aol.com](mailto:nsbside@aol.com)

*1 Peter 4:10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

## January

3	Arisa Sherry
8	Trevor Corina
	Ron Still
10	Raeann Purcell
11	Jacob Still
	Lew Zimmerman
13	Corinne O'Brien
16	Karen Weinrich
17	Hope Bauman
	Mary Dalleska
22	Benjamin Weinrich
25	Pat Droz
	Don Fuller
31	Chris Weinrich



## 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.

**Christian Education Team:** January 5 at 6 PM.

Please consider joining us! This Team is open to all Trinity Church members & friends

The January agenda will include choosing a Team Leader for 2021.  
Jan 5, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88112449001>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 881 1244 9001



## Seeking to Keep Trinity Safe

### A Task Force to Guide Us Through the Pandemic

The council established a task force who will "help the congregation, council, and staff discern when to re-open Trinity for worship, fellowship, meetings, and other related activities and to develop the procedures we will establish, review, and monitor to keep the members, friends, and visitors of Trinity safe, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic." Those serving on the task force are: Larry Muchow, council president; Raeann Purcell, at-large council member; Paula Losnes (oncology nurse); Larry Schaefer (nurse anesthetist, retired); and Christine Williams (physician with emphasis in public health and pediatrics, retired). We give God thanks that we have such knowledgeable servants of the gospel who are willing to lead us through this challenging time!



Dear members and friends of Trinity,

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who helped make our **Giving Tree project** a huge success. As a result of the caring, giving and generosity of our Church members, we were able to provide 11 children the items they had on their Christmas wish lists. We appreciate Rebekah Sawyer for providing homemade lap quilts for the children again this year. A \$250 Thrivent grant obtained by Gladys Bachman was used to purchase some gifts. Trinity family and friends donated \$3155.00 and \$525 + in gift cards! We are so very thankful and appreciative for this overwhelming response. Your generous response allowed us to bless members of our congregation with gift cards for their holiday needs and provide additional gifts cards to the families of the children from Chisholm Elementary School. Another \$250 Thrivent grant obtained by Doris will be used to purchase items for Gifts of Love Food bank. Many hands and giving hearts contributed to the success of this project.

Thank you

Judy Driesbaugh (Giving Tree coordinator and Women of the ELCA President)

## WELCA NEWS

### 2021 Women of the ELCA Officers

Judy Driesbaugh	President
Doris Will	Vice President
Evy Okerstrom	Secretary
Carol Cramer	Treasurer

### 2021 Circle Leaders

Karen Schlegel	Elizabeth Circle
Raeann Purcell	Lydia Circle
Judy Driesbaugh	Mary Maier Circle

## Offerings for the Women of the ELCA Circles

During the pandemic, some Circles are not able to meet or are meeting via Zoom. As a result, our monthly collections have dropped. This presents some difficulty in meeting all our budgeted items, such as our yearly Florida WELCA remittance of \$450, our Tithe to Trinity, and other budgeted yearly commitments. We were able to meet our budgetary commitments in 2020 but had to use our existing funds to meet all our commitments.

Our offerings from Circle and General meetings, Daughter's luncheon profits and miscellaneous events make up our yearly income. If you would like to contribute to Women of the ELCA during this time, please consider mailing in your donation to Trinity (mark WELCA in the memo) or make an online donation to Women of the ELCA at [www.trinitylutheransb.org](http://www.trinitylutheransb.org). We thank those who have already been contributing.

I wish you and your families a very Happy 2021 and look forward to the time when we can safely meet in person again. Until then, take care, stay safe and know you are all in my thoughts and prayers.  
Blessings, Judy Driesbaugh, Women of the ELCA President

## ALL WOMEN of Trinity - This invitation is for you!

From: Karen Schlegel, Elizabeth Circle Leader

What: Bible Study entitled Journeys with angels (January Gather Magazine)

Where: Zoom (meeting link to be sent)

When: January 12, 2021 at 11 a.m.

## Trinity Columbarium Update

The Columbarium is installed and landscaping is progressing thanks to the donation of plants and the volunteers who have been working on planting them. Also, an angel was placed at the back of the Columbarium site. It will be surrounded by various kinds of plants. The benches will arrive mid-January.



There is still sod to be laid, possibly an arch to be installed and some urns to be placed on either side of the benches for plants. Any additional ideas to make this a more peaceful environment are welcome. Please contact one of the team members

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANK YOU'S**

Two years ago the vision for this project was presented. In that time, several individuals have worked hard on seeing that vision come to fruition.

Special thanks to Jean & Les Haughwout for their "vision of a Columbarium" at Trinity Lutheran Church.

A great big "thank you" to the Columbarium Ministry Team for all the hard work they have done to bring this project to the point it is.

Thank you to the following for their donations of time, talents and funds to the Columbarium project:

- **F&M Concrete**, Edgewater: Donation of concrete slab in honor of Betty Still
- **Hickson Construction**, NSB: Time and expertise of two of their employees helping unload and setup the Columbarium
- **Bryson Crane**, Daytona Beach: Provided the crane to unload the Columbarium and place on concrete slab.
- **Landscaping**

Landscaping team: Jean Haughwout, Joe Kellermeier, Gary & Chris Williams and Sandy Wirth  
Chris Williams for the landscape design layout drawing

Joe Kellermeier and Blanche Johnson for their work with preparing the area for landscaping.  
Volunteers who helped with planting:

Marie Smith, Gary and Chris Williams, Jean and Les Haughwout

Thanks to Kevin Bockus and his friend for assisting with delivery and setup of the statue

- **Donations for previously approved landscaping**

- Jean and Les Haughwout – plants
- Gladys Bachman and Rosalie Kalman – funds for benches
- Chris & Gary Williams – angel statue

- **Columbarium Installation Video**

- Pastor Tim: Taping and editing the delivery of the Columbarium
- Brian Larson: for the music track in the video

- **Thanks** to those who have purchased niches.

If anyone is interested in purchasing a niche, please contact anyone on the Columbarium Team.

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.

### **Columbarium Ministry Team Members:**

Blanche Johnson, Jean Haughwout, Marilyn O'Connor, Judy Driesbaugh, Joe Kellermeier, Gary Williams, or the church office.



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**Administrative Information**

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

<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

**Welcome New Council Members 2021**

Larry Muchow – President  
Raeann Purcell – Vice President  
Nancy Hopkins – Secretary  
Rosalie Kalman – Treasurer  
Bob Horak      John King  
Doris Will      Bill Hinkle  
Joe Kellermeier   Colleen Sumner  
Joyce Winterstein

**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)