

## January 2022 Newsletter

# HOPE.

**Grab it. Hold it. Share it!**

### **Here We Go Again... Coping with Covid**

By the time you read this, the numbers in Volusia County could be in the “critical” category for the presence of the corona virus. The last time we were in this category was the end of September when the Delta variant was winding down after a devastating two-month surge that took thousands of lives here in Florida, even Ann Marie D’Alessio, our then Office Administrator’s daughter.

This time it is the Omicron variant that was first detected in South Africa. Early studies on Omicron show that it is much more contagious than Delta, but less severe for those who are vaccinated and boosted. For those who are unvaccinated, it can still be deadly.

What may happen with Omicron is this: with the high numbers of people infected who will have to quarantine, we can see disruptions of service in all sectors of our community. This gets scary when we are thinking about hospital staff who are already tired and overwhelmed. If large numbers of doctors, nurses, and other support staff get Omicron, and you need to go into the hospital because of a heart attack, an appendicitis attack, or got hurt in an accident, there may be a bed for you, but they will not admit you because they don’t have the staff available to care for you. We could see a number of people dying not because they have covid, but because medical staff had covid and couldn’t help.

***The best way to show our love and care for ourselves and our neighbors at this time is to follow all protocols, not just at church, but every time we go out in public.***

These are the protocols we have in place at Trinity, if levels rise to our “red light” level at Trinity.

- + Masks will be required in all areas and all times in the building. This is for small groups (like Circle, Council, quilting, and other meetings) and large groups (like worship).
- + Meetings via Zoom will be highly encouraged.
- + People will be required to sit in the “blue taped” areas in the sanctuary.
- + Communion will be by wafer only and if the numbers warrant, we will distribute communion in the porch area as we depart.
- + Singing will cease for both the congregation and the choir. We will meditate on the words of the hymns as our cantor plays a verse or two.
- + The worship leaders and pastor will remain masked as they speak. Our bulletins have the words from the readings written in them, so you can follow along.
- + We will continue to provide live-stream video option for those who do not want to risk venturing out in public.

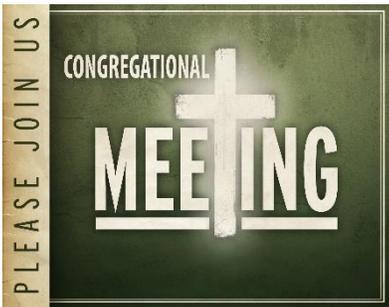
We know from Delta that this is not permanent. These are temporary measures to help keep Trinity safe during the Omicron phase of the pandemic.

As your pastor there are some other thoughts, however, concerning our collective witness in caring for our neighbors that I need to share with you.

- + There are still people in our congregation that are not attending because they can see via video that we are not distancing like we should be or wearing our masks properly, creating an unsafe environment. We may say that we are being careful, but our behaviors state something else. We may say we love our neighbors, but our actions state otherwise, which is not a positive reflection of the gospel.
- + Some people complain about wearing masks. They say that “masks make it hard to breathe.” Well, Covid does too, but if breathing through a mask is that difficult for your lungs, then you really shouldn’t be out in public. Masks are required. Period. Others say, “Breathing through a mask fogs up my glasses.” Yep. They fog up mine too. Which is more important, though, caring for our neighbor’s health and well-being or our inconvenience? If you think your inconvenience is more important, try telling that to Jesus. I am sure the cross was a huge inconvenience for him, too, as he showed his love for us.
- + Some people wear their masks over their mouths, but not their noses. Do they not know that their noses are also connected to their lungs? Or do they believe they are more special, entitled, or privileged than everyone else? The message I receive is a passive aggressive stance saying that “you may require masks here, but I am going to keep my nose uncovered and see if anyone says anything to me.” And since very few people do, they get emboldened by their position and continue to wear masks under their noses. This is contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am going to instruct the ushers, worship leaders, and everyone else to kindly say to our neighbors, “Please pull your mask up over your nose.” I will be saying it as well.
- + Some people don’t understand our blue-tape sections of the pews. You must sit in front of the blue-tape sections. In other words, when you are sitting down, if you look over both of your shoulders you should see blue tape on the back of the pew in which you are sitting. If you can’t, you need to move to a place where you can see blue tape over both shoulders. If your group is too large for the blue-taped section you are sitting in, you either have to split your group into two or all move to an area where no one else is sitting so that you can maintain a 6-foot distance from all of your neighbors in front of you, behind you, to your left and to your right.

Let us work together so that our collective witness of the gospel is evident, so that everyone can see that we are taking Omicron seriously and are committed to loving and serving our neighbor in both what we say and in what we do.

## Phase II Congregational Meeting



We will have our Phase II Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30 following worship, both live and via Zoom. (We have updated our internet speeds so that we hope that there will not be the many glitches like we had at our Phase I meeting!)

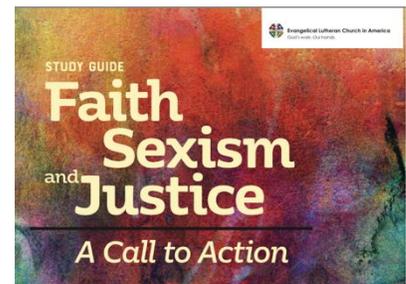
One of the main items we will be discussing is the reorganization of our ministry teams. We are reducing the number of teams to better reflect our current ministry and mission. To do so, we need to change our constitution, bylaws, and continuing resolutions.

The primary changes are changing the name of the Pastor-Staff-Congregation Relations Committee to the Mutual Ministry Committee, as the former is too long and cumbersome. We will also be seeking to change the parts that name the ministry teams due to the reorganization. We are proposing that these be changed from the status of bylaws to the status of continuing resolutions. The difference between a bylaw and a continuing resolution is that a bylaw needs to be approved by the whole congregation whereas a continuing resolution only needs to be approved by the council. This will allow the council to “tweak” the ministry team’s scope and description as we work through the reorganization. If you have any questions prior to the meeting please contact Pastor Tim. The proposed updates are available here and on our website.

[Proposed Changes to Constitution](#)

### 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.



- + **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

## DeVoe Estate Update

by Kate Mingle

As Personal Representative of the Estate of Grace M. DeVoe I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for the use of tables during the estate sale; a thank you to Rusty and Joannie Norris for their indispensable help with details of the estate sale; to Gary Hopkins for his untiring assistance with clearing out the house, inventory and document review; to Grace and Joe Kellermeier for their help with the estate sale, gift of lunch and attention to detail; to Karen and Chris Weinrich for their assistance; to Pastor for his Beacon article; and to Colleen Sumner without whose help the task could not have been accomplished. Without her knowledge, thoughtfulness, endurance, experience and compassion the task of bringing the estate to completion would have been so much more difficult and time consuming.



Now that the word “completion” has been mentioned, don’t get the impression that the estate is about to close. There are tax considerations to take into account and an out of state Trust to deal with. While the bulk of the estate has been reduced to a paper task, that paperwork also includes dealing with the court, an entity which has its own timetable in which to get things ordered.

The sale of the real property took place December 3, 2021, at Inlet Title Company in New Smyrna Beach. The sale was to a retired professor’s company which restores homes it buys, renting them out to families needing a second chance. The restoration is expected to be completed by the beginning of summer 2022.

It is by intention that no dollar amounts have been stated, as there is no control over what the IRS may have in mind, and at this writing, the deadline for creditors to file a claim against the estate has yet to wind down.

It is truly appreciated that the Council voted to be a blessing to the community with part of the initial estate disbursement with which they were blessed. “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”



**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 \(trinitylutheransb.org\)](https://trinitylutheransb.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.

## 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 January:

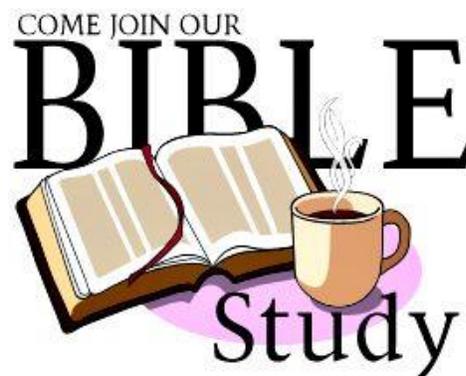
### January 2 – Second Sunday after Christmas

**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*



### January 9 – Baptism of Our Lord

**Isaiah 43:1-7** *When you pass through the waters, do not fear, for I am with you*

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

**Acts 8:14-17** *Prayer and laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit*

**Luke 3:15-17, 21-22** *The baptism of Jesus with the descent of the Holy Spirit*

### January 16 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

**Isaiah 62:1-5** *As bridegroom and bride rejoice, so shall God rejoice over you*

**Psalms 36:5-10** *We feast upon the abundance of your house, O Lord. (Ps. 36:8)*

**1 Corinthians 12:1-11** *There are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit*

**John 2:1-11** *The wedding at Cana*

### January 23 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

**Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10** *Ezra reads the law of Moses before the people*

**Psalms 19** *The teaching of the Lord revives the soul. (Ps. 19:7)*

**1 Corinthians 12:12-31a** *You are the body of Christ*

**Luke 4:14-21** *Jesus reads from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah*

### January 30 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**Jeremiah 1:4-10** *I appointed you a prophet to the nations*

**Psalms 71:1-6** *From my mother's womb you have been my strength. (Ps. 71:6)*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13** *If I speak without love, I am a noisy gong*

**Luke 4:21-30** *Jesus says a prophet is not accepted in his hometown*

## 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

## Serving God by Loving All

Theologian and hymn writer, Robert L. Edwards, prayerfully put it this way in the hymn *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*:

*God, whose giving knows no ending, from you rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

*Skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goal of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom, races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor, lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants fit to answer at your throne.*

*Treasure, too, you have entrusted, gain through powers your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming, **serving you by loving all.** Amen.*



The Stewardship Team encourages you to search your heart and to see God's work here at Trinity. These are trying times, but the need to be about growing God's kingdom is still present.

However you decide to show God's generosity toward you, know that God wants us to be able to say about our fellow co-workers in the kingdom, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Happy giving! And have a blessed day!

And as the paraphrase version of the Bible *The Message* says, "Overwhelming grace keep you!"

The Stewardship Team

For the **January Elizabeth Circle** meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>, you are asked to bring a gift \$10 and under. This will be used in a white elephant gift exchange! Food will not be provided, but you are welcome to bring a snack or sandwich for yourself.



**TLC Mission Workshop** is making **Baby Care Kits** to be sent to Lutheran World Relief in February. In January you will see a baby crib in the Narthex where you can take a tag as a reminder of what to purchase. **Items needed:** lightweight cotton t-shirts

long or short sleeve gowns  
socks, hand towels,  
bath size bars of gentle soap

Place your donated items in the crib before the **January 20th** deadline. If shopping isn't your thing, cash donations are acceptable, and we will do the shopping for you. Thank you in advance for your donations. Any questions please email Penny McKeever at [mckeever318@yahoo.com](mailto:mckeever318@yahoo.com)



## Cantor's Notes January 2022

**"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.

**A hymn for *The Baptism of Our Lord*.** Canadian author Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) served the United Church of Canada as a parish minister and prison chaplain. She is remembered for her passion for those in need, her gift of writing, and her love of liturgy. This hymn is included in the new ELCA hymnal supplement *All Creation Sings*.

*Down Galilee's slow roadways a stranger traveled on  
from Nazareth to Jordan to be baptized by John.  
He went down to the waters like soldier, scribe, and slave,  
but there within the river the sign was birth and grave.*

*Arising from the river he saw the heavens torn;  
it seemed the sky so open revealed the Spirit's form.  
The holy dove descended amid a glorious voice:  
"You are my own beloved, my child, my heart, my choice."*

*We too have found a roadway; it led us to this place.  
We all have had to travel in search of hope and grace.  
But now beside this water again a voice is heard.  
"You are my own, my chosen, beloved of your Lord."*

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



## January Birthdays

3	Peak Sherry	17	Hope Bauman
10	Raeann Purcell		Mary Dalleska
11	Lewis Zimmermann	22	Ben Weinrich
13	Corinne O'Brien	25	Pat Droz
16	Karen Weinrich	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.

*Special note: These words were written several years ago by Trinity member Gretchen Marz. Gretchen died in November. Her memorial service will be held on Wed., Feb. 2 at 4:00 pm at Trinity.*

## 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](mailto:trinitylutheran485@gmail.com)  
 Pastor Tim: [revtimtlc@gmail.com](mailto:revtimtlc@gmail.com)  
 Trinity website: [www.trinitylutherannsb.org](http://www.trinitylutherannsb.org)  
 Florida-Bahamas Synod [www.fbsynod.org](http://www.fbsynod.org)  
 ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

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