

December 2021 Newsletter



“For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also.” *Matthew 6:21* The inverse is also true. Where your heart is, that is where your money goes.

When member Grace DeVoe was dying, I asked her “What was the best time in your life?” she did not even hesitate when she answered, “Singing in the church choir.” I was greatly surprised, first for the speed at which she responded and second by the content. There was no pause, no “hmm...let me think about that for a minute.” It was a quick answer. But then when I thought about her answer. Oh my, what a powerful and descriptive statement of what Trinity, specifically Trinity’s choir, meant to her. Her heart was found singing God’s praises with the other members of the choir.

Grace put her money where her mouth is. When she died on July 20, 2021, we learned that she had given everything she owned to Trinity: her house, her furniture and furnishings, her car and her trust fund. Already Trinity has received an initial check for \$10,000. There will be more to come as things get sold. We are grateful for Grace’s generosity.

Fellow choir member and Grace’s personal representative for handling the estate, Kate Mingle, after giving the initial check to the church, reminded the council members, that:

- ✦ Of course, it is a free gift. There are no strings attached.
- ✦ The gift, however, does come with a responsibility to share with our neighbors in need.

The Council decided to continue the longstanding practice of tithing Grace’s gift. (A tithe is a Biblical term of giving 10%.) We gave \$250 each to the Gifts of Love (foodbank), Halifax Urban Ministries (feeding the homeless), Police Athletic League (youth programs), and The Community Garden (youth programs). Trinity has been blessed to be a blessing.

We are in our annual stewardship campaign. Each week we have had a person who has shared with us, “What Trinity means to you.” It is clear that people’s hearts are in the people and the relationships that have been built and formed at Trinity. If our hearts are here in this place, then it follows that we are willing to support it.

Trinity needs roughly \$500 per week above what each of us is already giving for us to continue to provide the ministries – like choir – that mean so much to us. We will be sending out intent cards in another mailing. Please fill it out and bring it with you to worship on Saturday, December 11 or Sunday, December 12.

God gives us everything. As Grace died and returned to God, she gave 100% back to Christ’s church, the place she loved. The Council, in turn, shared 10% of that with other organizations in our community who will feed people, care for persons who are homeless, and provide safe and healthy activities for our youth. Only God knows how these people will be changed by Grace’s generosity. More can be done through Trinity, but we need your help to make that dream a reality.

Pastor Tim

The Property Team plans to clean the storage room next to the nursery after the first of the year so that the church's Christmas decorations can be stored there. We are asking that all groups and teams review what is stored here, mark what you need to keep and move out anything not needed. Property will rearrange the room in order to store the decorations. If you have any questions, please contact Gary Hopkins at 386-212-0999 or garyhopkins1951@gmail.com. We appreciate your cooperation.

The WELCA Giving tree is on display in the narthex! Trinity's WELCA will be sponsoring a total of 12 children and their families for Christmas this year with gift cards and gifts. The ornament(s) you choose may ask for: 1) a donation of money to be used to purchase food gift cards, 2) a gift card from Wal-Mart, which a family can use to purchase a gift, or 3) a request for a special gift that you will purchase. Age, gender, size, or other pertinent information will be provided. We also ask that you wrap this gift and tape the ornament to it. With the money collected from this project, we also provide some of our Church families with gift cards to purchase food at Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving and make donations to Gifts of Love for these holidays also when possible. If you would like to purchase a special gift a child is asking for but are unable to shop for it, you may give a monetary donation and mark it to be used for a special gift and we will purchase it for you. **All donations should be turned into the office on or before December 12**. Additional donations are also welcome for needy families. Thank you for all of your help in making this project such a success every year. It is truly appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the Giving tree project, contact Judy Driesbaugh at (570)650-3478.

The **Women of the ELCA of Trinity** will be sponsoring a food drive from Advent through Christmas. Help us build our food tree with non-perishable food items. Our tree of food will be donated to Gifts of Love on Epiphany. Lots of folks feel called to donate at Christmas time but come January, the shelves need to be restocked. This Epiphany gift will arrive at a perfect time of need for the food bank. Please join us in this project!

The Elizabeth Circle will have a holiday gathering hosted by Jean Haughwout on Thursday December 16, 2021, at 6 pm. This will be held at 200 North Riverside Drive, Edgewater, FL 32132. All females of Trinity Church are welcome to attend. Please bring a jar of peanut butter!

For the **January Elizabeth Circle** meeting on January 20th, you are asked to bring a gift \$10 and under. This will be used in a white elephant gift exchange!



You can now view Trinity's worship services, as they are happening. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am, to view us live!

Just go to the Trinity's website [Trinity Lutheran Church - Home \(trinitylutherannsb.org\)](https://trinitylutherannsb.org) and click on our live streaming link **Join us for worship via YouTube Live (or to watch them at a later time)**

You will automatically be taken to the Trinity Lutheran Church YouTube page. Just click on the service marked LIVE. The service will start broadcasting live as soon as the service begins. You can also watch any of the other previous services that were recorded. Help us to sing God's praises through the hymns and liturgy, whether at Church or at home.

Let us **Move Forward in Hope**. Please join us on Sunday and Praise the Lord!

Phase I Congregational Meeting

Please join us for the first of our two regular congregational meetings. It will be held following worship on **Sunday, December 5 (approximately 10:40 am)**. It will be held both live and via Zoom. The agenda of this meeting will focus on our elections and on passing our 2022 mission spending plan (budget). Please plan on attending. **The Phase II meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2022.**

Join Zoom Meeting via computer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82640563047>

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 826 4056 3047

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Tim will be on vacation from **December 27-31**. There will be no Monday Morning Bible Study on December 27.

Worship Schedule for the Holidays

Please join us for worship during the holidays:

- Christmas Eve **4:00 pm and 7:00 pm**
- **NO Christmas Day worship, meaning NO Saturday evening worship.**
- First Sunday of Christmas **9:30 am**
- New Year's Day Worship at the regular Saturday evening time of 4:30 pm.

***We have a need for ushers and altar guild for both Christmas Eve Services. Please contact Sandi Wirth or Ellen Peppas / Mary Parada if you can volunteer.**



Monday Morning Bible Study

We meet via Zoom at **11 am** (Eastern Time) on Mondays to study the lessons that will be used in worship the following Sunday. It is a good way to dwell in the word and reflect more deeply on the lessons. Here are the readings for December:

November 29 – Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4 *My messenger is a refiner and purifier*

Luke 1:68-79 *In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us.*

Philippians 1:3-11 *A harvest of righteousness on the day of Jesus Christ*

Luke 3:1-6 *Prepare the way of the Lord*

December 6 – Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 *Rejoice, the Lord is in your midst*

Isaiah 12:2-6 *In your midst is the Holy One of Israel. (Is. 12:6)*

Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice, the Lord is near*

Luke 3:7-18 *One more powerful is coming, baptizing with fire*

December 13 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-5a *From Bethlehem comes a ruler*

Luke 1:46b-55 *You, Lord, have lifted up the lowly. (Lk. 1:52)*

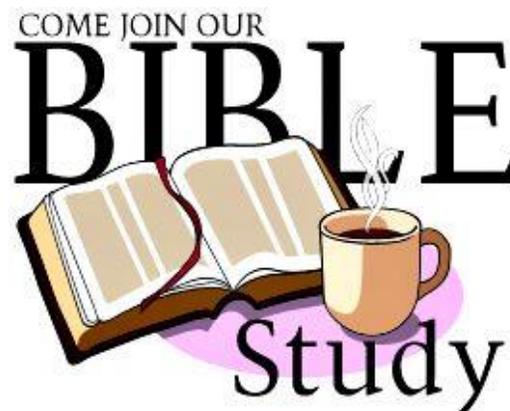
Hebrews 10:5-10 *I have come to do your will*

Luke 1:39-45 *Blessed are you among women*

December 20 – First Sunday of Christmas

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 *The boy Samuel grew in favor with the Lord and the people*

Psalms 148 *The splendor of the Lord is over earth and heaven. (Ps. 148:13)*



Colossians 3:12-17 *Clothe yourselves in love; let the peace of Christ rule your hearts*

Luke 2:41-52 *The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor*

December 27 – Second Sunday of Christmas – No Study (Pastor on vacation)

Jeremiah 31:7-14 *Joy at the gathering of God's scattered flock*

Psalms 147:12-20 *Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)*

Ephesians 1:3-14 *The will of God made known in Christ*

John 1:1-18 *God with us: the incarnation of the Word*

Zoom information for the Monday Bible Study

Join Zoom Meeting via computer

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

Join Zoom Meeting via telephone

1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 875 0477 4403

Life at Trinity in Picture Form!

If you have pictures from recent Trinity gatherings or events that you would like to share for use on our bulletin board or other projects, please send them electronically to the office! We would love to have your smiling faces adorn our bulletin boards! Please email to Trinitylutheran485@gmail.com.

The Sunday Study

At the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, our voting members approved the latest Social Statement *Faith, Sexism and Justice* with 97% in favor of this document. We will study and discuss this document, both in person and via Zoom, beginning on **December 12 at 11:00 am**.

The document can be downloaded from our website, under The Sunday Study tab. It is a six-part study.

- + **December 12** – Preface - A Shared Vision: We trust God's promises, and we hope for justice.
- + **December 19** – Section I - Fundamental Teaching: God desires abundant life for all. Articles 1-8, page 14
- + **January 2** – Section II - Analysis of the Problem: Sin subverts human flourishing in many ways. Articles 9-15, page 25
- + **January 9** – Section III - The Christian Tradition: It is both challenge and resource. Articles 16-22, page 38
- + **January 16** – Section IV - Response: The ELCA is called to new commitments and action as a church. Articles 23-30, page 51
- + **January 23** – Section V - Response: The ELCA calls for action and new commitments in society. Articles 31-40, page 59

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



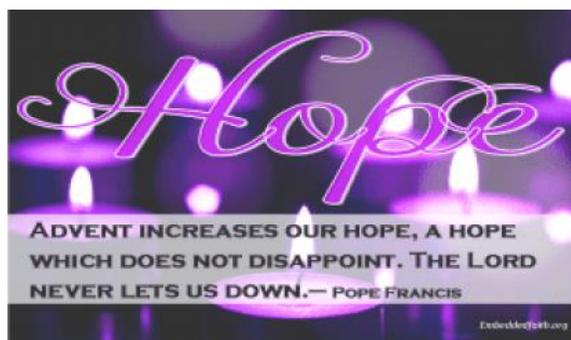
Ongoing Financial Stewardship Health

Here are some additional ways to help Trinity financially.

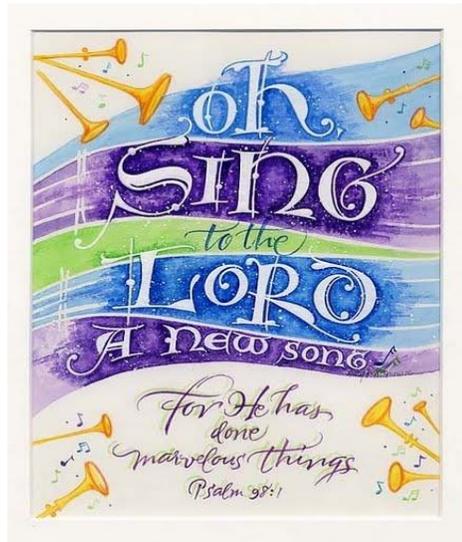
- + **Pledge.** Congregations where their members fill out intent cards (a.k.a. pledge cards, or commitment cards) receive 10-40% more. Also, pledging helps our Finance Team manage our finances better as it gives us firm numbers we can count on instead of estimates. One question many ask is this: What happens if my life situation changes during the year, and I cannot give at the same level I committed to? Answer: Simply inform the church office of the change. Remember, we are in the “grace business.”
- + **Give electronically.** Giving electronically helps you by being able to support your beloved congregation whether you are physically present or not. This is especially helpful for those who go north for a part of the year. Once it is set up, you do not have to think about playing “catch up” at the end of the year. Each month we can count on it being there for us.
- + **QR Code in the pews.** We have put a card that has a QR Code that is linked to Trinity’s giving page on its website. To give electronically via your cell phone, scan the QR Code and it will take you to our website where you can set up an account to give a one-time gift through your credit/debit card.
- + **Give annual gifts of stocks or bonds.** When you give stocks or bonds, you don’t have to pay any capital gains tax. The church receives the full amount, you give where your heart is, and it is all tax-free.
- + **Give from your pension or annuity.** Your required minimum distribution is the minimum amount you must withdraw from your account each year. You generally have to start taking withdrawals from your IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, or retirement plan account when you reach age 72 (70 ½ if you reach 70 ½ before January 1, 2020). If you want, you can give directly to the church.
- + **Put Trinity in your Will or Trust.** These gifts are enormously helpful as it gives us the ability to weather challenging times in our ministry until it rebounds. It is a way to give to those things that you really care about even after you are gone, helping to ensure that future generations will be blessed by the same ministries that blessed you.
- + **There are CARES Act incentives for making charitable gifts in 2021.** 1) Above-the-line deductions of \$300 per individual or \$600 per couple (non-itemizer). 2) Deductions up to 100% of adjusted gross income (previously 60%) (itemized). 3) These provisions are applicable for cash only gifts, however, not stocks, bonds, annuities, etc.



These are other ways you can help Trinity that greatly help us and may help you in the process as well. (Be sure to talk to your accountant before the end of the year to take advantage of these and other ways to give.)



Cantor's Notes December 2021



“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.

The Director of the Hymn Society’s Center for Congregation Song, Brian Hehn, works with congregations across the country. He recently shared some of his observations about church’s song.

People are hungry.

They are hungry for substantial songs that speak to the truth of God.

They are hungry for rich content and heartfelt singing that expresses in multiple ways what it means to be the “beloved community.”

They are hungry for more information about the church’s song: more depth, more breadth.

People are thirsty.

They are thirsty for meaningful connections to others.

They are thirsty for beautiful melody, inspiring harmony, and soul-moving texts.

They are thirsty for experiences that allow them to set their burdens down and just be together.

When we sing.

When we sing together, we are nourished with food and water for our souls.

When we sing together, it renews our strength and inspires us to press on.

For those, whose lives have been difficult, may our songs be springs of hope.

For those, whose lives have been easy, may our songs inspire them to serve others.

For those, whose lives have been in service to the church and who are tired, may our songs be a resting place.

For those, whose lives have never included the sacred, may our songs be a glimpse of the Holy.

For those who don’t know what is next, may our songs be a lamppost on their journey.

For those who sing but don’t know why, may our songs carry them through.

For those who can’t or won’t sing, may our songs be bold enough to include their silence.

From *THE HYMN*, Volume 70, No. 4, 2019, used with permission.

Cantate Domino! (Sing to the Lord!)

Brian Larson

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.

December

1	Paige Proeger	14	Emillie Martin
5	Brian Larson	14	Sandi Wirth
8	Cheryl Tucker	16	Mollie Martin
11	Alexander Weinrich	16	Keri Mowrey
12	Charles Kershaw	26	Judith Burt
12	Rodney Petteys	30	Julie Bockus
13	Judie Hanson	30	Carol Zacha
14	Bill Hinkle		



TRINITY FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month	General Offering	Expenses	Difference Offering/Expense	General Fund Balance
October	\$23,923.05	\$28,423.63	(\$4,500.58)	
Year-To-Date	\$251,190.72	\$270,627.90	(\$19,437.18)	(\$46,385.06)

OCTOBER 2021

- Our General Offerings continue to fall short of what is needed to meet our monthly operating expenses.
- An additional \$8,000 was taken out of Undesignated Memorials to pay the bills.

YEAR END FORECAST

- To “Break Even” at the end of 2021, our combined November and December General Offering income must meet or exceed \$78,385. This amount includes forecast expenses for November and December and our October year-to-date general offering shortfall. Our monthly income average is \$25,000 which means that in two months we need the monthly average for three months! Please consider a special gift to Trinity to help us “break even”.
- The 2022 Spending Plan Draft will be discussed and voted on at the Congregation Phase I Meeting on December 5, 2021. Please plan to attend.

ON-LINE GIVING

- On-line giving is now available through the church website: trinitylutheranssb.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.

AMAZON SMILE

- Please remember that anything ordered on Amazon Smile with Trinity as the designated charity earns .05% for us. Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2332805 to confirm "Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity of choice, and AmazonSmile will donate a portion of your eligible purchase price to our organization.
- For more information, please email Paula Bernbaum at nsbide@aol.com

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

Psalm 150:1

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above , ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

TRINITY COLUMBARIUM



COLUMBARIUM NICHE SUBSCRIPTION FEE

MEMBER: \$2000.00

NON-MEMBER \$3000.00

Includes one niche which will hold two urns, a faceplate (to covers the niche) that is engraved with name of deceased, plus year of birth and death.

APPLICATION AVAILABLE

Contact one of the following:

- Marilyn O'Connor (386-402-4304)
- Jean Haughwout (386-478-9650)
- Church Office (386-428-4307)

Administrative Information

Office Phone: (386) 428-4307

Office E-mail: trinitylutheran485@gmail.com

Pastor Tim: revtimtlc@gmail.com

Trinity website: www.trinitylutheransb.org

Florida-Bahamas Synod www.fbsynod.org

ELCA www.elca.org

Pastor:	Rev. Tim Bernard
Cantor:	Brian Larson
Office Administrator:	Mary Parada
Custodian:	Laura Jones

